

Bahrain crowned Team of the Year

The third edition of the BRAVE International Combat Week came to a close in a spectacular fashion for Team Bahrain, which maintained their number one spot in the MMA world and was crowned the Team of the Year in the IMMAF Awards. **P16**

OP-ED 8

America needs a national epiphany on gun control

THE DAILY tribune



Katy, Dua pull of an 'outrageously sweaty show' in Mumbai!

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BUSINESS 10 Aramco valuation set at up to \$1.7 trn

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New President for Sri Lanka
Colombo

Sri Lanka's former war-time defence chief Gotabaya Rajapaksa has won a presidential election that has split the country along ethnic lines.

Official results showed Mr Rajapaksa, 70, took 52.25 per cent of the vote. His rival Sajith Premadasa had already conceded.

Mr Rajapaksa was the clear victor in Sinhalese majority areas while Mr Premadasa scored better in the Tamil-dominated north.

The election is Sri Lanka's first since the deadly Easter Sunday attacks.

Prez campaign kicks off
Algiers

Algeria's presidential campaign officially kicked off yesterday with five candidates vying to replace the country's longtime leader, who was pushed out in April amid sustained protests.

Two former prime ministers, Ali Benflis and Abdelmadjid Tebboune, are among those running in the Dec 12 election to succeed former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

Light showers



Signalling the beginning of a new season, the Kingdom last night experienced light showers. The Meteorological Directorate forecasts an unsettled weather with probability of scattered rain-showers, thundery at times, for Monday. The Works Ministry is in its best efforts to tackle rain-related chaos.

Hundreds arrested in Iran crackdown

Tehran

Iran's supreme leader yesterday threw his support behind a decision to hike petrol prices, a move that sparked nationwide unrest in which he said "some lost their lives."

A policeman was killed in the western city of Kermanshah in a clash with armed "rioters", the second confirmed death since protests erupted across Iran on Friday.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei blamed "hooligans" for damaging property despite widespread anger at the increases and as Iranians suffer from the country's economic woes.

Several people were also wounded and dozens arrested in two days of demonstrations that saw motorists block highways and others attack and set fire to public property.

The United States supports the Iranian people in their peaceful protests against the regime that is supposed to lead them.

STEPHANIE GRISHAM

In a speech aired on state television, Khamenei said "some lost their lives and some centres were damaged".

The White House on Sunday condemned Iran for using "lethal force" against the demonstrators.

"The United States supports the Iranian people in their peaceful protests against the regime that is supposed to lead them," White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said.

Protests rage in Iraq

Protesters regain control of third bridge in Baghdad

● Protesters made a barricade of old cabinets, trash cans and metal sheeting on the bridge while security forces took positions behind blast walls.

● The unrest has shattered the relative calm that followed the defeat of Islamic State in 2017.

Baghdad



Burning tyres block a road in the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

Iraqi protesters regained control of a third bridge leading to Baghdad's Green Zone on Sunday, taking further ground in the biggest wave of anti-government demonstrations in decades.

Security forces used tear gas and stun bombs to prevent protesters from getting right across Ahrar Bridge in central Baghdad, part of a weeks-long

attempt to disrupt traffic and reach the Green Zone housing government ministry and embassies.

Protesters made a barricade of old cabinets, trash cans and metal sheeting on the bridge while security forces took positions behind blast walls installed to prevent protesters from crossing to the other side. Protesters

300 people have been killed since the start of mass unrest in Baghdad and southern Iraq in early October.

who choked on the tear gas were evacuated by tuk-tuk, a Reuters cameraman said.

On Saturday, Iraqi demonstrators reoccupied part of adjacent Sinak Bridge and a nearby tall building in Baghdad that security forces had pushed them away from a week before. They have held a third bridge, Jamhuriya, since October 25.

More than 300 people have been killed since the start of mass unrest in Baghdad and southern Iraq in early October, the largest demonstrations since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Protesters are demanding the overthrow of a political class seen as corrupt and beholden to foreign interests.

In Basra in the south, dozens of protesters burned tires and briefly blocked some roads on Sunday, before police managed to restore control and reopen them, police said.

The unrest has shattered the relative calm that followed the defeat of Islamic State in 2017.

The defeat of Islamic State has been energised by support from Iraq's leading Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali Al Sistani, in his sermon on Friday.

Mr Al Sistani called for the government to change the electoral law as demanded by protesters, which he said would restore public confidence in the system and give voters the opportunity to bring "new faces" to power.



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03 Employees accused of embezzling BD1.5 million, acquitted by court

04 New project to create 600 car parking spots at SMC

210 fils (includes VAT)



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exportbahrain

A Year of Exports

21 product categories exported globally



صادرات البحرين
EXPORT BAHRAIN



His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, accompanied by His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, yesterday viewed a Second World War-era Supermarine Silver Spitfire, which landed in Bahrain as part of a round-the-world expedition. During this occasion, HH Shaikh Isa highlighted the strength of historic ties between Bahrain and the United Kingdom, noting that the strong partnership between the two Kingdoms, continues to advance across various levels. HH Shaikh Isa and HH Shaikh Mohammed were given a brief on the history and make of the iconic British fighter jet, and its role and use during World War II. The short-range, high-performance interceptor aircraft, embarked on a round the world expedition earlier this year, and is set to visit approximately thirty countries - Bahrain being one of the destinations.



The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, received in his office at the Ministry's General Court yesterday, Luis Almeida Ferraz, who presented a copy of his credentials as Ambassador of the Portuguese Republic to the Kingdom of Bahrain, residing in Riyadh. The Minister hailed the relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Portuguese Republic, noting their development in various fields. He stressed the keenness of the Kingdom to further develop co-operation and co-ordination with the Portuguese Republic in all areas, wishing the ambassador success in carrying out his diplomatic duties.



Defence Affairs Minister, Lieutenant-General Abdulla Al Nuaimi, and his accompanying delegation yesterday attended Dubai Air Show 2019. The event was opened by the UAE Vice-President, Prime Minister and Dubai Ruler, HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The minister toured the Dubai Air Show, and was informed about the latest developments in the military and civil aviation industry, the military defence technology and the modern air systems exhibited by world companies specialised in the military and civil aviation industry.

TDT | Manama

GIPF to showcase India realty investment options

India is upbeat about the development plans for the country and its Government has taken serious measures to set the record straight across all industry sectors. This means, there is no better time than now to invest in India, the land of opportunities!

Real estate has always been the best asset class but how does one get access to the most investment-worthy properties in India? How does one differentiate and compare the best options available and invest without any worries? Well, the key is to meet the right kind of real estate developers in India. The Great India Property Festival (GIPF) is your gateway to the most credible Indian property investments.

The Bahrain Edition of the Great India Property Festival (GIPF) is here. All roads lead to

the Gulf Hotel and Convention Centre, Manama from 11 am to 7 pm on 22-23 November 2019 because here you will get to explore the best real estate investment options across 8+ CITIES, 40+ DEVELOPERS and 200+ PROPERTIES of INDIA.

Credible and top developers such as Godrej Properties, Rustomjee Developers, Sobha Developers, Puravankara Group, Arvind Smart spaces, Kanakia



Builders and a lot many more are showcasing their properties.

Sugee Group brings forth a unique "Portugal investment opportunity" other than their Mumbai based projects. Bahrainis shall also get to explore other international properties from Phuket by Banyan Tree and from Dubai by Sobha Hartland.

All showcased properties are RERA approved and visitors will get a chance to meet developers

directly to get complete information on their projects. This is your chance to invest in the land of opportunities!

GIPF 2019 is organised by Gentlemen Circle Pvt Ltd in association with Pegasus Real Estate (a division of the Dadabhai Group). Dadabhai Travels is the exclusive travel partner to the event. Pre-register on www.thegipf.com and collect couple movie tickets at the event exit.

TDT | Manama

BKS to host Hindu spiritual leader

The Indian Community in the Kingdom is planning to host a grand civic reception to His Holiness Swami Vishudhananda of Sivagiri Madam, who has received Padmashri Award from the President of India, on 21st November 2019 at 7.30 pm, said Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) President P V Radhakrishna Pillai and MP Raghu, General Secretary, at a press conference held at the BKS.



Mr Pillai, Mr Raghu and Mr Baburajan with BKS officials at the Press conference.

new president of Varkkala Sivagiri Madam.

Many Kerala politicians including Thiruvanjoor Radhakrishnan, Member of Kerala Legislative Assembly, Kummanam

Rajasekharan, Former Governor of Mizoram and A Sampath, former Member of Parliament will also participate in the event.

Many dignitaries from all walks of life will be attending

the ceremony, the BKS officials said.

Brahmasri Sadranandha Swamikal (General Secretary, Shivagiri Madam), Brahmasri Shivaswaroopanandha

Swamikal (Secretary Aluva Adhyathaasramam), Brahmasri Vishaalanda Swamikal (Secretary, Sivagiri Pilgrimage Committee) and Santhosh Vandannoor (Co-ordinator Sivagiri

Pilgrimage Committee) will also attend the programme.

A committee under the leadership of K G Baburajan, CMD of Qatar Engineering Group has been constituted for the smooth conducting of the Grand Civic Reception, which will be held on 21st November 2019.

A dance programme by the Malayalam Film Star and dancer Manju Warier will also be held on the same day.

For more details, contact Haareesh Menon on 3398 8196 or Pradeep Patheri on 39283875.

Strong Saudi ties

BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, received a military delegation from the Saudi Armed Forces. The Chief-of-Staff, Lieutenant-General Dhiyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi attended the meeting. The Commander-in-Chief praised the strong brotherly relationship between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

Kuwaiti relations hailed

Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa affirmed Bahrain's deep-rooted strong ties with Kuwait as a model to be emulated by countries. These relations have been strengthened by the combination of common denominators between the two brotherly countries and peoples and mutually-shared desire between His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Kuwait Amir His Highness Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah to develop them in various fields, he said. This came on Sunday as Deputy Premier Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa received the recently-appointed Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Shaikh Thamer Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah yesterday.

Employees accused of embezzling BD1.5 million, acquitted by court

Accused trio includes general manager, project manager and quantity surveyor

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court has acquitted three Asian employees, aged 53, 35 and 49, accused of embezzlement after the expert assigned to audit the accounts of the company didn't take the initiative to verify the facts with the defendants.

The three defendants were earlier convicted and handed down sentences ranging between three years and five years behind bars, but their appeals proved successful.

The trio include the general manager, the project manager and a quantity surveyor.

This came after their lawyer

Islam Ghunaim argued that the expert who was assigned by the company to audit its accounts was tasked without informing the defendants and he didn't meet them throughout the whole process, which is against the local laws.

He pointed out that as a result of this the report must be deemed illegal and couldn't be counted as an evidence for judging.

"The defendants have the right to assign an expert too. But the Public Prosecution didn't hire any and the company was the one who did and covered his expenses.

"He didn't even meet my clients

“He didn't even meet my clients or heard their defence. Therefore, his report is invalid and cannot be regarded as proof.”

MR GHUNAIM

or heard their defence. Therefore, his report is invalid and cannot be regarded as proof," he added.

The company's lawyer, Maha Jaber, said previously that the general manager was serving in the company for 21 years and he collaborated with his co-de-

fendants in pocketing money generated from selling movable properties owned by the company but they didn't record them in its accounts.

"They have been doing this for three years, and the company discovered their misconduct recently. An auditing process was performed via an external auditing firm, in which it was discovered that the general manager transferred BD1.5 million to his country in the past three years, although his total earnings since his recruitment don't exceed half million Bahraini dinars," she added.

Explaining how the suspects

manipulated the company's accounts, she said: "The defendants used to deposit the money earned through selling the movable properties into their accounts.

"And then showed in the records that they used it to carry out other activities for the company in collaboration with another company, which was operating in waste collection.

"The quantity surveyor was forging the reports submitted to the company about the sites in which it was working in return of bribes provided by the general manager and the project manager."

Woman fined for denying ex-hubby see daughter

TDT | Manama

The Lower Civil Court has fined a Bahraini woman BD1,000 for denying her ex-husband from seeing their girl, although he has a court ruling allowing him to meet her once every week.

The Sharia Court had earlier issued an order for the woman to enable her ex-husband see their girl for three hours at one of the social centres.

However, the woman failed to implement the court ruling, causing moral damage to the plaintiff owing to the fact that she was the only child he has.

During the course of this trial, the woman filed a case requesting to define the timings of the

Kerala expats in the Kingdom to receive free legal aid

TDT | Manama

Residents of Bahrain from the Indian state of Kerala will now receive free legal aid, it was announced.

This follows the launching of 'Pravasi Legal Aid Cell' for non-resident Keralites to avail free legal advice.

The programme is the brain-child of Norka Roots and is made available to expatriates from Kerala all across the world.

Norka Roots aims to help all non-resident Keralites by providing support with regard

to legal matters.

"Norka Roots has officially launched the 'Pravasi Legal Aid Cell' in the state. Formed to assist expatriate Keralites, the cell will provide free legal aid to non-resident Keralites (NRKS) in various countries," Indian newspaper The New Indian Express reported.

"According to officials, Norka Roots has appointed legal consultants in Kuwait and Oman in its first phase and the facility would soon be expanded to other countries," the report stated.

The project envisages provid-

“The project envisages providing legal aid to expatriate Malayalees serving jail term in the GCC countries.”

REPORT

ing legal aid to expatriate Malayalees serving jail term in the GCC countries.

Employment issues, filing cases, compensation, mercy petitions are some of the areas in which the cell will provide assis-

tance, including translator services, to expatriate Malayalees.

"The cell would also hold legal awareness programmes in association with various Malayali associations.

"According to Norka authorities, absence of a proper legal aid has often sent many hapless employees to jails in these foreign countries.

"Through this project, a person in distress or his immediate relatives or friends who hold valid documents, can approach the cell for legal aid," the report stated.

"The application for the legal aid should be addressed to 'Chief Executive Officer, Norka Roots, Third Floor, Norka Center, Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram - 695014'.

The application can also be sent via mail to cocoo@norka-roots.net and ceonorkaroots@gmail.com. The application is available on its website www.norkaroots.org.

For more details contact 0091 880 2012 345 or toll free number 1800 425 3939. "A missed call facility is available for callers from abroad," the report added.

“The woman failed to implement the court ruling, causing moral damage to the plaintiff owing to the fact that she was the only child he has.”

COURT

meetings between the father and his child under the pretext that the girl was suffering from health issues.

Nevertheless, the court deemed her excuse invalid, pointing out in its ruling that she had violated the law.

"The Sharia Court had earlier issued a ruling enabling the man to see his child once every week for three hours. This court judgement is enforceable and cannot be dodged.

"Ignoring it caused moral damage to the plaintiff as he has full right to see his girl who he always longs to meet due to their relationship," the Lower Civil Court said in its ruling.

"Therefore, the court ruled to compel the woman to allow her ex-husband to meet their child and to pay him BD1,000 in compensation for the moral damage she caused to him," the court added.

Sports envoys visit AUBH

In collaboration with the US Embassy, two US sports envoys visited the American University of Bahrain (AUBH) to meet with the university students and hold a discussion on "Fitness Alongside Studies". The sports envoys were soccer coaches Zola Solamente, an American former soccer player who played as a defender, making nine appearances for the United States women's national team; and Anthony Sanneh, a retired American soccer player, who last played for the Los Angeles Galaxy of Major League Soccer and also played in the World Cup. The envoys were welcomed on AUBH's state-of-the-art campus in Riffa by Dr Susan E Saxton, the Founding President of the University.

● The signing of the agreement follows issuing the tender for the project earlier this year for constructing the building.

● The Accident and Emergency Section is under immense pressure due to a large number of cases it receives every day.

TDI | Manama

Six hundred new parking spots will be made available in the Kingdom's largest hospital through a new multi-storey car park, it is learnt.

This comes as a remedy for parking woes at Salmaniya Medical Complex.

Bahrain Real Estate Investment Company (Edamah), the real estate arm of Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company along with the Ministry of Health and Al Ghanah Group has already signed an agreement to build the car park area.

"The car park will be built on a 5,700 square-metre ground and will provide 600 parking spots," a ministry official said.

This is part of the steps the authorities are taking to improve the state of public health care, the official added.

The signing of the agreement follows issuing the tender for the project earlier this year for



The project will be a remedy for parking woes at SMC.

constructing the building.

The project has already undergone a technical and financial evaluation.

Giving further details about the project, Edamah stated: "In

an area well known for being the busiest hospital within the Kingdom, the Salmaniya multi-storey car-park development aims to provide the Salmaniya Medical Complex with an effective and

efficient parking facility."

"The proposed car-park will be strategically located, north-east of the Salmaniya Medical Complex on a 5,700-square-metre plot and in proximity to two

New project to create 600 car parking spots at SMC

Technical and financial evaluation of the project completed

5,700
square-metre area has been earmarked for the proposed project.

main roads, Salmaniya Avenue and King Abdulaziz Street.

"The development aims to be carefully designed adding towards the urban fabric of the area; with the developments key component being car parks amongst other facilities that will be provided."

Meanwhile, a number of measures are being taken to ensure the reduction in waiting time for patients at the accident and emergency section of SMC.

According to sources, the accident and emergency section at the Salmaniya Medical Complex is under immense pressure

due to a large number of cases it receives every day.

Sources say the hospital is burdened with a huge number of people, who visit the accident and emergency area despite not needing urgent assistance.

In response to a parliamentary question, the Minister of Health, Faeqa Al Saleh said that the measures to be taken include redirecting some non-emergency cases to the health centres, training the public on CPR, training the public with basic skills to attend certain cases at home and updating the systems for the department.

The ministry is updating its system in line with the system used in the UK called the Manchester Triage System, the minister said.

The new system will adopt a more efficient mechanism in categorising patients received at the section based on the severity of the injuries/illnesses of the patients, it is learned.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Our Valued Clients,

Al Salam Bank-Bahrain gives notice to its intention to cease providing any of its financial services licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain at its branch in Mashtan road, as of 19 December 2019.

Please note that customers of this branch can carry out their banking activities at any of Al Salam Bank's branches.

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'Gulf Who's Who' set to be launched

● The Chief Executives of Bahrain International Circuit, GPIC, Banagas, Tamkeen and many other companies will be honoured at the function.

TDI | Manama

The latest edition of Gulf Who's Who Directory (GWWD) will be launched with many innovative additions on Monday, 25th November at 6.30 pm at the Gulf Hotel Convention Centre.

The brainchild of Sunluz Publications Managing Editor Sunny Kulathakal, the Directory has grown from a litany of names into an information-packed guide book to doing business and living in Bahrain.

Ever since the first edition came out in 1978, the Directory has been a popular record of the country's Who's Who?, tracing the Kingdom's trajectory of growth through thumbnail profiles of its important people.

"The intelligent leadership of Bahrain has allowed the country to march ahead on the path of progress and unbelievable development," said Mr Kulathakal.

He added: "It must be added that it is the wise leadership of this country, under His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al

Khalifa and Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa that made BAHRAIN so vibrant and a force to reckon with."

In line with the Kingdom's Formula 1 craze and popularity the Directory starts with a feature on the "Bahrain International Circuit" - the home of Motorsport in the Middle East. The new Bahrain International Airport also is being featured prominently.

The upcoming edition contains 'Movers and Shakers' where many men and women are featured. It also packs in an amazing amount of details about individuals and companies in the private as well as public sectors.

The sections in the Directory include photos and profiles of ministers and diplomats, Movers and Shakers of many industries, prominent women in Bahrain, media and advertising, hotel, airlines and associations.

The present edition is in fact an anniversary edition highlighting 100 years of Banking, Education, Hospital, Automobiles, Jashannals, 50 years of Gulf Hotel, Awal Plastics and many other companies.

The first copy of the Directory will be received by Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister Essam Khalaf from Sustainable Energy Authority President Abdul Hussain Ali Mirza. The keynote speaker will be Dr J Alexander IAS, Former Tourism Minister of Karnataka.

The Chief Executives of Bahrain International Circuit, GPIC, Banagas, Tamkeen and many other companies will be honoured at the function.

Lawyer jailed for 'forgery'

● The plaintiff lodged a complaint against the lawyer after he discovered that he was lying.

TDI | Manama

The High Criminal Court has sentenced a young lawyer to one year behind bars for embezzlement.

The defendant was tried over accusations of embezzling BD400 from a client who paid the money to file a case.

The lawyer justified his offence by stating that his client was annoying that he was pressuring him to file the case after he handed him the money.

He admitted to pocketing the money, spending the amount on buying some necessities.

"I didn't file the case for my client," he told prosecutors, adding: "I forged a court receipt and I sent it to him to make him believe that I submitted his case before the Civil Court."

The plaintiff lodged a complaint against the lawyer after he discovered that he was lying.

"I found out that the receipt was issued to someone else after I cross-checked the information written on it," the plaintiff stated.

WORLD
world

At least seven killed in gas explosion in Bangladesh



Rescue workers are seen at the site of a gas pipeline explosion in the port city of Chittagong, Bangladesh

Reuters | Dhaka

At least seven people were killed and eight injured yesterday after a gas pipeline exploded in the Bangladeshi port city of Chittagong, a police official said.

The pipeline exploded in front of a five-storey building, blowing some of its walls off,

Mohammad Mohsin said, citing witnesses.

The injured were taken to hospital, he said, adding the death toll could rise as some were in critical condition.

It was not immediately clear what caused the explosion, fire service official Amir Hossain said, adding an investigation was under way.

Rajapaksa storms to victory

AFP | Colombo

Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who spearheaded the brutal crushing of the Tamil Tigers 10 years ago, stormed to victory yesterday in Sri Lanka's presidential elections, seven months after Islamist extremist attacks killed 269 people.

Rajapaksa conducted a nationalist campaign with a promise of security and a vow to crush religious extremism in the Buddhist-majority country following the April 21 suicide bomb attacks blamed on a homegrown jihadi group.

Mahinda, with Gotabaya ef-



Gotabaya Rajapaksa

fectively running the security forces, ended a 37-year civil war with Tamil separatists. His decade in power was also marked by alleged rights abuses, murky extra-judicial killings and closer ties with China.

Gotabaya, a retired lieutenant-colonel, 70, nicknamed the "Terminator" by his own family, romped to victory with 51.9 percent of the vote, results from the two-thirds of votes counted so far showed.

"I didn't sleep all night," said student Devni, 22, one of around 30 people who gathered outside Rajapaksa's Colombo residence. "I am so excited, he is the president we need."

Rajapaksa's main rival, the moderate Sajith Premadasa of the ruling party, trailed on 42.3pc. The 52-year-old conceded the race and congratulated Rajapaksa.

On Sunday three cabinet members resigned -- including Finance Minister Mangalar Samaraweera.

Rajapaksa due to be sworn in on Monday. Turnout was over 80pc.

Premadasa had strong support in minority Tamil areas but a poor showing in Sri Lanka's Sinhalese heartland, a core support base where Rajapaksa won some two-thirds of the vote.

Devastated Venice braced for third major flood



AC Milan goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma waded through flood water in St. Mark Square

Venice

Venice was braced yesterday for an unprecedented third major flooding in less than a week, with sea water due to swamp the already devastated historic city where authorities have declared a state of emergency.

The city forecast "acqua alta", or high water, of 160 centimetres (over five feet) for just after midday, lower than Tues-

day's 187 centimetres -- the highest level in half a century -- but still dangerous.

The renewed threat from exceptionally intense high tides came after a brief respite on Saturday with visitors seen wading through a reopened St Mark's Square. The top tourist site had been shut for several hours on Friday as strong storms and winds battered the region, leaving it submerged by sea surges.

Two planes in 'minor' collision at Frankfurt airport

Frankfurt am Main

An Air Namibia plane collided with a Korean Air jet after landing at Frankfurt airport on Saturday evening, officials said, adding that no one was injured.

Both aircraft were damaged in what Air Namibia on Sunday called "a minor accident".

A spokeswoman for Frankfurt airport said the incident happened at around 6:00 pm (1700 GMT) on Saturday. She said no one was injured and the reasons for the crash remain unclear.

"The left wing of an Air Na-



Representative picture

mibia plane collided with the horizontal stabiliser of Korean Air flight KE905 as it was waiting on the taxiway after landing," Korean Air said in a statement.

The Korean Air plane was carrying 241 passengers and 40 crew at the time, it said.

"We confirm that no passengers and crew were hurt," Air Namibia added in its own statement.

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 30 June 2019

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2019 USD 000's

	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
ASSETS		
Balances and placements with banks	10,175	7,326
Investments	110,982	151,516
Investments in associates and a joint venture accounted under the equity method	22,701	26,666
Murabaha financing to investee companies	30,406	38,597
Wakala contract receivable	10,672	-
Receivables	1,976	33,420
Funding to project companies	5,693	3,025
Other assets	26,678	23,795
Property and equipment	7,480	7,816
TOTAL ASSETS	226,763	292,161
LIABILITIES		
Islamic financing payables	109,692	109,155
Employee accruals	1,440	2,092
Other liabilities	13,145	15,456
TOTAL LIABILITIES	124,277	126,703
EQUITY		
Share capital	190,000	190,000
Statutory reserve	5,859	5,859
Foreign currency translation reserve	(71)	(71)
Accumulated losses	(93,302)	(30,330)
Total equity	102,486	165,458
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	226,763	292,161

OFF BALANCE SHEET ITEMS

	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
Equity of investment account holders	1,887	2,106

Extracted from the interim financial statements reviewed by Ernst & Young and approved for issue by the Board on 25 August 2019

Abdullah Marafiq
ChairmanAbdullatif M. Janahi
Board Member and Chief Executive Officer

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME

For the year ended 30 June 2019 USD 000's

	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
REVENUE		
Income from investment banking services - net	2,153	1,218
Gain on sale of investment	1,133	6,338
Finance income	4,072	4,785
Dividend income	1,400	1,406
Rental and other income	1,786	2,447
TOTAL REVENUE	10,544	16,194
OTHER LOSSES		
Fair value losses on investments carried at fair value through profit or loss - net	(35,069)	(3,633)
TOTAL (LOSS) INCOME	(24,525)	12,361
EXPENSES		
Staff costs	7,061	5,745
Travel and business development expenses	427	431
Legal and professional fees	790	775
Finance expense	5,369	5,623
Depreciation	342	385
Other expenses	3,645	3,026
TOTAL EXPENSES	17,634	15,983
LOSS BEFORE IMPAIRMENT		
PROVISIONS AND SHARE OF LOSS OF ASSOCIATES AND JOINT VENTURE	(42,159)	(3,622)
Provisions for credit losses - net	(15,963)	(1,492)
Share of losses of associates and joint venture - net	(59)	(132)
NET LOSS FOR THE YEAR	(58,181)	(5,246)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 30 June 2019 USD 000's

	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net loss for the period	(58,181)	(5,246)
Adjustments for non-cash items:		
Gain on sale of investments	(1,133)	(5,263)
Share of results of associates and joint venture accounted under the equity method	59	132
ECL charged on balances and placement with banks	7	-
Provisions for credit losses - net	15,963	1,492
Depreciation	342	385
Dividend income	(1,400)	(1,406)
Fair value losses on investments carried at fair value through profit or loss - net	35,069	3,633
Operating losses before changes in operating assets and liabilities	(9,274)	(6,073)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Investments	4,381	10,756
Investments in associates and a joint venture accounted under the equity method	(53)	(192)
Murabaha financing to investee companies	1,287	(3,847)
Wakala contract receivable	(13,540)	-
Receivables	27,658	(16,790)
Funding to project companies	(4,386)	(3,025)
Other assets	(3,152)	3,695
Employee accruals	(652)	(631)
Other liabilities	(2,410)	7,546
Net cash from (used in) operating activities	39	(8,561)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Dividends received	2,304	900
Property and equipment - net	(6)	(124)
Net cash from investing activities	2,298	776
FINANCING ACTIVITY		
Islamic financing payables	537	7,481
Net cash from financing activity	537	7,481
Foreign currency translation adjustments	-	59
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2,874	(245)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	7,326	7,571
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE YEAR	10,200	7,326
Comprising:		
Balances in current and call accounts	7,330	5,285
Short-term placements	2,870	2,041
	10,200	7,326

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year ended 30 June 2019

	Share capital	Statutory reserve	Foreign currency translation reserve	Accumulated losses	Total
Balance at 1 July 2018	190,000	5,859	(71)	(30,330)	165,458
Transition adjustment on adoption of FAS 30 as of 1 July 2018	-	-	-	(4,791)	(4,791)
Restated balance as of 1 July 2018	190,000	5,859	(71)	(35,121)	160,667
Net loss for the year	-	-	-	(58,181)	(58,181)
Balance at 30 June 2019	190,000	5,859	(71)	(93,302)	102,486
Balance at 1 July 2017	190,000	5,859	(130)	(25,084)	170,645
Net loss for the year	-	-	-	(5,246)	(5,246)
Foreign currency translation difference on investment in an associate	-	-	59	-	59
Balance at 30 June 2018	190,000	5,859	(71)	(30,330)	165,458

Prince Andrew denies sleeping with Epstein accuser

● **Prince Andrew suggested that the widely circulated photo showing him and Virginia Roberts Giuffre was fake**

● **He said had reason to believe it was not genuine**

● **He also said he had “no recollection” of meeting Giuffre**

AFP | London

Britain's Prince Andrew has “categorically” denied having sex with an alleged teen victim of disgraced US financier Jeffrey Epstein, who claims she was forced to sleep with the royal, in an extraordinary interview broadcast on UK television.

In an unprecedented hour-long conversation with the BBC's Newsnight programme, Andrew insisted he had “no recollection” of ever having met his accuser, Virginia Roberts.

The prince also conceded his continued association with Epstein after he was convicted of soliciting prostitution had let the royal family down -- but that he did not believe it had damaged the reputation of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II.

“I can absolutely categorically tell you it never happened,” Andrew told the BBC's Emily Maitlis in the interview broadcast on Saturday evening, on the allegations he had sex with Roberts, now Giuffre, on three occasions.

“I've said consistently and frequently that we never had any sort of sexual contact whatever. “I have no recollection of ever meeting this lady, none whatsoever,” he added.

Andrew claimed he was “at home with the children” on the March 2001 night Giuffre alleges they had sex, after earlier taking his daughter Princess Beatrice to a pizza restaurant near London.

The interview dominated the



Prince Andrew and Virginia Giuffre, then known as Virginia Roberts, along with Ghislaine Maxwell. This photo was included in an affidavit where Giuffre claimed Prince Andrew directed her to have sex with him. (Courtesy of Insider)



The prince seemed unconcerned by the seriousness of the matter, laughing and smiling at several points during the interview... and expressed no regrets or concern about Epstein's victims

THE GUARDIAN

front pages of Britain's newspapers on Sunday, with several titles across the political spectrum focussing on the prince's apparent lack of regret.

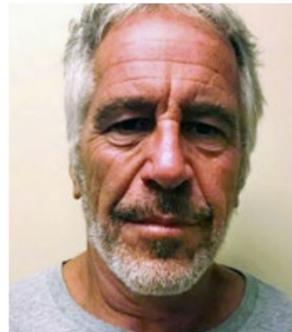
“Not one single word of remorse,” said the Mail on Sunday -- a headline echoed by the Sunday Mirror, which said: “No sweat... and no regret”.

The prince “seemed unconcerned by the seriousness of the matter, laughing and smiling at

several points during the interview... and expressed no regrets or concern about Epstein's victims,” commented *The Guardian*.

Andrew, 59 -- eighth in line to the throne -- has been heavily criticised over his links to multimillionaire Epstein, who was found dead in a New York jail in August.

A coroner ruled that he committed suicide by hanging, while awaiting trial on federal



A coroner ruled that Epstein committed suicide by hanging

charges he trafficked girls as young as 14 for sex.

Epstein had pleaded guilty in 2008 to procuring a girl under the age of 18 for prostitution and served 13 months in a US prison before being released on probation.

Nonetheless Andrew, who hosted him at Windsor Castle and remained in contact immediately following his release, is adamant it has not tarnished Britain's head of state.

“I don't believe it's been damaging to the Queen at all, it has to me,” he said, noting “the wider family couldn't have been more supportive”.

“It has been, what I would

describe as a constant sore in the family,” the father-of-two added of the impact on his immediate family.

‘The wrong thing to do’

The BBC interview, filmed at Buckingham Palace on Thursday, is the first time the prince has answered questions on his relationship with Epstein. In 2015, he used a public appearance at Davos in Switzerland to deny the claims.

The royal, who repeatedly insisted he was “not close” to the disgraced financier, discussed a photograph showing him with his arm around then 17-year-old Roberts, now Giuffre, with Epstein's friend Ghislaine Maxwell in the background.

Andrew cast doubt on the picture's veracity, which he described as “a photograph of a photograph”.

“I don't believe that photograph was taken in the way that has been suggested,” he said, claiming he had never been in the upstairs area of Maxwell's London flat where it was taken.

“Nobody can prove whether or not that photograph has been doctored but I don't recollect that photograph ever being taken.”

Andrew also faced questions over staying with Epstein at his Manhattan townhouse shortly after his release from prison.

He claimed it was “a convenient place to stay” and that he did so to end their friendship face-to-face.

“I have gone through this in my mind so many times. At the end of the day... it was definitely the wrong thing to do.

“But at the time I felt it was the honourable and right thing to do.”

Andrew went on to concede it was “not something that was becoming of a member of the royal family”.

“We try and uphold the highest standards and practices and I let the side down, simple as that,” he said.

Andrew, who was captured on video during the 2010 stay waving goodbye to a woman leaving Epstein's property, described the it as “like a railway station” with people coming and going.

He also said he was “absolutely sure” he had not received a foot massage from a young Russian woman as one witness had reported.

‘Sex slave’ claim

Over the years Epstein, 66,



I've said consistently and frequently that we never had any sort of sexual contact whatever. I have no recollection of ever meeting this lady, none whatsoever

PRINCE ANDREW

hobnobbed with politicians, socialites and celebrities, including Donald Trump before he was president, and Bill Clinton.

After his death Giuffre, who says she was abused by Epstein for years and farmed out to his wealthy friends including Andrew, said “the reckoning must not end, it must continue”.

She has alleged she was forced to have sex with the prince three times -- in London in 2001 when she was 17, in New York and on Epstein's private island in the Caribbean -- which Andrew consistently denied throughout the interview.

But the allegations were struck from the record by a US judge in 2015, who said the “lurid details” were not needed to decide a civil case concerning Epstein.

“He knows exactly what he's done and I hope he comes clean about it,” she told reporters after a US hearing on August 27.

Jack Scarola, a lawyer for Giuffre, told *The Times* Andrew should “submit to an interview under oath with the investigating authorities” who continue to probe whether others assisted Epstein in the US.

“Talking to the media doesn't quite cut it,” he said.

The prince said he would “in the right circumstances” but added he was “bound by what my legal advice is”.



Jeffrey Edward Epstein was an American financier and convicted sex offender. Epstein, who began his professional life as a teacher and later switched to the banking and finance sector in various roles, developed an elite social circle and procured women and many underage girls who were then sexually abused by Epstein and some of his contacts.

Activists hit Hong Kong police officer with arrow

Hong Kong

A police officer was struck in the leg by an arrow shot by a Hong Kong activist yesterday, the city's force said, as fierce clashes raged at a university which has become a fulcrum of pro-democracy protests.

Images showed the arrow embedded in the calf of the police officer, who was working with the force's media liaison team at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), the scene of fierce clashes. A statement said he was taken to hospital in “a conscious state”.

Police deployed water cannon and tear gas against protesters occupying the campus in the Hung Hom area of Kowloon, now a key battleground as the



An anti-government protester uses a bow during clashes with police outside Hong Kong Polytechnic University in Hong Kong

demonstrators fight to keep a stranglehold on the Cross-Harbour Tunnel nearby, blocked since Tuesday.

Activists have vowed to “squeeze the economy” as the increasingly divided city reels from one of the worst weeks of violence in the months-long crisis.

Protests have swept the global financial hub since June as many in the city of 7.5 million people have vented fury at eroding freedoms under Chinese rule.

A marked change in tactics last week to a “Blossom Everywhere” campaign of blockades and vandalism stretched the police force, shut down large chunks of Hong Kong's train network and forced schools and

shopping malls to close.

Students and protesters occupied several major universities around the city -- the first time a movement characterised by its fluidity and unpredictability has coagulated in fixed locations.

A poster circulating on social media called for the “dawn action” to continue on Monday. “Get up early, directly target the regime, squeeze the economy to increase pressure,” it said.

The education bureau said schools will remain closed at the start of the week “for the sake of safety”. The Polytechnic University (PolyU) has become a major flashpoint in the city rocked by a week of intensified violence and chaos.

Trump pardons Army officers

Reuters | Washington

US President Donald Trump pardoned two Army officers accused of war crimes in Afghanistan and restored the rank of a Navy SEAL platoon commander who was demoted for actions in Iraq, a move critics have said would undermine military justice.

The White House said in a statement Trump granted full pardons to First Lieutenant Clint Lorange and Major Mathew Golsteyn, and ordered that the rank Edward Gallagher held before he was convicted in a military trial this year be restored.

Leaked documents show details of Xinjiang clampdown - *NY Times*



A security camera is placed in a renovated section of the Old City in Kashgar, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, China

Reuters | Beijing

A trove of leaked Chinese government documents reveals details of its clampdown on Uighurs and other Muslims in the country's western Xinjiang region under President Xi Jinping, the *New York Times* reported on Saturday.

United Nations experts and activists say at least 1 million Uighurs and members of other largely Muslim minority groups have been detained in camps in Xinjiang in a crackdown that has drawn condemnation from the United States and other countries.

The documents, which the newspaper said were leaked by "a member of the Chinese political establishment," show how Xi gave a series of internal speeches to officials during and after a 2014 visit to Xinjiang following a stabbing attack by Uighur militants at a train station that killed 31 people.

The report said Xi called for an "all-out 'struggle against terrorism, infiltration, and separatism' using the 'organs of dictatorship,' and showing 'absolutely no mercy.'"

The documents show that

the Chinese leadership's fears were heightened by terrorist attacks in other countries and the US drawdown of troops from Afghanistan.

It is unclear how the documents totalling 403 pages were gathered and selected, the newspaper said.

Beijing denies any mistreatment of the Uighurs or others in Xinjiang, saying it is providing vocational training to help stamp out Islamic extremism and separatism and teach new skills.

China's Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a faxed request for comment from Reuters on Sunday.

The documents show how officials were given talking points to explain to returning university students that their family members had been taken away for training, and how the programme faced pushback from some local officials, the report said.

They also show that the internment camps expanded quickly after Chen Quanguo was appointed in August 2016 as the party boss of the region, the report said. Chen had taken a tough line to quell restiveness against Communist Party rule during his previous posting in Tibet.

Duterte to VP: keep secrets or lose your 'drugs tsar' post

● Duterte has reacted with fury to a resolution by the UN Human Rights Council to investigate the killings

● Robredo, who was elected separately to Duterte, has long been a critic of his flagship campaign

Reuters | Manila

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte threatened to remove the vice president from her "drugs tsar" post if she shared state secrets with foreign individuals and entities.

The warning, which the president made in a television interview, came a few days after he offered Leni Robredo a lead role in his brutal war on drugs, which she later accepted to reassess a campaign she said was fraught with senseless killings.

Robredo, a political rival of the popular Duterte, said on Oct. 23 that international help, including from the United Nations and International Criminal Court (ICC), should be sought if the government refused to change tack and stop abusive police.

"Revealing State secrets to foreign individuals and entities as well as welcoming those who have trampled the country's sovereignty would be damag-



President Rodrigo Duterte and Vice-President Leni Robredo stand at attention for the national anthem during the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) graduation ceremony in Camp Castaneda, Silang town in Cavite city, south of Manila, Philippines



Revealing State secrets to foreign individuals and entities as well as welcoming those who have trampled the country's sovereignty would be damaging to the welfare of the Filipino people

SPOKESMAN SALVADOR PANELO

ing to the welfare of the Filipino people," presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said in a statement on Sunday.

"She may not realise it but she

could be treading on dangerous ground. It could be an overreach of the granted authority, hence the reminder," Panelo said.

Duterte has reacted with fury to a resolution by the UN Human Rights Council to investigate the killings and responded to a preliminary examination by the ICC by pulling the Philippines out of the organisation.

Human rights experts at home and abroad are incensed by thousands of deaths in what police say were sting operations that resulted in shootings.

Activists dispute those accounts and accuse police of executing suspects based on weak intelligence. Police reject that.

In an interview with GMA News aired on Saturday, Duterte said he would fire Robredo as co-chair of an inter-agency on

drugs if she shared classified information because certain matters should be kept with the government.

Robredo met with the officials from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), community-based advocacy groups and US Embassy last week to discuss the drug problem, which she has said must be tackled from a health and social perspective, including prevention and treatment rather than a largely police-centred approach.

Robredo, who was elected separately to Duterte, has long been a critic of his flagship campaign, arguing that thousands of urban poor have been killed, with no sign of progress towards dismantling major drugs networks. She had no immediate comment on Duterte's remarks.

Robredo, 54, accepted the offer to co-lead the drugs crackdown that has prompted activists to call for international intervention, even though she suspected her rival's administration would try to thwart her progress.

But Panelo dismissed those concerns as baseless and said the president's latest remarks were meant to remind Robredo of the "imperatives as well as the limits" of her role.

"Other pessimists contend... the president had begun clipping her wings so as not to fulfil her mandate. Such speculations are unfounded and they are unproductive as well", Panelo said.

Stents no better than drugs for many heart patients - US study

● Current guidelines recommend patients with severe narrowing of their arteries have heart bypass surgery or a stent implanted to restore blood flow

● Stents are tiny tubes that keep the artery open after blockage-clearing angioplasty

Reuters | Chicago

Many patients with severe but stable heart disease who routinely undergo invasive procedures to clear and prop open clogged arteries would do as well by just taking medications and making lifestyle changes, US researchers reported on Saturday.

If adopted into practice, the findings could save hundreds of millions of dollars a year in healthcare costs, researchers said.

The \$100 million government-backed study, presented at the American Heart Association (AHA) meeting in Philadelphia, is the largest yet to look at whether procedures to restore normal blood flow in patients with stable heart disease offers an added benefit over more conservative treatment with aspirin, cholesterol-lowering drugs and other measures.



Many cardiologists are reluctant to change practice in part because patients who get stents to keep the artery open report feeling better right away,

to keep the artery open report feeling better right away, experts said.

At least two prior studies determined that artery-clearing and stenting or bypass surgery in addition to medical treatment does not significantly lower the risk of heart attacks or death compared with non-invasive medical approaches alone.

Many cardiologists are reluctant to change practice in part because patients who get stents

to keep the artery open report feeling better right away, experts said.

NYU Langone cardiologist Dr. Judith Hochman, who chaired the study, estimated that some 500,000 new patients a year are diagnosed with stable coronary artery disease, in which heart arteries narrowed by fatty deposits cause periodic angina, or chest pain, typically after exercising or emotional distress.

"There's always been a fear that if you don't do something quickly, they will have a heart attack or drop dead," Hochman said. The 7-year, 5,179-patient ISCHEMIA study did not show a significant benefit from that course of action.

"For those with mild or no

chest pain, there's really not a role for immediately stenting," Hochman said.

Just eliminating unnecessary stenting procedures could save the US healthcare system \$570 million annually, said Stanford University School of Medicine cardiologist and study co-chair Dr. David Maron. He estimates the cost per stenting procedure at about \$25,000 and bypass surgery at \$45,000.

"I would hope this would change practice," said Dr. William Boden of the VA New England Healthcare System, another study author. "We are wasting a lot of money."

The main goal of the trial was an overall reduction in deaths, heart attacks, hospitalization for unstable chest pain or heart failure and resuscitation after cardiac arrest.

On these measures, the addition of stenting or bypass surgery to reroute blood flow around the arterial blockage was no better at reducing the adverse events than medical therapy alone. The invasive treatments did result in better symptom relief and quality of life in those who had frequent chest pain.

The findings do not apply to all heart patients, including those with blockages in the left main coronary artery, Hochman said. And, she added, "if you're having a heart attack, stents save lives."

Man kills wife, three young sons in San Diego home



Officers at the scene of the shooting

Reuters

Three young boys and two adults were fatally shot and another boy was wounded in a domestic dispute that escalated into a shooting on Saturday in southeastern San Diego, police said.

Police responded to a home in the Paradise Hills neighborhood where they found a 3-year-old boy along with mother and father dead inside early Saturday morning. Three other boys, ages 5, 9 and 11, were taken to a hospital where two of them died, San Diego Police Chief David Nisleit said during a news conference.

"When the officers arrived on the scene, they were able to look into one of the windows and see a small child inside covered in blood," San Diego Police Lieutenant Matt Dobbs said.

The third boy who was taken to the hospital underwent emergency surgery, Dobbs said.

After the mother obtained a restraining order against the father on Friday, the couple got in an argument on Saturday morning. After shooting the family, the father turned his handgun on himself, Dobbs said. Police did not release the names of the victims.

The findings do not apply to all heart patients, including those with blockages in the left main coronary artery

QUOTE OF THE DAY

NEITHER A WISE MAN NOR A BRAVE MAN LIES DOWN ON THE TRACKS OF HISTORY TO WAIT FOR THE TRAIN OF THE FUTURE TO RUN OVER HIM.
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

America needs a national epiphany on gun control

The opposition to gun control in the US is fierce, even if everyone knows that if guns were more regulated, there would be less incidents like the one last week in Santa Clarita, California

JANINE DI GIOVANNI

Last week there was yet another high-school shooting in the US; another round of senseless killings; and another set of families who are planning funerals instead of the upcoming Thanksgiving holidays. Three teenagers at Saugus High School in California, including the shooter Nathaniel Berhow, are dead.

Berhow was 16 years old and by all accounts, smart and polite. He was a student of psychology, a boy scout who mentored younger students and a cross-country runner. Local police still do not know Berhow's motive or why he had six other weapons at home. His mother, who dropped him off at school on Thursday morning, had no idea her son had a semi-automatic handgun in his backpack – or that he would unleash it on five students, killing two and wounding the others before using the last bullet on himself.

The shootings took place against the backdrop of a tense week of impeachment proceedings of US President Donald Trump. These events seem utterly unrelated – and yet they are not. The political polarisation of America has never been so stark. Democrats and Republicans are divided over Mr Trump and are tearing each other to pieces over crucial policies regarding taxation, gun control and abortion rights.

The number of mass shootings in the US this year is averaging more than days: as of November 15, the 319th day of the year, there have been 366 mass shootings, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

Gun control is one of the most heated debates in America. Those who defend the right

to carry arms cite their constitutional right to self defence. They talk of coup d'états, home invasions and tyrannical governments that need to be regulated by individuals.

The opposition to gun control in the US is fierce, even if everyone knows that if guns were more regulated, there would be fewer incidents like the one last week in Santa Clarita, California. Even the roll call of sorrow over the past few decades is not enough to convince them: Parkwood, Sandy Hook, Santa Fe, Texas, Columbine.

The names of places where children were slaughtered – and I am not even listing the incidents at churches, synagogues and public places – are now embedded in American history. Listening to the testimonies of parents who have lost children in school shootings is heartbreaking, and yet their advocacy has done nothing to make gun control tighter.

When I heard the news of Santa Clarita, I realised with shock that most of the victims of Columbine, the mass shooting in 1999, one of the worst in US history, would now be in their mid-30s, had their lives not been cut short. We have had two decades to examine gun control in the US and to implement higher standards so teenagers and adults aren't able to get their hands on deadly weapons. Yet we have gone no further down the road to making the country safer.

Individual motives vary in these shootings. The shooters at Columbine were severely bullied by their classmates – which is no excuse – while the shooter in Santa Clarita had recently lost his father who often took him hunting. But the common denominator is that all



A Saugus High School student (2nd L) in front of the school where the shooting took place and others wounded.

of these shooters were able to access weapons and that could have been prevented. Instead of having lockdown drills at schools, we should be looking at how to change the culture of guns entirely.

So where does our gun culture come from? The Second Amendment, which was passed by Congress in 1789, states: "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

The private right to own a firearm – for protection, for hunting or for enjoyment – has remained central to the national ethos of the US.

But it needs to be looked at in

Former US President Barack Obama had fought hard for gun control and made it one of his priorities. He was devastated by the Senate's decision and called it "a pretty shameful day for Washington".

context. That amendment was created at a time when pioneers needed guns to protect their land. The country was young

UK's relations with the Gulf will be at stake

CON COUGHLIN

When Britons go to the polls next month to elect the country's next prime minister, the outcome could have a profound effect on the UK's relations with the Middle East for many years to come.

For the majority of voters in Britain, the contest is being seen as the Brexit election because, irrespective of who wins, the hope is that the outcome will finally break the political paralysis that has taken hold of the country as a result of the outgoing government's failure to break the Brexit deadlock.

Thus, if Tory leader Boris Johnson can win sufficient seats to form the new government with his "get Brexit done" slogan forming the centrepiece of his campaign, then the expectation is that he will press ahead with the deal he has negotiated with the European Union to secure Britain's exit by January 31 next year.

If, on the other hand, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn emerges victorious, either with Labour winning an outright majority or by forming a coalition with

anti-Brexit parties such as the Liberal Democrats and the Scottish nationalists, the country can expect another prolonged period of Brexit debate, with the most likely outcome being Britain holding a second referendum on the troublesome issue of EU membership.

Yet while Brexit will remain a dominant feature of the campaign, there are many other issues up for debate, not least the role Britain will play on the world stage once the new government is formed.

And at a time when the Arab world is facing increased uncertainty as a result of the Trump administration's confused policy towards the region, the outcome of the British election could have repercussions of its own.

In his four months as prime minister since replacing Theresa May, Mr Johnson has made significant strides towards demonstrating that, under his leadership, Britain would be far more proactive in its support of its traditional Arab allies.

Prior to entering Downing Street, Mr Johnson established a warm personal friendship with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mo-



Jeremy Corbyn, left, and Boris Johnson, right, will face off next month in a general election.

ammed bin Salman and spent a week as a guest on his private yacht last summer. Since becoming prime minister, Mr Johnson has continued to maintain a close dialogue with Riyadh, and the Saudis can expect to continue to enjoy a constructive relationship with Westminster if Mr Johnson

is returned to power. Mr Johnson's leadership has also benefited Britain's Arab allies in the Gulf, which have seen a distinctive shift in Britain's position with regard to Iran and the controversial nuclear deal. Throughout Mrs May's three-year tenure, Britain remained

committed to supporting the nuclear deal with Iran, in common with France and Germany, the other European signatories. Since Mr Johnson replaced her, Westminster has taken a more robust attitude towards Tehran and has now joined American-led efforts to improve security for Gulf

The role the UK plays on the world stage once the new government is formed will be up for debate on December 12

1961

United States **President John F. Kennedy** sends 18,000 military advisors to South Vietnam.



1963

The **first push-button** telephone goes into service.

1970

U.S. President **Richard Nixon** asks the U.S. Congress for \$155 million in supplemental aid for the Cambodian government.

1971

Oman declares its independence from United Kingdom.



Place on November 15 in Santa Clarita, California and left two students dead

and had recently undergone a revolution against Great Britain, which was largely fought by homegrown American militias and later aided by the French. Because of the Second Amendment, Americans living in most states today have little trouble buying a gun. In 36 states there are no legal requirements for gun registration, no permit needed and no licence necessary to purchase and own a firearm such as a rifle, shotgun or handgun. It is easy to buy a gun online or at a gun show.

What will it take to curb this gun culture? Stricter background checks and a ban on automatic weapons, for a start. But the National Rifle Association

is far too powerful, far too linked to the Republican Party and has too much money to ever concede.

After the 2012 Sandy Hook shootings in which 27 people died, the Senate blocked the drive for gun control and stricter background checks. That is how powerful the NRA is.

For the many people who thought the massacre at Sandy Hook would fundamentally change the nation's gun politics, the loss felt unbearable. According to the New York Times, the NRA spent \$500,000 in one day alone on an advertising campaign criticising "Obama's gun ban".

Former US President Barack Obama had fought hard for gun

control and made it one of his priorities. He was devastated by the Senate's decision and called it "a pretty shameful day for Washington".

We must reverse that shame. There must be some soul-searching nationwide for a solution.

Arming teachers – which some right-wing television pundits suggest – is not an option. There has to be a national epiphany. According to a recent study in The American Journal of Medicine, the firearms homicide rate is 25 times higher in the US than in other high-income nations. Compared to other nations that are part of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, all of which have considerably stricter gun regulations, the US is by far the leader in gun homicides.

The data is shocking. About 38,000 people die a year from gunshot wounds. It is the number one cause of premature death in the US.

The entire incident in Santa Clarita last week took 16 seconds. In that time, Berhow shot five students at random before saving the last bullet for himself. Imagine a different scenario: that a semi-automatic handgun could not have been made available to the shooter. His frustration, his angst, whatever motivated him in that one moment, could have been averted. Perhaps he would have channelled his rage another way; perhaps he would have thrown a punch at a friend or talked to a teacher, or gone for a run.

Whatever might have happened did not. Now there are the dead. Three young lives are cut down; never to grow up, never to even graduate from high school.

Change in next month's polls

Shipping, a move seen as hardening Britain's position, while other European countries have declined to take part, fearing that it might jeopardise their chances of salvaging the deal. Mr Corbyn's political approach in the Middle East, by contrast, appears to be almost the complete opposite of Mr Johnson's. His sympathies have consistently leaned towards Tehran, so much so that, prior to him becoming Labour leader, he was a regular contributor to Press TV, the Iranian-run propaganda channel, and his appearances – for which he was paid £20,000 – continued until the channel was banned by British regulators for its part in covering the detention and torture of an Iranian journalist. Mr Corbyn ever apologised for his association with the broadcaster, claiming his appearances over three years allowed him to raise a number of important human rights issues".

Another example of Mr Corbyn's apparent pro-Iranian stance can be seen in his frequent public association with members of Hezbollah, a movement widely regarded as a terrorist organisation. In a speech made

Prior to entering Downing Street, Mr Johnson established a warm personal friendship with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and spent a week as a guest on his private yacht last summer.

to the Stop the War Coalition, he called members of Hezbollah and Hamas, both Iranian proxies, "friends". If Mr Corbyn were to succeed in his goal of becoming prime minister at the next election, there is a risk Britain would adopt a far more sympathetic approach to Tehran, with all the implications that would have for Gulf security.

The close links Mr Corbyn enjoys with groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas is another reason why Gulf states should be concerned by the prospect of him winning the

election. As with Hezbollah, Mr Corbyn has been photographed on a number of occasions with leaders of Hamas, which is also designated a terrorist organisation.

Mr Corbyn also has a long track record of openly criticising Gulf countries, such as Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, which enjoy close relations with Britain. During the anti-government protests in Bahrain in 2011, Mr Corbyn concentrated his criticism against the Bahraini government, even though many of the protests were orchestrated by Tehran. And he has consistently called for Britain to discontinue arms sales to Riyadh, even though they are deemed vital to the Saudis' efforts to defend themselves against unprovoked acts of Iranian aggression.

These are just a few reasons why it behoves pro-western regimes in the Arab world to take a close interest in the outcome of Britain's general election. For while a Johnson victory is likely to herald a new era of closer ties and co-operation, a success for Mr Corbyn could jeopardise Britain's friendly relations with the region.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



For 73 years, the United States and the Philippines have continued to build a comprehensive alliance. This cooperation plays a vital role in regional peace and security efforts!

@EsperDoD

02



The Government of India has decided to extend the Visa-on-arrival facility to nationals of the United Arab Emirates.

@ANI

03



If you're wondering what Trump was doing last night, and I know you are: President Trump had people over for a viewing of "The Joker" movie Saturday night, a White House official tells CNN.

@ShimonPro

04



The visitors to the Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum can witness the exhibition of these paintings from November 19 to 24, 2019 between 0900 hrs and 1600 hrs. Entry will be from Gate Number 30 of Rashtrapati Bhavan.

@rashtrapatibhvn

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

Significance of effective environmental impact assessment



KOTA SRIRAJ

Bahrain has seen rapid economic and industrial development along with a spike in population growth. These conditions have also given rise to spiralling energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions. To understand the exact impact of anthropogenic activities on environment, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes are crucial to address environmental aspects within energy intensive projects such as oil and petrochemical industries. An effective EIA regimen can enable a country fight to climate change better and ensure that the scarce and fast dwindling natural resources are not only conserved better but also used judiciously.

Currently, the EIA reports in Bahrain are more focused on aspects of gas emissions than energy conservation. An effective EIA's hallmark is its ability to facilitate integration of the EIA process, environmental management systems (EMS) and energy management systems (EnMS), all this in the backdrop of efficient enforcement of the available environment legislations. If done effectively, this can play a pivotal role in mitigation of climate change penalties.

The rising trend of both population and urbanization is pushing energy demand all over the world and Bahrain is no exception as it is facing ever rising demand for these non-renewable energy sources. Thanks to these conditions, the green house gas emissions are rising sharply. In fact, the energy sector is considered the main contributor to GHG emissions in the Arabian Gulf countries, which accounts for more than 90% of the emissions. Energy use per capita in the Arabian Gulf countries is considered among the highest in the world as per studies conducted by Alshehry & Belloumi in 2015 and Reiche in 2010.

According to the Bahrain Economic Development Board, though Bahrain has started to diversify its economy over recent decades, the energy sector is still the major contributor to the national economy, where oil and gas, represent 20% of gross domestic product (GDP) and provide about 80% of government income. Thanks to this, the increasing energy demand in Bahrain imposes pressure on the energy resources and contributes to increase in the release of GHG such as CO2. According to the Bahrain Energy Report, the industrial sector has the largest share of Bahrain's total consumption of energy, which ac-

counts for 59% of total consumption. Additionally, around 89% of the total CO2 emissions in the country come from both the energy and industrial sectors.

With situations such as these, only an effective EIA can put facts in perspective and enable taking evasive measures that can protect the environment. A well-researched EIA can establish the direct relationship between energy consumption and CO2 emissions and spell effective strategies to lower energy consumption in order to reduce CO2 emissions, which could be achieved by adopting energy conservation strategies and emission reduction policy in the long term without impeding economic growth.

Bahrain must leverage the full potential of EIA as it is not only considered as one of the management tools to achieve a balance between industrial development and protection of the environment, but EIA is also a powerful

Bahrain must leverage the full potential of EIA as it is not only considered as one of the management tools to achieve a balance between industrial development and protection of the environment.



process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the biophysical, social and other relevant factors of development proposals prior to making major decisions and commitments. A well-drafted and well-implemented EIA has the capacity to minimise or avoid the adverse effects of a proposed development on the environment, by addressing effective designs, alternatives, mitigations, cumulative impacts, and monitoring.

The EIA regime in Bahrain today focused more on matters pertaining to air quality and less on energy sector, this can change in favour of achieving a balance between the two. This can begin by adopting legislation that increases support for energy sector monitoring. Enactment of legislation or setting guidelines for monitoring energy consumption in industrial activities would contribute to better consideration of efficient energy use in EIA studies. Moreover, the EIA's themselves can be further made robust by increasing research on the project, the environment likely to be affected, and the primary environmental impact, and monitoring of the residual impact.

The current EIA practice in Bahrain reveals a strong link between EIA reports and environmental management plans. Although the energy aspects were not translated to management plans, this reflects an area of improvement, where adopting EnMS is an effective measure to properly improve energy management and enhance the conservation of energy within industrial premises. EIA is more of a plan and any climate achievement begins with a good plan. Bahrain needs to ensure that its EIA's are effective on paper this will automatically ensure efficacy in execution.

business

Aramco valuation set at up to \$1.7 trn

● **Aramco does not plan to market its domestic IPO abroad**

● **No overseas roadshows for IPO**

● **Retail investors have until Nov. 28 to sign up for the IPO**

Reuters | Dubai

Saudi Aramco has set a price range for its listing that implies the oil giant is worth between \$1.6 trillion to \$1.7 trillion, making it potentially the world's biggest IPO.

Aramco said yesterday it plans to sell 1.5 per cent of its shares or about 3 billion shares, at an indicative price range of 30 riyals (\$8.00) to 32 riyals - valuing the IPO at as much as 96 billion riyals (£20 billion) at the top end of the range.

If priced at the top, the deal could just beat the record-breaking \$25 billion raised by Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba in its stock market debut in New York in 2014.



A billboard display an advert for Saudi Aramco in the streets in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Aramco's float is the centrepiece of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's plan to diversify the world's top crude exporter away from oil.

Aramco does not plan to market its domestic IPO abroad, three people familiar with the matter said, which suggests international roadshows will not

take place.

"This will put the burden of the deal on local and regional banks," one of the three people said.

"This means most of the investors will participate as Qualified Foreign Investors in a Saudi transaction," another one of the people said.

Aramco finally kicked off its IPO on Nov. 3 after a series of false starts. Prince Mohammed, who had floated the idea of the listing four years ago, is seeking to raise billions of dollars through the deal to invest in non-oil industries and create employment.

But the investment world is



If priced at the top, the deal could just beat the record-breaking \$25 billion raised by Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba



still trying to decide what the famously secretive company is worth.

On one hand, Aramco is the world's most profitable company with a planned dividend of \$75 billion next year, more than five

times larger than Apple's payout, which is already the biggest of any S&P 500 company.

On the other, it is a bet on the price of oil at a time when global demand is expected to slow from 2025 as measures to cut greenhouse gas emissions are rolled out and the use of electric vehicles increases.

The share sale is expected to be a huge hit among Saudi citizens who are being offered 0.5pc of the company.

Retail investors have until Nov. 28 to sign up for the IPO while institutional investors can subscribe until Dec. 4, with company management going on marketing roadshows this week.

The Aramco listing means a year-end rush for equity markets with Alibaba currently taking orders for a Hong Kong listing that is expected to raise up to \$13.4 billion for the online retailer.

The Riyadh listing comes after initial hopes for a 5pc IPO on the domestic and international bourses were dashed last year amid debate over valuation and where to list Aramco overseas.

Aramco said the IPO timetable was delayed because it began a process to acquire a 70pc stake in petrochemicals maker Saudi Basic Industries Corp

GFH posts Q3 net profit of US\$24.4m

TDI | Manama

GFH Financial Group (GFH) yesterday reported a third-quarter net profit attributable to shareholders of US\$24.4 million, a decrease of 21.0 per cent from US\$30.9m in the third quarter of 2018. Earnings per share was US cents 0.74 compared to US cents 0.87 in the third quarter of 2018.

Consolidated net profit was US\$21.8 m compared with US\$31.3 m in the third quarter of 2018, a decrease of 30.1pc.

Profit from continuing operations was US\$21.8 m compared to US\$29.6 m in the third quarter of 2018, a decrease of 26.2pc.

Total income increased by 27.1 pc to US\$90.5 m versus US\$71.2 m in the third quarter of 2018.

Total expenses including provisions for impairment increased 65.1pc to US\$68.7 m while operating expenses decreased 24.6pc to US\$21.4 m from the prior-year quarter.

Nine-month results

Net profit attributable to shareholders for the period was US\$73.6 m compared with US\$103.4 m in the prior-year period, a decrease of 28.8pc.

Excluding one-off recovery income and restructuring income of US \$ 57.8 m, net profit attributable shareholders grew by 61.4pc. Earnings per share was US cents 2.19 compared to US cents 2.91 in the year-ago period.

Consolidated net profit decreased 33pc to US\$70.2 m from the year-ago period hurt by lower contribution from the Group's commercial banking arm due to higher impairment



In our commercial banking business, we took a conservative position taking some provisions on the portfolio in line with market conditions, but expect contributions from this areas of the business to increase in 2020. For the period ahead, we will continue to build on the momentum we've enjoyed thus far this year and look forward to finishing out 2019 with solid performance and results

HISHAM ALRAYES, GROUP CEO OF GFH



For the period, we saw revenues increase once again by a substantial 23.7pc aided by strong performance in investment banking, real estate and treasury activities. For the remainder of the year, we will continue to focus on maximising the performance and returns derived from both new and existing assets and remain committed to delivering stronger performance by year-end

JASSIM AL SEDDIQI, CHAIRMAN OF GFH

The Group reported a 23.7pc increase in income, which reached US\$254.0 m compared with US\$205.3 m in the first nine months of 2018. Excluding the one-off recovery income and restructuring income in 2018, the total income of the Group grew by 72.2pc.

Contributing to solid income growth was the continued positive performance of the Group's core investment banking business, real estate activities and income generation from the treasury and proprietary investments.

Investment banking contributed 31.1pc to the total income of the Group mainly from placement activities and contributions from Treasury activities continued to grow to reach 24.1pc of total income.

The improved performance was also reported in real estate, which accounted for 7.9pc while proprietary investments and commercial banking contributed 16.3pc and 20.6pc, respectively to total income for the first nine months of the year.

Total expenses including provision for impairment were at US\$183.3 m compared to US\$105.3 m in the prior-year period, an increase of 74.1pc, primarily due to an increase in the impairment provisions in the commercial banking business of 198.9pc and an increase in the finance costs as part of treasury portfolio of the Group.

Operating expenses were US\$70.2 m compared with US\$71.0 m in the first nine months of 2018, a decrease of 1.1pc.

provisions taken during the nine months of 2019.

Profit from continuing opera-

tions was US\$70.7 m compared to US\$100.0 m in the prior-year period, a decrease of 29.3pc.

BCCI's 2nd Technology Summit

TDI | Manama

The Technology Committee of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) and in cooperation with 'Tamkeen' is holding the 2nd Technology Summit themed 'The E-Commerce Ecosystem' on Tuesday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Capital Club-Bahrain Financial Harbour.

The summit, which will be

held coinciding Global Entrepreneurship Week, will discuss an array of topics including business opportunities within the E-commerce ecosystem, the requirements for growing and expanding businesses, elements of an efficient E-commerce platform, and business opportunities in Bahrain.

All BCCI members and those interested are welcome to attend the summit.

UK PM sets out immigration plans as Conservatives hit two-year poll high

Reuters | London

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson set out plans yesterday to end preferential treatment for European Union migrants, as opinion polls showed his Conservative Party has the highest level of support since 2017 ahead of next month's election.

The Dec. 12 election was called to break the deadlock over Brexit, more than three years after the country voted narrowly in favour of leaving the EU in a 2016 referendum.

Johnson hopes to win a majority to push through the last-minute Brexit deal he struck with the EU last month, while opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has promised to renegotiate the exit agreement and then hold another referendum.

Setting out their post-Brexit immigration policy, the Conservatives said they would treat EU and non-EU migrants the same from January 2021,



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson

including a five-year wait to obtain welfare payments and a surcharge to access health services.

The Conservatives lead Labour by 10-17 percentage points, four polls late on Saturday showed.

Both parties are expected to publish their election manifestos this week. Corbyn and Johnson are due to go head-to-head in their first televised debate on Tuesday evening.

A hands-on look at Google's Stadia cloud game service

AFP | Paris

Gamers were counting down to Tuesday's launch of Google's feature-rich, on-demand offering Stadia. But is its bang as big as its much-advertised buck?

The agency had a chance to gain a first impression at the web behemoth's Paris office in advance of the launch as Google bids to raise the bar to new ultra high-definition heights in a gambit to win greater heft in a global video game industry worth an estimated \$135 billion.

A screen problem forced the Google team to scale back resolution to high-definition television quality while sampling four of the 12 games that will be available at launch.

Notwithstanding the glitch, the graphic quality certainly stood out. According to estimates by the US tech giant the computing power under the hood is ample enough to allow players not to worry about technical limitations of their own hardware causing lags or snaps in the action.

The depth of field, design finesse and color rendition all stood out for the showcasing of games from Mortal Kombat, Destiny 2, Shadow of the Tomb Raider as well as Gylt, an original production exclusively for Stadia from Spanish studio Tequila Works.

Image fluidity was also up to the mark. While Google's Chromecast Ultra device must be plugged into a TV for Stadia sessions, a custom Stadia controller connects via WiFi directly to Google servers where game software is hosted.

In essence, screens are just windows for viewing in-game activity being handled at data centers.

In usage terms, it's on par with using a home console in terms of seamless on-screen response to joystick movements -- although beyond that Stadia is touting much shorter boot-up times.

Whereas it can take some hours to install a purchased game on a console, Stadia gets to the starting line in seconds.

Even a small-scale test run using few servers could not erase all question marks, a key one being the quality and stability of the connection once there is the expected onrush of competitors firing up on November 18 and thereafter.

Does commute compute?

Another unknown is the extent to which one can play away from one's own home on a variety of media. Stadia is promising to allow gamers the possibility of starting off a session on one's television and then switching to a smartphone during, for example, a commute.

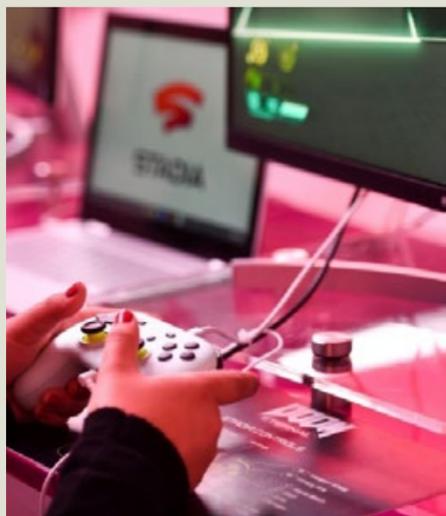
That functionality will not immediately be available although it may be possible to switch between media provided one uses a Google Pixel or a computer -- and connects using WiFi to make sure game play data moves quickly and reliably over the internet.

A roaming option is envisaged but when it will be available is not yet clear.

In addition, a corded connection is for the time being required to connect the controller to a computer or smartphone with TV gaming the only wireless option immediately.

Another issue with Stadia's current configuration is its limited catalogue. Just 12 games are available to date -- a drop in the ocean compared with PC or console title offerings.

A keen gamer seeking out very high graphic quality and almost no fluidity lag or downscaling will have to cough up for the privilege, with a 4K-capable TV, a top drawer smartphone and a high-speed internet connection.



A visitor plays a game at the Google Stadia booth during the Gamescom trade fair in Cologne, Germany

Afghan pomegranate growers squeezed as prices drop

Kandahar | Afghanistan

Pomegranate farmers in southern Afghanistan -- where growing the juicy fruit is an important alternative to opium poppy production -- say they are feeling the squeeze this year, with business blemished by chilly weather, pests and export woes.

The prized crimson fruit, globally renowned for its reputed health benefits, is a point of pride for Afghan farmers, particularly in Kandahar province, where luscious pomegranates the size of small melons dangle from trees.

Every autumn, Afghans start drinking pomegranate juice as the fruit bursts into season. Vendors pile carts high with gravity-defying pomegranate pyramids and offer fresh-squeezed beverages.

But some Kandahar farmers say a fungal infection and destructive insects are taking a bite out of this season's harvest, and they accuse neighbouring Pakistan of new tariffs that are hurting the export market.

Haji Abdul Manan, who has been growing fruit in southern Kandahar for about 30 years, said a springtime cold snap damaged pomegranate flowers, impacting about 40 percent of his crop.

Problems also came from "lice, flies and a fungal disease," he added, likening a type of greenfly to a natural disaster that had ruined more than 100 of the orb-shaped fruits daily.

"It is the duty of the Afghan government to spray all the gardens in Kandahar and to protect the pomegranates from diseases, but the government is not doing anything," Manan complained.

Apart from its sweet flavour, fans point to pomegranates' purported



For years, Afghanistan and international donors tried to wean farmers from growing opium poppies by encouraging alternatives such as fruit crops

health benefits including high levels of vitamin C and antioxidants that are said to help protect the body.

"Kandahar's pomegranates are the world's best for flavour, colour, and several times Kandahar's pomegranates came first in competitions abroad," Nasrullah Zaheer, the head of Kandahar's chamber of commerce, said.

In Kandahar, a medium-sized pomegranate goes for the equivalent of about 15 US cents, but by the time the fruit reach Kabul they cost about three times that.

Tariffs?

Zaheer and several other farmers claimed Pakistan has this year imposed hefty tariffs on pomegranate imports which, despite a drop in yield in some parts of Afghanistan, has led to an oversupply in the domestic market and sharp price drops.

"It is not fair to increase it," Zaheer said. "That is why it is the traders are facing harm."

But the Pakistan embassy in Kabul denied such a drastic measure had been taken, saying Pakistan had raised duties only slightly because "Afghan exporters consistently understate the value of pomegranates and fruits".

Muhammad Hafeez, a fruit and vegetable seller at a market in Islamabad, said pomegranate supply from Kandahar had not been impacted.

"The supply is in bulk and the quality is good," Hafeez said.

Abdul Baqi Beena, deputy director of the Kandahar chamber of commerce, said about 40,000 to 50,000 tonnes of pomegranates were exported annually, including to India, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

For years, Afghanistan and international donors tried to wean farmers from growing opium poppies by encouraging alternatives such as fruit crops.

But those efforts often failed as drug smugglers offered lucrative prices that normally far exceed the income from traditional agriculture.

The US Agency for International Development previously supported the farming of high-value crops, including pomegranates, as an alternative to opium production, but in recent years has shifted its focus to helping build export markets and supporting Afghan farmers that way.

"There is strong regional demand for high value Afghan products that generate sufficient profit to justify export cost," Daniel Corle, USAID team lead for development outreach and communications, said in an email.

"These include pomegranates, pine nuts, apricots, spices, gems, marble, and carpets, among others."

A year after arrest, Ghosn seeks to throw out case against him

Tokyo

One year ago, the sudden arrest at a Tokyo airport of Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn, one of the world's best-known and respected tycoons, sent shockwaves through the business world.

After 130 days languishing in a Japanese detention centre, Ghosn is now out on bail and vigorously proclaiming his innocence, seeking to have his case declared null and void -- even if legal experts and his own defence deem his chances unlikely.

The 65-year-old Brazil-born executive faces charges of deferring part of his salary until after his retirement and concealing this from shareholders, as well as syphoning off millions in Nissan cash for his own purposes.

Ghosn denies every charge and has accused prosecutors and even Japanese government officials of colluding in a "plot" with Nissan to find a way to destroy

The 65-year-old Brazil-born executive faces charges of deferring part of his salary until after his retirement and concealing this from shareholders, as well as syphoning off millions in Nissan cash for his own purposes.

him, fearful he was seeking to merge the firm with France's Renault.

His defence team filed a motion on October 24 to throw out the case given what they allege is illegal activity by Nissan and the prosecution -- including seizing his wife's phone and searching private homes.

But even his own defence lawyer Takashi Takano is doubtful of success, telling AFP: "There are no precedents and Japanese courts are very reluctant to accept this type of argument."

Yasuyuki Takai, a former head of the special prosecutors' bureau in Tokyo, agreed: "This motion has zero chance of succeeding."

"The real goal of the lawyers is to get an acquittal. This motion can only serve to calm down the accused and to say publicly that the prosecutors and Nissan did terrible things," Takai told AFP.

'Hostage justice'

Independent lawyer Nobuo Gohara said it was "debatable" as to whether Ghosn even had a legal obligation to declare the alleged deferred salary and "in any case, it should not have led to an arrest".

"The Ghosn case was an enormous global shock which has uncovered very big problems in the way the Japanese system functions," Gohara told AFP.

"This case should never have existed. You can only think that the end goal was to arrest Carlos

Ghosn."

The world-famous executive, once revered in Japan for rescuing the struggling Nissan and who criss-crossed the globe in private jets as the head of a worldwide business, now faces 15 years in prison if convicted.

Defence and prosecution teams have held regular pre-trial meetings but Ghosn's team has complained that they do not yet have access to prosecution documents "proving" the tycoon's guilt. This has delayed progress towards a trial, and also explains why the defence has not yet itself produced what it says is cast-iron proof of Ghosn's innocence.

Around 99 per cent of trials in Japan result in a conviction and the global media attention given to the Ghosn case has shone a spotlight on the Japanese

justice system.

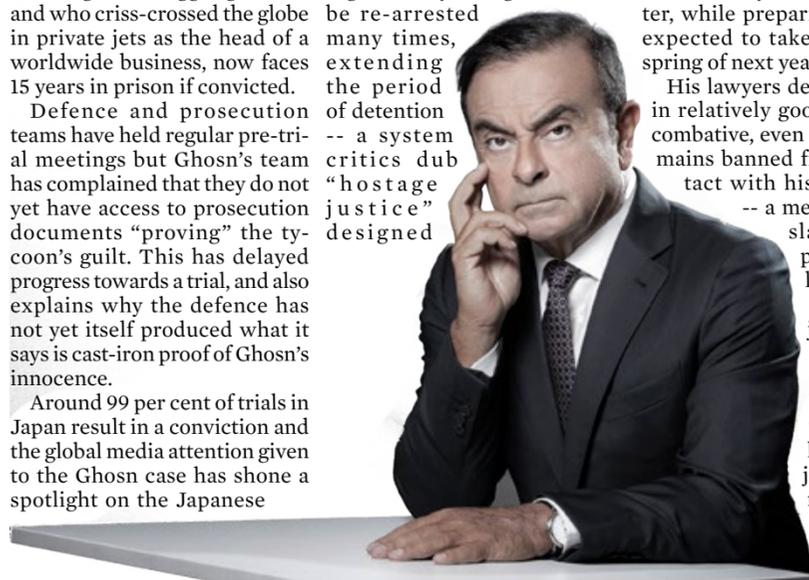
Suspects can be detained for several days without being formally charged and can be re-arrested many times, extending the period of detention -- a system critics dub "hostage justice" designed

to extract a confession.

Ghosn is now out on bail and has been able to enjoy some trips outside Tokyo with his daughter, while preparing for a trial expected to take place in the spring of next year.

His lawyers describe him as in relatively good spirits and combative, even though he remains banned from any contact with his wife Carole -- a measure Takano slams as "stupid" and "useless".

"There is no justification... It's just a punishment," said the lawyer, adding he hoped the judges would relent before the Christmas holidays.



CBB participates in GFC meeting

Noora Hassan Abdulghani

TDT | Manama

Noora Hassan Abdulghani, Superintendent in the Inspection Directorate, nominated by the CBB as a member of the Global Future Councils (GFCs) on Financial and Monetary Systems, participated in the Annual Meeting of the GFCs held from 3 to 4 November 2019 in Dubai.

The Global Future Councils (GFCs) is the world's largest expert-level and foremost interdisciplinary knowledge network dedicated to promoting innovative thinking to shape a sustainable and inclusive future for all.

Khalid Hamad joins IRTI Board of Trustees

TDT | Manama

The Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) named Khalid Hamad Abdul-Rahman Hamad, the Executive Director of Banking Supervision, as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI), a member of the Islamic Development Bank Group (ISDB).

It is worth mentioning that IRTI creates innovative development solutions within the principles of Islamic Economics and Finance in order to identify challenges of economic development facing ISDB member countries, and creating strategies to address these challenges.

US businesswoman says 'heartbroken' by Britain's Johnson

London

A US businesswoman at the centre of controversy over whether Boris Johnson showed her inappropriate favouritism amid an alleged affair said Sunday she had been left "heartbroken" and "humiliated" by the British prime minister.

Jennifer Arcuri, who is accused of getting privileged access to foreign trade jaunts and grants when Johnson was previously London mayor, told Britain's ITV he was treating her like "some fleeting one-night stand".

The technology entrepreneur said the British premier, now campaigning for re-election, had rebuffed her requests "for advice" after the scandal erupted in September.

"I'm terribly heartbroken by the way that you have cast me aside like I am some gremlin," Arcuri, addressing Johnson directly, told ITV's Exposure programme, according to excerpts given to the Press Association ahead of its broadcast on Sunday.

"I don't understand why you've blocked me and ignored me as if I was some fleeting one-night stand or some girl that you picked up at a bar because I wasn't -- and you know that," she added.

"I felt so disgusted and humiliated that I was told bigger things are at stake, never mind you."

Johnson, who was London mayor from 2008 to 2016, is battling for a five-year term in Downing Street in next month's



Jennifer Arcuri with Boris Johnson in 2012, when he was London mayor

hotly-anticipated general election.

The show alleges the pair had an affair for more than four years, though Arcuri refused to confirm this.

The 34-year-old, who is now based in the United States but was photographed in London on Friday, admitted to ITV she had received mixed advice on what to say publicly about their relationship.

"When the story broke half the people that reached out told me to categorically deny, deny, deny," she said.

"The other half told me to, admit the, er, affair, fall on the sword get it over with."

Johnson, 55, was married at the time of the alleged affair but has since left his wife following a romance with a former Conservative party spin doctor Carrie Symonds.

The pair now live together in Downing Street.

He has previously said he did not have the kind of relationship with Arcuri that required

him to notify watchdogs of a potential conflict of interest, as required.

Arcuri was reportedly given £126,000 (\$163,000, 147,000 euros) in public money and privileged access to three foreign trade missions led by then-mayor Johnson.

He has insisted everything was "done with complete propriety" but has been referred to a police complaints body to assess whether he should face a criminal investigation over the matter.

A review by Johnson's own government ruled a £100,000 grant Arcuri was given by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport through a cyber skills fund was "appropriate".

A Conservative Party spokeswoman said: "Any claims of impropriety in office are untrue and unfounded."

She added: "We consider these are vexatious and politically motivated attacks from the Labour Party."

France's Le Maire favours car industry pro as Renault CEO

Reuters | Paris

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said yesterday that the search for a new CEO for Renault was still on and that he favoured selecting a professional from the automobile sector.

"I can confirm the next CEO has not yet been chosen. The only indication I can give you is that I wish it is a professional of the car industry because amid the radical transformation of the sector, one needs professionals," Le Maire told BFM television.

The French carmaker, chaired by Jean-Dominique Senard, a former executive at tyre maker Michelin who was parachuted in following the Carlos Ghosn scandal, is expected to choose a new CEO by the end of the year so that the group can try and fully refocus on its operations.

The French state has a 15% stake in Renault.

Renault's interim chief executive Clotilde Delbos has



French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire

applied to take the job on a permanent basis, two sources familiar with the matter have said, as the carmaker edges towards a shortlist likely to also feature several external candidates.

One of the sources had said that Patrick Koller, the Franco-German CEO of car parts maker Faurecia, and Luca de Meo, the Italian boss of Volkswagen-owned SEAT, also ticked many of the boxes for recruiters, including that they both spoke French.

Russia to return captured naval ships to Ukraine today

Reuters | Moscow

Russia will return three captured naval ships to Ukraine today and is moving them to a handover location agreed with Kiev, Crimea's border guard service was cited as saying by Russian news agencies on Sunday.

A Reuters reporter in Crimea, which Russian annexed from Ukraine in 2014, earlier on Sunday saw coast-guard boats pulling the three vessels through the Kerch Strait toward the Black Sea where they could potentially be handed over to Ukraine.

Ukraine has been pushing



Seized Ukrainian naval ships are guarded by Russia's Coast Guard vessels in the port in Kerch

for their return as a good will gesture from Moscow ahead of a possible four-way peace summit on eastern Ukraine next month.

Ethiopian undecided whether to take more 737 MAX jets

Reuters | Dubai

Ethiopian Airlines has not decided yet whether to take more deliveries of the 737 MAX, the jet grounded worldwide in the wake of crashes in Ethiopia and Indonesia, the airline's CEO said yesterday, as Boeing completes revisions to the aircraft's design.

Asked at the Dubai Airshow whether he supported changes

to software and training being finalised by Boeing, Tewolde Gebremariam said, "It is still work in progress... We will have to see it completed and the result of the further tests that are still to come."

Asked whether Ethiopian Airlines would take any further deliveries of the aircraft, of which it has more than 20 on order, Tewolde told reporters, "We have not yet decided."



Ethiopian Airlines Chief Executive Officer Tewolde Gebremariam in Kigali

He was speaking at the Dubai Airshow after signing an agreement with Boeing to retrofit internet connectivity on a fleet of 787 Dreamliners that the airline already has in service.

He said the airline had no reservations about signing a new deal to enhance the 787 with Boeing, which was "more than 100 years old and a high-quality engineering company."

But asked about overall relations with the U.S. plane-maker, he said, "It is work in progress. Let's wait patiently and see the final return to service."

He also said Ethiopian Airlines might add further orders for the Airbus A350, a rival to the 787.

"We have an order of 24, so depending on the market need, we will increase."



Head of Fintech and Innovation Unit at the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), Yasmeen Al Sharaf, speaking at the Digital Financial Inclusion Summit organised by the Institute of International Finance (IIF) from 6 - 7 November in Cairo. The summit discussed digital financial inclusion, and the role of financial services in meeting the requirements of the digital economy, cloud computing and blockchain. During a panel session on "Transforming through public and private cooperation", Al Sharaf highlighted Bahrain's track record as a business-friendly environment and home to the Gulf's largest financial services sector.

StanChart unveils new look Falconflyer Credit Card

Manama

Standard Chartered and Gulf Air have unveiled the new look of the Falconflyer credit card, a collaborative product with Bahrain's national carrier-Gulf Air.

The Falconflyer credit cards are available in Blue, Silver and Gold variants each providing its own range of exclusive benefits. New applicants for the credit cards will receive 10,000, 15,000 or 25,000 miles, respectively. Miles earned through



local and international retail purchases can be used to redeem airline tickets on Gulf Air to various destinations.

Kunal Varma, Head of Retail Banking at Standard Chartered Bank Middle East (Ex UAE) said: "Our collaboration with Gulf Air is one of our

long-standing partnerships and is part of our commitment to provide customers with a range of innovative financial products which provides customers with a range of practical benefits and rewards."

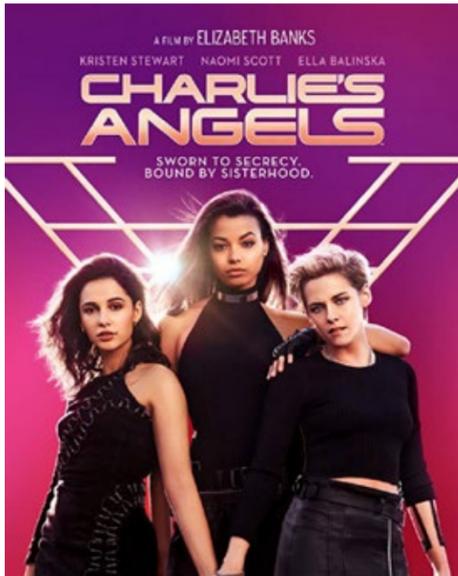
The card provides a range of exclusive benefits to customers such as discounts up to 20 per cent on Gulf Air flights, enhanced baggage allowances up to 30 kg, free upgrade of class and many other travel privileges along with the convenient banking experiences.

SHOW

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

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

KRISTEN STEWART, NAOMI SCOTT, ELLA BALINSKA



THE GOOD LIAR (PG-15)(DRAMA)

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

HELEN MIRREN, IAN MCKELLEN, RUSSELL TOVEY

HAUNT (15+)(HORROR/THRILLER)

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

KATIE STEVENS, WILL BRITTAIN, LAURYN ALISA MCCLAIN

MARJAAVAAN (PG-15)(HINDI)

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

RITEISH DESHMUKH, SIDHARTH MALHOTRA, TARA SUTARIA

MOTICHOOR CHAKNACHOOR (PG-13)

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

NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI, ATHIYA SHETTY, SANJEEV VATSA

ONE PIECE : STAMPEDE (PG)

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

FELECIA ANGELLE, MAJOR ATTAWAY, GREG AYRES

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

SEEF (II): 3.45 + 7.30 + 11.15 PM

Director: Khalid AlRowaie

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

SEEF (I): 4.45 + 9.30 PM

CAROLE SAMAHA, BADIH ABOU CHAKRA, PAMELA EL KIK

MALEFICENT 2: MISTRESS OF EVIL (PG)

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

ANGELINA JOLIE, TERESA MAHONEY, MICHELLE PFEIFFER

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

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

JOAQUIN PHOENIX, ZAZIE BEETZ, ROBERT DE NIRO



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

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

JOHN CENA, KEEGAN-MICHAEL KEY, JOHN LEGUIZAMO

TERMINATOR: DARK FATE (PG-15)

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

LINDA HAMILTON, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, MACKENZIE DAVIS

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

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

AYUSHMANN KHURRANA, BHUMI PEDNEKAR, YAMI GAUTAM

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

CITY CENTRE:11.30 AM + 5.30 + 11.30 PM

ED SKREIN, PATRICK WILSON, LUKE EVANS

THE ADDAMS FAMILY (PG)(ANIMATION/COMEDY)

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

OSCAR ISAAC, CHARLIZE THERON, CHLOE GRACE MORETZ

DOCTOR SLEEP (15+)(THRILLER/HORROR)

CITY CENTRE: 2.30 + 8.30 PM

EWAN MCGREGOR, REBECCA FERGUSON, KYLIEGH CURRAN

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

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

WILL SMITH, MARY ELIZABETH WINSTEAD, CLIVE OWEN

ABOMINABLE (PG)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

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

CHLOE BENNET, TENZING NORGYA TRAINOR, ALBERT TSAI

COUNTDOWN (15+)(HORROR/THRILLER)

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

CHARLIE MCDERMOTT, ANNE WINTERS, ELIZABETH LAIL

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

OASIS JUFFAIR:11.45 AM + 5.15 + 10.45 PM

SEEF (II):12.45 + 6.15 + 11.45 PM

AKSHAY KUMAR, POOJA HEGDE, RITEISH DESHMUKH

KHAYAL MAATA (PG)(COMEDY/DRAMA)

CITY CENTRE: 12.00 + 4.45 + 9.30 PM

AHMAD HELMY, MINNA SHALABI, HASSAN HOSNEY

ZOMBIELAND: DOUBLE TAP (15+)

CITY CENTRE:2.30 + 7.15 + 12.00 MN

WOODY HARRELSON, JESSE EISENBERG, EMMA STONE

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

CITY CENTRE :2.15 +7.00 + 11.45 PM

GERARD BUTLER, MORGAN FREEMAN, JADA PINKETT SMITH

KAITHI (PG-15)(TAMIL)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 2.30 + 8.00 PM

AL HAMRA: 12.00 NOON.

KARTHI, NARAIN, GEORGE MARYAN

SAFE ()(MALAYALAM)

SEEF (I):3.15 PM

SIJU WILSON, ANUSREE, APARNA GOPINATH



41 (PG-15)(MALAYALAM)

OASIS JUFFAIR : 12.15 + 5.45 + 11.15 PM

SEEF (I) :8.45 + 11.30 PM

BIJU MENON, NIMISHA SAJAYAN

ANDROID KUNJAPPAN VERSION 5.25 ()(MALAYALAM)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.45 AM + 5.30 + 11.15 PM

SEEF (II): 12.00 + 5.45 + 11.30 PM

AL HAMRA: 3.00 + 9.00 PM

SOUBIN SAHIR, SURAJ VENJARAMUDU, KENDY ZIRDO

ACTION (PG-15)(TAMIL)

From Thursday 7:30pm Onwards.

OASIS JUFFAIR: 2.30 + 8.15 PM

SEEF (II) :2.45 + 8.30 PM

WADI AL SAIL:12.45 + 6.00 + 11.15 PM

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

VISHAL, TAMANNAH, AISHWARYA LEKSHMI, YOGIBABU, AKANKSHA PURI

JHALLE ()(PUNJABI/COMEDY)

SEEF (I):2.15 + 7.00 + 11.45 PM

BINNU DHILLON, SARGUN MEHTA, PAWAN MALHOTRA

SANGA THAMIZHAN ()(TAMIL)

From Friday 15th

SEEF (I) :12.15 + 5.45 PM

VIJAY SETHUPATHI, RAASHI KHANNA, NIVETHA PETHURAJ

JABARDAST SHANKARA (PG-13)(TULU)

SEEF (I) : 11.45 AM

ARJUN KAPIKAD, NISHMITHA

MOVIE REVIEW

The Good Liar makes the most of Ian McKellen and Helen Mirren

McKellen's Roy is a veteran con artist whose latest target is Mirren's Betty, who has put away nearly 3 million pounds

TDT | Manama

When the 76-year-old Henry Fonda and the 74-year-old Katharine Hepburn starred in "On Golden Pond" in 1981, it marked the first time these cinema legends had appeared in a film together.

In fact, they hadn't even met until that point. Crazy!

It's equally surprising to learn 80-year-old Ian McKellen and 74-year-old Helen Mirren are sharing the big screen for the first time in the sophisticated con game thriller "The Good Liar." How has that not happened before?

Alas, while Mirren and McKellen are as wonderful as you'd expect, especially in the early going when their respective characters are just getting to know one another, even these two legendary talents can't overcome a convoluted, unfocused and increasingly implausible storyline — including one of the least surprising Big Twist Reveals in recent motion picture history.

"The Good Liar" is a



well-crafted and meticulously appointed piece of work. It's evident a great deal of attention has been paid to every last detail in every scene, from the precise and measured dialogue to the artwork on the walls to certain wardrobe choices to some interior colour schemes offering subtle hints about what lies ahead.

Yet for all its airs of sophistication and cleverness, this is a

movie that consistently requires ostensibly smart people to make incredibly dumb choices, just to keep the plot rolling.

McKellen's Roy is a veteran con artist whose latest target is Mirren's Betty, a widowed Oxford professor who has put away quite the tidy sum — nearly 3 million pounds—over the years.

After connecting online through a dating service, Roy and Betty agree to meet in person.

Betty is hoping to make a friend and find some companionship. She believes Roy has the same goal in mind. Little does she know Roy is setting her up for a long con in which he will charm and manipulate her, sweep her off her feet, gain her total trust — and drain her bank account before vanishing into the mist. It's what Roy does, and he's really good at it, in no

small part because he has never felt even a trace of empathy for any of his victims.

Roy and Betty are in the nascent stages of their courtship when Roy fakes an injury, which prompts Betty to invite him to stay at her suburban London home while he recuperates.

Betty's fiercely protective grandson Stephen (Russell Tovey) is suspicious of this mysterious interloper who has so quickly insinuated himself into Grandma's life, but she brushes aside his warnings. Within a few weeks, Betty has agreed to open a joint banking account with Roy, which gives him access to her entire savings.

By this point, "The Good Liar" is already on shaky ground, but when the relatively straightforward, present-day story expands to include some poorly staged and confusing flashback sequences set in Germany in the 1940s, all hope for a legitimately constructed, dramatically satisfying mystery-thriller is lost.

The more we learn about the main characters, the less we believe they'd do the things they do.

celebs

Beyonce and JAY-Z enjoy casino night in Florida

Los Angeles

Ahead of attending the hip-hop billionaire's foundation gala, pop singer Beyonce and husband JAY-Z made the most of their time in Hollywood.

The famous couple was seen hitting the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino on Friday (local time), reported People magazine.

Beyonce donned a sparkly sequined gown and accessorised the look with a matching jewelled clutch.

The mother of three sported her long hair down in loose waves. She paired the look with dangling earrings and strappy heels.

Her

49-year-old husband opted for a classy look as he wore a black suit paired with a white dress shirt underneath.

The duo spent the night in the town, a day after before JAY-Z's big event, The Shawn Carter Foundation Gala, which is a major fundraising event of the year for the artist's titular foundation.

According to Billboard, the benefits earned from the event will directly go towards the Shawn Carter Foundation's scholarship fund, college preparation workshops, goodwill programming and study abroad opportunities.

"Equipping our youth with the tools to succeed will always be a priority for me and my family."



Beyonce and JAY-Z

Katy, Dua pull of an 'outrageously sweaty show' in Mumbai!

Los Angeles

The D Y Patil Stadium in Mumbai echoed with the tunes of 'Roar', 'New Rules' as singing sensations Katy Perry and Dua Lipa set the stage on fire with their "outrageously sweaty show" on Saturday night!

The singers pulled off an amazing concert making the Mumbaikers groove to their beats. And after they ended their stage renditions, the two documented their experience on social media with Perry writing, "Do you ship?! KaDua or KaLipa? ok but seriously such a FAB night in Mumbai for #oneplustomusicfestival with qt @dualipa."

She also took a jibe at Mumbai's infamous traffic saying, "thanks to all that braved the traffic and this heat you are the REAL ones."

Meanwhile, Lipa posted some backstage pictures with Perry and expressed her feelings in the caption, "16 NOV 19 - Outrageously sweaty show! Mumbai you definitely brought the heat."

"I loved performing for you tonight alongside @katyperry who had me fizzing with excitement front stage during her set as it took me back to 15 year old me at my first Katy Perry show! Still just the same!! LOVE," she added.

The two shared the stage at the D Y Patil Stadium on Saturday night, making their first such concert in the subcontinent.

While Lipa landed in India early on Saturday, Perry had been here for a few days and has been relishing her time perfectly. On Thursday night, she became the centre of attraction at the star-studded bash thrown by filmmaker Karan Johar.



Katy Perry



Dua Lipa

Charlize Theron won't ever 'compromise' for a man

Los Angeles

Actress Charlize Theron has said she wants to find love again and be in a relationship but she won't ever "compromise" anything in her life to please a man.

"I'd love to meet somebody and that is something I even think can happen. I'm just not willing to compromise if something doesn't feel right."

That's something that has definitely changed for me after I got to my forties, Theron told HELLO! magazine, reports femaelfirst.co.uk.

She added: "I think a huge part of my relationships in the past have been about me being hyper-aware that there was an element to me that was threatening to people."

The actress says in her 20s she had the need to modulated herself, depending on the relationship.



Charlize Theron

Deepika's witty quip to love-struck fan

Mumbai

Bollywood couple Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh celebrated their first wedding anniversary on Thursday, and the spirit of mush seems to have rubbed off on some of their fans, too.

During their visit to the Tirumala Tirupati Temple in Chittoor to seek the blessings of Lord Venkateswara on their special day, the couple encountered a rather amusing situation involving a fan.

A video posted on Instagram shows that, as Ranveer and Deepika arrived at the temple, a crazed fan couldn't curb excitement.

"I love you," he told Deepika first, which the actress acknowledged with a smile. The fan then addressed Ranveer and said: "I love you Bhaiyya."



Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone

Deepika, sporting as ever, had a witty retort in place.

"But you loves me more!" she quipped to the fan, and the actor-couple broke into laughter.

While the couple visited the Tirumala temple on November 14, they were at the Golden

Temple in Amritsar the next day, to seek divine blessings.

Deepika and Ranveer will be seen together next on screen in Kabir Khan's "83", which accounts the inspiring story of India's first-ever World Cup win in cricket in 1983. Ranveer plays Kapil Dev, who led the team to the famous victory, while Deepika essays Kapil's wife Romi.

Elizabeth Banks claps back at 'Charlie's Angels' reboot critics

Los Angeles

While Hollywood is producing several reboots, revivals, and sequels, actor Elizabeth Banks is curious to know that why people are criticising her for creating another chapter in the 'Charlie's Angels' franchise.

During a recent conversation with the WSJ Magazine, the Charlie's Angels writer, director, and star responded to the negativity she's been facing for rebooting the franchise with Kristen Stewart, Ella Balinska, and Naomi Scott.

"You've had 37 Spider-Man movies and you're not complaining! I think women are



Elizabeth Banks

allowed to have one or two action franchises every 17 years - I feel totally fine with that" Banks said, reported Entertainment Weekly.

In the flick, Stewart, Balinska, and Scott are playing three new angels, while the 45-year-old star is essaying the role of a former angel turned Bosley (which is now rank in the Townsend Agency organisation rather than the name of one person).

The actor also revealed why the 'Twilight' star has returned to a mainstream movie franchise after sticking to indie films for so long.

"Being in a big franchise allows you to have it all. I recognise the same thing, it's almost unfair for women. The best roles are usually in small movies, but then you don't make any money. It's okay to want to make money," Banks said.

Blake Lively deletes all her Instagram posts yet again!

Los Angeles

Once again Blake Lively has deleted almost all her posts from her official Instagram handle and it seems her intention was the same as the first time she did it.

The 32-year-old actor left only a single post, which is a two-minute trailer for her upcoming film 'The Rhythm Section'.

In the film set to release next year in January, Lively is playing Stephanie Patrick, a woman who is after taking revenge for her family's death because of a not-so-accidental plane crash.

'The Rhythm Section' also stars

Jude Law and Sterling K. Brown.

Before this Blake Lively deleted all her posts back in May 2018 while promoting 'A Simple Favour', reported Us Weekly.

She also unfollowed everyone including husband Ryan Reynolds. But the actor followed 28 users named Emily Nelson, which was the name of her character in the flick, co-starring Anna Kendrick.

Reacting to the situation, the 'Deadpool' actor jokingly said an appearance on 'Smallzy's Surgery', "Definitely stings."

It's a terrible way to find out that I've been kicked out of the house, to be honest. Absolutely terrible. I don't know where rage like that comes from."



Blake Lively

Ariana Grande: I'm in a lot of pain

Los Angeles

Singer Ariana Grande says she has been feeling sick for "over three weeks" and may possibly cancel her upcoming shows.

The 26-year-old, who is currently performing on her Sweetener World Tour, shared several posts on her Instagram Stories on Saturday, giving her fans and follower her health update, reports people.com.

"Hi my loves so I'm still very sick. I've been sick since the last London show. I don't know how it's possible but my throat and head are still in so much pain. I sound okay I'm just in a lot of pain and it's difficult to breathe during the show," she wrote in a lengthy message.

"I just really don't know what's happening with my body right now and need to figure it out," she added.

Grande also shared multiple videos of herself explaining her current condition.

"Hi everyone so I have a quick health update, I just finished my show in Charlottesville and I've been sick since the last show in London," she began.



Bahrain step up preparations for Gulf basketball

- 13 players are preparing for the competition under Russo
- Scheduled to leave for Kuwait City on Thursday
- Bahrain will be opening their campaign against the Emiratis on November 23

TDT | Manama

Bahrain have stepped up preparations for the Gulf Basketball Association (GBA) Men's National Team Championship 2019 scheduled to take place from November 23 to December 1 in Kuwait City. The nationals are currently training for the competition at Zain Basketball Arena in Um Al Hassam. They have just returned from an overseas camp in Serbia,



Bahrain players listen to instructions during their practices at Zain Arena. Inset, Ahmed Salman is guarded by Hesham Sarhan during scrimmages

supervised by Bahrain's recently signed Serbian head coach Darko Russo.

Russo is in the early weeks of his stint at the helm of the squad after taking over for Spanish coach Josep "Pep" Claros,

who had suddenly resigned from his post.

Russo is a highly regarded veteran tactician who has been coaching for over 20 years. He had led the then-Yugoslavia national team to the bronze



medals of the 1999 Fiba European Championship with a team that included popular former NBA players Vlade Divac and Peja Stojakovic.

There is currently a roster of 13 players preparing for the competition under Russo. They include Bader Abdulla Malabes, Mohammed Buallay and Ali Shukrallah from national champions Muharraq; Ahmed Aziz, Ahmed Najaf, Ahmed Salman, Mustafa Hussain, Muzamil Ameer and Mohammed Ameer from Manama; Subah Hussain from Riffa; Hesham Sarhan and Mohammed Qurban from Ahli; and naturalised big man CJ Giles.

Bahrain Basketball Association president Talal Kanoo visited the team's practice session and followed up on their preparations. He expressed his confidence in the players and their abilities and wished them the very best for the tournament.

The squad is scheduled to

leave for Kuwait City on Thursday.

Five teams are competing in the event, including Bahrain, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and hosts Kuwait.

Bahrain will be opening their campaign against the Emiratis on November 23. It is scheduled for a 5 pm tip-off. Saudi then face Kuwait in the evening's other game at 7 pm.

Following this, Bahrain face-off with Qatar on November 24 before having a rest the next two days. They then get back on the hardwood against Saudi on November 27 before facing the host Kuwaitis on November 28 in their final preliminary round assignment.

After the single round-robin, one team will be eliminated while the top four move on to the knockout semi-finals. In the final four, scheduled for November 30, the top-ranked squad take on the fourth seeds, while team number two battle team number three.

Kingdom's national team gear up for stern Iraq test

TDT | Manama



Coach Sousa kicks the ball during the national team's training

Bahrain's senior men's national football team continued their training yesterday for their upcoming joint-qualifier against Iraq tomorrow for the Fifa World Cup 2022 and the AFC Asian Cup 2023.

The sessions were conducted at a local stadium, supervised by head coach Helio Sousa.

They are scheduled to move their practices today to the match venue at Amman International Stadium, where they will be holding two sessions.

Also today, the match commissioner's meeting will be held, after which coach Sousa's pre-match Press conference will take place. Tomorrow's qualifier



Bahrain players during scrimmages

is scheduled for a 5 pm kick-off, Bahrain time.

It will be the national team's fifth match. Iraq are currently

in solo first place in the Group C standings where they now have 10 points from their four games, two points ahead of Bahrain.

Iran are third with six points, followed by Hong Kong with two and Cambodia with one point.

The Bahrainis are in the Jordanian capital with a 23-player squad that includes Jassim Al-Shaikh, Mahdi Humaidan, Hamad Aldossari, Ahmed Bugammar, Mohammed Abdulwahab, Abdulwahab Almalood, Rashed Alhooti, Sayed Mohammed Jaffar, Waleed Alhayam, Mohammed Al Hardan, Ismael Abdullatif, Ali Madan, Sayed Shubbar Alawi, Sayed Redha Isa, Sayed Mahdi Baqer, Ali Haram, Komail Alaswad, Abdulla Alhazza, Mohammed Alromaihi, Ahmed Nabeel, Mohammed Adel, Sayed Dhiya Saeed and Abdulla Yusuf.

Afghanistan clinch T20 series win over Windies

Lucknow | India

Teenage opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz hit an attacking half-century to set up Afghanistan's 29-run series-clinching win over West Indies in the third Twenty20 international yesterday.

Gurbaz hit 79 off 52 balls as Afghanistan posted 156 for eight, a total their bowlers defended by restricting the West Indies to 127-7 in Lucknow.

They won the series 2-1 after losing the opening game and being swept in the preceding ODI 3-0.

BAS bringing 'Girl Power' to the racetrack

TDT | Manama

The all-female squad of the Bahrain Airport Services (BAS) racing team is bringing "Girl Power" in a big way to the motorsport-loving community of Bahrain.

The diverse quintet is made up of BAS staff and students from the BAS Aircraft Engineering Training Centre (BAETC), all of whom have only been racing for a couple of months.

However, they are already making waves at the highest level of local competition and are showing vast improvement every time they take to the track.

The team recently proved they can "hang with the boys" during a highly competitive second round in the 2019/2020 Bahrain Karting Enduro Championship at Bahrain International Karting Circuit in Sakhir.

They took on the gruelling six-hour challenge head-on and finished just 22 laps behind the overall winners.

"I am proud of myself that I am here and doing this for the first time in my life," said Fatima Zainudeen.

"We got all the support from BAS experienced drivers. They taught us the rules, how to drive

and everything we need to know.

"It was great to do this and we cannot wait to take part again."

Aircraft Engineer Marwa Mandeel shared Fatima's sentiments. "We are an all-female team. There are not a lot of girls in my field of work, which is the same as in karting. It is nice to have female competitors," she said.

"I am looking forward to doing it again and I want to race for even more laps."

Thanks to their time in the kart, the team members say they have built a high level of self-confidence which they can take with them in everything they do both on and off the racetrack.

"We have to encourage women to come and do this; it is nice," said Fatima. "It will give you confidence; you will believe in yourself. You don't have to go and race right away, but at least you have to come and try it and see what it is like."

Young BAETC

students, Jeiel Macaraan, Christina Anielies and Alanoud Allawi, are now enjoying the karting experience after dealing with some early nerves.

"This is my second endurance race now and when I first started I felt it was really scary," said Jeiel.

"One of the things I least like to do is drive, but BAS allowed us to try and I'm so glad we did it. "To race in an environment like this and learn new things is enjoyable."

Christina added: "This is my first race and in my opening two laps and I felt a bit scared. But, I got to relax after that and began to enjoy it. This is something anybody can do and it makes us proud to be here. It is a

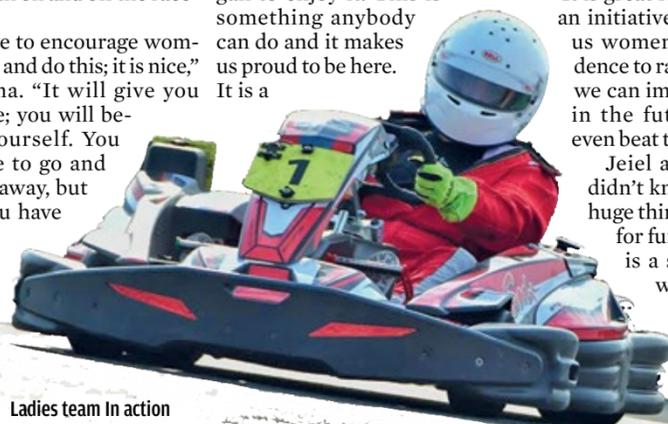
big privilege BAS gave us."

No matter how they place on the final classification or regardless of their lap times, it is certain that the impact this team is making is of great significance. It is not only good for the company culture but it has also boosted the staff confidence. They are pioneers in Bahraini motorsport and are paving the way for others to follow in their footsteps.

"As a woman, it is great to be a part of this kind of sport," said Maryam Qassimi, who was not a part of the all-female team, but raced as part of the BAS B squad with four other male drivers.

"It is great for BAS to support an initiative such as this for us women. It takes confidence to race. I am sure that we can improve even more in the future and maybe even beat the guys one day!"

Jeiel added: "At first I didn't know it was such a huge thing. I was here just for fun. Now I realise it is a significant thing we are doing and I hope to be able to enjoy it for a long time."



Ladies team in action

Bahrain crowned Team of the Year

Team Bahrain grabs four world titles at IMMAF



Kingdom officially beat the likes of Kazakhstan, Ireland, and Russia, to be named the best Team in the world. Above, His Highness Shaikh Khalid with Bahrain Team



Team Bahrain won four more gold medals on the last day

TDT | Manama

The third edition of the BRAVE International Combat Week came to a close in a spectacular fashion for Team Bahrain, which maintained their number one spot in the MMA world and was crowned the Team of the Year in the IMMAF Awards.

After numerous attempts by other national teams to surpass Bahrain's incredible year, Bahrainis on the last day of competitions clinched a historic feat led by the incredible work of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the visionary in making Kingdom the biggest force today in mixed martial arts.

Maintaining the number

one ranking was the work in the cage itself, with Team Bahrain winning four more gold medals on the last day of the competition.

Sabrina Sousa emerged winner in Women's Featherweight division. Pasha Karkhachayev became a two-time world champion at Super Heavyweight, while Ramazan Gitinov and Murataza Talha Ali won the world titles at Welterweight and Light Heavyweight respectively.

The glory obtained by Team Bahrain was completed with the Kingdom officially beating the likes of Kazakhstan, Ireland, and Russia, to be named the best Team in the world according to the IMMAF itself. Today, MMA is Bahrain, and Bahrain is MMA.

Incredible KHK belt gets a worthy winner



Azamat Murzakanov became the first-ever winner of the KHK World Championship

TDT | Manama

The expectations for the unveiling of the most prestigious prize in sports today were enormous. Up until minutes before the final of the KHK World Championship, the world had yet to see the KHK belt in its true glory. It was fitting that the entrance of the glorious belt had a different setting, as it arrived in a helicopter and was taken inside the sold-out Khalifa Sports City Arena for the world to see.

Inside the cage, a match for the ages took place as two battered fighters had to dig deep to find the power and resilience to go through a second battle in the night in order to win the biggest prize of all.

It was Azamat Murzakanov who became the first-ever winner of the KHK World Championship, the best start ever to what promises to become the World Cup of mixed martial arts.

The Russian powerhouse left no doubt of his true value as he ran through top kickboxer Guto Inocente in the semifinals before scoring a KO victory for the ages against Mohammad Fakhreddine in the final bout of BRAVE CF 29, which took place last Friday in Bahrain.

"The Professional" improved his professional record to 9-0, maintained his undefeated status and became the king of the KHK World Championship. If Azamat wins the tournament two more times he will have the right to become the permanent owner of the most prestigious belt in the world, adorned with 6.2 kg of gold.

As he has shown in the two bouts of the evening, such a thought should be taken seriously as he has proved he's not just raw talent, but a complete fighter and the king of kings in a night that produced several magical moments.

Ronnie on 99 as Portugal enter Euro 2020

Luxembourg

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 99th international goal as reigning champions Portugal secured their place at the Euro 2020 finals yesterday with a 2-0 victory away to Luxembourg.

Bruno Fernandes struck the opening goal on 39 minutes before Ronaldo tapped in a scrappy second late on to clinch second place in Group B behind winners Ukraine, who drew 2-2 in Serbia.

Portugal became the 17th nation to qualify for next year's multi-host tournament, which kicks off in Rome on June 12, joining the likes of world champions France, Spain, Italy and England.

Fernando Santos' side knew they would book their place at Euro 2020 with a win or by matching Serbia's result from their game in Belgrade.

But Portugal were made to work hard on a heavy pitch by a Luxembourg team ranked 96th in the world that notably held France to a 0-0 draw in 2018 World Cup qualifying.

Sporting Lisbon midfielder

Fernandes broke the deadlock before half-time, controlling Bernardo Silva's pinpoint pass expertly before lashing in from 20 yards.

Ronaldo, who smacked in a hat-trick in Thursday's 6-0 thrashing of Lithuania, moved to the brink of his international century four minutes from time. Silva's far-post cross was forced towards goal by Diogo Jota, with Anthony Moris getting a hand to the ball before Ronaldo turned in from the goalline.



Verstappen wins thriller in Brazil

● Both Ferraris collide and crash out

● Hamilton collides with Albon in closing laps

Agencies | Sao Paulo

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen has won Formula

One's Brazilian Grand Prix for his eighth career victory.

The Dutch driver controlled nearly all the race at Interlagos yesterday. Toro Rosso's Pierre Gasly was second and six-time F1 champion Lewis Hamilton third, though the Mercedes driver is under investigation.

Ferrari drivers Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc did not finish after the two crashed near the end of the race.

The Brazilian GP yesterday was the penultimate race of the season. Hamilton had already secured the season title in the previous race in the US.

Verstappen converted pole position into victory but had to twice pass Hamilton for the win as an initially strategic grand prix turned into an absolute thriller.

Verstappen and Hamilton mirrored each other's approach before a pair of Safety

Car periods late in the race resulted in a dramatic denouement.

One Safety Car period was caused by the Ferrari drivers colliding as they contested fourth position, leaving both out of the race.

Amid the drama weekend-long midfield leader Gasly surged into third spot, which became second when the recovering Hamilton clashed with Alexander Albon on the penultimate lap.

Hamilton, who accepted blame for a clash that is under investigation, recovered but fell millimetres short of denying second

from the excellent Gasly.

Verstappen retained the lead from pole position while Hamilton immediately emerged as his nearest opponent by passing Vettel around the outside of the Senna S.

For Gasly it was his maiden podium finish and the second of the year for Toro Rosso.

Carlos Sainz Jr. rose from the back of the grid after an engine failure in qualifying to take fourth position, with Alfa Romeo profiting from the melee to claim a season-best fifth and sixth, Kimi Raikkonen ahead of Antonio Giovinazzi.

Brazil - Race Result

Pos	Driver
1	Max Verstappen
2	Pierre Gasly
3	Lewis Hamilton
4	Carlos Sainz
5	Kimi Raikkonen
6	Antonio Giovinazzi
7	Daniel Ricciardo
8	Lando Norris
9	Sergio Perez
10	Daniil Kvyat

