

Justin Bieber, Hailey spotted having a 'showdown'

Star couple Justin Bieber and Hailey Baldwin looked tense as they appeared to argue in a park amid reports that their marriage is on the rocks. **P14**

OP-ED **8** Woodrow Wilson and 'the ugliest of treacheries'

THE DAILY **tribune**

#MeToo movement hasn't made big impact: Lily Allen **14** CELEBS

BUSINESS **10** Open bank account from home!

Bahrain GP visa applications
 Manama

The Nationality, Passport and Residence Affairs (NPRA) said it has begun receiving visa application for the Bahrain Grand Prix (Formula 1) valid for two weeks from the date of arrival.

The NPRA announced that the nationals of 116 countries can obtain the visa through the e-application on www.evisa.gov.bh, while the citizens of 68 countries and residents of GCC countries could get on-arrival visas through the Kingdom's borders.

The remaining countries could get the visa through submitting the application at the NPRA's building. The deadline for receiving the applications through the website will be March 31.

Fresh protests in Sudan
 Cairo

Hundreds of Sudanese took part in anti-government protests in the capital and other cities yesterday as the government announced it had secured \$300 million in loans to address the economic crisis that triggered the unrest.

The demonstrations began in December over price hikes and food shortages, and quickly escalated into calls for President Omar Al Bashir to step down, posing one of the biggest challenges yet to his nearly 30-year rule. Security forces have responded with a fierce crackdown that has killed dozens of people.

The rallies are being led by the Sudanese Professionals Association, an umbrella group of independent professional unions.

Red carpet welcome

His Majesty arrives in Turkmenistan capital on an official visit



His Majesty given a traditional welcome at Ashgabat International Airport.



His Majesty being received by Rashid Meredov.

● Upon arrival at Ashgabat International Airport, HM the King was welcomed by Turkmenistan's Deputy Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister, Rashid Meredov.

● The guard of honour lined up to salute HM the King, who then left to his residence here.

Ashgabat

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa arrived here yesterday on an official state visit to brotherly Turkmenistan, at the invitation

of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow.

The two leaders will hold talks on ways to enhance the distinguished bilateral relations and open up new horizons of joint cooperation in various fields.

They will also discuss the latest regional and global developments, and issues of mutual interest.

Upon arrival at Ashgabat International Airport, HM the King was welcomed by Turkmenistan's Deputy Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister, Rashid Meredov, and Bahrain's Ambassador to Turkmenistan Dr Yousif Al Abdulla.

A boy and a girl presented HM King Hamad with bread, salt and a bouquet of flowers to welcome his visit, in accordance with the Turkmen traditions.

The guard of honour lined up to salute HM the King, who then

Our visit to this brotherly country, which is witnessing a great renaissance at all levels, embodies the depth of the relations between our brotherly countries and peoples.

HIS MAJESTY

left to his residence here within an official convoy.

In a statement, HM King Hamad expressed deep pleasure at visiting brotherly Turkmenistan, and expressed sincere thanks to Turkmenistan president for his invitation, as well as on the gracious welcome accorded to HM the King.

"This affirms the strong

brotherly relations between our countries and peoples, and reflects the extent of our desire and strong will to continue developing our relations so that they reach wider horizons and strengthen our strategic partnership in various fields, in a way that would serve our common interests," HM the King said.

"Our visit to this brotherly country, which is witnessing a great renaissance at all levels, embodies the depth of the relations between our brotherly countries and peoples.

"It is also an opportunity to meet our brother, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow, to discuss our bilateral relations, and ways to bolster them.

"We will also discuss regional and global issues of mutual concern in a way that would serve our common interests, achieve

the aspirations of our brotherly peoples and back efforts and endeavours aimed at strengthening security and peace at the regional and international levels," HM King Hamad added.

HM the King stressed that brotherly Turkmenistan is a "model to be emulated in positive neutrality, which is based on the UN principles of maintaining peace and security, mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

"We affirm that this wise policy provides greater opportunities to develop joint cooperation in all fields, especially in the trade, investment and tourism fields, taking advantage of the two countries' strategic depth, and huge potentials that entitle them to broaden their co-operation frameworks and achieve mutual benefits."

ROYAL SOJOURN

Prince Charles embarks on Caribbean tour including Cuba

Havana

Prince Charles and his wife Camilla embark on a Caribbean tour yesterday during which they will become the first British royals to visit Cuba.

The royals will kick off their 12-day tour of 10 islands with a visit to St Lucia, continuing onwards to Barbados, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Kitts and Nevis, and Grenada, according to their private office. Many of the islands are former British colonies and retain Charles' mother Queen Elizabeth as head of state.

On March 24, the royal couple will land in Havana for a three-day visit at the request of



Prince Charles and Camilla.

the British government to underscore warming British-Cuban ties, where they will dine with Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel.

Charles, the heir to the British throne, already met the president last November on his 70th birthday, when Diaz-Canel was visiting London.

'Egg boy' latest social media star

London

Teenager who egged an Australian politician blaming Muslim immigration for the New Zealand terror attack on two mosques is being celebrated by social media users who are using the trending Twitter hashtag #Egg-boyhero.

Will Connolly, 17, egged Australian senator Fraser Anning midway through a press conference in Melbourne, a day after Anning's controversial comments. Connolly's Instagram now has more than 241,000 followers and his Twitter feed is flooded with fans calling him a "hero".

Speaking in a short video clip posted on social media, Connolly said he had no regrets: "Don't egg a politician, you'll get tack-



Will Connolly eggs Australian senator Fraser Anning midway through a press conference in Melbourne, a day after Anning's controversial comments.

led by 30 bogans at the same time, I learned the hard way," he added.

Twitter users hailed the teenager for standing up to racism, and many have created fan art to show their support.

In response, Connolly tweeted: "I am overwhelmed by all your messages and support! THANK YOU, #eggboy #WillConnolly."



03 30pc of Bahrain populace could face water shortage in six years

04 Grand event set to mark Bahrain banking strides

06 Flash floods kill 58 in Indonesia





The Deputy King, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, yesterday received the Chairman of Bahrain Red Crescent Society, Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, and members of the board of directors, at Riffa Palace. The Deputy King underlined His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's support to humanitarian efforts that promote charity work and volunteerism across the Kingdom. The Deputy King reiterated Bahrain's commitment to continue supporting humanitarian initiatives and praised Bahrain Red Crescent Society's humanitarian endeavours.



His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday visited Gravity Village and got informed about the variety of services it provides to boost tourism and entertainment. HRH the Premier stressed that the comprehensive services provided by Gravity Village and Gravity Indoor Skydiving are an advanced model of investment projects serving the tourism sector. He pointed out that attracting major international trademarks at Gravity Village will boost its capability to attract visitors. He also stressed the government's support to all projects designated for citizens and visitors to boost sport and entertainment tourism.



Smile initiative, an initiative of Bahrain Future Society for Youth which provides psycho social support to children with cancer and their parents in the Kingdom of Bahrain, organised a workshop on "Preparing Healthy Food" at the Initiative's headquarters in Adliya to educate children and their parents about the importance of healthy food in growth and protection of children, strengthen their immunity against diseases.



The Pakistan Women's Association organised a Qawwali night in Saar, which saw performances by Ustaad Fareed Ayaz and Abu Mohammad Qawwali Group. Qawwali is a form of Sufi Islamic devotional music originating from South Asia, and notably popular in the Punjab and Sindh regions of Pakistan; in Hyderabad, Delhi and other parts of India.

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Scores attended the medical camp organised by the Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre Kozhikode District and Shifa Al Jazeera Medical Centre. A special seminar was also held on breast cancer awareness, which was attended by a large number of women. The event was inaugurated by Youth League General Secretary Firoz P K.

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A man dressed as Spiderman interacted with children from the Child Day Care Centre, Down Syndrome Society and the National Bank of Bahrain Home for Special Needs Children at the Gulf Hotel parking ground opposite Awal Ballroom. The event was organised by the Gulf Hotel in co-operation with Al Areen Lions Club Bahrain and Liverpool Services. The 'Spiderman' distributed many gifts to the children who were present at the event.

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30pc of Bahrain populace could face water shortage in six years

Kingdom one of world's most water stressed countries, says report

● **Population growth and urbanisation trends have placed considerable pressure on the country's natural resource base, according to the report.**

● **The country will need to expand non-conventional water sources significantly to meet demand to 2025 and beyond, it added.**

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Up to 30 per cent of the Kingdom's population could face water shortage by 2025 if continued action is not taken to prevent a water crisis, according to a report.

Although Bahrain currently experiences a comfortable level of water security at the moment, more continuous effort is required to ensure to avert water crisis, according to a report titled 'Bahrain Food and Water Security' published by Future Directions International, a not-for-profit strategic research institute.

Bahrain currently experiences a comfortable level of trade-

based food security; however, it is vulnerable to supply disruptions and price risk, the report states.

"Bahrain is one of the most water stressed countries in the world; up to 30 per cent of the population could face water shortages by 2025," the report pointed out.

"Eighty-nine per cent of the population lives in urban areas and it is quite likely that Bahrain will be close to completely getting urbanised by 2025.

"Population growth and urbanisation trends have placed considerable pressure on the country's natural resource base.

"Water consumption is much higher than available natural water resources and food demand far exceeds the production capacity of domestic agriculture.

"Projected population and income growth will exacerbate the mismatch between demand and supply and require the country to secure alternative sources of food and water," the report said.

"Bahrain is one of the world's most water stressed nations and its groundwater abstraction is unsustainable in the mid to long-term.

"The country will need to expand non-conventional water sources significantly to meet demand to 2025 and beyond. Food supply is derived from both domestic and external sources;



The desalination plant in Hidd.

89

per cent of the Kingdom's population lives in urban areas, according to the latest population studies.

approximately 92 per cent of Bahrain's food products are imported.

"Trade-based food security is intrinsically linked to the country's economic stability and wealth. In order to finance food imports a stable, diversified economy is paramount.

"Limited natural resources will constrain any significant expansion of domestic food production

and Bahrain's dependence on food imports is likely to increase by 2025, exposing the country to a high degree of price and supply risk."

"Limited, erratic rainfall and high evapotranspiration rates characterise this arid country. The total annual surface run off is approximately four million cubic meters and there are no rivers, perennial streams or lakes.

Trade-based food security is intrinsically linked to the country's economic stability and wealth. In order to finance food imports a stable, diversified economy is paramount.

REPORT

"The three key water sources in Bahrain are groundwater, desalinated water and treated wastewater. The expansion of the latter two will be crucial in reducing groundwater abstraction and meeting long-term water demand," the report observed.

"The over-abstraction of aquifers has caused deterioration in groundwater quality in some parts of the country. Salinisation, increased water pollution and the drying of freshwater springs in the north are all the consequence of unsustainable groundwater withdrawal.

"There is an urgent need to curb abstraction and protect groundwater resources. In order to achieve this Bahrain will need to expand the production of alternative water sources, particularly the reuse of treated wastewater."

Alert call after plastic fragment found in fish stomach

TDT | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

Experts have warned over the dangers of plastics adversely affecting the marine life as well as entering the food chain after an image of plastic fragments discovered from a fish's stomach went viral on social media network.

In October last year, a global study revealed plastic had been detected in the faeces of people across Europe, Latin America and Asia with researchers claiming to show for the first time the widespread presence of plastics in the human food chain.

Speaking to Bahrain, Ruqaya Hashem, Co-Founder of Cleanup Bahrain, said: "The source of the picture that was circulated in Bahrain is still unclear but this photo was taken by a citizen after purchasing the Grouper fish from the local market.

"It is time to highlight the reasons why we have carried out clean-up campaigns on a regular basis, especially coasts and public places. The focus is on the dangers of plastics that fly daily from place to place and eventually plastic reaches our sea. The intensive use of these materials destroys marine resources and ultimately affects our health.

"The seas and oceans are filled with pollution to a frightening extent and plastic make up for a



An image of a fragment of plastic cup found in a fish's stomach that went viral.

large portion of it. Cleaning up what has ended up in our environment seems like an impossible mission to complete due to the severe damage that has been done.

"We need to shift our actions to immediately protecting it from waste dumping and pollution. We need to further educate people about the importance of recycling and embed it within our younger generations. Stricter

regulations need to be in place for any environmental violations."

"We were unable to establish a reliable connection between nutritional behaviour and exposure to micro-plastics," lead author Philipp Schwabl, a researcher at the Medical University of Vienna, was quoted by a newspaper.

In earlier studies on animals, the highest concentrations of micro-plastics were found in the stomach and intestines, but

smaller amounts have also been detected in blood, lymph and the liver.

"There are initial indications that micro-plastics can damage the gastrointestinal tract by promoting inflammatory reactions or absorbing harmful substances," Schwabl said.

"Further studies are needed to assess the potential dangers of micro-plastics for humans."

Micro-plastics have been found in tap water, bottled water, fish and mussel tissue, and even in beer," he added.

"It is therefore inevitable that at least some of these things will get into our lungs and digestive system."

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The seas and oceans are filled with pollution to a frightening extent and plastic make up for a large portion of it.

MS RUQAYA

Asian held for receiving drug pills packed in envelopes

TDT | Manama

”

In a rare case, an Asian man brought banned narcotic pills to the Kingdom in envelopes sent via air cargo, it was revealed. According to court files, the defendant received 2,000 pills in nine separate envelopes, which were detected through the X-ray facility at Bahrain International Airport after arriving via the air cargo.

"The envelopes stirred suspicions, therefore I marked them. I left them aside so they can be inspected through the X-ray facility to determine their contents," the customs official who uncovered the attempt told prosecutors.

"After we knew the contents of the shipment, we texted the supposed recipient. When he arrived, we asked him what the

After we knew the contents of the shipment, we texted the supposed recipient.

CUSTOMS OFFICIAL

enveloped included.

"He told us that there were clothes and other personal belongings. He claimed that the shipment was sent to him by his brother," he added.

The Asian man was arrested as soon as the envelopes were opened in front of him as they were found to have different items than the ones he claimed.

"He later told us that his friend had contacted him and requested him to receive the shipment and deliver it to someone in Manama," the official stated.

Bahrain, UAE sign parliamentary deal

Abu Dhabi

Speaker of the Council of Representatives Fawzia Zainal, here yesterday, met the UAE President of the Federal National Council, Amal Al Qubaisi, and signed a co-operation agreement aims to set principles for parliamentary co-operation and unifying visions on various issues.

Ms Zainal highlighted the Bahraini-UAE relations pro-

moted by keenness of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the UAE President HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Nahyan to further strengthen them in various fields in the interest of the their people.

Mr Al Qubaisi said the royal reforms in Bahrain is an unprecedented step at political, economic and democratic levels.

She commended the bilateral relations and took pride in the Bahraini, UAE achievements in the field of women's empowerment.

New Zealand terror attack condemned

Manama

Renowned businessman, Akram Miknas, has condemned the terror attack on the two Christchurch mosques in New Zealand, which resulted in the death of 50 people to date.

The attack was carried out by a 28-year-old Australian man, Brenton Harris Tarrant, who opened fire on the worshippers at the mosque.

"A great responsibility is placed on all men of thought, religion, culture and even businessmen to immunise our societies from extremist terrorist ideology, which works to exclude others and eliminate diversity instead of celebrating it," said Mr Miknas.



Our differences must be viewed in a positive, natural state that we must accept and rejoice, not reject and retaliate against.

MR MIKNAS

The shooter refused to spare any of the mosques' visitors including his youngest victim, a three-year old child who was mercilessly killed during the attack. "This horrible terrorist act in New Zealand reassures me once again, that we must learn to live with each other and realise that our differences are blessings," he said.

"Our differences must be viewed in a positive, natural state that we must accept and rejoice, not reject and retaliate against," he stressed.

Woman gets 3 months jail for 'stealing water'

TDT | Manama

A woman was sentenced in absentia by the Third Low Criminal Court to three months of imprisonment for "stealing" water from the main line, it was announced yesterday.

According to court files, the woman has been benefiting from water services provided by the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) for years without paying any fees.

This surfaced when one of the authority's judicial control officers was tipped off about a violation in Isa Town.

The violation was carried out illegally by installing an extension that provided a residence with water from the main water network, without being detected by the meter.

Upon his inspection to the site, the officer discovered that the house is illegally provided by water through a three-way extension that's linked to the main water network, without passing through the water meter.

Grand event set to mark Bahrain banking strides

Kingdom now hosts 382 financial institutions with total assets nearing \$192 billion

● The celebration marks the establishment of the first bank in Bahrain.

● Bahrain has now emerged a leading banking hub in the region.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

A grand event will be held later this year to mark the 100 years of banking operations in the Kingdom.

Organised by the Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB), the Kingdom will hold an event in connection with the 100th anniversary of the banking sector on September 11 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

"The celebration marks the establishment of the first bank in Bahrain, Standard and Chartered (formerly the Oriental Bank Limited), 100 years ago, thus making



The building which hosted Oriental Bank Limited, which was the Kingdom's first bank.

Bahrain's financial and banking sector among the oldest in the region and the world," the BAB stated.

BAB's Board of Directors' chairman, Adnan Ahmed Yousif, extended thanks and appreciation

to HRH the Prime Minister for patronising the festivity, which, he said, reflects his constant



HRH the Premier

keenness on supporting the banking sector in the kingdom for many decades.

Mr Yousif underlined BAB's desire to hold a mega celebration of the event commensurate with the importance of the deep-rooted sector, in co-operation with all partners, including the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) the Economic Development Board (EDB) and Standard Chartered Bank- Bahrain, among many others related to the economic, banking and financial sectors in general.

The BAB chief stressed the importance of this event in Bahrain, which now hosts 382 financial institutions with total assets of \$192 billion, including 98 banks, 21 of which are Islamic banks.

Over 1,000 advertisements removed for violating rules

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Over a thousand advertisements that were in violation of rules were removed by the authorities in the first two months of this year, it is learnt.

Head of the Capital Municipal Council, Shawkiya Ibrahim Humaidan, said that 1,020 advertisements were removed during January and February of this year.

"The number of advertisements removed in the first two months of the year was 1,020 while the number of advertisements approved was 710," she said.

"The type of advertisements removed included mainly posters. Administrative



Legal actions are being taken against those who paste advertisements on walls violating laws.

and legal actions are being taken against the violators and rigorous inspections will continue to find any violations in the future," she said.

According to residents in the area, the posters take away the comeliness of the city. "Illegal advertisements have become a common sight. It makes the city look dirty, I am glad that authorities are taking action against them," said Ahmed Iqbal, a Gudaibiya resident.

According to sources, some expatriates get paid to stick the posters for the advertisers.

"Many expatriates, many of them free visa workers, undertake this task for a price," a source said.

Company accuses employee of embezzlement to trap dad

TDT | Manama

A Bahrain-based private company has accused one of its expat employees of embezzling over BD43,000 to pressure his father, who's also an employee there, to pay off his debts.

This has been revealed as the Third High Criminal Court of Appeal yesterday acquitted the defendant, who's an Asian national, as it dismissed the evidence and allegations of the company.

The defendant's lawyer, Zainab Sabt, explained that her client and his father worked for an electrical appliances company in Muharraq Governorate and that the father had borrowed BD43,800 from the company and signed

indebtedness bonds proving the same.

Ms Sabt said the company initially lodged a complaint against the father accusing him of refusing to pay the amounts he borrowed.

The lawyer also said that when the father attempted to travel abroad, the company filed a case against the son accusing him of embezzling the same amount mentioned in the case it previously filed against the father.

Ms Sabt claimed that this was to take revenge against the father's attempt to leave the country and to pressure him so he would pay the amount he owed.

In her defence, Ms Sabt provided the judges with the bond signed by the father showing that

he borrowed the same amount her client was accused of embezzling.

She demanded that the case is referred to an auditor to prove the allegations of the company. The lawyer also pointed out that the testimonies of the witnesses, who are current employees of the company, wouldn't be against their employer, in addition, that they haven't seen the defendant embezzling the said amount.

The defendant was previously acquitted by the High Criminal Court before, but the Public Prosecution appealed against the verdict.

However, the court studied the case once again and decided yesterday to uphold the defendant's acquittal verdict.

American University of Bahrain to open its doors in September

Manama

The American University of Bahrain (AUBH), the first purpose-built American university in the Kingdom, is set to open its doors in September 2019; promising a fresh new approach in program delivery, infrastructure development, and significantly changing the landscape of higher education in the country.

Built on a 75,000 square metre plot in the prestigious Riffa area, the AUBH campus is designed by the US-based global architects Ayers Saint Gross (ASG), who have designed a number of renowned US university campuses.

The new AUBH campus will feature modern classrooms and labs, as well as a state-of-the-art auditorium, student com-

mons, and athletic facilities, all of which will encourage and foster interaction and collaboration between students, faculty and the professional community, providing an educational experience unique to the Middle East.

The AUBH has received institutional approval by the Higher Education Council (HEC) of the Ministry of Education in the Kingdom and plans to launch its schools of Engineering, Architecture and Design, and Business in the 2019-2020 academic year.

Strong emphasis on graduate outcomes and employability will be key differentiators of the new university which aims to offer world-class higher education opportunities in a rapidly evolving Bahrain and the wider Middle East region, the university said in a press release issued.

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MANAMA - KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

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Statement of Financial Position
at December 31, 2018

Statement Of Changes In Head Office Funds
For The Year Ended December 31, 2018

	December 31, 2018	December 31, 2017
	BD '000	BD '000
ASSETS		
Cash and deposits with Central Bank of Bahrain	25,916	33,685
Current accounts with banks and financial institutions	38,397	33,518
Deposits with Head Office, other branches and affiliates	45,988	31,535
Investment at fair value through other comprehensive income	198	178
Investments at amortized cost	123,595	112,606
Derivative assets	14,720	520
Loans and advances	247,801	241,628
Interest receivable	3,294	1,863
Other assets	7,272	649
Premises and equipment	508	659
Total Assets	507,689	456,841
LIABILITIES AND HEAD OFFICE FUNDS		
Liabilities		
Current accounts from banks and financial institutions	1,583	1,171
Deposits from Head Office, other branches and affiliates	115,398	103,591
Customers' deposits	343,120	318,923
Derivative liabilities	14,695	349
Interest payable	2,980	2,325
Other liabilities	2,381	4,794
Employees' end-of-service benefits	144	309
Total Liabilities	480,301	431,462
Head Office Funds		
Head Office Capital	16,800	15,800
Reserves	484	484
Investment revaluation reserve	190	170
Unremitted profits to Head Office	9,914	8,925
Total Head Office Funds	27,388	25,379
Total Liabilities and Head Office Funds	507,689	456,841

	Share Capital	Statutory Reserve	Fair Value Reserve	Unremitted Profit to Head Office	Total
	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000	BD '000
Balance at 1 January 2018	15,800	484	170	8,925	25,379
Restatement to retained earnings due to adoption of IFRS 9	-	-	-	(1,815)	(1,815)
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	20	9,914	9,934
Profits remitted to Head Office	-	-	-	(7,110)	(7,110)
Addition to Head Office capital	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Balance at 31 December 2018	16,800	484	190	9,914	27,388
Balance at 1 January 2017	12,350	484	152	7,160	20,146
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	18	8,925	8,943
Amount remitted to Head Office	-	-	-	(7,160)	(7,160)
Additions to capital	3,450	-	-	-	3,450
Balance at 31 December 2017	15,800	484	170	8,925	25,379

Statement of Cash Flows
For The Year Ended December 31, 2018

	2018 BD '000	2017 BD '000
Operating Activities		
Profit for the year	9,914	8,925
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and Amortization	190	254
Premises and equipment written off	-	5
Provision for employees' end-of-service benefits	36	44
Provision for credit losses - net	1,400	339
Fair value of derivative assets and liabilities	146	(209)
	11,686	9,358
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Compulsory regulatory reserve with Central Bank of Bahrain	(490)	(2,800)
Current accounts with banks and financial institutions	(3)	-
Loans and advances	(8,655)	(39,149)
Interest receivable	(1,431)	212
Other assets	(6,623)	347
Customers' deposits	24,197	62,653
Due to other offices of the Bank having original maturities of 90 days or more	45,000	(20,000)
Borrowings under repurchase agreements	-	(14,427)
Interest payable	655	378
Other liabilities	(2,413)	2,068
Cash from (used) in operating activities	61,923	(1,360)
Payment of employees' end-of service benefits	(201)	(73)
Net cash from (used) in operating activities	61,722	(1,433)
Investing Activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	(39)	(561)
Disposal of investments	52,113	35,511
Purchase of investments	(63,832)	(71,980)
Net cash used in investing activities	(11,758)	(37,030)
Financing Activity		
Net profit remitted to Head office	(7,110)	(7,160)
Net cash used in financing activity	(7,110)	(7,160)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	42,854	(45,623)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	(32,744)	12,879
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	10,110	(32,744)
Comprising:		
Cash and balances with the Central Bank of Bahrain	14,506	22,765
Current accounts with banks and financial institutions	38,397	33,518
Deposits with Head Office, other branches and affiliates	29,188	15,735
Current accounts from banks and financial institutions	(1,583)	(1,171)
Deposits from Head Office, other branches and affiliates	(70,398)	(103,591)
	10,110	(32,744)

Non-cash Transactions:

During the year an amount of BD 1,000 thousand (2017: BD 3,450 thousand) was allocated to Head Office capital against deposits with Head Office.

The financial statements were approved on 14 March, 2019 and signed by: Mr. Mohamed Assem Abdelkhalek.

Statement of Income
For The Year Ended December 31, 2018

	2018 BD '000	2017 BD '000
Interest income	25,680	21,285
Interest expense	(12,057)	(9,969)
Net interest income	13,623	11,316
Net fee and commission income	2,969	2,799
Foreign exchange gain	534	449
Other income	86	154
Operating income	17,212	14,718
Staff expenses	(2,597)	(2,514)
Depreciation	(190)	(254)
Premises and equipment expenses	(878)	(770)
Other administrative expenses	(2,233)	(1,916)
Operating expenses	(5,898)	(5,454)
Operating profit before provision for credit losses	11,314	9,264
Net provisions for credit losses / impairment	(1,400)	(339)
Profit for the year	9,914	8,925
Other comprehensive income		
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Net change in fair value of financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	20	18
Total other comprehensive income for the year	20	18
Total comprehensive income for the year	9,934	8,943

The above information is extracted from the financial statements audited by Ernst & Young - Bahrain.

world

Flash floods kill 58 in Indonesia

● The death toll was expected to rise as emergency services struggled to reach people in hard-hit areas

● In Doyo, one of the most affected areas, a housing complex was littered with huge rocks

● The waters had receded but officials were still trying to evacuate people



A damaged aircraft is seen at a silt-covered airstrip



Indonesian Military shows a soldier caring for a rescued boy in Sentani

AFP | Sentani, Indonesia

Flash floods in Indonesia's eastern Papua province have killed at least 58 people, an official said yesterday, as rescuers battled mud, rocks and fallen trees in the hunt for survivors.

The death toll was expected to rise as emergency services struggled to reach people in hard-hit areas, with more than 70 people injured and 4,150 evacuated.

The floods -- triggered by torrential rain and landslides on Saturday -- damaged numerous homes in the northeastern town

of Sentani, said national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho.

"The number of casualties and impact of the disaster will likely increase as search and rescue teams are still trying to reach other affected areas," he said.

The waters had receded but officials were still trying to evacuate people from areas obstructed by "fallen trees, rocks, mud and other material", Nugroho added.

In Doyo, one of the most affected areas, a housing complex was littered with huge rocks

believed to have rolled down from a nearby mountain, an AFP reporter at the scene said.

Sediment and waste swept by the floods piled up on the pavement.

The non-stop wail of ambulance sirens could be heard, as heavy equipment was used to clear the roads.

The government has announced a 14-day state of emergency, said Jayapura police chief Victor Dean Mackbon.

Video footage showed rescuers administering oxygen to

a victim who appeared to be trapped beneath a fallen tree.

Officers rescued a five-month-old baby who was trapped for hours under the rubble, Papua military spokesman Muhammad Aidi said. The whereabouts of the parents are unknown.

A propeller plane lay partly crushed on a runway at the airport of nearby provincial capital Jayapura.

"The rain started last night and went on until around 1:00 am this morning," said Lilis Puji Hastuti, a 29-year-old mother of two young children in Sentani.

"Our house was flooded with thick mud ... we immediately grabbed our valuables and ran to a neighbour's (two-storey) house to seek refuge.

"It's hard to get out of the area because many roads are blocked... I'm worried, sad and scared all at once," she said.

In Sentani, tents have been set up to take in flood victims and treat the wounded.

Papua shares a border with independent Papua New Guinea on an island just north of Australia.

Flooding is common in Indo-

nesia, especially during the rainy season which runs from October to April.

In January, floods and landslides killed at least 70 people on Sulawesi island, while earlier this month hundreds in West Java province were forced to evacuate when torrential rains triggered severe flooding.

The Southeast Asian archipelago of some 17,000 islands is one of the most disaster-prone nations on Earth, straddling the Pacific Ring of Fire, where tectonic plates collide. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are common.

'Horror, stunned, anger'



Greg Robertson, Christchurch Hospital
Christchurch, New Zealand



Visitors leave the hospital in Christchurch

Brutal ammunition

In a city battered by quakes, Christchurch's medics were tragically well-schooled in tackling mass casualty events -- but none could have prepared for the injuries unleashed by a white supremacist with assault rifles bent on mass murder.

Doctors, surgeons and nurses have been working around the clock at Christchurch Hospital since Friday's mass shooting at two mosques, frantically trying to stem bleeding, patch up shattered bodies and save lives.

Yesterday, 34 patients remained in the hospital in Christchurch, twelve of them still in critical condition.

Another of the injured --

The kind of injuries surgeons were facing this time around were also particularly horrifying.

Robertson said his teams do sometimes encounter gunshot wounds but never on such a scale. Many of those brought to the hospital have been in and out of operating theatres multiple times, as surgeons prioritise the worst parts of the injuries -- such as stemming the bleeding, clearing blocked airways, trying to save limbs -- before dealing with the less severe wounds.

First responders and paramedics played a crucial role.

"I guess that's reflected in the fact we've had only one death

in a patient that arrived at the hospital. Those who got here, have a chance," Robertson said.

It is likely Pakistani national Mohammed Amin Nas only survived because of the paramedics.

His son Yasir Amin said they encountered the alleged assailant driving outside the Al Noor mosque. "He took out this big gun and just shot at us as we were running," Yasir said.

His father was struck four times. Yasir called emergency services who spent 10 minutes treating his father where he lay before rushing him to hospital.

He has been into surgery three times and remains in intensive care.

four-year-old girl Alin Alsati -- was in intensive care at a specialist children's hospital in Auckland.

Greg Robertson, the chief surgeon at Christchurch Hospital, spoke on Sunday of the sheer magnitude of Friday's massacre.

"Horror, stunned, anger," he said, describing how his team of doctors, nurses and surgeons felt as the wounded poured in -- initially in private cars and then in an ever-increasing stream of ambulances.

This is not the first time the city has dealt with mass casualties. A series of earthquakes in 2010 and 2011 killed more than 180 people and left many more injured, honing the medical skills of the city's doctors to deal with a sudden influx of complex wounds.

"I don't think there's any doubt the earthquake did have a bearing on it -- the old adage practice makes perfect works on a lot of things and that's part of our processes," he said.

But he admitted the horrifying, man-made nature of the latest tragedy had a much greater psychological impact on staff.

"The earthquake was something that we couldn't control," he said. "It's the fact that someone has done this to our people, our friends, our colleagues, this is just unbelievable."

Five Indian nationals killed

New Delhi, India

Five Indian nationals were among the 50 worshippers killed in the Christchurch mosque attacks, with at least two others reported to be injured, officials said yesterday.

India's embassy in New Zealand confirmed the deaths in a tweet.

Three of the dead from the mass shooting at Al Noor mosque were from Gujarat state. They were father and son victims Asif and Ramiz Vora, and 65-year-old retiree Mahboob Khokhar, who was visiting his son in Christchurch.

Ansi Karippakulam Alibava -- a 23-year-old from Kerala, who had lived with her husband in Christchurch since last year as she studied for a masters -- was also confirmed dead.

The fifth victim, Ozair

Kadir, was an aspiring commercial pilot from Hyderabad city.

An Indian foreign ministry official in New Delhi said that they are "in process of ascertaining information about all Indians affected by the terror attack".

The official denied Indian media reports that claimed seven people were killed in the attack.

Mohsin Vora, the brother of Asif, said that they were initially told his brother and nephew were injured in the attack, before a family member identified their bodies when they flew to New Zealand.

Vora said his 56-year-old brother had gone to meet his new grandchild a month ago.

"I and (the) parents of Ramiz's wife have been granted visas. We will be leaving for New Zealand soon," Vora said.

Trump renews attacks on late senator

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump lashed out at the late war hero John McCain for a second straight day yesterday, amid reports an aide to the US senator had shared a dossier of allegations about his ties to Russia back in 2016.

A day earlier, the president drew a stern rebuke from Mc-

Cain's daughter Meghan after he attacked McCain -- a fellow Republican who remained one of Trump's toughest critics right up until his death of brain cancer last August.

In a tweet, Trump quoted the independent counsel Ken Starr as saying it was a "very dark stain" against McCain that he apparently helped spread the dossier.

Tales of heroism and tragedy

New Zealand mourns massacre victims

Hero charged attacker during massacre: witness

Christchurch, New Zealand

A survivor of the Christchurch massacre has described how a heroic worshipper at one of the targeted mosques seized an empty rifle discarded by alleged gunman Brenton Tarrant and then used it to chase their attacker away.

Alabi Lateef said he was praying with others inside Linwood Masjid, the second mosque attacked on Friday by self-confessed white supremacist Tarrant, when he heard the sound of gunfire.

"Straight away I stopped my prayer, I peek through the window and I found a person with, you know,



Lateef Alabi at the entrance to Christchurch hospital

machine gun and heavy dress," he told news website Stuff.

"By the time I peeked on the floor I see two, three dead bodies. Then realised oh, this must be something else. This is a terrorist attack."

Alabi said he told worshippers to duck down and then described how

he and a "brother" decided to confront the attacker during a lull in the gunfire.

"By the time he got there (outside the mosque) the bullets were finished and the gun was used," Lateef recounted.

The pair noticed Tarrant had left the spent rifle on the ground as he returned towards his car.

So Lateef's unnamed fellow worshipper seized the initiative and grabbed the rifle, following the attacker to his car and using it to smash the vehicle's back window before running away.

The pair's actions may have saved further casualties, as Tarrant was ap-

prehended by two armed police officers not far from Linwood mosque soon afterwards while driving his car with a visibly smashed back window.

Tarrant used Facebook to live broadcast his initial assault on the Noor Mosque, where at least 40 worshippers were murdered and dozens more wounded.

In that opening attack, footage from his broadcast showed Tarrant mercilessly spraying bullets inside the mosque and then returning to his car to fetch a new rifle.

He then walked back inside and started shooting again.

Footage from the attack

also shows at least one worshipper at the Noor Mosque who was gunned down while trying to charge Tarrant during his rampage.

Lateef was photographed soon after the attack by local media wearing a grey shalwar kameez tunic that was covered in blood.

He told Stuff that as soon as the attacker had left he ran back inside the mosque to help those who had been shot.

"I'm very sad for what has happened but I believe this country is a peaceful country and I hope something good will happen after this," he said, fighting back tears.

New Zealanders flocked to memorial sites to lay flowers and mourn the victims of the twin mosque massacres yesterday, as testimony emerged of epic heroism and harrowing suffering in the gun attack that has claimed 50 lives.

As the bodies of some victims were released to their families, a list circulated by relatives showed they ranged in age from three to 77 and included at least four women.

The list also documents the international scale of the tragedy, with those killed hailing from across the Muslim world and including members of two generations of the same family.



Workers dig grave sites at a cemetery in Christchurch



A family stands across the road from the Dean Street mosque

Quran bookshelf saved me

Christchurch, New Zealand

As the bullets tore into worshippers during Friday prayers, taxi driver Abdul Kadir Ababora threw himself to the floor and wedged himself under a bookshelf used to hold Qurans, praying he would see his wife and kids again.

Somehow that decision saved his life and he emerged from the carnage unscathed.

"It's just a miracle," he said yesterday as he revisited the scene. "When I woke up to the left and right of me it was just dead bodies."

Like so many who attended weekly prayers at Christchurch's Al Noor mosque, Ababora had come to New Zealand from a troubled overseas homeland hoping to find peace and prosperity.

The 48-year-old said he arrived from Ethiopia in 2010 and made a life for himself in the placid city of Canterbury.

Two weeks ago he and his wife celebrated the birth of their third son.

Then on Friday a self-professed white supremacist, wielding an armory of semi-automatic rifles scrawled with racist ideology, walked into the Al Noor mosque and unleashed a rampage that left at least 50 dead and dozens more with

life-changing injuries.

Sermon then gunfire

Ababora said the mosque's imam had just started delivering the English translation of the khutbah -- the sermon during Friday prayers -- when the gunfire erupted outside.

The first person he saw struck was a Palestinian, a man who was an engineer by training but who, like Ababora, also drove a taxi in the city.

"He walked up just to see what is going on and then he saw the attacker. When he tried to run he shot him somewhere here," Ababora recalled, pointing to his side. "I saw him falling down."

Soon Brenton Tarrant, the 28-year-old Australian police say carried out the massacre, was inside the prayer hall, pumping round after round into the defenceless worshippers.

Ababora said he instinctively fell to the ground and managed to squeeze himself against a bookshelf that held the Qurans worshippers used during prayers. Crucially, it made his body a slightly smaller target.

"I just pretended as if I am dead," he said.

Ababora said he was sickened at how methodical the killer was, firing round after round into the crumpled pile of bodies in a well-planned attack

he later learned was broadcast on Facebook.

"This guy started to shoot randomly, left and right, automatic. And then he finished the first box (magazine) and then he changed it, again automatic. Then he finished the second one, he put the third box, again start automatic in the other room again."

He could feel the shockwaves from the bullets pass by his body.

"I was waiting (for) my moment, when every second (a) shot comes I was saying 'This is for me. This is for me'. And I lost hope," he said.

He began to silently pray and think of his family.

'Blood everywhere'

The horror was far from over when the gunman departed after emptying a fourth magazine before driving across town to commit a second atrocity at the Linwood mosque.

For an agonising number of minutes afterwards, no one at the Al Noor mosque dared make a sound. But as the pain got too much for the wounded, people started crying out.

The scene in front of Ababora was hellish.

"There was blood everywhere," he said. A friend called out, saying he had been shot in the leg. He tried to help him up but the leg was shattered by

the bullet. Ababora staggered outside to find another worshipper -- whose son is friends with his eldest son -- alive but with horrific injuries. He had been shot in the jaw, his hand and his back.

It was only after laying the man down he noticed two more bodies -- two women lying in a pool of blood.

"They were late comers," he explained. "When he (the gunman) finished everyone in the mosque and he came out to escape, these ladies were late, and he shot them. Bang. Bang."

Close by was one of the gunman's discarded rifles and Ababora said he instantly recognised "Nazi" symbols written on it as well as historic places and dates celebrated by the far-right such as the Battle of Vienna in 1683.

"He wrote all the places where Muslims were attacked on the gun, all over the gun."

Like most of Christchurch's inhabitants, Ababora said he never believed such hatred would arrive on his doorstep. "We used to say New Zealand is safe, especially in Christchurch we say we are safe, it's a trusting system here. The Muslims here, we are the most quiet people," he said, adding the mosques in the city don't even broadcast the call to prayer.

"New Zealand is not safe any more," he concluded. "This is brutal."



This guy started to shoot randomly, left and right, automatic. And then he finished the first box (magazine) and then he changed it, again automatic. Then he finished the second one, he put the third box, again start automatic in the other room again

ABDUL KADIR ABABORA

WE'RE BORN ALONE, WE LIVE ALONE, WE DIE ALONE. ONLY THROUGH OUR LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP CAN WE CREATE THE ILLUSION FOR THE MOMENT THAT WE'RE NOT ALONE.
ORSON WELLES

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Woodrow Wilson and 'the ugliest of treacheries'

After World War I, America was supposed to lead the fight against colonialism. What happened?



EREZ MANELA

In November 1918, when news of the armistice in Europe arrived in Cairo, Muhammad Husayn Haykal, a prominent Egyptian intellectual, was approached by a friend. "This is it!" Haykal's friend exclaimed. "We have the right to self-determination, and therefore the English will leave Egypt." The United States, the friend explained when asked about this outburst, "is the one who won the war. She is not an imperialist country." Therefore, he reasoned, "she will enforce the right to self-determination and enforce the withdrawal."

The end of the World War I was a time of great expectations, and the American president, Woodrow Wilson, stood at its center. For a brief span of time, Wilson appeared to millions worldwide as the herald of an emerging world in which all peoples would be granted the right to determine their own future. I have called this period, stretching roughly from Wilson's Fourteen Points Address in January 1918 to the conclusion of the Versailles Peace Treaty in June 1919, the "Wilsonian Moment" — because he, more than anyone, came to symbolise its promise.

In Egypt, the Wilsonian moment was especially poignant. When World War I began in 1914, Britain declared that Egypt, hitherto an Ottoman possession, was now a protectorate of the British Empire. This formalised British de facto dominance in Egypt, in place since the early 1880s, but it was presented as a temporary wartime measure, a fact that Egyptian nationalists would later emphasise. But the protectorate did nothing to protect Egyptians from the hardships of war; Egypt became an enormous military base and thousands of Allied troops congregated on its soil. Wartime inflation, requisitions and conscription made life hard.

At the same time, the United States and its president emerged as a champion of new ideas about the sort of international order that might follow an Allied victory. Wilson's wartime rhetoric, and especially his increasingly strong promotion of the principle of "self-determination," convinced many in Egypt and elsewhere that the rules of the game were about to change.

Even before the United States joined the war in April 1917, Wilson declared that the peace must "accept the principle that governments derive all their just powers from the consent of the governed." After the American

entry, Wilson was even more emphatic. The United States and its allies, he said in May 1917, were "fighting for the liberty, the self-government, and the undictated development of all peoples."

On Jan 8, 1918, Wilson addressed Congress to outline America's vision for the postwar world, a speech that quickly became known worldwide as the "Fourteen Points."

Though this speech did not explicitly include the term "self-determination," Wilson did use that term the next month, when he called it an "imperative principle of action" and intoned that "every territorial settlement involved in this war must be made in the interest and for the benefit of the populations concerned."

It is no surprise, then, that when the war ended in November 1918, Egyptians expected the postwar order to reflect Wilson's wartime rhetoric or that they moved quickly to take part in the emerging new order. On Nov 13, only two days after the conclusion of the armistice, a group of Egyptian leaders called on the British high commissioner, Sir Reginald Wingate, to declare their desire for political independence. They also demanded permission to travel to Paris to present Egypt's case for self-determination before the peace conference gathering there.

The group that approached Wingate was led by Saad Zaghlul, who would become known in Egypt as the "Father of the Nation." Zaghlul was a career public servant, and had served as a government minister between 1906 and 1913. A liberal, he came to resent British support for the autocratic Egyptian monarchy and resigned his cabinet post in protest. Elected to the Legislative Assembly, by 1918 he had become the leader of the opposition.

Playing for time, Wingate asked his visitors to be patient, as "His Majesty's Government" was occupied with more pressing things. The British had long considered Egypt, and particularly the Suez Canal, a strategic lifeline for their empire. Determined to retain power, the last thing they wanted was for Egyptian demands to become a negotiating point at the Versailles peace conference. So, soon after, London denied Zaghlul and his delegation permission to travel.

In response, Zaghlul and his allies moved to mobilise public support, convening rallies, circulating petitions, and starting a press campaign. At the same time, they appealed to Wilson directly. In a dramatic telegram, Zaghlul assured Wilson that Egyptians "felt strongly the joyous emotion of the birth of a new era which, thanks to your virile



Woodrow Wilson

action, is soon going to impose itself upon the universe." This new era, he added, would "no longer be troubled by the ambitions of hypocrisy or the old-fashioned policy of hegemony and furthering selfish national interests." Egyptians must be allowed their day in Paris. This was no more than their "natural and sacred right."

As the peace conference got underway in January 1919 and Egyptians rallied behind Zaghlul, the British authorities, increasingly anxious, decided to move against him. Under the rules of martial law, which had remained in effect since the war, Zaghlul and several of his supporters were arrested and, on March 9, 1919, sent to be interned on the Mediterranean island of Malta. According to Zaghlul's biographer, one item found on his person when he was arrested was a newspaper clipping that listed Wilson's Fourteen Points.

The arrest sparked a wave of strikes and demonstrations across Egypt and launched a period of violent clashes known in Egyptian history as the "1919 Revolution." Egyptians from all walks of life took part in the upheaval: students, workers, professionals, peasants. Leaders of the country's Christian and Jewish communities expressed support for the movement. Women took to the streets in an unprecedented display. The British forces countered with a strict enforcement of martial law. Over the next several months, some 800 Egyptians were killed and many more wounded, along with 60 British soldiers and civilians.

As the 1919 Revolution unfolded in the streets, a stream of telegrams, letters and petitions

Despite the failure to gain American support, by the end of the year nationalist leaders, backed by Egyptian public opinion, had become firmly committed to resisting British control.

poured into the American consulate in Cairo, professing faith in Wilson and calling on the United States to support "the cause of right and liberty" in Egypt. One message, signed "The Ladies of Egypt," complained that the British employed "brute force even towards women." A pamphlet, documenting British brutality, displayed photographs of Egyptian men with whip marks on their exposed torsos. The name and social standing of each man — peasant, student, religious scholar, notable — were noted below each photograph. Egyptians of all stripes, the message was, supported the uprising.

The State Department, however, remained unmoved. Allen Dulles, then a young diplomat at the Division of Near Eastern Affairs and later the head of the Central Intelligence Agency, opined that the Egyptian appeals "should not even be acknowledged," and others agreed. When the British foreign secretary, Arthur Balfour, wrote in April that "extreme nationalists" in Egypt, whom he implausibly described as "paid agents of the revolution-

ary party in Turkey and Bolsheviks," were using Wilson's words to "stir up a Holy War against the Infidels," Wilson quickly agreed to recognise British control over Egypt.

The news of Wilson's decision to recognize the protectorate broke just as Zaghlul and his delegation, having been released from Malta, were crossing the Mediterranean on their way to Paris. Learning of the decision as they docked in Marseilles, the Egyptians were shocked. Haykal later recalled that the decision hit "like a bolt of lightning." How could Wilson deny Egyptians their right to self-determination even before they had arrived in Paris? This was, he wrote, "the ugliest of treacheries," "the most profound repudiation of principles."

Zaghlul remained in Paris for several months trying to make headway for his cause, sending Wilson a series of emphatic messages and requesting repeatedly an audience with the president. In reply, all he got were terse notes from Wilson's secretary, acknowledging receipt of his messages but citing the president's preoccupation with other matters. Still, the stream of Egyptian petitions continued for some months, many marked by a conviction that Wilson could not have willingly betrayed the Egyptian cause and must therefore have been duped by the wily British. One message, from a group of Egyptian students, sought to correct the president's misapprehensions and assured him that the Egyptian movement was "neither religious, nor xenophobic" and "far from being Bolshevik in any sense."

By the summer of 1919, Zaghlul, unable to get a hearing with Wilson, hoped to find some support in the American Congress instead. In June, he told the Egyptian press that the Senate's Committee on Foreign Relations had found that Egypt was neither under Turkish nor British authority, but rather was "self-governed." This finding ignited a furor of discussion in the Egyptian news media — but nothing else.

In November 1919, Zaghlul, still in Europe, sent Wilson yet another telegram imploring him to support Egyptian demands. But the same message also revealed his growing disappointment. The Egyptian people, he wrote the president, hailed him "as the Chief of a new doctrine which was to have assured peace and prosperity to the world." Now, "for having had faith in your principles," they were "suffering under the most barbarous treatment" at the hands of the British.

Despite the failure to gain American support, by the end of the year nationalist leaders,

backed by Egyptian public opinion, had become firmly committed to resisting British control. Rejecting London's efforts to negotiate Egyptian acquiescence, Zaghlul wrote to Balfour that the new "spirit of the age" demanded that "every people shall have the right to self-determination," revealing a conviction that, despite Wilson's betrayal, radical transformation had nevertheless come about in world affairs and it rendered obsolete old justifications for colonialism.

The Egyptian experience in the Wilsonian moment, moreover, was not unique. As the peace conference convened, nationalist claimants from many parts of the world — Chinese and Koreans, Arabs and Jews, Armenians and Kurds, and many others — rushed, invited or otherwise, to stake their claims in the emerging world order. To these representatives of national aspirations, Wilson often served as a symbol of the coming era of self-determination for all. They adopted his rhetoric in formulating and justifying their goals and they counted on the president's support in attaining them.

Most of these aspirations, however, were met with disappointment. As the 1919 Revolution engulfed Egypt, similar mass protest movements broke out in China, India and Korea. In Paris, Nguyen Tat Thanh, a young man from the French colonial territory of Indochina, submitted a petition demanding more freedom for his homeland. He hoped to meet with Wilson to present the petition to him, but the meeting never materialised and the petition was roundly ignored. Soon after Nguyen, who would later adopt the nom-de-guerre Ho Chi Minh, would turn to communism as the path to liberate his people.

In Egypt, the square in downtown Cairo that was at the heart of the protests in 1919 came to be known as Tahrir Square — Liberation Square, in Arabic. Nearly a century later, in 2011, Tahrir Square again became the focal point of mass protests, this time against the homegrown oppression of the regime of President Hosni Mubarak. The events of the 1919 Revolution could not but echo loudly in what quickly became known as the Egyptian Revolution of 2011. Much has changed in Egypt, and in the world, in the intervening decades. The desire for real self-determination, one that is based on the consent of the governed, remained the same.

(Erez Manela is a professor of history at Harvard and the author of "The Wilsonian Moment: Self-Determination and the International Origins of Anticolonial Nationalism," from which this essay is adapted)

1874

Hawaii signs a treaty with the United States granting exclusive trade rights.

1892

Former Governor General Lord Stanley pledges to donate a silver challenge cup, later named after him, as an award for the best hockey team in Canada the Stanley Cup.

1902

Macario Sakay issues Presidential Order No. 1 of his Tagalog Republic.



1913

King George I of Greece is assassinated in the recently liberated city of Thessaloniki.

Facebook's biblically bad week

Add a criminal investigation to the list of technical difficulties and PR disasters



KARA SWISHER

Exactly when did Facebook become the job of internet companies?

Just like the beleaguered biblical character who endured woe after woe at God's behest, this social media giant finds itself repeatedly hit by bad news. The difference is that job was blameless while Facebook has brought many of these disasters upon itself.

The biggest recent blow was a report on March 13 that federal prosecutors in the Eastern District of New York were conducting a criminal investigation into deals Facebook had made with other companies that gave them access to data, allegedly without the consent of users.

Other calamities within the last week alone include a report from the British government accusing Facebook and other companies of hindering consumer choice and stifling innovation and calling for strong regulation; Facebook managing to look as if it was trying to block Sen Elizabeth Warren's attempt to advertise her plan to break up big tech companies like Facebook on Facebook; its services, including the popular Instagram app, going down around the globe, and on March 14, the announced departures of Chris Cox, Facebook's powerful chief product officer, and Chris Daniels, the boss of WhatsApp — a giant neon sign that the company is in pain.

I think we can safely say that only Aunt Becky from "Full House" — that would be Lori Loughlin, captain of the college admissions bad parenting squad — is having a worse time this week.

The Warren ad mess appears to reflect sloppiness by Facebook — she used its logo without permission in some ads, and the company typically pulls down



those fast. They have since been restored. And the breakdown? The company has ruled out an outside attack, so it just looks like some Facebook technical issue.

But the other developments are more serious for the company. The 150-page report from the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Britain calls for giving users the ability to move data to third parties, making that data available to rivals and creating a code of conduct that includes fines for violations.

Warren has gone further by calling for both a breakup of business units and also an unwinding of acquisitions.

Like Facebook's purchase of Instagram. Like Facebook's purchase of WhatsApp. Those.

Basically, she is aiming directly at the social giant's future, which Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's founder and chief executive, pretty much admitted last week when he wrote a memo about integrating those purchases and shifting the platform to a focus on privacy rather than public sharing.

That memo became more interesting to me after The New

York Times reported on the new criminal investigation in the Eastern District. Facebook was already lousy with active investigations led by an alphabet of federal agencies including the Federal Trade Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission, as well state inquiries and tons of lawsuits. What's more, federal prosecutors in the Northern District of California are looking into whether Facebook was in fact misled by Cambridge Analytica or if it knew more than it has acknowledged. But that inquiry

has been only flirting with the idea of criminal culpability. The new one revealed on March 13 is a significant escalation for the company.

Let's be clear: This is a criminal investigation, not an oops-we-made-another-sloppy-error one. Which is why Facebook is trying so mightily to lump it in with the other inquiries.

"It has already been reported that there are ongoing federal investigations, including by the Department of Justice," a Facebook representative said in a statement. "As we have said before, we are cooperating with investigators and take these probes seriously. We've provided public testimony, answered questions and pledged that we will continue to do so."

But the Eastern District inquiry is not the same, and this is new and worrisome territory for Facebook.

Criminal anything is scary enough, but this news will also have an impact on its management's ability to concentrate on creating innovative products or buying companies to help it get to the next phase of the always-changing tech game. That

is no small thing. As the British report pointed out, there have been 400 acquisitions in tech, none of which has been rejected by regulators. That will surely no longer be the case for Facebook.

The departure of the two Facebook managers is also a distraction; the internal situation is looking as unstable as the external.

All this is a reminder of what happened almost two decades ago when Microsoft was under investigation for anti-competitive behaviour and monopoly practices. Back then, the company was hit by the press and regulators daily, which drastically slowed its momentum.

As the accusations piled up, Microsoft lost people's trust. Of all the consequences that Facebook faces, this would be the most damaging.

You can't calculate trust by coding or algorithms. But Facebook is clearly losing it. Everyone is beginning to assume the worst, even if it is not fair. What's ironic is that this is all escalating when it's evident that the management of the company does seem to get that it needs to change and quickly.

"Mark knows he is over a barrel," said one person familiar with Zuckerberg's thinking. "That has sunk in very much now."

Good, because such self-reflection has been painfully slow for Zuckerberg and others at Facebook.

This doesn't mean the situation is hopeless for the company. Despite being seen as the font of all that was bad with tech way back in 2001, Microsoft recovered nicely and is today considered one of tech's most upstanding citizens. Zuckerberg may be able to pull something similar off. After all, this is one guy we can be sure didn't need to bribe his way into Harvard.

(Kara Swisher, editor at large for the technology news website Recode and producer of the Recode Decode podcast and Code Conference, is a contributing opinion writer.)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



This is my Uncle Haroon, we all called him Honey. He was 40 years old. 5 years ago, his family moved to Christchurch, NZ so that he could complete his PhD. His graduation is in May. Yesterday we found out he was among the 49 shot and killed in Al Noor Mosque. This world is unfair

@aminadurrani_

02



We stand ready to extend all our support to the families of Pakistani victims of the terrorist attack in Christchurch. Pakistan is proud of Mian Naeem Rashid who was martyred trying to tackle the White Supremacist terrorist & his courage will be recognized with a national award.

@ImranKhanPTI

03



Fellow Indians, Happy that #MainBhiChowkidar has ignited the Chowkidar within all of us. Great fervour! Ecstatic to see the passion and commitment to protect India from corrupt, criminal and anti-social elements. Let us keep working together for a developed India.

@narendramodi

04



As Chowkidars of our nation, we are committed to creating a clean economy by using cashless financial transactions. The menace of corruption and black money has adversely affected us for decades. Time to eliminate these for a better future.

@PiyushGoyal

CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

Yellow Vest protesters must eschew violence

Who are the Yellow Vest protesters and what are they fighting for?

Seeing these images and articles come up constantly in my social media newsfeed made me curious.

After some googling, I found out the movement started in France and read their manifesto.

The Yellow Vests in France are fighting for many things and a few stuck out to me.

Raising the minimum wage, proper conditions for asylum seekers, minimum amounts for pensions, higher taxes for wealthy individuals, and higher corporate taxes.

These are all fairly left-wing ideas and most of the ideologies are ones that I support.

But they should avoid violence as violence is no solution to any of the issues faced by them.

John McGrath



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

business

Bahrain Insurance Association names new board

● Ebrahim Al Rayes named chairman of the new board

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Insurance Association (BIA) said it has elected Ebrahim Al Rayes as the chairman of its new board for the term 2019-2020 during its Annual General Assembly Meeting held at the Intercontinental Regency on Thursday.

The meeting also elected Yahya Nooruddin as Vice-Chairman and Khalid Al Shaikh as Financial Treasurer.

Other board members are Esam Al Ansari, Jawad Mohammed, Ahmed Marhamat, Enas Aseeri, Vineet Kumar and Steven Samson and two reserved board member Ali Daylami and Alaa Al-Din Yousuf.

The meeting further approved BIA's year-end results and the financials for 2018.

Commenting, Ebrahim Al Rayes said: "I am confident that the growth of the associ-

ation and its achievements till date in establishing a highly effective role in society is a result of the efforts of all of the previous members who have contributed in building the association and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all."

The meeting highlighted the role played by Bahrain in developing the insurance sector, which contributes directly to strengthening the role of the Kingdom in enriching the economy regionally and globally.



Board members during the Annual General Assembly Meeting held at the Intercontinental Regency on Thursday

Bahrain Clear, Edaa join hands

MoU aims enhancing bilateral co-operation in dual listing

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Clear, a fully owned subsidiary of Bahrain Bourse signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Securities Depository Center Company (Edaa), which is a wholly-owned by the Saudi Stock Exchange (Tadawul).

The MoU signed in the Saudi capital Riyadh aims at strengthening bilateral cooperation in the dual listing of securities between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

Shaikh Khalifa bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Bahrain Clear, and Mamdooh Al Sedairy, CEO of Edaa, signed the MoU.

The agreement aims to identify and standardize the operational, administrative and technical procedures between the two countries, and establish effective cooperation on the dual listing of securities in both



Officials following the deal signing

markets.

Shaikh Khalifa emphasized that this will pave way for improved market efficiency in terms of governance of dual listing operations and will increase the Exchange's attractiveness to foreign investors, enhance liquidity and boost investor trading.

Mamdooh Al Sedairy, CEO of Edaa, said: "This partnership reflects our joint commitment with Bahrain Clear to facilitate depository services between Saudi and Bahraini financial markets including custody and maintenance of ownership registry between both parties."

Boursa Kuwait suspends trading of Ithmaar Holding

TDT | Manama

Ithmaar Bank yesterday confirmed in a statement that the shares of its parent company, Ithmaar Holding, have been suspended from trading in Boursa Kuwait.

The bank, a subsidiary of Ithmaar Holding, said it is a dis-

tinct legal entity from its parent and, since the implementation of the new Group structure on 2 January 2017.

"The Bank is committed to remaining one of the leading retail banks in Bahrain and to grow closer to its customers," the Board of Directors of Ithmaar Bank said adding

that Ithmaar Bank has re-ported profits for 2017 and 2018.

The statement further said that the bank will continue to invest "heavily in its infrastructure to provide better products and services, and further enhance its' customers banking experience".

Open bank account from home!

KFH - Bahrain enables remote account opening

TDT | Manama

Want to open a bank account in Bahrain from abroad? KFH-Bahrain says now you can do that without visiting a branch.

Mobile application "KFH Jazeel Banking" allows resident GCC nationals in GCC countries to open savings accounts in Bahrain, remotely and conveniently, thus eliminating the need to travel.

A primary feature of the platform is the eKYC "Electronic Know Your Customer" capability, which verifies individual customer information through an embedded video conferencing system fully integrated with the Bank's call centre.

"We are delighted to be the first bank to enable GCC nationals to open accounts remotely through our digital banking platform without visiting a branch," said Abdulhakeem AlKhayyat, the Managing Director and CEO.

The latest update, according to the bank, allows GCC custom-



Abdulhakeem AlKhayyat

Khalid Rafea

ers to conduct banking transactions and access financial services, in addition to opening and managing savings accounts, opening Wakala Investment accounts, issuing Credit Cards, alongside various other banking services.

Khalid Rafea, the Executive Manager and Head of Retail Banking Group at KFH-Bahrain: "We are very proud of this latest addition to our KFH Jazeel banking application."

Speaking about the new

features, Subah Abdullatif ALZayani, Deputy Head of Retail Banking Group at KFH said: "We have also added another instant feature, enabling users to open Wakala Investment Accounts with ease, for validity periods ranging from one month up to five years. As for our line of Credit Cards, customers can now directly issue cards through the app and determine a suitable limit in addition to managing their cards features."

UK government warns it might not hold pivotal Brexit vote



Theresa May (file)

London, United Kingdom

British leader Theresa May's government warned yesterday it might not hold a planned Brexit vote this week unless it feels it can secure a win that avoids a lengthy delay to pulling

out of the EU.

London has been paralysed by political inaction and chaos as it barrels toward the March 29 end of its 46-year involvement in the bloc without a plan.

Parliament has twice resoundingly rejected the separation terms May reached with the other 27 EU leaders last year.

She doggedly vowed to bring them back by Wednesday for a third vote that -- if it succeeds -- would see her ask the EU for a "technical" Brexit delay until June.

But May warned on Sunday that another defeat would almost certainly require a delay so long that Britain would have to take part in European Parliament elections in May.

This would mean "we will not leave the EU for many months, if ever," May wrote in The Sunday

Telegraph. Two of her top ministers then warned that May might not even submit her deal for a third vote unless she secures sufficient support from her own party members who had previously voted against it.

"It would be difficult to justify having a vote if you knew you were going to lose it," International Trade Secretary Liam Fox told Sky News.

"We will only bring the deal back if we are confident that enough of our colleagues... are prepared to support it so that we can get it through parliament," finance minister Philip Hammond said on the BBC.

"I mean we are not just going to keep presenting it if we haven't moved the dial," Hammond said. Some European ministers have suggested postponing Brexit until the end of 2020.



Bahrain Airport Services Company (BAS) employees during a celebration held on the occasion of honouring employees of the month. The honorees for this month are Fatema Khalifa, Ali Hussain, Ali Darwish, Geogenes Feliciano, Raghavendra Naik, Waleed Abdulla, Jaffar S. Tahr. Salman Al Mahmeed, Chief Executive Officer, said: "BAS strategy is focused on promoting an active work environment based on fairness, job ethics and competency assessment".

India's former defence minister Parrikar dies

New Delhi, India

India's former defence minister Manohar Parrikar, a close aide of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, passed away yesterday at the age of 63.

Parrikar had undergone months of treatment for pancreatic cancer before his death, Indian officials said.

Modi described him a "true patriot and exceptional administrator".

"His impeccable service to the nation will be remembered by generations," Modi wrote on Twitter. The government announced a day of mourning on Monday and called for the national flag to be flown at half-mast.

Parrikar was India's defence minister in September 2016 when New Delhi said it sent special commandos across



Manohar Parrikar

the Kashmir border into Pakistan to destroy militant facilities, in response to an attack on one its army bases that killed 19 soldiers. Parrikar stepped down as defence minister in 2017 to lead his home state of Goa. It was his fourth term as chief minister of the western coastal state.

Eurostar service hit by French customs strike

Paris, France

Eurostar trains from Paris to London were hit by cancellations and "severe delays" yesterday as French customs officers staged work-to-rule industrial action.

The customs officers are demanding higher pay and better working conditions while seeking to demonstrate what might happen if full border controls are put in place once Britain leaves the European Union.

Paris-to-London trains were experiencing "severe delays and lengthy queues for our services," Eurostar said on its website. "We strongly recommend that you do not travel today."

Four trains had been cancelled by lunchtime on Sunday, with another three on Monday and one on Tuesday.

Sunday's work-to-rule was



Representative picture

just the latest in a string of strike actions by the French customs officers.

Work-to-rule strikes began in early March, in the Channel ports of Dunkirk and Calais, northern France, leading to long delays for trucks waiting to cross to Britain.

The customs workers want better pay but also more staff to cope with British travellers who will no longer have European passports once the UK leaves the European Union.

Rungis market serves up a world record for its 50th birthday

Paris, France

France's Rungis market near Paris celebrated its 50th anniversary by throwing a giant banquet of record-breaking proportions, reserving its spot in the Guinness Book of Records. Organisers said lunch was served to nearly 2,000 people along just over 401 metres' length of table, between the market's fruit-and-vegetable stands.

Officials from the Guinness Book of Records approved the bid, which beat the previous record of 322 metres set in 2017 on the French Indian Ocean island of Reunion.

Rungis, seven kilometres (four miles) south of Paris, replaced the old market in the heart of Paris, Les Halles, when it was closed in 1969.

It is the world's biggest fresh produce market, covering 234 hectares (580 acres) and employing 12,000 wholesalers, producers, porters, restaurateurs and other workers in 1,200 separate businesses.

Many of the people who work at the market took part in the record bid.



People take part in an attempt to break the Guinness World Records of the longest table to celebrate the international food market of Rungis' 50th anniversary

Black boxes show clear 'similarities'



A boy look as forensic investigators comb the ground for DNA evidence near a pile of twisted airplane debris at the crash site of an Ethiopian Airways operated Boeing 737 MAX aircraft on March 16, 2019 at Hama Quntushele village near Bishoftu in Oromia region

● The disaster caused the worldwide grounding of the Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft

● Regulators noticed similarities with the October crash of an Indonesian Lion Air 737 MAX 8

● Both planes reportedly experienced erratic steep climbs and descents

● The disaster in Ethiopia left families in 35 nations bereaved.

AFP | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Black box data recovered from an Ethiopian Airlines plane that crashed last week shows "clear similarities" with a recent crash in Indonesia of the same type of aircraft, Ethiopia's transport minister said yesterday.

While declining to give details, Dagmawit Moges told journalists the parallels would be the "subject of further study during the investigation," with a preliminary report issued in "30 days".

The announcement came a week after Ethiopian Airlines flight 302 plummeted into a field southeast of Addis Ababa minutes into its flight to Nairobi, killing all 157 people on-board.

The disaster caused the worldwide grounding of the Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft involved after aviation regulators noticed similarities with the October crash of an Indonesian Lion Air 737 MAX 8 that killed all 189 passengers and crew.

Both planes reportedly experienced erratic steep climbs and descents as well as fluctuating airspeeds before crashing shortly after takeoff.

Questions have honed in



One of the two black box recorders of the Ethiopian Airlines 737 MAX which crashed minutes after taking off from Addis Ababa airport on March 10



Portraits of victims of the crashed accident of Ethiopian Airlines are held beside funeral cars during the mass funeral at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Addis Ababa

on an automated anti-stalling system introduced on the 737 MAX 8, designed to automatically point the nose of the plane downward if it is in danger of stalling.

The pilots of Lion Air Flight 610 struggled to control the aircraft as the automated MCAS system repeatedly pushed the plane's nose down following takeoff, according to the flight data recorder.

In the case of the Ethiopian flight, the black boxes have

been handed to France's BEA air safety agency, which is working with American and Ethiopian investigators to determine what went wrong.

Nothing to bury

The disaster in Ethiopia left families in 35 nations bereaved. On Sunday, Ethiopians gathered at Holy Trinity Cathedral in the capital Addis Ababa to bury 17 of their citizens killed in the crash, including the eight-person flight crew.

Relatives of the deceased sobbed and held portraits of their loved ones as an Ethiopian Orthodox priest said the last rites.

Wearing a t-shirt bearing a photo of Amma Tesfamariam in her flight attendant uniform, Meselech Petros said her 28-year-old sister was not supposed to work last Sunday, but came in to cover for a friend.

"What I can't forget is that she left an eight-month-old child and didn't come back," Meselech said.

"We are broken and hurting very much. It's very difficult," added Amma's brother Selamsew Mathias, 26.

The funeral ceremony began when caskets draped in the Ethiopian flag were brought to the cathedral in a convoy of black hearses accompanied by hundreds of mourners.

It was unclear what the coffins contained.

Witnesses said the plane had nose-dived into the field, with the force of the impact leaving few bodies intact.

On Thursday, as grieving families and friends visited the area where the plane went down, a correspondent saw them being handed plastic water bottles filled with earth from the site.

Ethiopia's government has said it may take up to six months to identify the remains.

"What makes us very sad is we didn't find any of her remains," said Teshome Legesse, whose 24-year-old niece Ayantu Girma was a flight attendant on the plane.

'Grief belongs to everyone'

Ethiopian Airlines is Africa's largest carrier and in many ways the international face of the nation.

The deaths have shocked Africa's second-most populous country, and the funeral attracted a wide range of mourners.

"We all are children of Adam and Eve, even though our skin colours are different," said Seyoum Kidanu, a retired police officer wearing full dress uniform and a sash in the colours of the Ethiopian flag.

Gulf markets end mixed

Reuters | Dubai

Saudi stocks dipped slightly yesterday, a day ahead of the market's inclusion in the FTSE Russell's emerging market index, while other Gulf markets were mixed.

Investors booked profits in recent gainers on the Tadawul, weakening the benchmark, which was down 0.2pc. The Saudi index has gained 9.5 per cent so far this year, outperforming major Gulf markets.

Foreign investors have been net buyers of Saudi stocks every week this year, positioning for passive fund inflows after its inclusion in the FTSE Russell index on March 18 and in MSCI from late May.

"There is some profit-taking on select leading stocks but the overall trend is still upward," said a Saudi trader, asking not to be named.

Foreign net buying has hit \$2.1 billion year-to-date.

"We can reasonably expect between 90 billion to 100 billion riyals (\$24-\$27 billion) inflows," said Muhammad Faisal Potrik, head of research at Riyad Capital.

He said traded value is also expected to rise 14pc to \$100 million a day in the wake of Saudi's inclusion in key benchmark indices.

Yesterday, the Saudi market was steady, with weakness among some non-financial stocks, notably Saudi Basic Industries, which fell 0.3pc, and



Saudi stock market (Courtesy of Emerging Market views)

Saudi Telecom, which dropped 0.8pc.

However, Al Rajhi Bank was up 0.1pc, while Saudi British Bank gained 0.9pc.

Potrik said the Saudi market had risen only by a modest 14pc in the last 12 months, as opposed to more significant rallies in Dubai and Qatar before index inclusion.

Foreign funds had sold Saudi assets in late 2018 following the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in early October in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. Among other Gulf

markets, the Abu Dhabi index fell 0.4pc, hit by weakness in market heavyweights, First Abu Dhabi, which was down one pc.

News that Qatar will no longer permit First Abu Dhabi Bank to provide services for new customers in Doha, its regulator said, amid a probe over alleged currency manipulation after the Gulf rift did not have much impact on the stock.

An FAB spokeswoman said the bank had no immediate comment on the matter.

Abu Dhabi-listed Dana Gas, however, gained 2.7pc after the

company approved plans for a sukuk buyback and also said it plans to seek shareholder approval to buy back 690 million of the company's shares. The company said share buyback is aimed at enhancing shareholder value.

Dubai stocks were up 0.1pc, buoyed by Emaar Properties which was up 0.4pc, however Aramex was down 2.1pc after Australia Post sold its 10pc stake in the company.

The United Arab Emirates "markets continue to trade on weakness in traded values and

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▼ 0.2 pc	8,563 pts
ABU DHABI	▼ 0.4 pc	4,977 pts
DUBAI	▲ 0.1 pc	2,578 pts
QATAR	▼ 1.1 pc	9,863 pts
EGYPT	▲ 0.3 pc	15,033 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.1 pc	5,674 pts
OMAN	▲ 0.3 pc	4,086 pts
BAHRAIN	■	1,410 pts

index movement within a tight horizontal range due to general assembly meetings season, where dividends are being approved, and shares prices correcting downwards because of that as they trade ex-dividend," said

Mohammed Ali Yasin, chief strategy officer at Al Dhabi Capital.

"We are also in a company vacuum currently and until the first quarter results for this year become available, incentives to invest are not strong," Yasin said.

Qatar index dropped 1.1pc, hurt by selling in insurance and real estate stocks. Qatar Insurance was down 4.1pc, while Barwa Real Estate dropped 1.9pc.

Elsewhere in the region, Egypt's main benchmark rose 0.3pc, led by banks, investment firms and real estate companies. Commercial International Bank rose 0.7pc.

Egypt Kuwait Holding rose 3.4pc, while Heliopolis Co for Housing and Development rose 2.7pc.

Philippines out of ICC amid drug war inquiry



Exterior view of International Criminal Court in Hague

Manila, Philippines

The Philippines was officially out of the International Criminal Court on Sunday, though the beleaguered tribunal has pledged to pursue its examination of alleged illegal killings in the government's drug war.

Under court rules, Manila's withdrawal took force a year after it told the United Nations that it was quitting the world's only permanent war crimes tribunal, the second nation to do so.

"The Secretary-General... informed all concerned states that the withdrawal will take effect for the Philippines on 17 March," UN spokesperson Eri Kaneko told AFP on Friday.

The departure of the Philippines follows the court being hit in recent years by high-profile acquittals and moves by several nations to drop out. Manila moved to quit after the body launched a preliminary examination in 2018 into President Rodrigo Duterte's drug crackdown that has killed thousands and drawn international censure.

Traders say 80 businesses hit in 'yellow vest' rampage

Paris, France

Some 80 shops and businesses on the Champs-Elysees avenue in Paris were vandalised this weekend when "yellow vest" protesters went on the rampage, with about 20 looted or torched, retailers said yesterday.

Saturday's demonstrations were characterised by a sharp increase in violence after weeks of dwindling turnout, with hooded protesters looting and torching shops along the famed avenue.

It was the 18th consecutive weekend of demonstrations which began in mid-November as a protest against fuel price hikes but have since morphed into a potent anti-government movement.

"There was a wave of violence, we're dealing with the aftermath of the chaos. We're trying to reassure all the employees and then there are those who live here, too," said Jean-Noel Reinhardt, head of the Committee Champs-Elysees, a local association with 180 members, most of them businesses.

He said residents and business owners were pushing for talks with Prime Minister Edouard Philippe "to share our exasperation and explain our complaints.



A Yellow Vest protester throws a flag of Europe towards a barricade burning in front of a shop on the Champs-Elysees avenue in Paris

"The authorities must put an end to this situation," he insisted.

Since the beginning, the prestigious avenue, which is known for its shops, cafes and luxury boutiques, has been the focal point for the demonstrations which have often turned violent, sparking running battles between police and protesters.

On Saturday, the police ap-

peared overrun as protesters swarmed the area, vandalising and later setting fire to Fouquet's brasserie, a favourite hangout of the rich and famous for the past century -- as well as luxury handbag store Longchamp.

Clothing outlets Hugo Boss, Lacoste and Celio were also damaged, as well as a bank, a chocolatier and several news-

stands.

"Enough is enough. And this Saturday went too far!" raged Bernard Stalter, president of CMA France, a national network of chambers of trades and crafts.

He also demanded a meeting with top ministers "this week in order to find solutions which will put an end to a situation which has become as volatile as it is unacceptable."

US taxpayers must return millions after mistaken refunds

Washington, United States

Taxpayers in the US state of Louisiana got an unexpected windfall when a computer error issued their tax refunds a second time, local media reported yesterday.

The state's Department of Revenue cautioned recipients of the wrongly-paid windfall: "Do not spend it." If they have, they must pay the money back in 30 days.

"An error in an electronic payment system caused 66,780

state individual income tax refunds issued on Tuesday, March 12 to be issued a second time on Wednesday, March 13," the department said on its website.

The duplicate refunds totaled more than \$26 million, it said, adding that the state is working with financial institutions to recover the overpayments directly from recipients' bank accounts.

New procedures were put in place to prevent the error from happening again, the department said.

Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank go public on merger talks

Reuters | Frankfurt

Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank confirmed yesterday they were in talks about a merger, prompting labour union concerns about possible job losses and questions from analysts about the merits of a combination.

Germany's two largest banks issued short statements following separate meetings of their management boards, a person with knowledge of the matter said, indicating a quickening of pace in the merger process, although both also warned that a deal was far from certain.

"In light of arising opportunities, the management board of Deutsche Bank has decided to review strategic options,"



Deutsche said in its statement.

Christian Sewing, Deutsche Bank's chief executive, told employees that Deutsche still aimed "to remain a global bank with a strong capital markets business... with a global network".

Sewing said many factors could still prevent a merger and a Deutsche spokesman said the talks were expected to last some time.

show

OASIS JUFFAIR

1- WONDER PARK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

Ⓢ BRIANNA DENSKI, JENNIE GARNER, KEN HUDSON CAMPBELL

DAILY AT (3D): 12.00 + 4.30 + 9.00 PM

DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM

2- GRETA (15+) (THRILLER/CRIME) NEW

Ⓢ CHLOE GRACE MORETZ, ISABELLE HUPPERT, MAIKA MONROE

DAILY AT: 2.30 + 7.00 + 11.30 PM

3- MERE PYARE PRIME MINISTER (15+) (HINDI/DRA-MA) NEW

Ⓢ RASIKA AGASHE, SONIA ALBIZURI, SYNA ANAND

DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 7.00 + 11.30 PM

4- PHOTOGRAPH (PG-13) (HINDI/DRA-MA/ROMANTIC) NEW

Ⓢ NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI, SANYA MALHOTRA, AKASH SINHA

FROM THURSDAY 14TH AT 7.00 PM ONWARDS

DAILY AT: 4.45 + 9.15 PM

5- AN INTERNATIONAL LOCAL STORY (PG) (MALAY-ALAM) NEW

Ⓢ MANOJ K. JAYAN, TINI TOM, JOHN KAIPPALLIL

DAILY AT: 12.30 + 6.00 + 11.30 PM

6- ISPADE RAJAVUM IDHAYA RANIYUM (PG-13) (TAMIL) NEW

Ⓢ HARISH KALYAN, SHILPA MANJUNATH, MA KA PA ANAND

FROM THURSDAY 14TH AT 4.30 PM ONWARDS

DAILY AT: 3.00 + 8.30 PM

7- CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)

Ⓢ BRIE LARSON, GEMMA CHAN, SAMUEL L. JACKSON

DAILY AT (ATMOS): 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM

DAILY AT (3D): 2.00 + 6.30 + 11.00 PM

DAILY AT (VIP): 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM

8- BADLA (PG-15) (HINDI/THRILLER/CRIME)

Ⓢ AMITABH BACHCHAN, TAPSEE PANNU, TONY LUKE

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM

9- ESCAPE ROOM (PG-15) (THRILLER)

Ⓢ TAYLOR RUSSELL, LOGAN MILLER, DEBORAH ANN WOLL

DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.15 + 6.30 + 11.45 PM

10- TOTAL DHAMAAL (PG-13) (HINDI/COMEDY/AD-VENTURE)

Ⓢ AJAY DEVGN, MADHURI DIXIT, ANIL KAPOOR

DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.30 + 9.00 PM

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

Ⓢ FAHADH FAASIL, SHANE NIGAM, SOUBIN SHAHIR

DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 5.00 + 11.00 PM

12-GULLY BOY (PG-15) (HINDI/DRA-MA/MUSICAL)

Ⓢ ALIA BHAT, RANVEER SINGH, SIDHANT CHATURVEDI

DAILY AT: 3.30 + 8.45 PM

13-KODATHI SMAKSHAM BALAN VAKEEL (PG-13) (MALAYALAM)

Ⓢ DILEEP, MAMTA MOHANDAS, PRIYA ANAND

DAILY AT: 2.00 + 8.00 PM

CITYCENTRE

1- WONDER PARK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

Ⓢ BRIANNA DENSKI, JENNIE GARNER, KEN HUDSON CAMPBELL

DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

DAILY AT (ARABIC DUBBED): 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM

DAILY AT (3D): 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM

DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.00 + 4.45 + 7.30 + 10.15 PM + (12.30 MN +



1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

2- GRETA (15+) (THRILLER/CRIME) NEW

Ⓢ CHLOE GRACE MORETZ, ISABELLE HUPPERT, MAIKA MONROE

DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)

DAILY AT (VIP II): 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM

3- THE HOLE IN THE GROUND (15+) (HORROR) NEW

Ⓢ SEANA KERSLAKE, JAMES COSMO, SIMONE KIRBY

DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM

4- CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)

Ⓢ BRIE LARSON, GEMMA CHAN, SAMUEL L. JACKSON

DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM

DAILY AT (ATMOS): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN

DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.00 + 4.45 + 7.30 + 10.15 PM + (12.30 MN + 1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

DAILY AT (VIP I): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

5- BADLA (PG-15) (HINDI/THRILLER/CRIME)

Ⓢ AMITABH BACHCHAN, TAPSEE PANNU, TONY LUKE

DAILY AT: 2.45 + 7.15 + 11.45 PM

6- ESCAPE ROOM (PG-15) (THRILLER)

Ⓢ TAYLOR RUSSELL, LOGAN MILLER, DEBORAH ANN WOLL

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN +

(1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

7-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRA-MA)

Ⓢ LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN

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

8- FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY (15+) (DRA-MA/COMEDY/BIOGRAPHY)

Ⓢ DWAYNE JOHNSON, FLORENCE PUGH, JACK LOWDEN

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

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

Ⓢ CATE BLANCHETT, JONAH HILL, GERARD BUTLER

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

10-THE UPSIDE (PG-15) (COMEDY/DRA-MA)

Ⓢ KEVIN HART, BRYAN CRANSTON, NICOLE KIDMAN

DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM

11-ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL (PG-15) (ACTION/AD-VENTURE/ROMANTIC)

Ⓢ ROSA SALAZAR, CHRISTOPH WALTZ, JENNIFER CONNELLY

DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 4.00 + 9.15 PM

12-GLASS (PG-15) (THRILLER)

Ⓢ JAMES MCAVOY, BRUCE WILLIS, SAMUEL L. JACKSON

DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

13-THE LEGO MOVIE 2 (G) (ANIMATION/ACTION/AD-VENTURE/COMEDY)

Ⓢ CHRIS PRATT, ELIZABETH BANKS, WILL ARNETT

DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.30 + 11.00 PM

14-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

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

Ⓢ ROWAN ATKINSON, OLGA KURYLENKO, EMMA THOMPSON

DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 5.15 + 9.45 PM

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

Ⓢ JASON MOMOA, AMBER HEARD, NICOLE KIDMAN

DAILY AT: 1.15 + 6.30 + 11.45 PM

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

Ⓢ JOHN C. REILLY, SARAH SILVERMAN, GAL GADOT

DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.15 + 8.45 PM

SEEF (I)

1- WONDER PARK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

Ⓢ BRIANNA DENSKI, JENNIE GARNER, KEN HUDSON CAMPBELL

DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM

DAILY AT (ARABIC DUBBED): 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

2- GRETA (15+) (THRILLER/CRIME) NEW

Ⓢ CHLOE GRACE MORETZ, ISABELLE HUPPERT, MAIKA MONROE

DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM

3- THE HOLE IN THE GROUND (15+) (HORROR) NEW

Ⓢ SEANA KERSLAKE, JAMES COSMO, SIMONE KIRBY

DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN

4- CAPHARNAUM (18+) (ARABIC/DRA-MA) NEW

Ⓢ KAWTHAR AL HADDAD, NADINE LABAKY, FADI YOUSEF

DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM

5- CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)

Ⓢ BRIE LARSON, GEMMA CHAN, SAMUEL L. JACKSON

DAILY AT: (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

6- ESCAPE ROOM (PG-15) (THRILLER)

Ⓢ TAYLOR RUSSELL, LOGAN MILLER, DEBORAH ANN WOLL

DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

7-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRA-MA)

Ⓢ LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN

DAILY AT: 1.45 + 6.30 + 11.15 PM

8- FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY (15+) (DRA-MA/COMEDY/BIOGRAPHY)

Ⓢ DWAYNE JOHNSON, FLORENCE PUGH, JACK LOWDEN

DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.15 + 9.45 PM

9-THE UPSIDE (PG-15) (COMEDY/DRA-MA)

Ⓢ KEVIN HART, BRYAN CRANSTON, NICOLE KIDMAN

DAILY AT: 1.45 + 6.45 + 11.45 PM

10-ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL (PG-15) (ACTION/AD-VENTURE/ROMANTIC)

Ⓢ ROSA SALAZAR, CHRISTOPH WALTZ, JENNIFER CONNELLY

DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 4.15 + 9.15 PM

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

Ⓢ CHRIS PRATT, ELIZABETH BANKS, WILL ARNETT

DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 4.15 + 9.00 PM

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

Ⓢ KARIM ABDULAZIZ, GHADA ADEL, MAJDE ALKIDDAWI

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 3.00 + 7.30 PM + 12.00 MN

13- TOTAL DHAMAAL (PG-13) (HINDI/COMEDY/AD-VENTURE)

Ⓢ AJAY DEVGN, MADHURI DIXIT, ANIL KAPOOR

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 6.30 PM + 12.00 MN

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

Ⓢ FAHADH FAASIL, SHANE NIGAM, SOUBIN SHAHIR

DAILY AT: 3.30 + 9.00 PM

SEEF (I)

1- GRETA (15+) (THRILLER/CRIME) NEW

Ⓢ CHLOE GRACE MORETZ, ISABELLE HUPPERT, MAIKA MONROE

DAILY AT: (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

2- MERE PYARE PRIME MINISTER (15+) (HINDI/DRA-MA) NEW

Ⓢ RASIKA AGASHE, SONIA ALBIZURI, SYNA ANAND

DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM

3- PHOTOGRAPH (PG-13) (HINDI/DRA-MA/ROMANTIC) NEW

Ⓢ NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI, SANYA MALHOTRA, AKASH SINHA

FROM THURSDAY 14TH AT 7.00 PM ONWARDS



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

4- CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)

Ⓢ BRIE LARSON, GEMMA CHAN, SAMUEL L. JACKSON

DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.30 + 3.30 + 5.15 + 6.15 + 8.00 + 9.00 + 10.45 + 11.45 PM

5- BADLA (PG-15) (HINDI/THRILLER/CRIME)

Ⓢ AMITABH BACHCHAN, TAPSEE PANNU, TONY LUKE

DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

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

Ⓢ CATE BLANCHETT, JONAH HILL, GERARD BUTLER

DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM

SAAR

1- WONDER PARK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

Ⓢ BRIANNA DENSKI, JENNIE GARNER, KEN HUDSON CAMPBELL

DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + (11.30 PM THURS/FRI)

DAILY AT (ARABIC DUBBED): 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 PM

2- GRETA (15+) (THRILLER/CRIME) NEW

Ⓢ CHLOE GRACE MORETZ, ISABELLE HUPPERT, MAIKA MONROE

DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + (11.15 PM THURS/FRI)

3- CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)

Ⓢ BRIE LARSON, GEMMA CHAN, SAMUEL L. JACKSON

DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.00 + 5.30 + 6.30 + 8.00 + 9.00 + (10.30 PM + 11.30 PM THURS/FRI)

1- AN INTERNATIONAL LOCAL STORY (PG) (MALAY-ALAM) NEW

Ⓢ MANOJ K. JAYAN, TINI TOM, JOHN KAIPPALLIL

DAILY AT: 3.00 + 9.00 + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)

AL HAMRA

1- AN INTERNATIONAL LOCAL STORY (PG) (MALAY-ALAM) NEW

Ⓢ MANOJ K. JAYAN, TINI TOM, JOHN KAIPPALLIL

DAILY AT: 3.00 + 9.00 + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)

2- ISPADE RAJAVUM IDHAYA RANIYUM (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW

Ⓢ HARISH KALYAN, SHILPA MANJUNATH, MA KA PA ANAND

FROM THURSDAY 14TH AT 4.30 PM ONWARDS

DAILY AT: 12.00 + 6.00 PM

WADI AL SAIL

1- WONDER PARK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

Ⓢ BRIANNA DENSKI, JENNIE GARNER, KEN HUDSON CAMPBELL

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.



Cole Sprouse and Lili Reinhart

Cole Sprouse loves spending time with Lili Reinhart

Los Angeles

“Riverdale” star Cole Sprouse says he loves spending “quality time” with his actress-girlfriend Lili Reinhart. “My language of love is quality time. I’m not really the type of person that likes going to a movie and sitting in silence (for a date). Maybe a little breaking and entering! Some photography! Who knows?” Sprouse told Glamour magazine. Sprouse’s favourite date idea is a “road-trip”, and he says he once took Reinhart, 22, to a remote location where he surprised her with a hot-air balloon ride, reports femalefirst.co.uk. He said: “I really like the road-trip date. I took my girlfriend on a date where we drove to this location deep into Canada, and I surprised her with a big hot-air balloon adventure, which was quite a bit of fun. I like travelling quite a bit.”

Stacey Solomon curious about having a baby girl

Los Angeles

Singer Stacey Solomon says she is curious about the prospect of having a baby girl with beau Joe Swash.

On Lorraine Kelly’s show, the “Breath away” hitmaker, who is expecting a child with Swash, opened about her pregnancy phase, reports dailymail.co.uk.

“I definitely am interested, you have that curiosity about having a girl but we are just happy to be happens. Please God everything goes well, no matter if it’s a boy or a girl we’ll be over the moon. We are so privileged to become a parent to another one,” she said.

Solomon and Swash confirmed last month that they were expecting their first child together, which would also be her third and his second respectively.



Stacey Solomon



Lily Allen

#MeToo movement hasn’t made big impact: Lily Allen

Los Angeles

Singer Lily Allen says the #MeToo movement has not made big enough of an impact and thinks people are ignoring important issues.

“Everyone is sort of a bit like, ‘Yeah, yeah, that happened, but what do you expect?’ I think that’s the danger with the #MeToo movement. So many people are coming forward and sharing their experiences, and no one seems to be reacting. It’s news, and then people move on. It’s an interesting time,” Allen told Civilian magazine.

The “Smile” singer says the problem is people talk about shocking stories of sexual violence as if they are “sensational” and “exceptional” and thinks people need to realise that sexual assault against women is happening all the time, reports femalefirst.co.uk.



Hailey Baldwin and Justin Bieber

Justin Bieber, Hailey spotted having a ‘showdown’

Los Angeles

Star couple Justin Bieber and Hailey Baldwin looked tense as they appeared to argue in a park amid reports that their marriage is on the rocks.

Bieber, 25, and his wife Hailey, 22, appeared to be airing their differences in public, as they were spotted having a showdown on Saturday morning. The newly weds shared a very tense-looking conversation, as they sat in the sunshine at Laguna beach, California, reports dailymail.co.uk.

At times, the singer got up

and walked away, even covering his face apparently in despair.

Hailey, whom he married five months ago, showcased her figure in a cropped top and skin-tight grey leggings, as she went make-up free. She appeared to console the singer, while also running through a range of exasperation and sadness.

Hailey checked her phone while Bieber, who was wearing a black hoodie and red shorts, raised his hands to his head.

Last month, they were spotted attending a joint counselling session in New York.



AJ McLean and Rochelle

AJ McLean ‘weds’ wife again for music video

Los Angeles

Singer AJ McLean and Rochelle re-enacted their marriage as part of the Backstreet Boys member’s music video for his latest solo single, “Boy and a man”.

The ceremony was filmed

at a barn at the picturesque Golden Oak Ranch in California. weather god created a few showers, but could not dampen the fun.

“Rain on your wedding day is good luck!” AJ laughed as Rochelle arrived in a flowing, long-sleeved, plunging white gown and pretty floral hair-piece, reports etonline.com.

While the mother of two admitted to feeling nervous about filming the video, which comes out on Monday, AJ kept things fun. “She’s not thrilled about being on film, but she’s a trouper and she’s doing it for me,” he said.

The white wedding was a contrast to the couple’s real-life nuptial, which took place seven years ago at the Beverly Hills Hotel in California, where black and red was the theme.

‘Downton Abbey’ movie is beautiful: Joanne Froggatt

Los Angeles

“The people who love the TV series are the people who are going to want to see the movie, for the most part, so I think it’s got all the things that people loved about ‘Downton...’, but elevated. It

looks very cinematic; there are big, beautiful set pieces,” Froggatt told The Times newspaper.

Recent reports say that there are already plans for a second “Downton” film. The actress, however, said such a plan has not been confirmed yet, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She would happily reprise her role again for another movie.

“If people still want it. One step at a time, but if we can do something really quality, then yes. Never say never.”

The British actress won a Golden Globe and was nominated for three Emmy awards after the fourth series of “Downton”, which featured her character being raped by a footman, and she had no idea it would get “so huge”.



Joanne Froggatt

‘Love Island’ star Mike Thalassitis dead at 26: reports

Los Angeles

Mike Thalassitis, a former contestant on “Love Island” and “Celebs Go Dating,” was found dead Friday in his hometown of Essex, England, reports said. He was 26.

Thalassitis, who was also a former semi-professional soccer player before appearing on the reality dating show in 2017, was found dead near his home, Sky News reported. His cause of death was not released, although police are not treating it as suspicious.

Golden Globes sets 2020 date

Los Angeles

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association has set next year’s Golden Globes ceremony for January 5, 2020.

The Globes fall just two days before Oscar nomination balloting closes on January 7 so Globes outcomes likely won’t have as much of an impact on Academy voters as they may have had in 2019 when there was a bigger gap between the two dates, reports variety.com.

Nominations for the 92nd Oscars will be announced on January 13, 2019 with the ceremony set for February 9.

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SPORTS

Ayyad makes Bahrain proud with a dominant win at Brave 22

TDT | Manama

Brave 22: Storm of Warriors showcased the best MMA has to offer. In a night full of knockouts and submissions, Bahrain's own Hussain Ayyad flew the flag of his country to the highest pole with a dominant victory over Jason Vergara, who was fighting in front of his home fans at the iconic Mall of Asia, in Manila, Philippines.

Ayyad put on a show as he was able to quickly tap out his opponent with a slick triangle choke.

It was the second win in a row for the KHK MMA product, who is climbing up the Flyweight rankings at a steady pace.

"Iron" had beaten Mohamed Abo Ali back in November of last year, at Brave 18. This time around, however, he was fighting against the crowd, which



Hussain Ayyad during his fight

was no problem for him.

Ayyad didn't let Vergara's fans faze him, as he dominated the entire fight, which was ended by him in the very first round.

The sole representative of Bahrain showcased once again the improvements made in the KHK MMA headquarters, as he proved to be well-rounded since his last win was by TKO and he's now finished an opponent once again by submission.

In the main event of Brave 22: Storm of Warriors, Bantamweight champion Stephen Loman maintained his title with a TKO victory over challenger Elias Boudegzame.

He is the first man to finish "Smile" inside the Brave cage and stayed perfect under the promotion's banner, improving to 5-0, and three title defences to his name.

BIC begins final 10-day countdown to Bahrain GP

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) launches today the final 10-day countdown to the event everybody's waiting for: the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2019.

Motorsport fans can brace for "Limitless" thrills and amusement at the four-day weekend of sport and entertainment, which takes place March 28 to 31 in Sakhir.

Excitement for the Formula 1 spectacle has already reached fever pitch, with BIC delivering an impressive nation-wide promotional campaign as part of the race build-up.

BTA junior tennis tournament registration open

TDT | Manama

From 29th March to 6th April, Bahrain Tennis Academy (BTA) will be holding a junior tennis tournament at the Dilmun Club, Saar. Events will be held in four categories: 8-and-under, 10-and-under, 12-and-under and 14-and-under.

The competition will feature matchplay in a round-robin format using the red, orange and full-size courts, along with the corresponding ball, in line with the International Tennis Federation's guidelines.

The tournament is open to all boys and girls who are of an eligible age at the start date. Certificates will be presented to all participants while the winners and finalists will be awarded trophies.

Half marathon success noted

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's first-ever International Half-Marathon saw the participation of more than 800 men and women's athletes from inside and outside the nation.

Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) secretary general Mohammed Al Nusuf congratulated HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first vice-chairman, West Asian Athletics Federation president and Bahrain Athletics Association (BAA) president, on the success of the race in Bahrain on Friday.

Al Nusuf paid tribute to the association's contribution to raising athletics standards, and commended its efforts in making this event a great one. He also hailed initiative of HH Shaikh Khalid in attending event and honouring winners.

Brave CF breaks records and makes history with maiden show in the Philippines

TDT | Manama

Brave 22 took the Philippines literally by storm. Aply named as Storm of Warriors, the groundbreaking event marked the first time Brave Combat Federation landed in the country and it was a night to remember, as the local warriors shone on the brightest stage in combat sports, in front of the loudest fans and the biggest celebrities and influencers in the Philippines.

Leading the way was a stellar performance by Stephen Loman, who knocked out Elias Boudegzame in the main event to maintain his status as the first and only Brave Bantamweight world champion. His KO was watched and celebrated by Alfonso Ver, the Filipino Ambassador in Bahrain and one of the biggest influencers in bringing Brave CF to Manila.

Also in attendance was legendary sportsman Vincent "Chot" Reyes. Currently serving as the president of Brave's



Brave CF Bantamweight World Champion Stephen Loman alongside Mohammed Shahid, President of Brave CF

TV partner in the country, TV5, Reyes has made history as head coach of the Filipino basketball team. He was complimentary of the event's structure and reaffirmed his willingness to help with the promotion of MMA in the Philippines.

Brave president Mohammed Shahid hailed the Filipino crowd as "one of the best Brave fanbases ever" and praised the Filipino media for their work in covering the largest MMA event to ever be held in the country.

Racing Bahrain crowned endurance karting champions after 24-hour race win

TDT | Manama

Racing Bahrain won a tightly contested 24-hour final round in the 2018/2019 Bahrain SWS Endurance Karting Championship, held over the weekend at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) in Sakhir.

The supremely talented quartet of Mohammed Mattar, Khaled Alsaei, Khaled Alrayes and Duarte Lopes put on a dazzling display of teamwork and grit as they overcame a gruelling challenge from the elements, their fellow-competitors and BIKC's 1.414-kilometre Commission Internationale de Karting (CIK) Track.

With the result, Racing Bahrain claimed the overall title for the 2018/2019 endurance karting season.

They enjoyed a narrow winning margin in the weekend's finale, with their chief rivals GO Bahrain hot on their heels.

GO Bahrain finished just 1.898 seconds behind the victors after an entire day's worth of battling. The deserving runners-up were comprised of Ali Baslar,



Participants in action during Bahrain SWS Endurance Karting Championship

Abdulla Buhendi, Raed Raffii and Rashed Almuammari.

Both teams completed 1,131 laps over the race duration, but Racing Bahrain were able to squeeze ahead for their hard-earned triumph.

Finishing in third place overall with 1,125 laps were Bapco Sadeem, who comprised of Osama Albuflasa, Faisal Alshadhi, Abdulla Althawadi, Talal Beshara and Mohammed Jalal.

BeeSa Racing (Paul Lecailon, Bader Mubarak, Khaled Alzayed, Osama Azzouka) were fourth with 1,124 laps, Racing Bahrain Jr (Hussain Hasan, Khalifa Alyaqoob, Mohammed Ameen, Khaled Alwazzan) fifth on 1,121 laps and Bapco Mot-

sports (Saud Alshreedi, Isa Mahmood, Khalifa Alzayani, Abdulrahman Alawadi) were sixth, also with 1,121 laps.

Aside from taking the overall victory, Racing Bahrain were also first place in the Pro category. They were followed by Bapco Sadeem and BeeSa Racing.

In the Nations class, Go Bahrain were the winners, while Racing Bahrain Jr were second. MMC Racing (Ahmed Ebrahim, Hisham Ali, Essam Alabbasi, Fuad Ahmed, Safyan Almalki, Mohammed Shams) came third.

Finally, Bapco Motorsports triumphed in the Corporate category, adding to their overall classification in sixth.

Moundir and Butulija top seeds in Bahrain qualifying

AFP | Milan

Adam Moundir of Switzerland and Boris Butulija of Serbia have been named as the top two seeds in Qualifying for the Men's Singles tournament of the Bahrain ITF World Tennis Tour 2019 at Bahrain Tennis Club (BTC).

BTC hosted the draw for the Qualifying competition yesterday evening at its premises in

Juffair. International Tennis Federation (ITF) Supervisor and Tournament Referee Dr. Ashraf Hamouda administered the proceedings in the presence of BTC Honorary President Dr. Ali Fakhro, BTC President Khamis Al Muqla, Organising Committee members and some players.

Al Muqla expressed a warm welcome message to the overseas players who have come to

Bahrain for the tournament. He wished all the competitors the best results and added that he is looking forward to enjoying plenty of great, top-class tennis.

A total of 18 matches are scheduled to be played today as 22 players vie for just six slots in the competition proper.

Moundir (423rd on the ITF Rankings) and Butulija (ranked 1,011th) have both been given



A player in action during Bahrain ITF World Tennis Tour 2019 at BTC

byes for the first round of play, and need to win just one match today to make it to the Main Draw.

There are two Bahrainis among the 22 qualifying hopefuls, namely Hamad Abdula'al and Kareem Abdulredha. They hope to join their countrymen Ali Dawani, Eliyas Abdulredha and Hassan Abdulredha, who are already in the Men's Singles Main Draw as Wild Cards.

Bottas dominates in Australia



Valtteri Bottas

● **Valtteri Bottas upstages Mercedes teammate Lewis Hamilton at the Formula One season opener**

● **Red Bull's Max Verstappen completes podium**

● **Ferrari duo finish just outside podium positions**

AFP | Melbourne

Valtteri Bottas upstaged his Mercedes world champion team-mate Lewis Hamilton yesterday to win the season-opening Australian Formula One Grand Prix in a sizzling performance that he called his "best ever".

The flying Finn started second on the grid but got a jump on the polesitting Briton at the first corner and never looked back, scorching round the Albert Park circuit to take the chequered flag a massive 20.9 seconds ahead of Hamilton.

Red Bull's precocious Max Ver-

stappen came third to join them on the podium after audaciously overtaking Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel midway through the race.

"How about that! Yes!" said Bottas over the team radio after also taking the new bonus point for the fastest lap.

"I don't know what just happened. I don't know what to say. It was definitely my best race ever," he said after. "I felt so good and the car was so good."

Four-time world champion Vettel had to settle for fourth, trailing in 57.1 seconds behind Bottas. Ferrari partner Charles Leclerc was fifth, with Kevin Magnussen in a Haas sixth.

Frustrated Hamilton

Bottas, whose last triumph was at the Abu Dhabi season finale in 2017, was overshadowed last year by Hamilton, failing to win a race, hampered by mechanical problems and bad luck but was fast in qualifying and only narrowly edged out of pole position.

"In the beginning it was all about managing the race and building the gap," Bottas said. "I knew I could do it, I've done it before, it was about being at my best level."

Bottas, now in his third year with Mercedes, knows he must perform with promising Frenchman Esteban Ocon, 22, waiting in the wings as the team's reserve driver. He delivered in spades yesterday for his fourth Grand Prix win in his 119th race.

"It's a good weekend for the team," said Hamilton. "Valtteri



Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas leads the field through turn two during the Australian Grand Prix at Albert Park

drove an incredible race today so he deserved it.

"We have some work to do, (but) it is more than we could have hoped for as a team."

Starting on soft tyres on a fine day, Bottas got an electric start and built a gap of 1.153 seconds on Hamilton after the opening lap, with Vettel, Verstappen and Leclerc trailing in their wake.

The gap kept growing, and when Vettel pitted on lap 14 to swap for medium tyres Mercedes called in five-time champion Hamilton soon after.

Bottas stayed out, pumping out fastest laps, and when seven laps later he pitted he emerged more than 10 seconds ahead of his team-mate, who was clearly bemused.

"What was the reason for stopping so early?" Hamilton asked over the team radio, to be told it was to cover Vettel's early stop.

Ecstatic Verstappen

With Bottas having an unsurmountable lead the battle was on for second, with Verstappen hounding Hamilton but unable to find a way through.

"I had to overtake Sebastian to get onto podium which is not easy here but was happy to pull that move off," said Verstappen, who was ecstatic at beating the Ferraris.

Mercedes have been in a class of their own all weekend, turning the tables on pre-season testing when Ferrari looked like the team to beat.

The Italian team's performance will be a source of worry, especially as they haven't won the constructors' title since 2008 and their last driver to become world champion was Kimi Raikkonen in 2007.

In contrast, Mercedes and Hamilton have been dominant, winning the drivers' and constructors' titles five years in a row.

Carlos Sainz Jr was the first casualty, forced to stop his McLaren with smoke and flames billowing out of his engine on lap 10 while he was running 14th.

It was also a day to forget for local hero Daniel Ricciardo in his first race for Renault after switching from Red Bull.

Federer, Thiem into Indian Wells final

● **Rafael Nadal pulls out with injury before the semi-final against Roger Federer**

● **Dominic Thiem beats Milos Raonic to make final**

AFP | Indian Wells



Dominic Thiem of Austria plays a forehand against Milos Raonic of Canada

The 39th match between Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal failed to materialize on Saturday as the world No. 2 Spaniard hobbled out of Indian Wells to send Federer into a title clash with Dominic Thiem.

Nadal, whose longstanding right knee trouble flared up in his quarter-final victory over Karen Khachanov, couldn't take the court for the blockbuster semi-final with Swiss great Federer.

"I wanted to try my best to be competitive today," a dejected Nadal said. "I warmed up today in the morning, and I felt that my knee was not enough good to compete at the level that I need to compete, to play semi-finals match of this event."

Federer, seeded fourth as he pursues a record sixth title in the California desert, will battle 25-year-old Austrian Thiem, who is seeking his first title in one of the ATP's prestigious Masters 1000 events.

Thiem, ranked eighth in the world, was rock-solid in a 7-6

(7/3), 6-7 (3/7), 6-4 victory over 14th-ranked Canadian Milos Raonic.

Thiem, who advanced to the semis on a walkover when Gael Monfils withdrew with a Achilles tendon inflammation, was locked-in from the start, firing 10 winners without an unforced error in the opening set.

He couldn't convert his only break point against Raonic in the second, and Raonic managed to seize the tiebreaker aided by a favorable netcord bounce for a 5-3 lead.

'Amazing' Thiem

Thiem gained the first break of the match for a 3-2 lead in the third and after saving the only break point he faced all day as he served for the match wrapped it up with a sparkling backhand volley.

"It was an amazing day," said Thiem, who will be playing in his third Masters 1,000 final. "His serve is just unreal so even though I played amazing it was so close the first two sets."

Liverpool survive Fulham scare to go top

AFP | London

Liverpool usurped Manchester City to take top spot in the Premier League but needed a James Milner penalty nine minutes from time to see off lowly Fulham 2-1 at Craven Cottage yesterday.

The on-form Sadio Mane put the visitors in front midway through the first half, but a rare defensive mix-up between Virgil van Dijk and Alisson Becker allowed Ryan Babel to give his former club a huge scare 16 minutes from time.

Fulham's awful defending all season is the reason they are heading back to the Championship after just one season back in the top flight, and the hosts gave Jurgen Klopp's men a much-needed gift when goalkeeper Sergio Rico bundled over Mane and Milner secured all three points from the spot.

Liverpool now hold a two-point lead over City, but the champions have a game in hand.

The league leaders completed a clean sweep of four English sides into the quarter-finals of the Champions League with a highly impressive 3-1 win at Bayern Munich on Wednesday.

But they nearly suffered a very costly European hangover against a Fulham side still 13 points adrift of safety.

Most of the visitors' attacking threat came down their left side in the first half and that proved the source of the breakthrough on 26 minutes.

Mane scored twice in Munich in midweek and took his hot streak to 11 goals in 11 games with a simple finish after exchanging passes with Roberto Firmino.

At the other end, Babel was Fulham's biggest threat all afternoon and Tom Cairney fired wastefully over after the Dutchman outpaced Trent Alexander-Arnold just before the break.

Liverpool started the second



Liverpool's English midfielder James Milner (R) scores the team's second goal

English Premier League

Fulham	1	-	2	Liverpool
Everton	1	-	0	Chelsea

Italian Serie A

Genoa	2	-	0	Juventus
Atalanta	1	-	1	Chievo
Empoli	2	-	1	Frosinone
Lazio	4	-	1	Parma

German Bundesliga

Bayer 04 Leverkusen	1	-	3	SV Werder Bremen
Bayern Munich	3	-	0	Mainz 05

Spanish La Liga

Eibar	1	-	2	Real Valladolid
Espanyol	0	-	1	Sevilla

French Ligue 1

Lyon	3	-	2	Montpellier
Reims	1	-	0	Nantes
Bordeaux	1	-	0	Rennes

*Scores as of closing

half with greater intent to try and put the game to bed.

Torrential rain

Andy Robertson was the provider as Georginio Wijnaldum headed a good opportunity over at the far post before Rico was called into action to deny Van Dijk.

However, as a torrential rain shower swept over the banks of the Thames to make playing conditions hazardous, Liverpool's slender lead proved a dangerous one.

Floyd Ayite was rightly flagged offside as he headed a deflected shot past Alisson before the Brazilian number one

got down well to save from Andre Zambo Anguissa.

Mane was inches away from securing the points and doubling his tally for the day with a deft header from a corner that clipped the top of the crossbar.

But disaster seemed to have struck for Liverpool when Van Dijk's header back towards Alisson didn't have enough purchase and Babel stepped in with the break of the ball to tap into an empty net.

However, the league leaders showed why they are in the running to end a 29-year title drought to get a vital three points with the help of some erratic goalkeeping from Rico.