

'Bond 25' delayed again
 Daniel Craigs "Bond 25" will open on April 8, 2020 now, instead of February 14, 2020. It's the second delay for "Bond 25". MGM and Eon originally announced in 2017 that the film would open on November 8, 2019, then moved that back to February 14, 2020. **P14**

THE DAILY tribune



Liam Hemsworth explains his decision to get married **14 CELEBS**

WORLD 5 Disarmament must include China: Merkel



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21 MERS cases detected Jeddah

The current epidemiological week has seen an increased number of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infections, with 21 new cases reported in the Kingdom, of 15 men and six women, including three fatalities, according to an electronic survey conducted by the Ministry of Health.

Russia jails US investor Moscow

A Russian court yesterday jailed the US founder of a major investment firm for two months over fraud charges he says were fabricated for use in a shareholder battle. Michael Calvey, founder of the multi-billion-dollar investment fund Baring Vostok Capital Partners (BVCP), was placed under arrest until April 13.

Europe urged to stop undermining Iran sanctions

London

It's time for the United States' European partners to "stop undermining" sanctions on Iran, US Vice President Mike Pence said yesterday at the Munich Security Conference.

Speaking right after Chancellor Angela Merkel defended the 2015 Iran deal, Pence said: "The time has come for our European partners to stop undermining US sanctions against this murder-

ous revolutionary regime" by continuing to offer economic incentives in exchange for Tehran limiting its nuclear capability.

He said Europe should withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal "and join us as we bring the economic and diplomatic pressure necessary to give the Iranian people, the region and the world the peace, security and freedom they deserve."

Pence also called Iran "the leading state sponsor of terror-



The time has come for our European partners to stand with us and with the Iranian people, our allies and friends in the region.

PENCE

ism in the world." The Iranian regime openly advocates another Holocaust and it seeks the means to achieve it, Pence, who also visited the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz, told delegates.

Pence said: "The time has come for our European partners to stand with us and with the Iranian people, our allies and friends in the region. The time has come for our European partners to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal."



A fighter with the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces runs with a weapon during an operation to expel Daesh militants from the Baghouz area.

IS on brink of defeat

US-backed fighters closing in on Daesh gunmen in eastern Syria

● Groups said that some 200 Daeshgunmen surrendered Friday.

Damascus

A US-backed force in Syria is closing in on Daesh militants in a tiny area less than a square kilometer (square mile) in eastern Syria, and will soon declare the defeat of the militant group, a commander with the group said Saturday.

The capture of the last pocket still held by Daesh fighters in the village of Baghouz would mark the end of a devastating four-year global campaign to end the extremist group's

20,000 civilians, many of them the wives and families of foreign fighters, were evacuated from a village near Baghouz yesterday.

hold on territory in Syria and Iraq — their so-called "caliphate" that at the height of the group's power in 2014 controlled nearly a third of both Iraq and Syria.

"We will very soon bring good news to the whole world," said Ciya Furat, a commander with the Kurdish-led force known as the Syrian Democratic Forces,

speaking at a news conference at the Al Omar Oil Field Base in the Deir Ezzor province.

President Donald Trump said the White House will make an announcement about Syria and the fight against Daesh.

"We have a lot of great announcements having to do with Syria and our success with the eradication of the caliphate and that will be announced over the next 24 hours," Trump told journalists at the White House on Friday.

An Associated Press team in Baghouz Saturday, hundreds of meters away from the last speck of land where Daesh militants were holed up, saw several aircraft overhead and two airstrikes hit the area. SDF fighters said were fired by the US-led coalition.



02 Sinai blast condemned

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04 GAA approval to purchase new full flight simulator



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Sinai blast condemned

Bahrain stresses its firm position that rejects all forms of violence, extremism and terrorism

TDI | Manama

Bahrain yesterday condemned the terrorist attack that targeted a security checkpoint in North Sinai, Egypt, which resulted in the martyrdom and injury of a number of security officers.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed its sincere condolences to the families of the victims and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

The ministry affirmed its soli-

arity and support to all measures taken by Egypt to preserve its security and stability.

It stressed the Kingdom's firm position that rejects all forms of violence, extremism and terrorism and called for concerted international efforts to end terrorism and cut its sources of funding.

Fifteen Egyptian military personnel were killed or wounded in a clash in North Sinai in which seven militants were also killed, the Egyptian



military said. The Islamic State later

claimed responsibility for the attack on its news agency AMAQ.

It said it killed at least 15 Egyptian troops, revising an earlier figure of 20 killed south of the provincial capital of Arish after clashes with "various kinds of weapons".

The group did not provide evidence for its claim. Security forces launched a campaign a year ago against Islamist militants focused on Egypt's Sinai peninsula, and said they have

killed several hundred militants since then.

"Combing operations and the pursuit and elimination of the terrorist elements in the area where the incident took place is ongoing," the military spokesman said in a statement.

The security sources said operations were taking place under aerial cover. Since 2013, Islamist militants have repeatedly targeted security checkpoints and Egypt's Christian minority.

Folk Poetry Festival second edition held

● Shaikh Mohammed welcomed the local and regional poets participating in the event, noting their contribution to the event's success.

Manama

Under the patronage of Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Folk Poetry Society (FPS) held the second edition of the Folk Poetry Festival, to mark the 18th anniversary of the National Action Charter (NAC), at the Four Seasons Hotel, Bahrain Bay.

During the event, Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman highlighted that the National Action Charter represents a significant milestone in the Kingdom's modern history.

Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman further highlighted that the endorsement of the Kingdom's NAC by a 98.4 per cent majority vote, reflects the consensus of all Bahrainis on the importance of development, social unity and a brighter future for all.

Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman noted the importance of further building on the Kingdom's successful achievements under its comprehensive development programme, led by His Majesty King Hamad.

Shaikh Mohammed thanked the FPS for organising the festival, and noted the Society's commitment to preserving Bahrain's rich cultural heritage and national identity.

Shaikh Mohammed welcomed the local and regional poets participating in the event, noting their contribution to the event's success.

GCC technical education strategy discussed

Muscat

A meeting of the working group for preparation of the strategic plan for co-operation in the field of technical education and vocational training in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, which was formed by the GCC Committee for Technical Education and Vocational Training Officials (GCC-CTEVTO) was held in Oman.

The meeting discussed a number of topics related to technical education and vocational training in the GCC countries, including: the strategic plan of GCC-CTEVTO, the strategic plan and the performance indicators of the plan.

The meeting also discussed the regulations of GCC-CTEVTO, Oman News Agency (ONA) reported.

Bahrain attends Munich Security Conference

● The MSC is one of the most important international security conferences, which aim at enhancing co-operation and communication between all countries to face the security challenges facing the world.

Munich

The Ambassador of the Kingdom, Abdulla Abdulatif Abdullah, chaired the Kingdom's delegation participating in the 55th Munich Security Conference (MSC), held in Munich from February 15 to 17, with the participation of a number of heads of states and governments as well as foreign and defence ministers from around the world. The Chairman of the MSC, Wolf-



Mr Abdullah at the conference.

gang Ischinger delivered a speech in which he called for political solutions to all disputes whether inside or outside Europe, warning against the increase of organised crime and armament.

President of the Arab Repub-

lic of Egypt and Chairperson of the African Union, Abdel Fatah Al Sisi, President of the Republic of Romania, Klaus Iohannis, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Angela Merkel and the Vice President of the United States of America, Mike Pence, also de-

livered speeches at the conference.

The MSC is one of the most important international security conferences, which aim at enhancing co-operation and communication between all countries to face the security challenges facing the world.

AI academy to be set up

TDI | Manama

Bahrain-based renowned businessman and the Chairman of VKL Holdings and Al Namal Group of Companies, Dr Varghese Kurian, has revealed plans to set up a Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Academy in the Indian state of Kerala.

This came as Dr Kurian attended the Loka Kerala Sabha meeting held in Dubai.

A seminar on the labour sec-



Dr Kurian

tor and labour market was held as part of the meeting.

Labour market strides discussed

Manama

Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan met with Board Chairman of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa.

They discussed co-operation to boost employment of national competencies in the private sector, in line with the directives of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince

Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and the follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.

Both sides underlined the importance of investing in Bahraini human resources, being the pillar of comprehensive development and one of the main factors to lure foreign investments.



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Broadening tourism horizons

Bahrain Tourism Exhibitions Authority launches representative office in Kuwait

Other than Kuwait, the BTEA has also launched representative offices in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, India, France, Germany, Russia and the United Kingdom.

A meeting was also held between Kuwaiti tour operators and their Bahraini counterparts, including representatives from a number of leading hotels, to discuss opportunities for co-operation.



Tourism officials from Bahrain and Kuwait with dignitaries at the launching ceremony.

TDT | Manama

In line with its efforts to attract tourists from across the world to the Kingdom, the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) officially inaugurated its latest representative office in Kuwait, which was announced during a press conference held at the Four Seasons Hotel, Kuwait.

Launching the office prior to the much-anticipated Formula 1 2018 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix comes in line with the BTEA's efforts to attract large tourist groups to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

For the first time, the event will be held over a period of four days, featuring superstar DJ and record producer, Martin Garrix in addition to world-renowned producer, songwriter

and DJ, Kygo.

"The BTEA strives to promote the Kingdom of Bahrain's tourism, leisure and hospitality sectors; providing a fertile ground for foreign investment. Through the inauguration of our representative office in Kuwait, we aim to establish relationships with Kuwaiti tour operators and travel agencies in order to promote the Kingdom of Bahrain as a leading tourist destination that continuously hosts various

events and festivals that are suitable for all age groups," said the CEO of BTEA, Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa.

"We will be working closely with BTEA's representative office in Kuwait to increase the number of visitors to the Kingdom of Bahrain, further reaffirming its position as a tourism destination of choice with a number of new hotels, retail and leisure developments that are currently underway.

"We look forward to strengthening ties between Bahrain and Kuwait with an aim to increase the tourism influx which will contribute to the growth and development of the tourism sector and the overall national economy," said the Director of Tourism Marketing and Promotions at BTEA, Yusef Al Khan.

A meeting was also held between Kuwaiti tour opera-

328,850

visitors arrived in the Kingdom from Kuwait, according to BTEA.

"
The BTEA strives to promote Bahrain's tourism, leisure and hospitality sectors; providing a fertile ground for foreign investment.

SHAIKH KHALED

tors and their Bahraini counterparts, including representatives from a number of leading hotels,

to discuss opportunities for co-operation in order to achieve their joint tourism related goals.

Bahrain has welcomed 328,850 visitors from Kuwait in 2018 with 247,959 tourists accessing the Kingdom through the King Fahad Causeway, 80,822 through the Bahrain International Airport and 69 through the Khalifa Bin Salman Port.

Other than Kuwait, the BTEA has also launched representative offices in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, India, France,

Germany, Russia and the United Kingdom.

The launch of the representative office comes in line with the BTEA's strategic outreach programme to promote the tourism brand 'Ours Yours' aimed at showcasing the Kingdom as the ideal tourism destination to the regional and international markets and further promote the Kingdom's touristic offering as a main contributor to the overall economic growth in line with the Economic Vision 2030.



The representative office will facilitate the arrival of Kuwaiti tourists in the Kingdom.

Workshop focuses on VAT challenges for SMEs



The panel discussion in progress.

TDT | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

Adopting proper VAT procedures can take up to four months while careful planning will help SMEs avoid common pitfalls, VAT experts observed.

This came as Tamkeen held a workshop titled 'The Roll-out of VAT in Bahrain'.

The event, co-hosted by Tamkeen and Sage, with participation from other organisations

and relevant societies aimed at discussing the challenges involved in the implementation of VAT, especially for the SMEs.

The expert panel, moderated by Ibrahim Parwaz, Strategic Sales Manager at Sage Middle East included Dr Jarmo Kotilaine, Tamkeen's Chief of Planning and Monitoring, Dr Abdulhasan Al Dairi, Chairman of Bahrain SMEs Society, Dr Jassim Haji, Chairman of Bahrain Artificial Intelligence Society, and Husam Addin Abdelhafiz, Managing Partner at

KANZ.

In his presentation titled 'Digital Transformation in a Tax Economy', Mansoor Sarwar, Technical Director at Sage Middle East, shared with members of Bahrain's business community at the event that appropriate preparation would allow firms to make sure that they have sufficient time to implement VAT-compliant systems, from impact assessment through design and implementation to testing and operation.

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● These participants have a significant economic impact on the Kingdom, occupying more than 19,700 hotel rooms per year and visiting Bahrain's many leisure, retail, and tourist attractions.

TDT | Manama

The Gulf Aviation Academy (GAA) Board of Directors approved ambitious expansion plans for 2019 during a regular meeting chaired by the Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications and GAA Chairman, Kamal Ahmed.

The plans include purchasing a fourth Airbus A320 Full Flight Simulator (FFS) and introducing new logistics and aviation training programmes that will enhance the academy's capacity and efficiency, enabling it to meet the growing needs of this important sector.

The additional FFS will help to ease the burden on the academy's existing simulators, which are currently operating at 100 per cent capacity in order to meet local and regional training requirements.

In addition, a joint training agreement with the European Civil Aviation Authority will increase the number of aviation training programmes offered in 2019, covering aviation safety, airport security, air transport, and airspace control.

The minister praised the academy's executive management for their dedicated efforts to achieve Gulf Air Group Holding's goals, noting that enhancing the efficiency of specialised training programmes related to logistics is an important step in the development of the civil aviation sector, and in line with the Kingdom's Vision 2030 goal to increase non-oil revenues.

He also praised the GAA for expanding its geographic reach, offering services from Bahrain to a client base extending from the Indian sub-continent to Europe.

He stressed the importance of

GAA gets nod to purchase new full flight simulator

GAA trained 6,522 consisting of pilots, crew, engineers, security personnel, and other aviation personnel



The GAA trained 106 pilots from a European airline last year alone.

92

per cent of the trainees at the academy were from outside the Kingdom.

Captain Dhafer Al Abbasi said: "The 2019 expansion plans are in line with our strategic objectives to provide the best flight training services and modern training tools, not only in Bahrain but in the entire region."

"During 2018, GAA trained 6,522 agents consisting of pilots, crew, engineers, security personnel, and other aviation personnel, 92 per cent of whom were trainees from outside Bahrain."

"Last year, we trained 106 pilots from a European airline and will train a further 100 this year to support the development of its operations. The new addition to our range of simulator models will play a key role in helping us to meet the growing demand."

The GAA, a subsidiary of Gulf Air Group Holding, offers a comprehensive training programme, which includes all the travel arrangements and the associated logistics needed to accommodate the large numbers of international participants.

These participants have a significant economic impact on the Kingdom, occupying more than 19,700 hotel rooms per year and visiting Bahrain's many leisure, retail, and tourist attractions.



Enhancing the efficiency of specialised training programmes related to logistics is a major step in development of civil aviation sector.

MR AHMED



The 2019 expansion plans are in line with our strategic objectives to provide the best flight training services and modern training tools.

MR AL ABBASI

helping GAA to achieve its objectives, which have direct and in-

direct effects on the Kingdom, highlighting the importance of

partnerships with local bodies such as Gulf Air Group Holding

and Tamkeen.

GAA Chief Executive Officer,

NATIONAL HOTELS COMPANY (B.S.C)



RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Directors of National Hotels Co. BSC proposed the distribution of dividends for the year ending 31 December 2018 to the Ordinary Equity Shareholders who are registered on the date of the AGM. This is subject to the AGM and the Regulatory Authorities' approval. The proposed distribution is as follows:

Bonus Shares for all ordinary shares at the rate of 10% of par value, an equivalent of 1 share for every 10 shares held.

Faisal Ahmed Al Zayani
Chairman

Bahrain FinTech Bay locks deal with TAIGER to boost AI training

● TAIGER Academy's specialised training programmes in applied AI will strengthen efforts in AI education and retraining of professionals in the MENA region.

TDT | Manama

Bahrain FinTech Bay has announced its Venture Acceleration Platform partner, Taiger, to conduct Executive Training on AI and Automation at Reg-Fact.

The executive training course will take place at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Diplomat, on February 25, between 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

The course will focus on an introduction to AI, Value of AI, Knowledge Work Automation, and will include Demos and Case Studies.

The TAIGER Academy is a parallel initiative that focuses on providing AI training to participants of different

backgrounds and experience, a statement issued by the Fin-Tech Bay said.

"TAIGER is the market leader and pioneer of Knowledge Work Automation. TAIGER's mission is to help organisations optimise operational efficiencies by automating complex cognitive tasks."

Their solutions provide unparalleled accuracy in information extraction for industry leaders in financial services, and government, the statement added.

The training track will be lead by VP Sales of TAIGER, Henri-Christian Hartloff.

Mr Henri is currently driving the company's global business development activities.

To book spot, contact info@bahrainfintechbay or visit the website www.Regfact.com.

Society's charity activities stressed

Manama

Labour and Social Development Minister, Jameel Humaidan, met the Board of Directors Chairman of the Islamic Society, Dr Abdullatif Mahmood Al Mahmood.

The Islamic Society's charity activities, and contributions to promoting the principle of community partnership, in co-operation with the relevant authorities, including the Labour Ministry, were reviewed.

The minister lauded the Islamic Society's innovative activities and initiatives, stressing full support for civil society organisations.

Mr Al Mahmood lauded the Labour Ministry's unlimited support for charity societies, affirming that constructive co-operation between the Ministry and those societies has contributed to delivering the best social services.

He also commended the facilities provided by the Labour Ministry to charitable and humanitarian work in the Kingdom.

world

Germany seeks ban on gay conversion therapies

Berlin, Germany

German Health Minister Jens Spahn said Friday he will seek to ban conversion therapies that claim to change sexual orientation.

"Homosexuality is not an illness, which is why it does not need to be treated," Spahn, who is gay himself, told the Berlin daily left-leaning daily Die Tagesszeitung (taz).

Conversion therapies have spread in the United States and have been used by parents of homosexual or transgender adolescents against their will.

Some techniques involve injections of large doses of testosterone, while others apply electric shocks to people as they view images of homosexual acts.

"I do not believe in these therapies, mainly owing to my own homosexuality," said Spahn, who represents the right wing of Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative CDU party. The health minister is counting on support from his colleagues if and when a vote is taken.

Disarmament must include China: Merkel

AFP | Munich, Germany

China must be involved in international disarmament efforts, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said yesterday, amid rising concern about Beijing's missile arsenal and the suspension of a key US-Russia arms treaty.

"Disarmament is something that concerns us all and where we would of course be glad if such talks were held not just between the United States, Europe and Russia but also with China," said Merkel.

The United States began pulling out of a landmark Cold War missile control agreement with Russia, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, this month in response to Moscow's deployment of the 9M729 missile, prompting Russia to announce its own withdrawal.

While pointing the finger at



German Chancellor Angela Merkel delivers a speech during the 55th Munich Security Conference in Munich, southern Germany

each other, both Washington and Moscow have also voiced concern that the INF -- a bilateral treaty between the US and Russia -- does nothing to constrain rapidly growing military power China.

According to a new report by the Institute for Strategic Studies, up to 95 percent of China's arsenal of ballistic and cruise missiles would be in breach of the INF if Beijing were party

to it. Given this, "it is difficult to envision a scenario under which China would today enter a regime such as the INF Treaty," the report said.

Germany is organising an international conference in Berlin next month to start talks about how to create an arms control regime to replace the one forged in the bipolar Cold War era.

Sacked US man kills five co-workers, wounds five police



The area where a gunman opened fire in an industrial area in Aurora, Illinois

Chicago, United States

A US man being fired from his job shot dead five co-workers at a factory on the outskirts of Chicago and wounded five police officers before being gunned down himself, in the country's latest mass shooting.

The gunfire took place at 1:24 pm (1924 GMT) at the Henry Pratt Company in Aurora, Illinois, a suburb 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of Chicago, the country's third-largest city. Police named the suspect as Gary Martin, 45, of Aurora. He was a 15-year employee of the company and "information that we have indicates that he was being terminated today," said Aurora Police Chief Kristen Ziman.

The shooting came the day after Nancy Pelosi, the pow-

erful speaker of the House of Representatives, said gun violence is a "national emergency" far more real than the one President Donald Trump ultimately declared Friday to build his wall at the Mexican border.

"Five employees were located deceased inside the building," and preliminary reports indicated they were killed before police arrived, Police Chief Ziman told reporters. One other employee was wounded but his life was not in danger," she said.

Responding to multiple calls about a shooting at the company, which supplies water valves and employs about 200 people, officers were immediately confronted by Martin. He shot and wounded two of them with a Smith & Wesson handgun, the chief said.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 31 DECEMBER 2018

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
	2018 BD	2017 BD Reclassified
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	35,900,777	32,658,608
Investment properties	37,380,956	37,962,947
Investment in an associate	7,758,073	7,709,859
Non-current investments	2,693,435	4,458,312
Total non-current assets	83,733,241	82,789,726
Current assets		
Inventories	76,994	90,846
Current investments	2,049,470	44,233
Trade and other receivables	459,838	1,027,929
Bank balances and cash	175,108	3,188,049
Total current assets	2,761,410	4,351,057
TOTAL ASSETS	86,494,651	87,140,783
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Share capital	11,025,000	11,025,000
Treasury shares	(94,726)	(94,726)
Statutory reserve	5,512,500	5,512,500
General reserve	1,087,579	2,190,079
Revaluation reserve	13,391,305	13,391,305
Investment revaluation reserve	2,060,858	1,825,735
Share of reserves of associate	102,286	22,548
Retained earnings	49,266,801	48,183,786
Proposed dividend	-	1,091,747
Proposed bonus shares	1,102,500	-
Total equity	83,454,103	83,147,974
Non-current liability		
Employees' end of service benefits	331,782	431,406
Total non-current liability	331,782	431,406
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	2,098,185	2,318,188
Current portion of term loan	610,581	1,243,215
Bank overdraft	2,708,766	3,561,403
Total current liabilities	3,040,548	3,992,809
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	86,494,651	87,140,783

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS		
	2018 BD	2017 BD
Revenue	6,498,152	-
Gross operating revenue	-	7,360,650
Gross operating costs	(4,521,340)	(4,787,438)
GROSS OPERATING PROFIT	1,976,812	2,573,212
Net investment income:		
Share of profit from an associate	1,611,319	1,665,611
Dividend income	171,667	168,700
Interest income	99,470	161,985
Fair value gain on investments at fair value through profit or loss - net	5,237	3,307
1,887,693	1,999,603	
Miscellaneous income	310,827	395,562
Depreciation	(2,092,666)	(2,048,050)
General and administration expenses	(795,895)	(580,674)
Financial charges	(51,394)	(106,346)
Loss on write-off of property, plant and equipment	(109,519)	(55,927)
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR	1,125,858	2,177,380
Basic and diluted earnings per share (in fils)	10	20
Dividend per share (in fils)	-	10

STATEMENT OF OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
	2018 BD	2017 BD
Profit for the year	1,125,858	2,177,380
Other comprehensive income		
Other comprehensive income (loss) to be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods:		
Net movement in fair values of investments at fair value through other comprehensive income during the year	235,123	(398,824)
Share in associate's other comprehensive income (loss)	36,895	(26,837)
Other comprehensive income (loss) for the year	272,018	(425,661)
Total comprehensive income for the year	1,397,876	1,751,719

NATIONAL HOTELS COMPANY B.S.C.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
	2018 BD	2017 BD
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Profit for the year	1,125,858	2,177,380
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	2,092,666	2,048,050
Write-off of property, plant and equipment	109,519	55,927
Share of profit from an associate	(1,611,319)	(1,665,611)
Fair value gain on investments at fair value through profit or loss - net	(5,237)	(3,307)
Provision for (reversal of) ECLs	42,011	(1,416)
Provision for employees' end of service benefits	88,165	60,800
Dividend income	(171,667)	(168,700)
Interest income	(99,470)	(161,985)
Interest expense	50,715	106,346
Operating profit before working capital changes	1,621,241	2,447,484
Working capital changes:		
Inventories	13,852	(9,643)
Trade and other receivables	526,080	(447,421)
Trade and other payables	(87,106)	314,730
Cash flows from operations	2,074,067	2,305,150
Directors' remuneration paid	(119,500)	(179,000)
Employees' end of service benefits paid	(187,789)	(44,770)
Charitable contributions paid	(39,900)	(53,000)
Net cash flows from operating activities	1,726,878	2,028,380
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(4,694,998)	(1,560,223)
Dividends received from an associate	1,600,000	1,500,000
Other dividends received	171,667	168,700
Interest received	99,470	161,985
Interest paid	(64,429)	(128,924)
Net cash flows (used in) from investing activities	(2,888,290)	141,538
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Dividends paid	(1,091,747)	(1,310,097)
Repayments of term loan	(1,243,215)	(2,486,436)
Net cash flows used in financing activities	(2,334,962)	(3,796,533)
DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(3,496,374)	(1,626,615)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	2,955,006	4,581,621
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 DECEMBER	(541,368)	2,955,006

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY As at 31 December 2018											
	Share capital BD	Treasury shares BD	Statutory reserve BD	General reserve BD	Revaluation reserve BD	Investment revaluation reserve BD	Share of reserves of associate BD	Retained earnings BD	Proposed dividend BD	Proposed bonus shares BD	Total BD
As at 1 January 2018	11,025,000	(94,726)	5,512,500	2,190,079	13,391,305	1,825,735	22,548	48,183,786	1,091,747	-	83,147,974
Transfer to retained earnings on adoption of IFRS 9 by an associate	-	-	-	-	-	-	42,843	(42,843)	-	-	-
As at 1 January 2018 (restated)	11,025,000	(94,726)	5,512,500	2,190,079	13,391,305	1,825,735	65,391	48,140,943	1,091,747	-	83,147,974
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,125,858	-	-	1,125,858
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-	-	235,123	36,895	-	-	-	272,018
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-	-	235,123	36,895	1,125,858	-	-	1,397,876
Dividend paid - 2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,091,747)	-	(1,091,747)
Proposed bonus shares	-	-	-	(1102,500)	-	-	-	-	-	1,102,500	-
Balance at 31 December 2018	11,025,000	(94,726)	5,512,500	1,087,579	13,391,305	2,060,858	102,286	49,266,801	-	1,102,500	83,454,103

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY (continued) As at 31 December 2018											
	Share capital BD	Treasury shares BD	Statutory reserve BD	General reserve BD	Revaluation reserve BD	Investment revaluation reserve BD	Share of reserves of associate BD	Retained earnings BD	Proposed dividend BD	Proposed bonus shares BD	Total BD
Balance at 1 January 2017	11,025,000	(94,726)	5,512,500	2,190,079	13,391,305	2,224,559	49,385	47,098,153	1,310,097	-	82,706,352
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,177,380	-	-	2,177,380
Other comprehensive loss for the year	-	-	-	-	-	(398,824)	(26,837)	-	-	-	(425,661)
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-	-	(398,824)	(26,837)	2,177,380	-	-	1,751,719
Dividend paid - 2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,310,097)	-	(1,310,097)
Proposed dividend - 2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,091,747)	1,091,747	-
Balance at 31 December 2017	11,025,000	(94,726)	5,512,500	2,190,079	13,391,305	1,825,735	22,548	48,183,786	1,091,747	-	83,147,974

Non-cash items:
 (i) Liabilities towards acquisition of property, plant and equipment to the extent of BD 536,912 (2017: BD 369,547) has been excluded from the movement of trade and other payables.
 (ii) Restricted cash amounting to BD 105,895 (2017: BD 233,043) [note 13] has been excluded from the movement of trade and other payables.
 Interest income of BD 40,544 (2017: BD 40,544) which has been accrued but is not yet due has been excluded from the movement of trade and other receivables.
 (iv) Interest expense of BD 13,714 which has been accrued but is not yet due has been excluded from the movement of trade and other payables as of 31 December 2017.

India mourns dead soldiers

● US backs India's right to defend itself

AFP | New Delhi, India

Thousands of mourners across India attended funerals yesterday for some of the 41 soldiers killed in a suicide bombing in Indian-administered Kashmir as a round-the-clock curfew remained in force in part of the restive region.

The paramilitary troops were killed on Thursday as explosives packed in a van ripped through a convoy transporting 2,500 soldiers in the disputed Himalayan region, the deadliest attack in a three-decade-old armed conflict. TV stations showed coffins wrapped in Indian flags being carried by thousands of people across their hometowns, such as Gaya in the east and Unnao in the north, after the bodies were flown to New Delhi late Friday where Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid a wreath.

India has accused Pakistan of harbouring the militants behind the attack, which has sparked nationwide outrage and some public calls for war against the nuclear-armed arch rival to



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi gesturing as he walks next to coffins with the bodies of Indian troops killed in an attack in Kashmir, at Palam airport in New Delhi.

avenge the killings.

Two buses of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in the 78-vehicle convoy were targeted by the bomber on a key highway in the Pulwama district, just outside the main city of Srinagar.

The Pakistan-based Islamist

group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) claimed responsibility, and the vehicle was driven by a known local militant named Aadil Ahmad, alias Waqas Com-mando.

The powerful blast re-

duced one of the buses to a heap of mangled debris. Pictures showed bodies and body parts strewn all over the highway.

"I feel proud of the martyrdom of my son. I expect the government of India to avenge the killings," Brish Soreng, father of one



Mourners gather to watch the cremation at the funeral for Indian Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) trooper Kaushal Kumar Rawat in Agra

of the soldiers, told reporters.

Modi on Friday warned that those responsible had made a "big mistake" and would pay a "very heavy price".

US National Security Advisor John Bolton called his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval, prom-

ising to work with India to "ensure that Pakistan cease to be a safe haven for JeM and terrorist groups that target India, the US and others in the region," according to a readout released by India's foreign ministry yesterday.

Archaeologists discover Incan tomb

Lima, Peru

Peruvian archaeologists discovered an Incan tomb in the north of the country where an elite member of the pre-Columbian empire was buried, one of the investigators announced Friday.

The discovery was made on the Mata Indio dig site in the northern Lambayeque region, archaeologist Luis Chero told state news agency Andina.

Archaeologists believe the tomb belonged to a noble Inca based on the presence of "spondylus," a type of sea shell always present in the graves of important figures from the Incan period, which lasted from the 12th to the 16th centuries.

The tomb had been broken into multiple times, possibly in search of treasure. But despite evidence of looting, archaeologists recovered items including vases.

The tomb also had unique architecture including hollows for the placement of idols.

Chero said the findings



A recently discovered burial chamber belonging to the Inca period at the "Mata Indio" archeological site in Lambayeque region,



Pottery found in a recently discovered burial chamber



Personal funerary adornments found in a recently discovered burial chamber

"demonstrate the majesty and importance of this site," located 1,000 kilometers (620 miles)

north of the capital Lima, and 2,000 kilometers from Cusco -- capital of the Inca em-

pire which stretched from southern Colombia to central Chile.

Declawed



A Palestinian veterinarian holds down the head of the lioness "Falestine" after being declawed, at the Rafah Zoo in the southern Gaza Strip. The zoo in the war-battered Palestinian enclave is promoting itself as offering the chance to play with the 14-month-old declawed lioness, which is supposed to be placid enough to meet visitors. It is the latest unconventional animal care practice in Gaza where there is no specialised animal hospital with a few dilapidated zoos competing for business.

India's newly launched fast train hits cattle hurdle

New Delhi, India

India's first semi-high speed train broke down yesterday after colliding with a cow on the tracks, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new passenger service.

The Vande Bharat Express, touted as India's fastest train and built under the Modi government's flagship "Make in India" programme, made its first journey Friday from New Delhi to the Hindu holy city of Varanasi.



Modi (2nd L) flags off India's first semi-high speed express train Vande Bharat Express at New Delhi Railway Station

But on its return to the capital the next day a collision with a cow disrupted electricity supply to four carriages and damaged the brake system, according to Indian Railways.

"The train later experienced technical issues and was stranded on the way to Delhi," Indian Railways spokeswoman Smita Vats Sharma said.

The train reached the capital "safely" ahead of its first commercial journey on Sunday, she

added. India is struggling to upgrade its colonial-era railway system which transports 23 million travellers each day.

The locally-made express train has a rated top speed of 180 kilometres (111 miles) an hour, 20 per cent quicker than the next fastest train in service.

Railway authorities say the train is expected to reduce the 850-kilometre journey between the two cities from 14 to eight hours.

Detained for speaking Spanish

● Two US women sue border agency

● The American Civil Liberties Union filed the suit against US Customs and Border Protection

● Suda and Hernandez say that they were detained for 40 minutes

Los Angeles, United States

Two US women detained by a border patrol agent in the state of Montana after he heard them speaking Spanish in a grocery store have sued the country's border protection agency.

Video of the incident -- which took place last May in the small town of Havre -- showed Agent Paul O'Neal tell Ana Suda and Martha Hernandez that he had asked to see their identification as it was unusual to hear Spanish speakers in the state, which borders Canada.

"It has to do with you guys speaking Spanish in the store in a state where it's predominately English speaking," he said.

"It's not illegal, it's just very unheard of up here," he told the women.

The American Civil Liberties



Martha Hernandez (L) and Ana Suda standing before the store in Havre, Montana where they were detained by a US Border Patrol agent for speaking Spanish

Union on Thursday filed suit against US Customs and Border Protection on behalf of the women, who live in Havre.

Suda and Hernandez say in the lawsuit that O'Neal detained them for 40 minutes.

California native Hernandez and Suda, who was born in Texas, said they were standing in line to buy milk and eggs when the agent -- who was standing behind them -- commented on Hernandez's accent, and asked

the women where they were born. "I asked, 'Are you serious?'" Suda said, according to the lawsuit. "Agent O'Neal responded that he was 'dead serious'."

The two women say they were then asked to show identification and questioned outside the store, before eventually being released.

"The incident itself is part of a broader pattern that we've seen of abusive tactics by border

patrol which has gotten worse since the Trump administration, which has left border patrol officers feeling emboldened to take actions like this," Cody Wofsy, an attorney with the ACLU, said.

"Ostracized and humiliated"

"This has been devastating for (Suda and Hernandez)," he added.

"Havre is a small town, they felt ostracized and humiliated

and made to feel unwelcome in their own town and in their own country."

He noted the United States has no official language, with Spanish by far the most common language spoken after English.

Mother-of-two Suda, who has been living in Havre for five years, said in a statement that she and Hernandez have faced harassment since the encounter gained media attention.

She said she has been called "an illegal" in restaurants and bars and her eight-year-old daughter is now scared to speak Spanish.

"In some ways, it would have just been easier to stay quiet about the incident... but then I think about my kids," she said.

"I want them to not only be proud of being bilingual, but also to know that they live in a country where people can't just be stopped and interrogated based on how they look and sound."

A Customs and Border Protection spokesman declined to comment on the case.

"As a matter of policy, US Customs and Border Protection does not comment on pending litigation," he said in a statement.

"However, lack of comment should not be construed as agreement or stipulation with any of the allegations."

Erdogan won't go back on S-400 deal with Russia

Ankara, Turkey

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey would not "turn back" on a deal with Moscow to buy Russian S-400 missile defence systems in comments published yesterday.

Turkey's push to buy the systems has raised questions among NATO allies over their compatibility with alliance equipment as well as concerns over the burgeoning relationship between Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"We agreed a deal with Russia on the S-400, so for us to turn back from the deal is out of the question. This is a done deal," Erdogan said, quoted by CNN Turk broadcaster.

The United States in December approved the sale of \$3.5 billion in missiles to Turkey, which followed Washington anger over Turkey's intention to buy Russian systems.

Turkey was "open" to buying US Patriot missiles, Erdogan told Turkish journalists on board his plane from the southern Russian city of Sochi after a three-way summit on Syria with his Russian and Iranian counterparts.

El Salvador court frees woman jailed for delivering stillborn

San Salvador, El Salvador

Salvadoran court freed Evelyn Hernandez, who was sentenced to 30 years in prison after she gave birth to a stillborn baby at home. After serving 33 months for aggravated homicide, 20-year-old Hernandez smiled as she was reunited with her parents in capital San Salvador.

The court in Cojutepeque, east of the capital, ruled that she will be retried but while living at home. A hearing has been set for April 4, with a new judge, her lawyer Angel-

ica Rivas said. El Salvador has an extremely strict abortion ban. Hernandez gave birth in the makeshift bathroom of her home in the central Cuscatlan region. She was 18 years old and eight months pregnant.

She said her son was stillborn but was convicted of murdering him, abortion rights group ACDATEE said.

ACDATEE cited a pathologist's report which it said indicated the baby had choked to death while still in the womb.

The group said Hernandez had not known she was pregnant and gave birth on

the toilet after feeling abdominal pains. She got pregnant as the result of a rape, which she did not report out of fear because her family had been threatened. Even women who abort due to birth defects or health complications risk jail sentences of up to 40 years in El Salvador. Campaigners say some have been jailed after suffering miscarriages.

The country's abortion law made international headlines in 2013 when a sick woman was forbidden from aborting a fetus which developed without a brain.

French Tree of the Year



A cork oak with its stem resembling a large bird, chosen as the French Tree of the Year in 2018, is pictured in Ghisonaccia on the French Mediterranean island of Corsica. This cork oak has been elected as France's Tree of the Year 2018 and will represent France in the 'European Tree of the Year 2019' contest on February 28, 2019. It is estimated to be between 15 and 18 meters high and measures 4.8 meters in circumference. The particular form of its trunk resembling a large bird is believed to have been caused by weather, hence its name 'Arburacellu', meaning tree-bird in the Corsican language.



Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company B.S.C.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Directors of Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company B.S.C. in their recent meeting held on 14th February 2019 propose the following distribution of dividends for the year ending 31st December 2018 to the Ordinary Equity Shareholders who are registered on the date of the AGM to be held on 25th March 2019. This is subject to the AGM and the Regulatory Authorities approval on this recommendation.

- Cash Dividend of BD 2,143,847, equivalent to BD 0.015 per share or 15% of the paid-up capital amounting to BD 14.3mn.

Thank you.

Mr. Murad Ali Murad
Chairman

The foundation of modern Bahrain

Bahrain's National Action Charter laid the foundations of the nation as a representative democracy and constitutional monarchy



AHMED MOHAMMED AL MANNAI

Bahrain has marked the anniversary of its National Action Charter, the document that laid the foundations of the nation as a representative democracy and constitutional monarchy.

The Charter was acclaimed by Bahrainis – a national vote on its adoption in 2001 saw 98.41 per cent in favour, with a turnout of 90.2 per cent.

This year, on the 18th anniversary of the historic vote, Bahrain honours the document as the Charter of Gold.

The Charter lays down the principles of Bahrain's government – the division between the executive, legislative and judicial branches, the establishment of an elected Council of Representatives, the codification of governmental responsibilities, including the independence and immunity of the judiciary, and acknowledging the people as the source of all power.

But it goes further. It sets down the rights people should enjoy in Bahrain, guaranteeing personal freedoms such as freedom of religion, and marking rights such as the inviolability of personal property and equality in the eyes of the law.

Bahrain has long been a diverse nation, a trading hub that has



BACA President Shaikha Mai speaks at an event organised to mark the 18th anniversary of National Action Charter.

attracted business people from the region, and further afield, for centuries.

The Charter commits Bahrain to sustainable economic development and diversification of national income. This drive is further developed in the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 and suc-

cessive government action plans.

It further commits Bahrain to a free economy, including free movement of capital. This has helped increase the attractiveness of Bahrain as a business hub – the Kingdom ranks third in the Middle East and North Africa on the World Bank's Ease of Doing

Business index.

The Flexible Worker Permit, a first in the Gulf Cooperation Council, creates further opportunities for both employers and employees in the private sector. The US State Department cited the Flexi-Permit as a key reason for moving Bahrain into Tier 1

High unemployment? Stagnant economy? J

How Italy's leaders are tapping resentments, old and new, over immigration,



ILARIA MARIA SALA

White sauce and migration, the fork and the Mona Lisa, a fast train and an African currency – the points of contention are many. Since coming to power eight months ago, the most unpredictable and quarrelsome government Italy has ever known has managed to pick a colossal fight with, yes, France.

On Feb 7, the French government called back for “consultations” its ambassador to Italy. Matteo Salvini and Luigi Di Maio, both deputy prime ministers of Italy, had said that they gave their full support to the Gilets Jaunes, or Yellow Vests, who have been protesting throughout France for weeks, rattling the presidency of Emmanuel Macron. Then, after meeting representatives of the movement a few days ago, Di Maio declared that a “new Europe is being born.” The French foreign ministry called the statement yet more “provocation” and manipulation for “electoral aims.”

Italy's two-headed govern-

ment – an opportunistic alliance between the extreme-right League of Salvini and the populist, anti-establishment Five-Star Movement of Di Maio – has made a sport of going after France, especially Macron.

Di Maio, in particular, has called out France's supposedly neocolonialist relationship with its former territories in Africa, which supposedly impoverishes the continent and causes its people to flee – for Italy. On a popular TV talk show recently, Alessandro Di Battista, a prominent leader of the 5-Star Movement and the group's unofficial economic theorist, pulled out of his pocket a copy of a CFA franc bank note. The CFA, which is used in 14 African states, is pegged to the euro and guaranteed by the French treasury against those states' foreign reserves. Di Battista tore the bill apart angrily, blaming the currency for keeping Africa down and under France's yoke.

He didn't mention Italy's own adventures in Africa in the 19th and 20th centuries, when Italian troops are said to have raped, murdered and gassed civilians, bombed the Red Cross and starved children held in detention. (Those facts still hardly feature on the history curriculum of Italian schools.) Nor did he men-

tion that many asylum-seekers who arrive in Italy today come from Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia – an area once colonised in parts by Italy.

This flimsy anti-colonial stance may be designed to give the Italian government a patina of idealism, but it belies a muddled understanding of African political and economic dynamics. A new unit called Task Force Cina, or “Task Force China,” has been set up in the Ministry of Economic Development, which is under Di Maio's control: Its goal is to increase economic exchanges with China and stop migration to Italy by helping China invest in Africa. The Italian government calls France's involvement in Africa exploitative but seems to think that China's is no problem.

This French-bashing is a new twist in an old story of resentment and rivalry – a medley of unprocessed feelings that can be triggered just as easily by talk of the Napoleonic invasions or the French footballer Zinedine Zidane's famous head-butt against an Italian player in the 2006 World Cup Final. Italy won the championship, but in a whiff of illegitimacy after Zidane was taken out of the game.

For a long time, I think, some Italians have felt that our coun-



Flags compete during a demonstration in Ventimiglia, Italy, on the French border.

try's contribution to French culture has gone unacknowledged, usurped by our neighbours. But now, in the hands of Salvini and Di Maio, this sentiment is reaching new heights, in terms of both political expedience and pettiness.

The Louvre museum in Paris, where the Mona Lisa is exhibited, has been preparing to commemorate later this year the 500th anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's death. The painting became the property of Francis I, a king of France and da Vinci's

patron, after da Vinci's death in France in the early 16th century – a time when the concept of Italy as a nation was shaky at best. Last year, Italy promised to contribute to the special exhibit by lending the Louvre major, sumptuous pieces, but the new

1992

Nagorno-Karabakh War: Armenian troops massacre more than 20 Azerbaijani civilians during the Capture of Garadaghly.

1995

The **Cenepa War** between Peru and Ecuador ends on a ceasefire brokered by the UN.

1996

In Philadelphia, world champion **Garry Kasparov** beats the Deep Blue supercomputer in a chess match.



1996

NASA's Discovery Program begins as the NEAR **Shoemaker spacecraft** lifts off on the first mission ever to orbit and land on an asteroid, 433 Eros.



Bahrain has long been a diverse nation, a trading hub that has attracted business people from the region, and further afield, for centuries.

ment allows 100 per cent foreign ownership for most sectors. Operating costs are an average of 30pc lower than regional neighbours.

The public sector plays an increasingly important role in Bahrain's economy, and the Kingdom's strategy to transform the private sector into the main driver of growth and employment is delivering clear results.

The financial and banking sectors are leading non-oil growth and account for 15.8pc of GDP in mid-2018. Foreign direct investment reached \$830 million in 2018, while real GDP grew by an estimated 2pc, with non-oil growth at 2.7pc.

All of this development is conducted in line with the sustainable vision laid down in the National Action Charter – a vision later expressed globally in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, which Bahrain readily adopted.

The Charter also sets out Bah-

rain's international role, both within the Gulf Cooperation Council and further afield. Bahrain's diplomatic service, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, has successfully built a network of international alliances and partnerships based on respect for the sovereignty of countries and good neighbourliness and building bridges through understanding.

The Charter commits Bahrain to core principles of peaceful settlement of disputes and a conviction that world and regional peace is a core, strategic goal that justifies the greatest effort. Bahrain's foreign policy is committed to promoting global solidarity and improving human security.

Bahrain is committed to the UN Charter and international laws and rules.

To mark its diplomatic achievements, by Royal decree Bahrain's Institute of Diplomacy will be transformed into a special academy for diplomatic studies, named for His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, the pioneer of Bahraini diplomacy.

All these achievements have been earned as a result of the vision laid out in the National Action Charter. And the Charter continues to guide Bahrain's policies, and the implementation of those policies, to this day.

There is more progress to be made, of course, but on this day Bahrainis acknowledge the progress achieved so far.

(Ahmed Mohammed Al Mannai is the Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain's National Communication Centre.)

status in its 2018 Trafficking in Persons report.

Agencies such as the Bahrain Economic Development Board and Tamkeen, which supports small- and medium-sized enterprises, help drive private sector growth and attract investment.

Bahrain's regulatory environ-

Just bash the French

fine art and béchamel

But a populist, right-wing government such as Italy's today needs an enemy to rally its electorate, in particular at a time of deep economic difficulties.

thing" – for having been twice cheated by the French, out of her love and her culinary expertise.

Food historians may have serious grounds to debate the exact parentage of béchamel and the fork, but many assumptions driving the current government's revisionism are unquestionably wrong. Whatever Di Battista thinks of French monetary policies in Africa, for example, the highest number of African migrants to Italy comes from Nigeria, a former British colony, and not from French-speaking countries.

But a populist, right-wing government such as Italy's today needs an enemy to rally its electorate, in particular at a time of deep economic difficulties. Better to redirect attention on immigration and the French than face up to high unemployment and overall stagnation: Italy formally entered a recession this quarter.

Of course, Macron hasn't helped matters by hardly behaving diplomatically himself. When Salvini, also Italy's interior minister, announced that migrant boats would no longer be allowed to dock in Italian ports, the French president called the move "cynical and irresponsible." This, even though France's border with Italy has been closed to migrants

and French authorities have been pushing them back into Italy. It is also undeniable that Europe's southernmost countries like Italy bear a heavier share of the immigration crisis than other European states, partly because of the Dublin Regulation, a much-criticised European law that requires the countries where asylum-seekers arrive to screen them and take care of them.

And yet, when the European Parliament has discussed reforms aimed at spreading more evenly the burden of immigration among members of the European Union, the League did not participate and representatives of the 5-Star Movement abstained from voting. At a final session last June, the Dublin Regulation wasn't amended, for lack of votes in favour of reform.

Not all Italians are on board, of course. On Feb. 7, after France called back its ambassador, Cuneo, a small Italian town near the French border, had something like the La Marseillaise moment in the movie "Casablanca": Federico Borgna, the leftist mayor, flew the French flag from a balcony of city hall – an unlikely symbol of dissent in an even more unlikely dispute.

(Ilaria Maria Sala is an Italian journalist based in Hong Kong.)

government is mulling how to renege on that pledge.

A popular myth has resurfaced on Twitter in these fractious days about how both haute cuisine and humble utensils were introduced to the French court by Catherine de Medici, after she was sent from Florence to Paris to marry Henry II in 1533. Search Twitter for "mangiavate ancora con le mani," or "You'd still be eating with your hands," and see. De Medici made a rookie's mistake: She fell in love with her husband even though he was besotted with another woman (Diane de Poitiers). When I was in high school (in Florence), my history teacher consistently referred to her as "la poverina" – "the poor



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



"I didn't need to do this, but I'd rather to do it much faster."
– President @realDonaldTrump Mr. President, how can this possibly be an national emergency if you're saying you don't need to do it? Unreal.
#FakeTrumpEmergency
@SenSchumer

02



Trump's emergency declaration just got its first legal challenge. Legal advocacy group Public Citizen has filed suit on behalf of landowners in Texas and an environmental group. More lawsuits are expected.

@kylegriffin1

03



Clearest sign that @realDonaldTrump's #FakeTrumpEmergency is not legitimate? The President himself says he didn't need to declare a national emergency – it's just a faster way to force taxpayers to foot the bill after Congress wouldn't let him have his way.

@SpeakerPelosi

04



The dastardly attack in Pulwama has anguished the nation. Yes, this is a time of great sadness. But, I assure every family that a befitting reply will be given!

@narendramodi

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

Bahrain walks the talk for fitness



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

Bahrain last week celebrated National Sports Day. Like the International Day of Yoga, this too could be cynically dismissed as a PR tactic.

However, one look at the delighted faces of youngsters and the surprised enjoyment in the faces of older people finding their 'running feet' after decades, would be enough to convince us all that it is time we rediscovered the health benefits of physical activity.

The value of sport and physical activity extends beyond physical benefits and embraces socio-economic improvement in local communities.

Bahrain has seen many sporting heroes emerge in recent years. Our own Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, who put the stamp of his energy and passion for sports on Bahrain Sports Day is a fine example of how to channel a talent for sports into nation-building.

After all, Bahraini youth look up to him as a winner of international tests of horsemanship, that most Arabian of all sports and as the winner of the tough endurance race 'Ironman'.

We have women runners, marathon champs, swimmers, even women's football teams and Olympic and special athletes, who have brought medals and honours to Bahrain.

Sports nurtures fitness, focus, discipline and team spirit. A young person brought up with these qualities will obviously make a fine leader in any sphere that s/he plays a role in.

Besides the nation-wide sports day celebration, Bahrain has consistently pushed to engage citizens in physical activity. There are well-planned walking tracks in most residential areas, parks with ample space for a game of basketball and many gyms to suit every budget.

One other thing that we should be proud of is that an increasing number of Bahraini girls and women are taking a keen interest in sports.

We have women runners, marathon champs, swimmers, even women's football teams and Olympic and special athletes, who have brought medals and honours to Bahrain.

Above all, they have set the example for other women by putting health first. Today, it is not unusual to see women in traditional dress striding purposefully in the Corniche or park tracks, putting their health first.

A country that encourages its people to lay the foundation for good health through sports and exercise, is taking the vital first step towards productivity (fewer absentees) prosperity (better work output) and progress (more achievements).

As Professor Dame Sally Davies of the UK says, "If physical activity was a drug it would be regarded as a miracle, so everyone must take it seriously."

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

business

Inovest profit up 139pc

Recommends cash dividend distribution of 5pc

TDT | Manama

Inovest yesterday reported a 139 per cent jump in its 2018 consolidated net profit attributable to parent shareholders to US\$14.01 million from US\$5.86m for the same period last year.

Earnings Per Share attributable to the equity shareholders of the parent company amounted to US cents 4.95 as compared to US cents 2.06 in 2017.

Net Operating Profit increased by 3pc, reaching US\$12.52m, up from US\$ 12.17m in 2017.

The improvement, according to Inovest, is primarily due to recoveries from provisions of US\$1.54m in comparison to provisions of US\$ (6.12m) in 2017, as well as an increase in revenues from real estate investments, equity investments, and construction contracts.

Consolidated operating income for 2018 increased by 2pc from US\$23.21m to US\$23.73m. Consolidated net profit increased by 132pc, reaching US\$14.06m in comparison to US\$6.05m for the same period of 2017.

Operating expenses stood at US\$11.22m in comparison to US\$11.04m for 2017, reflecting a marginal increase of 2pc.

The board said it recommended a cash dividend distribution



Dr Omar Al Mutawa, Inovest Chairman



Yasser Al Jar, CEO of Inovest

of 5pc of paid-up capital subject to the approval of Central Bank of Bahrain and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and Tourism.

For the quarter ended 31st December 2018, Consolidated net profit attributable to the parent shareholders of US\$1.70m in comparison to a loss of (US\$13.05)m for the same quarter of last year, which represents an increase of 113pc.

Earnings Per Share attributable to the equity shareholders of the parent company for the last quarter of 2018 amounted to US cents 0.60 as compared to Loss Per Share of US cents (4.58) in 2017.

Consolidated operating in-

come declined by 24pc to reach US\$4.22m in comparison to US\$5.58m for the same quarter of 2017.

Commenting on the results, Inovest's Chairman Dr Omar Al Mutawa said, "Inovest's achievements this year come in continuation of over three years of consistent profitability; a testament to the Group's strategies and the capabilities of the team members within the organization.

"More importantly, we have within the year established two critical building blocks for our future development. First and foremost, we established Inovest's core executive team and secondly, we have determined

Inovest's strategic direction, formalized in our recently announced three-year plan for 2019-2021. Our strategy will focus on the principles of sustainability, growth, and diversity, to be achieved through our perseverance in maintaining profitability, improving the performance of investments, as well as diversifying risk through exploring new investment sectors."

From his end, Yasser Al Jar, CEO of Inovest, said Inovest would actively be looking to increase its operating revenues in a sustainable manner, whilst maintaining a balanced view of associated operational expenses.



MIKE ORLOV

Control in Organisations

When in South Africa recently I was talking to a business-owner about his need for greater control of the micro-activity in his medium-sized enterprise, down to the level of wanting to control conversations between employees; as he said; "in the interests of efficiency". We explored what lay behind this need and came to the conclusion he did not like being unaware of what was going on between his people; he wanted to manage the space in-between individuals who are working in his organisation to maximise his investment in his labour-force.

I have experienced such need before in enterprise-owners in both the UK and the Middle East. Perhaps the most extreme example was a particular business-owner wanting to track and plot where his employees were by tracking the location of their mobile phones at all times. He even recruited more people to conduct the tracking; a case of sacrificing effectiveness in a vain-search for efficiency and control.

In our attempts to exercise control, in the search for optimum-efficiency, we often damage effectiveness. And if we think our employees do not know they are being monitored then we are only fooling ourselves. They know and they will not trust you if you do not trust them.

The qualities of our relating with each other and the interactions between us are a result of complex political, social, chaotic and, more often than not, uncontrollable activities. These dynamics relationships shift every day; often every hour. Human relations are fluid; forming and re-forming, changing over time.

Patterns emerge and these patterns are the actual culture of a group of people; be it overall organisational culture or specific sub-cultures in teams, departments or divisions. The art of leadership can transform and shift cultures, but management dictat or intrusive micro-management practices will not be successful.

Gaining greater control within an organisation explicitly demands exhibiting leadership competencies; acting in an organisational context to change this context and definitely change yourself in the process. Gaining greater control implies surrendering control; a grand paradox for all leaders to get used to and enjoy.

No single agent or person can control an enterprise or change an organisation. Greater-control and transformational-change come about when people act differently together; numerous interacting agents producing overall different patterns of talking about things and doing things differently across their teams, divisions and the overall organisation.

These dynamic-processes, forming new-patterns, more often than not create anxiety, not only with employees but also with business-owners and senior management. Gaining greater control means living with this paradox of letting-go and releasing-control.

So often people sense meaning in their individual roles but they also sense meaninglessness when they lose focus on their purpose (what needs to be done) and just as importantly, how these things should be done.

In reality, this presence of anxiety is normal, healthy and essential for the emergence of novelty and change, through which greater control is released from different interactions between people rather than dictat from the owner or senior manager.

How we talk with each other and what is written, how things said both verbally and in writing are interpreted, affects our cognitive thinking, our attitudes and our behaviours. How we think and feel about things within organisations depends not on instructions from the boss but from our interactions with the people around us; it is these interactions which develop personal senses of reality.

Gain control by releasing control, aiding individuals to explore new senses of reality. From enriching work-lives through effective job-design, engagement-strategies, enlighten employees by articulating purpose and vision, empower people and enable individuals through effective devolution of power.

(Mike Orlov is a Partner at Stepping Stone Global, a Bahrain-based boutique strategic management consultancy. He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Leadership and Management. Email: info@steppingstoneglobal.com)

Alba accelerates Line 6 ramp-up

TDT | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) announced that its flagship Line 6 Expansion Project is progressing as per schedule with the successful testing of 40 pots which are now fully operational.

The Chairman of Alba's Board of Directors, Shaikh Daij Bin Salman Bin Daij Al Khalifa, said: "We are delighted to have started Potline 6 ahead of schedule on 13 December 2018 and to have successfully started the first 40 pots. Alba is targeting Line 6 full ramp-up within Q3 2019 which will further position us to take advantage of the growing demand in global aluminium consumption."

We also look forward to finishing 2019 strong as Alba's total production will top 1,350,000



Alba is targeting Line 6 full ramp-up within Q3 2019 which will further position us to take advantage of the growing demand in global aluminium consumption

SHAIKH DAIJ BIN SALMAN BIN DAIJ AL KHALIFA, CHAIRMAN OF ALBA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

metric tonnes with Potline 6. With 2019 Production Target, we will make a big step forward on the cost side which will bring us closer to achieve US\$40 Million savings (Phase IV of Project Titan) in 2019."

One of the most remarkable achievements for Alba on this landmark Project is the Extreme Ownership of Safety by Alba employees and contractors.

It is noteworthy that Line 6 Smelter clocked more than 32 million working-hours without Lost Time Injury (LTI), while Power Station 5 recorded more than 7 million working-hours without LTI and Power Distribution System achieved more than 2 million working-hours without LTI as of 31 January 2019.

Lion Air plane skids off runway at Indonesian airport

Reuters

ALion Air passenger plane skidded off a runway outside a city on the Indonesian island of Borneo yesterday during heavy rain, the airline said, adding no one was injured.

The aircraft was operating a Jakarta-Pontianak service, with 182 passengers and seven crew members onboard, Lion Air spokesman Danang Mandala Prihantoro said in a statement.

The Boeing 737-800NG plane skidded off the runway as it was trying to land at Supadio International Airport, a regional hub airport that services a small number of international flights.

Batelco's Gulf network expands to Europe

TDT | Manama

Batelco yesterday announced that its Gulf Network, an international cable system launched last year for the GCC region has been expanded into Europe and been transformed to Batelco Global Network (BGN).

The network, which runs

over a protected state-of-the-art optical transport network (OTN), meets the demand for high bandwidth connectivity and capacity.

Batelco said it has chosen Marseille to host its network where it has deployed multi-service nodes using high capacity optimized routes to provide the shortest



Adel Al Daylami

latency.

Batelco Chief Global Business Officer Adel Al-Daylami commented, "This step will facilitate the provision of new and innovative services for the growing digital economy, which will support the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the GCC in the field of communications."

Merkel says US calling European cars a threat is 'frightening'

Munich, Germany

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Saturday labelled as "frightening" tough US trade rhetoric planning to declare European car imports a national security threat.

"If these cars... suddenly spell a threat to US national security, than that is frightening to us," she said.

Merkel pointed out that the biggest car plant of German luxury brand BMW was not in Bavaria but in South Carolina, from where it exports vehicles to China.

"All I can say is it would be good if we could resume proper talks with one another," she said at the Munich Security Conference.

"Then we will find a solution."

A US Commerce Department report has concluded that auto



German Chancellor Angela Merkel (L) greets US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi during the 55th Munich Security Conference in Munich, southern Germany

imports threaten national security, setting the stage for possible tariffs by the White House, two people familiar with the matter said Thursday.

President Donald Trump in May, is "positive" with respect to the central question of whether the imports "impair" US national security, said a European auto industry source.

"It's going to say that auto imports are a threat to national security," said an official with another auto company.

The report, which is expected to be delivered to the White House by a Sunday deadline, has been seen as a major risk for foreign automakers.

Trump has threatened to slap 25 percent duties on European autos, especially targeting Germany, which he says has harmed the American car industry.

After receiving the report, the US president will have 90 days to decide whether to move ahead with tariffs.

Trump in July reached a trade truce with European Commis-

sion President Jean-Claude Juncker, with the two pledging no new tariffs while the negotiations continued.

Brussels has already drawn up a list of 20 billion euros (\$22.6 billion) in US exports for retaliatory tariffs should Washington press ahead, the commission's Director-General for Trade Jean-Luc Demarty told the European Parliament last month.

The White House has used the national security argument -- saying that undermining the American manufacturing base impairs military readiness, among other claims -- to impose steep tariffs on steel and aluminium imports, drawing instant retaliation from the EU, Canada, Mexico and China.

Trading partners have sometimes reacted with outrage at the suggestion their exports posed a threat to US national security.

Pence urges EU to recognise Guaido as Venezuela president

Munich, Germany

US Vice President Mike Pence on Saturday called on the European Union to recognise opposition leader Juan Guaido as the president of Venezuela.

"All of us must stand with the Venezuelan people until freedom and democracy is fully restored," Pence told the Munich Security Conference.

"So today we call on the European Union to step forward for freedom and recognise Juan Guaido as the only legitimate president of Venezuela."

Guaido, the head of Venezuela's National Assembly, de-



Venezuelan opposition leader and self-declared acting president Juan Guaido

clared himself president of the crisis-wracked country in January, piling pressure on President Nicolas Maduro.

Pence said that after the United States became the first nation to recognise the parliamentary leader as head of state, "52 nations including 30 of our European allies have followed America's lead."

"But it's time for the rest of the world to step forward," he said.

"Once more the Old World can take a stance in support of freedom in the New World. All of us must stand with the Venezuelan people until freedom and democracy is fully restored."

Guaido, the head of Venezuela's National Assembly, declared himself president of the crisis-wracked country in January, piling pressure on President Nicolas Maduro.

Erdogan won't go back on S-400 deal with Russia

Ankara, Turkey

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey would not "turn back" on a deal with Moscow to buy Russian S-400 missile defence systems in comments published yesterday.

Turkey's push to buy the systems has raised questions among NATO allies over their compatibility with alliance equipment as well as concerns over the burgeoning relationship between Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"We agreed a deal with Russia on the S-400, so for us to turn back from the deal is out of the question. This is a done deal," Erdogan said, quoted by CNN Turk broadcaster.

The United States in December approved the sale of \$3.5 billion in missiles to Turkey, which followed Washington anger over Turkey's intention to buy Russian systems.

Turkey was "open" to buying US Patriot missiles, Erdogan told Turkish journalists on board his plane from the southern Russian city of Sochi after a three-way summit on Syria with his Russian and Iranian counterparts.

"But this sale must serve the interests of our country. To this end, joint



We agreed a deal with Russia on the S-400, so for us to turn back from the deal is out of the question. This is a done deal

production, credit and early delivery are of vital importance," Erdogan added.

The Turkish leader said the US administration "looked positively" at early delivery but "said nothing regarding joint production and credit".

Erdogan said work continued for the systems to be delivered in July as promised before.

Washington has warned Turkey the S-400s purchase jeopardised participation in the F-35 fighter jets programme. US officials have said Ankara could even face sanctions on defence purchases under US law if it goes ahead.

But Ankara has said the two defence systems are not seen as an alternative for the other.

The S-400 deal is one of the key symbols of the warm relationship enjoyed by Erdogan and Putin, who have also worked closely on finding a political solution to the Syrian war.

Samsung to launch US retail stores

San Francisco, United States

Samsung announced Friday it will open three US retail stores to promote its Galaxy line of smartphones as the South Korean giant sets to launch an updated flagship handset.

The move ramps up Samsung's efforts to compete on the home turf of Apple, which has hundreds of retail outlets in the US and around the world.

Samsung said in a statement it made the move after feedback from customers.

"They told us that they love having the ability to walk into a store and experience how the latest technology from Samsung works together to create a unique, immersive experience," the company said in a statement.

"Galaxy fans, in particular, mentioned that they were looking for a space to call

their own, a place where they can get a feel for Samsung products first-hand."

The new stores will be at the Americana at Brand mall in Los Angeles; Roosevelt Field in Garden City, New York; and The Galleria in Houston, Texas.

Samsung is holding a product launch Wednesday in San Francisco amid speculation it may launch a folding smartphone, which would make it the first of the major handset makers in the segment.

Samsung has previously opened pop-up stores in the US and has a center showcasing its technology in New York City.

"Our new Samsung Experience Stores are spaces to experience and see Samsung technology brought to life, to empower people to do what

they never thought was possible before," said YH Eom, president of Samsung Electronics America.

"We want to build a 'playground' for Samsung fans -- a place to learn about and try out all of the amazing new products we have to offer."

Samsung remained the number one global handset maker with a 20.8 percent share in 2018 despite an eight percent sales slump for the year, according to research firm IDC -- which said last year showed the worst overall decline in sales for the smartphone sector.

Representative picture



BKIC net profit rises 22pc

● Proposes cash dividend of 15pc

● Underwriting profits increase 66pc

● Fourth quarter net profit rose 28pc

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company (BKIC) yesterday announced a 22 per cent increase in net profit attributable to the shareholders to BD3.2 million, compared to BD2.6m in the previous year. Earnings per share was 22 fils compared to 36 fils last year.

The increase in the net profit was attributed to significant improvement in the underwriting profits as well as the investment income.

The board also decided to propose cash dividend for the year 2018 to the Shareholders who are registered on the date of the AGM of 15pc, equivalent



Murad Ali Murad, Chairman



Ebrahim Al Rayes, CEO

to 15 fils per share of paid-up Capital amounting to 14.3mn (2017: 7.15mn).

Underwriting profits was BD1.9m for the year ended 31 December 2018, compared to BD1.2m of the same period last year, recording an increase of 66pc.

Gross premium revenue was BD81.6m, compared to BD59.5m in the previous year, a growth

of 37pc.

Total comprehensive income reached BD2.9m compared to BD2.8m in 2017. Investment net income increased by 26pc from BD1.6m in 2017 to BD2m in the current year.

For the fourth quarter, the company achieved a net profit attributable to the shareholders of BD 342,000 compared to BD 267,000 during the same period

of the previous year, with an increase of 28pc.

The increase was mainly due to the increase in the net premium, an increase in net fee and commission income and a decrease in other expenses.

Earnings per share was 2 fils compared to 4 fils in the same quarter of last year.

Underwriting profits reached BD112,000, compared to a loss of

BD317,000 in the same quarter of last year, with an increase of 135pc. Gross premium revenue increased by 82pc from BD17.6mn to BD32mn.

Total comprehensive income reached BD885,000 compared to BD224,000 in the same quarter of last year, with an increase of 295pc. Net income from investment increased by 5pc, from BD 172,000 in the quarter of last year to BD 181,000 in the 4th quarter of this year.

Commenting on the results, the Board of Directors stated that, "The Board hopes that the company continues to achieve the best results in the ensuing periods."

It is worth mentioning that during the year 2018, the company increased its stake in Takaful International by acquiring an additional stake to reach 81.94pc.

Ebrahim Alrayes, BKIC's CEO said, "BKIC is the leading insurance company in the Bahrain market and continues to enhance its services in order to maintain its leadership position in the market."

Amazon invests in electric vehicle startup Rivian

San Francisco, United States

Electric vehicle startup Rivian on Friday announced a \$700 million investment round led by Amazon, which recently pumped money into a young self-driving car technology firm. Details of Amazon's stake in US-based Rivian were not disclosed, but the company said it will remain independent.

The potential Tesla rival late last year unveiled an electric pickup truck and an electric sport utility vehicle at an auto show in Los Angeles.

The vehicles were to be manufactured at the startup's plant in Illinois, with deliveries to customers expected to begin late in 2020.

"We're inspired by Rivian's vision for the future of electric transportation," Amazon worldwide consumer chief Jeff Wilke said in a release.

"We're thrilled to invest in such an innovative company."

By the bootstraps

Handmade Zimbabwe shoes an unlikely global hit



An employee of the Courteney boot company works on the production line



An employee of the Courteney boot company selects leather that will be used to make shoes



An employee of the Courteney boot company works at the shoe factory

AFP | Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

In a tiny factory producing handmade boots and shoes in southwestern Zimbabwe, leather cutter Misheck Sibanda is on another hectic shift as he tries to keep up with soaring global demand.

Orders are piling in and new workers are being recruited at the Courteney boot company -- that seems to defy all the odds as Zimbabwe is battered by decades of economic misery.

Founded in 1993, the firm has recently ramped up production to just 30 pairs a day, all of them made meticulously by 14 employees in a one-room workshop in the second city Bulawayo.

The city -- a former industrial hub -- has suffered the brunt of the country's collapse since 1980 that has left behind mass unemployment and a landscape of derelict warehouses and ghostly abandoned factories.

But in one unmarked brick building, Sibanda uses his sturdy cutting machine to press shapes out of locally produced leather skins at the start of a process that turns out boots selling for between \$140 and \$500 a pair.

"We sell internationally -- to the first world, even though we are a third-world country. That alone makes me smile," Sibanda said, deftly handling the soft leather skins.

"People are tired of manmade materials, they want natural products like ours."

Cult footwear

Prized by a small band of aficionados, Courteney boots have soles made from natural tree rubber -- imported in blocks

from Malaysia -- and uppers made from the hides of Zimbabwe game such as buffalo, kudu, wildebeest and crocodile.

Using only hides approved under the international CITES conservation regulations, it also makes boots from ostrich, impala and even hippopotamus.

"Wild, free-range leather does more to preserve the natural environment than cattle ranching," the company says.

The same 15 basic designs have been unchanged for years, eschewing the fickle trends of fashion except for a few colourfully dyed women's boots.

Exporting mostly to the United States, Europe, Britain and neighbouring South Africa, the boots are paid for in precious US dollars -- the key to survival in Zimbabwe's economy as it lurches downwards.

The country, hammered by hyperinflation 10 years ago, is again being roiled by a currency crisis, government mismanagement and fuel shortages.

Many businesses have folded and investors have fled over the last 20 years, but the Courteney Boot company is rushing to keep up with orders.

Each shoe can take up to two weeks to make, and three extra staff were employed last year to boost output.

"We asked our current long-serving staff to select the new ones," said manager Helen Emerick in the factory amid smells of leather, hot rubber, glue and machine oil.

"They know exactly what skills are needed and how much hard work it takes. They want the company to grow and we want a happy team."

Several employees come from

local shoe-making families, including fathers, brothers and sons, with youngsters learning the trade at home using offcuts from the factory bins.

Open during protests

When violent protests against Zimbabwe's economic woes erupted last month, almost all businesses closed down for a week. But the Courteney factory stayed open, working shorter days so that staff could get home safely.

"We had a lot of orders to get done!" Emerick said.

"The biggest challenge now is regular power cuts. We have to use our generator and make sure we have enough fuel.

"We do it the old-fashioned way -- there's no laser cutting here."

The company is named after Frederick Courteney Selous, the legendary explorer and hunter who died in 1917, and it is still owned by Gale Rice, widow of its founder John Rice.

In Bulawayo's colonial-era city centre, Jay Giga, owner of a menswear store on Robert Mugabe Way, says he waits impatiently for each new batch of supplies.

"A guy from South Africa came in yesterday and bought nine pairs for him and his friends," Giga said.

"I sell them as fast as I can get them in. We are always asking them to make more."

Back on the production line, Sibanda says that he expects Zimbabwe's renewed troubles to test the company to the limit in the years ahead.

"It is so difficult here," he said. "But we are going to survive because we are unique."

show

OASIS JUFFAIR

1-ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/ROMANTIC) NEW

Ⓢ ROSA SALAZAR, CHRISTOPH WALTZ, JENNIFER CONNELLY
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN
DAILY AT (VIP): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM

2-GULLY BOY (PG-15) (HINDI/DRAMA/MUSICAL) NEW

Ⓢ ALIA BHAT, RANVEER SINGH, SIDDHANT CHATURVEDI
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN

3-RACE TIME (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

Ⓢ SONJA BALL, LUCINDA DAVIS, TOD FENNEL
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 10.30 AM + 2.45 PM

4-ORU ADAAR LOVE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW

Ⓢ PRIYA PRAKASH VARRIER, NOORIN SHEREEF, ROSHAN ABDUL RAHOOF
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM

5-ALLU RAMENDRAN (G) (MALAYALAM) NEW

* KUNCHAKO BOBAN, APARNA BALAMURALI
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 5.30 + 11.15 PM

6-DEV (PG-13) (TAMIL) NEW

Ⓢ KARTHI, RAKUL PREET SINGH, PRAKASH RAJ
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

7-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA)

Ⓢ LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 6.15 + 11.45 PM

8-THE LEGO MOVIE 2 (G) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

Ⓢ CHRIS PRATT, ELIZABETH BANKS, WILL ARNETT
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 12.30 + 4.45 + 9.15 PM

9-KUMBALANGI NIGHT (PG-13) (MALAYALAM)

Ⓢ FAHADH FAASIL, SHANE NIGAM, SOUBIN SHAHIR
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM

10-SPIDER MAN INTO THE SPIDER VERSE (PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)

Ⓢ HAILEE STEINFELD, NICOLAS CAGE, MAHERSHALA ALI
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 7.00 + 11.30 PM

11-9 (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)

Ⓢ PRITHVIRAJ SUKUMARAN, PRAKASH RAJ, MAMTA MOHANDAS
DAILY AT: 2.30 + 8.15 PM

12-MANIKARNIKA: THE QUEEN OF JHANSI (PG-15) (DRAMA/ACTION/BIOGRAPHY)

Ⓢ KANGANA RANAUT, DANNY DENZONGPA, SURESH OBEROI
DAILY AT: 3.15 + 8.45 PM

13-URI: THE SURGICAL STRIKE (15+) (HINDI/ACTION/DRAMA)

Ⓢ VICKY KAUSHAL, KIRTI KULHARI, PARESH RAWAL
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 5.30 + 11.00 PM

14-NJHAN PRAKASHAN (PG) (MALAYALAM)

Ⓢ FAHADH FAASIL, NIKHILA VIMAL
DAILY AT: 2.45 + 8.15 PM

CITYCENTRE

1-ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/ROMANTIC) NEW

Ⓢ ROSA SALAZAR, CHRISTOPH WALTZ, JENNIFER CONNELLY
DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 12.30 + 3.00 + 5.30 + 8.00 + 10.30 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

DAILY AT (ATMOS): 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN

DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN

DAILY AT (VIP I): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM

2-GULLY BOY (PG-15) (HINDI/DRAMA/MUSICAL) NEW

Ⓢ ALIA BHAT, RANVEER SINGH, SIDDHANT CHATURVEDI
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)

3-HAPPY DEATH DAY 2U (PG-15) (THRILLER/COMEDY/CRIME) NEW

Ⓢ JESSICA ROTHE, RUBY MODINE, PHI VU
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN

4-QESAT HOB (PG-15) (ARABIC/ROMANTIC/COMEDY/DRAMA) NEW

Ⓢ AHMED HATEM, HANNAH EL-ZAHED, HALA FAKHER
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM

5-THE VANISHING (15+) (DRAMA/THRILLER) NEW

Ⓢ GERARD BUTLER, PETER MULLAN, OLAFUR DARRI HUSTON
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 3.15 + 7.30 + 11.45 PM

6-STAN & OLLIE (PG) (COMEDY/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY) NEW

Ⓢ JOHN C. REILLY, STEVE COOGAN, DANNY HUSTON
DAILY AT: 1.15 + 5.30 + 9.45 PM

7-RACE TIME (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

Ⓢ SONJA BALL, LUCINDA DAVIS, TOD FENNEL
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 PM

8-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA)

Ⓢ LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

DAILY AT (VIP II): 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN

9-THE LEGO MOVIE 2 (G) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

Ⓢ CHRIS PRATT, ELIZABETH BANKS, WILL ARNETT
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM

10-GLASS (PG-15) (THRILLER)

Ⓢ JAMES MCAVOY, BRUCE WILLIS, SAMUEL L. JACKSON
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

11-THE UPSIDE (PG-15) (COMEDY/DRAMA)

Ⓢ KEVIN HART, BRYAN CRANSTON, NICOLE KIDMAN
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM

12-NADI ELREGAL EL SERI (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)

Ⓢ KARIM ABDULAZIZ, GHADA ADEL, MAJDE ALKIDDAWI
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

13-THE PRODIGY (18+) (THRILLER/HORROR)

Ⓢ TAYLOR SCHILLING, JACKSON ROBERT SCOTT, PETER MOONEY
DAILY AT: 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM

14-AQUAMAN (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)

Ⓢ JASON MOMOA, AMBER HEARD, NICOLE KIDMAN
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

15-JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN (PG) (COMEDY/ACTION/ADVENTURE)

Ⓢ ROWAN ATKINSON, OLGA KURYLENKO, EMMA THOMPSON
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN

16-HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD (PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)

Ⓢ CATE BLANCHETT, JONAH HILL, GERARD BUTLER



DAILY AT: 2.30 + 6.45 + 11.00 PM

17-RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

Ⓢ JOHN C. REILLY, SARAH SILVARMAN, GAL GADOT
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.15 + 3.30 + 5.45 + 8.00 + 10.15 PM

18-SPIDER MAN INTO THE SPIDER VERSE (PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)

Ⓢ HAILEE STEINFELD, NICOLAS CAGE, MAHERSHALA ALI
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 4.30 + 8.45 PM

SEEF (II)

1-ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/ROMANTIC) NEW

Ⓢ ROSA SALAZAR, CHRISTOPH WALTZ, JENNIFER CONNELLY
DAILY AT: 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 THUR/FRI)

2-GULLY BOY (PG-15) (HINDI/DRAMA/MUSICAL) NEW

Ⓢ ALIA BHAT, RANVEER SINGH, SIDDHANT CHATURVEDI
DAILY AT: (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)

3-HAPPY DEATH DAY 2U (PG-15) (THRILLER/COMEDY/CRIME) NEW

Ⓢ JESSICA ROTHE, RUBY MODINE, PHI VU
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM

4-QESAT HOB (PG-15) (ARABIC/ROMANTIC/COMEDY/DRAMA) NEW

Ⓢ AHMED HATEM, HANNAH EL-ZAHED, HALA FAKHER
DAILY AT: 2.30 + 7.00 + 11.30 PM

5-THE VANISHING (15+) (DRAMA/THRILLER) NEW

Ⓢ GERARD BUTLER, PETER MULLAN, OLAFUR DARRI HUSTON
DAILY AT: 2.30 + 7.15 PM + 12.00 MN

6-STAN & OLLIE (PG) (COMEDY/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY) NEW

Ⓢ JOHN C. REILLY, STEVE COOGAN, DANNY HUSTON
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 4.45 + 9.00 PM

7-THE QUAKE (PG-13) (THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW

Ⓢ KRISTOFFER JONER, ANE DAHL TORP, KATHRINE THORBORGH JOHANSEN
DAILY AT: 2.30 + 6.45 + 11.00 PM

8-RACE TIME (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

Ⓢ SONJA BALL, LUCINDA DAVIS, TOD FENNEL
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 PM

9-TIME FREAK (15+) (ROMANTIC/COMEDY/FANTASY) NEW

Ⓢ ASA BUTTERFIELD, SOPHIE TURNER, SKYLER GISONDO
DAILY AT: 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

10-DEV (PG) (COMEDY/ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW

Ⓢ KARTHI, RAKUL PREET SINGH, PRAKASH RAJ
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM

11-THE LEGO MOVIE 2 (G) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

Ⓢ CHRIS PRATT, ELIZABETH BANKS, WILL ARNETT
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 3.45 + 8.15 PM

12-GLASS (PG-15) (THRILLER)

Ⓢ JAMES MCAVOY, BRUCE WILLIS, SAMUEL L. JACKSON
DAILY AT: 1.15 + 6.30 + 11.45 PM

13-THE UPSIDE (PG-15) (COMEDY/DRAMA)

Ⓢ KEVIN HART, BRYAN CRANSTON, NICOLE KIDMAN
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.45 + 9.30 PM

14-NADI ELREGAL EL SERI (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)

Ⓢ KARIM ABDULAZIZ, GHADA ADEL, MAJDE ALKIDDAWI
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 4.45 + 9.15 PM

15-AQUAMAN (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)

Ⓢ JASON MOMOA, AMBER HEARD, NICOLE KIDMAN
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 3.45 + 9.00 PM

16-HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD (PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)

Ⓢ CATE BLANCHETT, JONAH HILL, GERARD BUTLER
DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.00 + 10.30 PM

SEEF (I)

1-GULLY BOY (G) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

Ⓢ ALIA BHAT, RANVEER SINGH, SIDDHANT CHATURVEDI
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM

2-ORU ADAAR LOVE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW

Ⓢ PRIYA PRAKASH VARRIER, NOORIN SHEREEF, ROSHAN ABDUL RAHOOF
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN

3-ALLU RAMENDRAN (G) (MALAYALAM) NEW

Ⓢ KUNCHAKO BOBAN, APARNA BALAMURALI
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN

4-KALA SHAH KALA (PUNJABI/COMEDY) NEW

Ⓢ BINNU DHILLON, SARGUN MEHTA
DAILY AT: 3.15 + 8.45 PM

5-PERANBU (15+) (TAMIL) NEW

Ⓢ MAMMOOTTY, SADHANA, ANJALI
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 6.00 + 11.30 PM

6-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA)

Ⓢ LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN

7-KUMBALANGI NIGHT (PG-13) (MALAYALAM)

Ⓢ FAHADH FAASIL, SHANE NIGAM, SOUBIN SHAHIR
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM

SAAR

1-ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/ROMANTIC) NEW

2-GULLY BOY (PG-15) (HINDI/DRAMA/MUSICAL) NEW

Ⓢ ALIA BHAT, RANVEER SINGH, SIDDHANT CHATURVEDI
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + (11.30 PM THURS/FRI)

3-HAPPY DEATH DAY 2U (PG-15) (THRILLER/COMEDY/CRIME) NEW

Ⓢ JESSICA ROTHE, RUBY MODINE, PHI VU
DAILY AT: 9.00 + (11.15 PM THURS/FRI)

4-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA)

Ⓢ LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN
DAILY AT: 8.30 + (11.00 PM THURS/FRI)

6-THE LEGO MOVIE 2 (G) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

Ⓢ CHRIS PRATT, ELIZABETH BANKS, WILL ARNETT
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 PM

7-HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD (PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)

Ⓢ CATE BLANCHETT, JONAH HILL, GERARD BUTLER
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 PM

1-ORU ADAAR LOVE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW

Ⓢ PRIYA PRAKASH VARRIER, NOORIN SHEREEF, ROSHAN ABDUL RAHOOF
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 9.00 PM

2-DEV (PG) (TAMIL) NEW

Ⓢ KARTHI, RAKUL PREET SINGH, PRAKASH RAJ
DAILY AT: 6.00 PM + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)

1-ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/ROMANTIC) NEW

Ⓢ ROSA SALAZAR, CHRISTOPH WALTZ, JENNIFER CONNELLY
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

2-GULLY BOY (PG-15) (HINDI/DRAMA/MUSICAL) NEW

Ⓢ ALIA BHAT, RANVEER SINGH, SIDDHANT CHATURVEDI
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

3-HAPPY DEATH DAY 2U (PG-15) (THRILLER/COMEDY/CRIME) NEW

Ⓢ JESSICA ROTHE, RUBY MODINE, PHI VU
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM

4-QESAT HOB (PG-15) (ARABIC/ROMANTIC/COMEDY/DRAMA) NEW

Ⓢ AHMED HATEM, HANNAH EL-ZAHED, HALA FAKHER
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

5-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA)

Ⓢ LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM

6-THE UPSIDE (PG-15) (COMEDY/DRAMA)

Ⓢ KEVIN HART, BRYAN CRANSTON, NICOLE KIDMAN
DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.15 + 11.00 PM

7-THE LEGO MOVIE 2 (G) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

Ⓢ CHRIS PRATT, ELIZABETH BANKS, WILL ARNETT
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 4.00 + 8.45 PM

Movie Review

‘Stan & Ollie’: a melancholy twilight of comedy gods Laurel and Hardy

Stan & Ollie is a 2018 biographical comedy-drama film directed by Jon S. Baird and written by Jeff Pope.

Based on the later years of the lives of the comedy double act Laurel and Hardy, the film stars Steve Coogan and John C. Reilly as Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy.

It premiered in October 2018 at the BFI London Film Festival. The film was released in the United States on 28 December 2018 and in the United Kingdom on 11 January 2019.

Following Stan & Ollie's October 2018 debut at the BFI London Film Festival, the film received positive reviews from critics.

On review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 92% based on 172 reviews, with an average rating of 7.6/10. The website's critical consensus reads, "Stan & Ollie pays tribute to a pair of beloved entertainers with an affectionate look behind the scenes -- and a moving look at the burdens and blessings of a



John C Reilly as Oliver Hardy and Steve Coogan as Stan Laurel in 'Stan & Ollie'

creative bond."

On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 75 out of 100, based on 41 critics, indicating "generally favourable reviews".

Guy Lodge of Variety wrote:

"Portraying Laurel and Hardy's final comic collaboration with bittersweet affection, Jon S. Baird's film is a laid-back, game-ly performed tribute."

Todd McCarthy of The Hollywood Reporter had high praise

for the lead actors saying: "Much of the time, you feel like you're beholding the real duo, so thoroughly conceived are the actors' physicality and performances." He concluded: "Everything the film has to offer is obvious and



Brilliant impersonations by Steve Coogan and John C Reilly lift the muted charm of this biopic about their troubled music-hall tour of Britain

on the surface, its pleasures simple and sincere under the attentive guidance of director Jon S. Baird."



Liam Hemsworth and Miley Cyrus

Liam Hemsworth explains his decision to get married

Los Angeles

Actor Liam Hemsworth says he proposed to singer-actress Miley Cyrus because he felt like it was time. In an interview to "Sunday Today", Hemsworth opened about his relationship with Cyrus, reports dailymail.co.uk. "We've been through so much together over the last 10 years, so (I) felt like it was time. I feel really happy and really fortunate to be with such a great person," he said. Hemsworth said "it was a really special day" in Nashville, Tennessee, on December 23 when they got married, as "it was pretty much just immediate family" on hand for the wedding. "Wrecking ball" artist Cyrus, 26, took to social media on Thursday with new photographs from her wedding with Hemsworth, calling him, "My Valentine every single day".



Gigi Hadid

Gigi Hadid looks sad

Los Angeles

It's her first valentine's Day since splitting with her on-off beau, One Direction alum Zayn Malik. And beautiful Gigi Hadid was spotted leaving a party in New York City alone on Thursday. As ever, the signals about their relationship are mixed as she was spotted leaving 26-year-old Zayn's New York apartment last week. The pair, who reportedly went their separate ways for a second time in November, have had a famously on-off relationship since they were first linked in 2015. Last month US Weekly said that the lovebirds are 'done,' with a source adding 'they could get back together' but 'it's over for now.' Rumors started flying after both stars enjoyed separate holidays and they did not appear in each other's social media accounts.



Zyan Malik

SNIPPETS

Bruno Ganz who played Hitler in 'Downfall' dies aged 77
Zurich

Bruno Ganz, the Swiss actor who portrayed Adolf Hitler in Oscar-nominated film "Downfall" and the kindly grandfather in "Heidi", died of cancer at his home in Zurich on Saturday, aged 77, his agent said. Ganz had been active in German language theater, film and television for more than 50 years and was the holder of the Iffland-Ring, the most important award for German-speaking actors.



Bruno Ganz

Mexican actor apologises for racial slur against 'Roma' actress
Mexico City

A Mexican soap opera star apologized on Friday for using a racial slur to describe actress Yalitza Aparicio, whose performance in the critically acclaimed film "Roma" made her the first indigenous woman to be nominated for a best actress Oscar.



Yalitza Aparicio

Video footage surfaced on Twitter on Friday in which actor Sergio Goyri, 60, can be heard criticizing the film community. Aparicio, a 25-year-old from the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca, played a domestic worker in director Alfonso Cuarón's "Roma," which received 10 Oscar nominations, including a nod for best actress for Aparicio.

Cardi B drops new single with Bruno Mars, 'Please Me'
Los Angeles

Cardi B has released her first new song of 2019 'Please Me,' a collaboration with Bruno Mars. The pair has earlier worked together, most notably on last year's remix of Mars' 'Finesse' that they performed at the 2018 Grammy Awards, reported Variety.



Cardi B

Academy to air all Oscars categories live

Los Angeles

Facing mounting pressure from its members, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced that it will present all 24 Oscar categories live during its broadcast on February 24. The Academy confirmed on Friday that all four of the categories that were to

be presented during commercial breaks, followed by taped replays later in the show, will instead be presented live during the Oscars telecast, reports the hollywoodreporter.com. The initial decision was made to address pressure to shorten the show, which last year ran for three hours and 53 minutes.



Ben Affleck

2 arrested for attacking 'Empire' actor, released

Los Angeles

Two men who were being questioned in connection with an attack reported by "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett, have been released without charge, the Chicago Police Department said. The men, who were arrested on Wednesday, were released on Friday "due to new evidence as a result of today's interrogations. Detectives have additional investigative work to complete," said Chicago Police Chief Communications Officer Anthony Guglielmi, reports cnn.com.

Los Angeles

Ben Affleck has explained his decision to depart from the DC Extended Universe, saying he could not "crack" the idea for his solo Batman film.

I couldn't crack it: Ben Affleck on why he stepped aside from Batman role

The 46-year-old actor first starred as the caped crusader Batman in Zack Snyder's "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" and then followed it up with "Justice League". He also made a cameo appearance as Batman in David Ayer's 2016 dud "Suicide Squad". He was set to once again play the character in a solo Batman film to be directed by Matt Reeves, the man behind two films of Andy Serkis' successful "Planet of the Apes" trilogy.

Award-winning 'Marvelous Mrs Maisel' stars get a pay hike

Los Angeles

"Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" stars Rachel Brosnahan and Tony Shalhoub have earned sizable pay increases after renegotiating their deals, and Alex Borstein is also close to signing a new agreement. According to sources, the creative team of the Amazon series is giving its stars a hefty raise following a big haul of awards for its first two seasons, reports hollywoodreporter.com. Amazon declined to comment. Brosnahan stands to reportedly make as much as triple her previous salary, potentially earning up to \$300,000 (about R4.2 million) per episode, and may also get a piece of the show's back end with her new agreement. Though she is number one on the call sheet, Brosnahan's starting salary was said to be lower than that for some of her more established co-stars; that has likely been rectified. Shalhoub's pay will also rise substantially, to a reported \$250,000 (about R3.5 million) per episode, and Borstein's is expected to as well. Regulars Michael Zegen, Marin Hinkle and Kevin Pollak are also likely to get pay hikes.



Rachel Brosnahan

'Bond 25' delayed again

Los Angeles

Daniel Craig's "Bond 25" will open on April 8, 2020 now, instead of February 14, 2020. It's the second delay for "Bond 25". MGM and Eon originally announced in 2017 that the film would open on November 8, 2019, then moved that back to February 14, 2020 af-



Daniel Craig

ter Danny Boyle exited from the director slot and was replaced by Cary Joji Fukunaga, reports variety.com. Universal will be handling international distribution on "Bond 25", while MGM handles domestic in partnership with Annapurna through the new United Artists Releasing label.

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Guptill runs flow sweeps Kiwis past Bangladesh

Martin Guptill slams another century as New Zealand clinch series

AFP | Christchurch, New Zealand

Rejuvenated Martin Guptill wound back the clock with his second century in as many games as a clinical New Zealand clinched their one-day series against Bangladesh in Christchurch yesterday.

The long-serving opener, who had a disappointing recent series against India, rated his 118 as a more satisfying knock than the unbeaten 117 when he returned to form in the first match against Bangladesh.

"There was a lot of flow and rhythm in that one," he said after the Kiwis comfortably knocked off their 227-run target for the loss of two wickets and with 13.5 overs to spare.

"It felt like I got back to where I was a couple of years ago."

Guptill cut, drove and pulled the Bangladesh attack apart as New Zealand cruised to victory and went 2-0 up in the three-match series.

With the World Cup looming, New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson was pleased to see his side had taken lessons from the 4-1 drubbing inflicted by India.

"It was what we were wanting," he said.

"That was a really tough series and (the) guys got taught some harsh lessons and it's important you learn from those.

"Today and in the last game there were a couple of nice performances obviously led by Martin Guptill."

Against India's tight bowling, Guptill was restricted to a top score of 15.



Martin Guptill plays a shot

But against a less confining Bangladesh attack, he scored freely, with 14 fours and four sixes from the 88 deliveries he faced.

After rolling Bangladesh for 226, Guptill made a flying start in New Zealand's reply as they passed through 10 overs at 59 for one while Bangladesh were 32 for two at the same stage.

Mustafizur Rahman claimed the early wicket of Henry Nicholls for 14, leaving Kane Williamson to partner Guptill in a 143-run stand for the second wicket.

When Guptill went in similar fashion to Nicholls, caught on



Martin Guptill scored 118 runs off 88 balls

the boundary by Liton Das off Mustafizur Rahman in the 29th over, New Zealand were 188 for two.

Williamson and Ross Taylor then guided the home side to

the finish with Williamson not out 65 and Taylor on 21.

Slopping fielding

After Williamson won the toss and opted to bowl under cloudy skies, the Bangladesh top order again failed to fire.

They were in trouble at 93 for five after 21 overs before Mohammad Mithun and Sabbir Rahman provided some backbone for the innings, putting on 75 for the sixth wicket.

Mithun again played the anchor role, as he did with his hard-fought 62 in the first match.

In game two, he scored 57

Bangladesh	
T. Iqbal lbw Henry	5
L. Das c Ferguson b Boult	1
Sarkar c Taylor b Grandhomme	22
M. Rahim b Ferguson	24
M. Mithun b Astle	57
Mahmudullah b Astle	7
Rahman c Neesham Ferguson	43
M. Hasan c Nicholls b Neesham	16
M. Saifuddin b Ferguson	10
M. Mortaza c Boult b Neesham	13
Mustafizur Rahman not out	5
Extras: (lb 6, wd 17)	23
Total: (all out; 49.4 overs)	226
New Zealand	
M. Guptill c Das b Rahman	118
H. Nicholls c Das b Rahman	14
K. Williamson not out	65
R. Taylor not out	21
Extras: (b 1, wd 10)	11
Total: (for 2 wickets; 36.1 overs)	229

off 69 deliveries before he was bowled by Todd Astle, while Sabbir contributed 43 off 65.

New Zealand assisted the Bangladesh cause with 23 extras and some sloppy fielding while Rahman had fortune on his side when an edge off a Todd Astle delivery nicked the stumps but the bails stayed on.

Colin de Grandhomme had an eventful first over that lasted 11 deliveries, included five wides and also produced the wicket of Soumya Sarkar who was caught by Ross Taylor for 22.

But Taylor dropped two catches in the following overs.

Ferguson finished as the most successful New Zealand bowler with three for 43.

The third and final ODI is in Dunedin next Wednesday, followed by three Test matches.

Juventus cruise before Atletico showdown



Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo (C) celebrates with Paulo Dybala after scoring

AFP | Milan

Cristiano Ronaldo set up Paulo Dybala to score early and added one himself with defender Leonardo Bonucci also on target as Juventus surged 14 points clear in Serie A on Friday with a 3-0 win over lowly Frosinone.

Coach Massimiliano Allegri was taking no chances, even against a side sitting second bottom of the table, ahead of next week's Champions League last 16, first-leg tie at Atletico Madrid.

Dybala returned to the front line alongside Ronaldo and Mario Mandzukic with key defenders Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini both back from injury.

"The team is growing in terms of fitness, it's a decisive moment for the season," said Allegri.

Juventus are building towards next week's game in Madrid and a top-of-the-table clash against Napoli in the San Paolo Stadium on March 3.

"We struggled a bit after the winter break but now we are ready to face this important moment of the season both in the championship and the Champions League," added Allegri.

Van Gerven on top in Korean Cup



AGC Korean Cup winners with sponsor Kwang Bok Kim

TDT | Manama

The sixth outing of the Korean Cup, a competition with a distinctive flavour, was held at Awali Golf Club last Friday, 15th February, attracting nearly 100 players out onto the course.

Gerard Van Gerven was most inspired, perhaps the weather conditions and lingering greenery reminding him of his Dutch home, achieving the winner's place on the podium with 40 Stableford points, chased by Rashid Al Haji (39) and Hamad Fares Al Qutami in third, losing on countback.

Captain Serwin Rampersad

took the helm as usual for the post-play formalities, starting with the award of a new initial handicap to recently joined member Chris Diciolla. He then advised that the sponsor, Kwang Bok Kim, had decided this was the last occasion of his sponsorship of the competition. However, this was quickly followed by the good news, as the competition would live on, sponsored by the Korean Society.

Prizes were presented by the Club Captain, assisted by Tournament Director Dave Loney and formalities ended with Kim and his wife Nam ringing

the bell.

Prize winners were as follows: 1st: Gerard Van Gerven (40), 2nd: Rashid Al Haji (39), 3rd: Hamad Fares Al Qutami (39), 4th: Colin Drysdale (38), 5th: Abdulla Sultan Al Hakam (38), 6th: Abdulhadi Al Noaimi (38), 7th: Sun Kyu Kwak (38), 7th: James Shin (38), 9th: Rashid Musbah (38), 10th: Salah Al Shaer (37), Ali Al Kowari and Ali Musbah losing on countback. Also, side prizes were awarded to Sarah Hobday, Beth Robinson, Peter Rogers, Nasser Yacoub, Ebrahim Al Hashel and Abdulla Sultan Al Hakam.



Students compete during the Annual Sports Week of New Millennium School, DPS Bahrain. Notable events the races including 100mts, 200mts, 400mts, 800mts, relay, Shot-put, discuss throw, long jump, etc. Prize distribution was held at the conclusion of each event

Ahmed Akbar triumphs in BREEF showjumping

TDT | Manama

Ahmed Akbar was crowned as the champion of the Grand Prix event of Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF) Showjumping Championship which was held at the Military

Sports Federation. The event took place under the patronage of Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, President of BREEF.

Akbar won the biggest prize of the day following an impressive run to the finish line, clocking in 51.09 seconds with four faults, leaving the second place

to Mayoof Al Rumaihi who was less than a second behind the winner, though with four faults too. Third place went to Saber Salman who made 16 faults.

In the fourth contest of the Championship which was for senior competitors, Fouad Al Rayyes won first, followed by Mayoof Al Rumaihi and Ahmed Isa Khalaf in second and third respectively.

Meanwhile, Mahdi Turani overcame fierce competition to win first in the fifth contest which was for senior competitors too, while Al Rumaihi won the third competition which was for amateur participants. The latter also dominated the junior competitions, winning both of them.



A participant in action during the showjumping championship

Monfils beats Medvedev for return to Rotterdam final



Gael Monfils hits a return

AFP | Rotterdam

Gael Monfils returned to the final at the Rotterdam Open as he overhauled Daniil Medvedev 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 yesterday.

The French showman left it late but gave the Ahoy Arena crowd a thrill as he broke in the penultimate game of the third set and served out the win a game later.

Victory sent the 32-year-old into the final here for the second time after reaching the title match in his last Rotterdam appearance in 2016, when he lost to Martin Klizan.

Monfils will take on either top seed Kei Nishikori or former champion Stan Wawrinka in today's final.

Victory was quick revenge for Monfils, who lost to Medvedev a week ago in the Sofia semi-finals, an event which the Russian won.

Medvedev's defeat was only his third loss of the season, leaving his record at 14-3.

The contest featured several momentum shifts and a total of nine breaks of serve in just over two hours.

Sri Lanka seal thrilling win

Kusal Perera scored an unbeaten 153 in the fourth innings, guiding Sri Lanka to a sensational win over South Africa

● Sri Lanka secured their second win in 14 Test matches in South Africa

● The visitors won the thrilling first Test in Durban by one wicket

AFP | Durban, South Africa

Kusal Perera carried Sri Lanka to a sensational one-wicket win on the fourth day of the first Test against South Africa at Kingsmead yesterday as he hit a career-best 153 not out.

Perera and Vishwa Fernando put on an unbeaten 78 in a last-wicket partnership to secure only Sri Lanka's second win in 14 Test matches in South Africa.

Victory seemed unlikely when the ninth wicket fell with the total on 226, with the tourists chasing a target of 304.

But the left-handed Perera successfully farmed the strike, with South African captain Faf du Plessis persisting with widespread fields for the in-form batsman, while Fernando only had to face 27 balls during a 96-ball partnership.

Perera was on 86 when the ninth wicket fell but managed to keep most of the strike and to hit some telling blows in an innings of 200 balls which included 12



Vishwa Fernando (L) and Kusal Perera (R) of Sri Lanka celebrates Sri Lanka's win

fours and five sixes.

"It was a superman effort," said Du Plessis. "He (Perera) deserves all the accolades."

Low previous average South Africa took the second new ball with the total on 263 but still kept most of their fielders on the boundary for Perera, who hit sixes off both Dale Steyn and Kagiso Rabada before slashing Rabada to third man for the winning boundary.

Perera, who came into the match with a career batting average below 30 and with his only previous century in 14 previous



Sri Lanka's 304/9 was the third-highest successful run chase in nearly 100 years of test cricket at the Kingsmead ground in Durban

Tests having been made against Zimbabwe in Harare two seasons ago, shared three important partnerships.

He put on 58 for the fourth wicket with debutant Oshado Fernando (37) and 96 for the sixth wicket with Dhananjaya de Silva (48) before his extraordinary association with Vishwa Fernando.

"I'm a little tired now, I don't know what to say," said Perera when he received the man of the match award. "I did my part but we are winning as a team."

The stand with Oshado Fernando was broken by Dale

Steyn, who had Fernando caught at second slip by South African captain Faf du Plessis. Two balls later he caught Niroshan Dickwella off his own bowling.

Sri Lanka were still a distant 194 runs short of their target when Perera was joined by De Silva, Sri Lanka's last recognised batsman.

South Africa, who were without opening bowler Vernon Philander because of a strained left hamstring, struggled for the next two hours as Perera and De Silva brought the target down to single figures.

Left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj took two wickets off successive balls, dismissing De Silva leg before wicket and having Suranga Lakmal caught at slip.

South Africa, first innings, 235	
Sri Lanka, first innings, 191	
South Africa, second innings, 259	
Sri Lanka, second innings (overnight 83-3)	
D. Karunaratne lbw b Philander	20
L. Thirimanne c Du Plessis b Rabada	21
O. Fernando c Du Plessis b Steyn	37
K. Mendis c De Kock b Olivier	0
K. Perera not out	153
N. Dickwella c and b Steyn	0
D. de Silva lbw b Maharaj	48
S. Lakmal c Du Plessis b Maharaj	0
L. Embuldeniya c Markram b Olivier	4
K. Rajitha lbw b Maharaj	1
V. Fernando not out	6
Extras (b2, lb11, w1)	14
Total (9 wkts, 85.3 overs)	304
Result: Sri Lanka won by one wicket	
Series: Sri Lanka lead the two-match series 1-0	

Brighton edge into FA Cup quarter-finals

AFP | London

Brighton moved into the FA Cup quarter-finals for the second successive season as goals from Anthony Knockaert and Jurgen Locadia clinched a 2-1 win over Derby yesterday.

Chris Hughton's side have been sucked into relegation danger in the Premier League after six games without a win.

But the Seagulls made the most of a welcome break from the grind of the relegation battle as they saw off Frank Lampard's Championship side at the Amex Stadium.

Derby had claimed the scalps of Manchester United and Southampton in domestic cup competitions this season.

But the fifth round tie was tipped in Brighton's favour by

a dominant first-half display.

Brighton opened the scoring after 33 minutes when Knockaert bent his first-time shot into the bottom corner of Kelle Roos' net after connecting with Yves Bissouma's cross.

Hughton's team doubled their advantage when Locadia fired home from close-range in first-half stoppage time after Bissouma's effort hit the post.

Former Chelsea and Arsenal star Ashley Cole set up a tense finish when the Derby defender headed in after 81 minutes.

It was the 38-year-old's first goal in England since 2012 and his first ever in the FA Cup and the landmark strike came in his second game since joining Derby until the end of the season following his release by LA Galaxy.



Anthony Knockaert of Brighton and Hove Albion celebrates after scoring his team's first goal

Crowds flock to Argentine village to pay tribute to Sala

AFP | Progreso, Argentina

The death in a plane crash of Cardiff City striker Emiliano Sala was a cruel blow to family, friends and supporters in his home village in Argentina, and yesterday they came, grieving, from miles around to pay their respects.

Through the morning, mourners gathered for a public vigil in a gymnasium in Progreso, the small farming town in Santa Fe province which Sala left as a teenager to play in Europe.

He was "loved and admired by all," a restaurant owner told AFP. Sala would come home on breaks and would never fail to kick the ball around with village youngsters, they said. Unlike some soccer stars, he would keep a low profile, not flaunting his new wealth.

As his heartbroken father, mother and sister watched yesterday, a giant poster of the



Yellow flowers are displayed in front of the portrait of Argentinian forward Emiliano Sala at the Beaujoire stadium in Nantes, France (file photo)

28-year-old hung behind his coffin, which was draped in the red and white colors of the San Martin de Progreso club where he began his career.

Sala's father, Horacio, was devastated by his son's death, family members said, and refused for days to leave his home.

Outside the club, which was at the center of the day's commemorations, was a banner reading: "Emi, you will never walk alone."

"He represented a lot for us," the club's president, Daniel Ribero, told AFP. "We're a small village and Emi was a celebrity, the only player to turn profes-

sional. "He was one of us. He meant a lot to us."

More than 3,000 mourners came to pay respects.

"We all carry Emi in our hearts," said Mayor Julio Muller in an emotional tribute.

Crash in the Channel

Sala had played for Nantes, becoming one of the top strikers in France, before being traded in January to Cardiff City in England's Premier League in a 15 million pounds (19.3 million dollars) deal.

Just two days after making the move, Sala had flown back

to Nantes on January 21 to pay farewell to his former teammates.

On the return flight across the English Channel, the single-engine private plane carrying Sala and pilot David Ibbotson crashed near the British island of Guernsey.

Sala reportedly had messaged friends from the plane, flying in rough weather, that he was "so afraid" and that the craft "seems like it's falling to pieces."

The player's body was recovered from the submerged wreckage on February 7 but 59-year-old Ibbotson remains missing.

“People tell me: ‘He never played for you,’ but he was my player, I signed him, we had two or three conversations and he told me he would score the goals to keep Cardiff in the Premier League

NEIL WARNOCK
CARDIFF CITY MANAGER