

Kooheji to represent Bahrain at Brave 37

Bahrain's biggest MMA fighter has a date for his return to competition. After an unforgettable homecoming at BRAVE CF 29, when he dominated Nahuel Gandolfi in front of a sold-out Bahraini audience, Hamza Kooheji will take his talents to Sweden. **P16**

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Boris Johnson has reshuffled more than just his cabinet

THE DAILY **tribune**

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AUB adopts UN Responsible Banking Principles

US threatens to suspend aid

London

The United States is considering suspending aid efforts in northern Yemen next month unless Houthi interference in relief operations ceases immediately.

Yemen is at the centre of the worlds biggest aid operation but the Iran backed militia that triggered the war when it seized the capital in 2014 has repeatedly hampered international relief efforts.

Addressing the UN Security Council Tuesday, the US ambassador to the UN Kelly Craft said the Houthi meddling has reached such a level that donors are unsure if their aid is getting through.

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Manama

SCW success march lauded

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received at Sakhir Palace yesterday Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, the President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), who introduced to him members of SCW in its seventh work session.

HM the King lauded the remarkable achievements of Bahraini women, praising the honourable march of pioneers of national work who contributed to the growth of their nation and the upbringing of successive generations.

HM the King commended the confident and fast-paced strides

made by Bahraini women, stressing the influential role of SCW in supporting them since its establishment.

The King also stressed the clear vision of the council in assuming its specialties based on national values, the constitutional principles and a strong conviction that

Bahraini women are an essential partner in building the Bahraini state and protecting its national texture.

HM the King emphasised the key role of Bahraini women in national development, bringing up future generations and caring for their families.



His Majesty and HRH Princess Sabeeka during the meeting with SCW members.

His Majesty lauds remarkable achievements of Bahraini women; SCW contributions

His Majesty affirmed support to them, commending their capabilities and competence which earned them an advanced status.

The King also praised contribution of SCW members in enhancing women's role in the Bahraini society.

His Majesty also hailed the tre-

mendous efforts of HRH Princess Sabeeka in continuously improving the council's performance and highlighting the great progress of Bahraini women, the Kingdom's civilised experience in this respect

and the effect of those accomplishments on Bahrain's comprehensive development march.



وزارة الصحة
Ministry of Health

Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus COVID-19

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Exposure Prevention Instructions



Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly using soap and water. Use alcohol-based sanitizers



Clean and disinfect frequently used objects and surfaces such as door handles



Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing, and dispose of used wipes properly



Avoid contact with people experiencing a fever or suffering from a cough



Shaikh Hussam bin Isa Al Khalifa has held a meeting with the Assistant Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Nicolas Kassianides. Held at the UNESCO headquarters here, the meeting was attended by several representatives of the Court of HRH the Prime Minister and those of the Bahraini Embassy in France, as well as Bahrain's Permanent Representative to UNESCO and UNESCO officials. Shaikh Hussam lauded UNESCO's role and great contributions to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2030), which were approved by the UN General Assembly. Shaikh Hussam also hailed UNESCO's active and effective role in consolidating international co-operation in the fields of education, culture and sciences, commending its efforts in building knowledge societies that are based on cultural diversity, as well as the values of justice and security.



'Mom and Me' event was hosted by Bahrain Indian School-BHAVANS on Saturday, 15th February 2020, for mothers of Pre-KG and KG I students. The idea behind to organise such an event was to celebrate the everlasting bond of love and affection between a mother and child. The venue was aptly decorated with the theme. A host of fun filled activities and games including ramp walks were conducted for the moms.



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Bahrain Indian School (BHAVANS) students won umpteen medals in World Scholars Cup as they participated for the first time in the event held in St Christopher's School, Isa Town and Saar. Twenty-seven students participated and won laurels in events like collaborative writing, team debates, scholars bowl and scholars challenge. Bhavans Chairman Mr N K Ramachandran felicitated the students with the medals. Twenty-four students are selected for the global round, which will be held in Dubai.

Fourth 'Unreasonable Thinking Summit' set

TDT | Manama

Building on the success of the previous editions, Falak Consulting has announced the fourth Unreasonable Thinking Summit to take place in Manama on 25th March 2020 under the auspices of Minister of Youth and Sports Affairs Ayman Al Moayed.

The one-day event will feature a great array of innovative minds, exceptional achievers and global change-agents and advocates, including Nobel Peace Prize recipient Mr Kailash Sathyarathi, founder of Atari Mr Nolan Bushnell, CEO of Neat Meat and Neat Eco-Feeds Limited and recipient of the 2019 Financial Times/ International Finance Corporation (FT/IFC) Transformational Business Awards Mr Lincoln Peedah, and Joint MD, Apollo Hospitals Enterprises Ltd and President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Ms. Sangeeta Reddy, amongst others.

Commenting on the announcement, Founder and CEO of Falak Consulting Suhail Algosaibi, expressed his gratitude for the Minister of Youth and

Hosting the fourth edition of the Unreasonable Thinking Summit comes as part of our purpose of building stronger economies and happier societies.

MR ALGOSAIBI

Sport Affairs for patronising the event, while thanking Tamkeen for their continued support and unquestioned belief in innovation and entrepreneurship as key factors to economic growth and sustainability.

He said: "Innovative entrepreneurship has helped the Kingdom, and the whole world as a matter of fact, by evolving and creating new products and services to compete with – not to say replace – the existing ones. Hosting the fourth edition of the Unreasonable Thinking Summit comes as part of our purpose of building stronger economies and happier societies by unlocking business and human potential. "Through the summit we

aim to educate and inspire the Bahraini community, including startup entrepreneurs, business leaders, university and high school students. Through the diversified backgrounds of our speakers, we would like to tell the entrepreneurship and start-up community in Bahrain that you do not have to invent something; innovators often take an existing concept and transform it into its best version for the right audience. Innovative ideas are what make startups compete, succeed and survive."

The previous three editions of the Summit featured local and international speakers such as former Bahrain EDB Chief Executive and currently the Chief Executive of Mumtalakat Khalid Al Rumaihi; Patricia Letayf of 51 Labs; Pixar Animation's Paul Topolos; Plastic Bank's Founder David Katz; Peace Activist Victor Ochen; Kazuhide Sekiyama, Spiber; and many others.

Executives and members of the startup, corporate, government and student communities who are interested in attending the free-of-charge but limited capacity event, can register now through the official website (uts.bh).

TDT | Manama

A leading telecom firm in the Kingdom is accused of violating the privacy of customers as it is allegedly offering ringback tone advertisements replacing standard acoustic signal.

Many customers have urged the telecom regulator in the Kingdom to look into this violation of norms.

The customers claim that the firm is invading their private space and that also “without their consent”.

Speaking to Tribune, a customer who doesn't want to be named, said he is totally frustrated with this violation.

“I am paying the company for offering me this service and

how can they sell my private space.

“People who give me a ring get frustrated after listening to Tamil or Hindi songs.

“Moreover, many even disconnected calls thinking they have dialled a wrong number.”

Plea to regulator over telecom firm's 'ringback tone services'

Customers claim telecom firm invading their private space “without consent”



I am paying the company for offering me this service and how can they sell my private space.

CUSTOMER

The customer said he is not against the ringback tone service advertisements but it should be offered only after obtaining his consent.

Echoing a similar view, another customer said the regulator should also probe into

breach of privacy rules.

“I am an Indian national who hails from the state of Tamil Nadu. And they are offering options to set Tamil songs as ringback tones to those who call me.

“This means they have

probed into my identity without my consent, which is nothing but identity theft.”

Tribune views that telecom firms collecting personal data don't have a right over it and they should be obtained only with the customers' consent.

Tamkeen's highest quality services highlighted



Dr Shaikh Abdulla puts up the Golden Award at Tamkeen's Customer Service Centre in Seef Mall.

TDT | Manama

The Labour Fund 'Tamkeen's Customer Service Centre in Seef Mall has recently been awarded with the Golden Trophy amongst eight other centres in the second edition of "Taqqeem" programme led by the Government Service Centre Evaluation Committee.

Representatives of the Evaluation Committee Taqqeem led by Dr Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Undersecretary of International Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chairman of Derasat, alongside the Vice Chairman of Taqqeem visited Tamkeen's Customer Service Centre in Seef Mall to put up the Golden Award, demonstrating the organisation's excellence in pro-

viding the best customer service in accordance with the highest quality standards, in terms of speed and efficiency.

On this occasion, Dr Ebrahim Mohammed Janahi, the Chief Executive of Tamkeen, expressed his gratitude and appreciation for being recognised by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister.

The Government Service Centre Evaluation Committee was established as part of HRH's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of government services and increase customer satisfaction through streamlining services, enhancing the Human Resources and ICT departments, which in turn will encourage

transparency, competitiveness, and creativity.

Dr Janahi added stating: “At Tamkeen, we ensure the implementation of our strategy pillars, which includes improving the quality of our services at all levels in order to achieve more diversity, acceleration, and sustainability, as our strategy entails.

“As such, this requires us to double our efforts to achieve the highest performance standards by activating advanced measurement tools, be open to best practices, and measure customer satisfaction, along with continuous training for our employees to enhance their performance and position them as distinguished role models in the field of customer service.”

The evaluation of the government service centres is based

on five main criterion: Ease of accessibility to the centres, excellence in services offered, compatibility of the centres' environment, smooth management of clients and focusing on the effectiveness of the administrative processes applied by the centres, including processing customer feedback.

The award comes as part of Tamkeen's continuous efforts to improve their customer service and upgrade their experience in accordance with the highest internationally approved standards through training Tamkeen's employees and have them qualified to be experienced and efficient customer service consultants.

Tamkeen is also keen on developing the centre's facilities and improving its services by increasing the centre's capaci-

ty, in addition to increasing the number of customer service operators and platforms, and not to mention increasing the number of self-service platforms, adding micro-meeting rooms to accommodate customers.

The centre is also equipped to serve special needs customers through its “Priority Track” dedicated to disabled individuals, pregnant women, elderly and those that require speed and attention.

Tamkeen's Customer Service Centre has been awarded twice within the Gold Category in the first edition of this programme held last year – the two Tamkeen Customer Service centres were Seef Mall and the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Prosecutors deny newspaper claims

TDT | Manama

The Public Prosecution has denied a report in an Arabic daily, which said a man was held for burning the Israeli flag.

Chief Prosecutor Hamad Shaheen said in a statement publicised by the Prosecution yesterday that “the Public Prosecution did not bring any accused to the criminal trial for demonstrating over foreign political reasons”.

Denying what the newspaper published last Friday, Mr Shaheen said the Prosecution's database showed that the defendant, along with others, was involved in an illegal gathering and arson case.

“The record of this incident did not include any indication of the burning of the flag of a country, as it became clear that the description of the accusation against the defendants by the Public Prosecution had nothing to do with the published news,” Mr Shaheen clarified.

The Chief Prosecutor added: “One of the two defendants claimed in his statements in the police report that the participants with him in the incident burned the flag of a state while committing the crime, in addition to blocking the road.

“This was repeated when he was interrogated. However, it was not proven by the testimony of witnesses heard by the Public Prosecution.

“The accused appeared before the court, but he denied this particular accusation.”

Supporting young heroes



Smile Initiative, an initiative of Bahrain Future Society for Youth which provides psychosocial support to children with cancer and their parents in the Kingdom of Bahrain has held a ceremony to celebrate the power of will of 13 children who successfully defeated cancer. The initiative is being supported by BRAVE Organisation's KHK HEROES Initiative, which is presided by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee. The ceremony witnessed the attendance of huge number of Smile initiative members, their parents and volunteers as well as officials from BRAVE Organisation, including COO Valeria Lang and MMA Champion Eldar Eldarov. The latter delivered a speech during the event, praising the strong determination and patience of the children who overcame the disease, describing them as real champions. From her side, Ms Lang hailed those children, expressing her pride towards what they have achieved. And she pledged to provide further support to them. Meanwhile, Bahrain Future Society for Youth President Subah Al Zayani expressed his thanks and appreciation to HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa for his initiative to support the children who have been cured from the disease or still fighting to defeat it.

Honouring iGA services

The Information and eGovernment Authority's (iGA) Muharraq ID Card Center was awarded the Taqyeem 2 Gold Category in recognition of the high quality of its services. Taqyeem Committee members, led by the Undersecretary for International Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, visited the Muharraq ID Card Centre. A Gold category plaque was unveiled to indicate the center's status as one of most high quality government service providers in the Kingdom. Also present were iGA ID Card and Population Registry Director Shaikh Sabah bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Head of ID Cards Abdulla Al Musalmani. Above, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa presenting the award to the center manager; Taqyeem committee visiting the Muharraq service center to congratulate the iGA team.

Firm ordered to pay BD5,000 in compensation to fired staff

Employee was sacked after rejecting to perform tasks not mentioned in the work contract

TDT | Manama

● The lawyer said the company gave the employee only a notice of 10 days to leave.

● The lawyer demanded the company should pay her client a compensation of BD5,400.

A private company was yesterday ordered to pay over BD5,000 to a Bahraini employee who was arbitrarily sacked from his job by the company.

This was announced by the Labour Court, which issued its verdict in the case after the employee lodged a complaint last year claiming that he was fired from his job for no valid reason.

The details of the case showed that the plaintiff had joined the company as a salesman in Sep-

tember in 2018. The documents showed that he was paid a monthly salary of BD300 in return of his services.

However, it was also proven that the company had repeatedly requested extra services, which were not mentioned in the work contract, from the employee.

This included travelling to Saudi Arabia for more than 10 times to collect payments from clients, without disbursing any kind of allowance or compensation for the employee.



My client was surprised when he was informed by the company that his work contract has been terminated.

MS SAKREENA SALEH

According to the employee's lawyer Ms Sakeena Saleh, her client was surprised when he was informed by the company that his work contract has been ter-

minated.

The lawyer said the company gave the employee only a notice of 10 days to leave, and she added that the termination decision came a few days after he requested to be compensated for his trips to Saudi Arabia.

The lawyer demanded the company in the court to pay her client a compensation of BD5,400, but the judges ordered for a compensation worth BD5,004 after deliberating the case for a couple of weeks.

Red and Black Carnival Dance set

TDT | Manama

The Young Goans Club Bahrain will organise the Red and Black Carnival Dance 2020 at 7.30 pm at the Swiss International Hotel tomorrow.

Highlights of the carnival include music with two live bands and DJ, an endless buffet spread, competitions and great surprises throughout the evening, according to organisers.

For invitation cards and further enquiries, please contact 33826510, 34089658, 33310712, 39150529 or 34404013.

'Customer satisfaction one of key pillars of iGA services'

Sharjah

At the invitation of Shaikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qassimi, Chairman of the Sharjah Media Council in the UAE, the Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA) Chief Executive Mohammed AlQaed attended and participated in the first Sharjah Forum for Contact Centres, in the presence of iGA Deputy Chief Executive of Electronic Transformation, Dr Zakareya Ahmed AlKhajah.

The forum was attended by senior government officials from GCC countries, researchers and experts in the development field of call centre, customer services data analysis experts and ICT institutions.



Mr AlQaed speaking at a panel discussion at the first Sharjah Forum for Contact Centres.

Mr AlQaed expressed his appreciation to Shaikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qassimi, Chairman of Sharjah Media Council, for his generous invitation, stressing

that the presence and participation of the Information and eGovernment Authority in the GCC event comes as a translation of its commitment to the direc-

tives of General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, the Minister of Interior, to strengthen the bonds of co-operation with neighbours in the UAE.

"Both countries are exchanging experiences and latest developments in the fields of communication and technology, drawing visions and future as-

pirations that contribute to the advancement of services provided to all customers, citizens and residents of both countries."

iGA Chief confirmed during his presentation at the Sharjah Forum for Contact Centres titled 'National Contact Centre... Excellence in Customer Experience' that customer satisfaction is one the key pillars of iGA's business, which it strives to achieve through more than 400 eServices that have made Bahraini government services faster and more convenient.

He said that iGA continuously measures customer satisfaction levels across all its channels, ensuring that its services meet the highest IT security standards.

BIC contest for students to name and design its slowest vehicle

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is calling on school students from all across the Kingdom to put on their thinking caps and help give a striking new identity to the circuit's slowest, yet one of its most important, vehicles: the BIC sweeper.

BIC has launched this campaign to bring some much-needed character to a crucial member of the team, which currently meanders around the circuit anonymously.

The sweeper performs one of the most important tasks at BIC, travelling around the track day and night, cleaning the tarmac so that it is in optimum condition to drive or race on.

This incredible workhorse travels an amazing 2,180 laps every year at an average speed of just 5kph.

Despite its heroic work as a crucial member of the BIC family, the sweeper sadly has no name and little character at the moment, and needs cheering up.

All students are invited to give some life to the sweeper and join

the competition, formulating a fitting name and an outstanding and colourful design. As BIC is an international venue, the name must be in English.

The winning name and design will be adapted for the size of the sweeper to get it ready for its toughest and most important week of the year – the upcoming Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand

Prix 2020 happening March 19 to 22.

Furthermore, BIC will also be bringing the winning student to a special unveiling of the sweeper at BIC, a week before the Grand Prix, and he or she may even get a chance to ride in the new character.

The competition is open to school children in Bahrain, both

primary and secondary students, of all ages and nationalities. Entries must be sent by e-mail to schools@bic.com.bh and received by Wednesday, February 26.

Entries will be judged by a panel at BIC and their decision will be final. For more information on the competition, call the BIC Hotline on +973-17-450000 or visit www.bahraingp.com.

business

GFH buys 70 per cent stake in Marshal

● Dubai-headquartered Marshal, established in 1981

● Marshal's clients include payment gateways and financial institutions

TDT | Manama

GFH Financial Group (GFH) yesterday announced acquiring a 70 per cent stake in Marshal, a leading pan-MENA FinTech company, made through its investment banking arm, GFH Capital.

Dubai-headquartered Marshal, established in 1981, is the largest and oldest enabler of payment technology in the Middle East. It serves 16 countries and holds an 85pc plus market share in the UAE and a majority share across other regional markets in which it operates. Supporting its market-leading position is more than 30-year relationship with Verifone, who has a more than



“This transaction also marks GFH's second major technology investment, an area where we are continuing to focus and strategically portfolio in

HISHAM ALRAYES, CEO OF GFH

40pc share of the global POS devices market.

Marshal's clients include the region's largest payment gateways and financial institutions including Network International, National Bank of Abu Dhabi, Mashreq Bank, CrediMax and National Bank of Bahrain, to name a few.

Commenting, Hisham Alrayes, CEO of GFH, said, “This transaction also marks GFH's second major technology investment, an area where we are continuing to focus and strategically portfolio in.”

Founder and Chairman of Marshal, Anil Dhar, added,

“With this important milestone, we are excited to work with GFH to take the company to the next level and maximize positive market dynamics.”

Gaurav Dhar, a technology entrepreneur and global FinTech investor will continue to serve as CEO of the Company, spearheading Marshal's growth and innovation across markets and customer segments.

deNovo Corporate Advisors acted as sole M&A financial advisor to GFH on the acquisition. Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP acted as legal advisor to GFH while Bonelli-Erede acted as legal advisor to Marshal.

Al Baraka backs GCC ePayments, online banking summit as gold sponsor



Adnan Ahmed Yousif, President & Chief Executive of ABG and Essa Sayyar, Regional Director of EastMed signed the sponsorship deal in the presence of Tariq Kazim, General Manager of Business Sector, Al Baraka Islamic Bank

TDT | Manama

Al Baraka Banking Group has announced their backing to the third edition of the GCC e Payments and Online Banking Summit as a Gold Sponsor.

British EastMed Company organises the summit to be held in Bahrain from 8-9 April 2020 at the Gulf Hotel.

Adnan Ahmed Yousif, President & Chief Executive of ABG and Essa Sayyar, Regional Director of EastMed signed the sponsorship deal in the presence of Tariq Kazim, General Manager of Business Sector,

Al Baraka Islamic Bank on 06 February 2020.

Commenting, Yousif stated, “Our support for this summit, sponsored graciously by the Central Bank of Bahrain, is in line with the Bahraini government's policies towards making Bahrain a leading centre for financial technology at the level of the Middle East.”

Hamad Al Oqab, CEO of Al Baraka Islamic Bank (Bahrain) said, “We believe that the future of banks globally is heading towards digitization. Therefore, we have drawn up our digital transformation strategy to take

advantage of the opportunities available in the field of digitization and financial technology.”

Essa Sayar, Regional Director of East Med Company, said the 2020 edition will highlight strategic issues in the field of payments and financial technology. It will also focus on the impact of artificial intelligence on payments, e-commerce and cross-border payments. Besides, setting controls for digital currency trading.

The event is expected to attract more than 400 participants from both inside Bahrain and abroad.

Splash announces launch of Spring collection 2020

Manama

Splash, the Middle East's largest high-street fashion retailer, has unveiled its first collection for 2020 just in time for the Spring season.

Featuring Splash's brand ambassador Bollywood superstar, Jacqueline Fernandez, the all-new Spring season collection includes a combination of playful and upbeat designs across three key trends - Hyper Nature, inspired by the landscape featuring soft shades of green and yellow, Statement Florals, highlighting season's haute floral styles and Modern Prairie, featuring flared silhouettes, frilly collars and more.

Vibrant collection

The vibrant collection includes a mix of bold prints, ruffle details and puff sleeves, perfect to fill in the season's wardrobe. The beautifully designed and affordable outfits can be mixed, matched and rotated to don a new look every-

day this spring season.

For menswear, the SS20 collection features utilitarian styling, earthy neutral tones, natural textures and dry crisp cotton fabrics. Spring season is all about well-defined neutrals reflecting a clear state of mind whilst warmer hues combine a sense of ease and comfort.

Spring mood

The Spring mood is supported with a bright colourful palette.

The mix of prints drive a fun, joyful mood supported with vibrant colour combinations. Neon hints and tropical prints have been given a fresher take with the sports inspired collection.

Colours like oatmeal, ecru & natural tones are vital this season and ochre provides modern touch with an accent of orange.

While bright tangerines, reds & cobalt blue are mixed with navy and greys to infuse the energetic look.

Trump wants China to buy US jet engines



Reuters | Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday blasted proposed restrictions on trade with China and said national security cannot be used as an “excuse” to make it difficult for foreign countries to buy US products.

The series of tweets was an apparent reference to reports over the weekend that the U.S. government is considering whether to block General Electric Co from continuing to supply engines for a new Chinese passenger jet.

Washington is also eyeing limits on other components for Chinese commercial aircraft such as flight control systems made by Honeywell International Inc .



الشركة البحرينية للترفيه العائلي ش.م.ب.
BAHRAIN FAMILY LEISURE COMPANY B.S.C.

Invitation to the Annual General Assembly Meeting of the Company's Shareholders.

The Board of Directors of Bahrain Family Leisure Company B.S.C. cordially invites the shareholders to attend the Annual Ordinary General Assembly Meeting to be held on Wednesday 11th March 2020 at 12.00 Noon at Awal Ball Room 3 at the Gulf Hotel, Kingdom of Bahrain. In case the quorum is not reached on this first meeting, the second meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th March 2020, at the same venue and time to discuss the below agenda and to take appropriate decisions.

A. Agenda of AGM

1. Reading out the previous AGM minutes held on 13th March 2019 and approving it.
2. Discussing the Chairman's report about the group business for the year ended 31st December 2019 and approving it.
3. Listening to the auditor's report on the Company's financial position for the financial year ending 31st December 2019.
4. Consider and approve the Company's financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2019.
5. Discuss the corporate governance report for 2019 and comply with the requirements of the Central Bank of Bahrain and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism.
6. To notify and approve the transactions carried out during the financial year ended 31 December 2019 with any of the related parties as described in note 24 of the financial statements in line with Article 189 of the Commercial Companies Law.
7. Discharge the members of the Board of Directors from their liabilities for the financial year ending 31st December 2019.
8. Appointment/Reappointment of external auditors for the year ending 31st December 2020 and authorize the Board of Directors to determine their fees.
9. New matters that may arise as per Article 207 of the Commercial Companies' Law.

Importance notice to the shareholders:

- The financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2019 are available on the Bahrain Bourse Website.
- You can obtain a copy of the power of attorney through www.bflc.com.bh
- Any shareholder registered in the company's register of shareholders on the date of the meeting shall have the right to attend in person or to give in writing any person to attend the meeting and to vote on his behalf, taking into consideration that his agent is not the Chairman or Members of the board of directors or employees of the Company.
- In case the shareholder is a company, the agent attending the meeting must submit a letter of authorization from the shareholder who is entitled to be the principal of that shareholder. The authorization must be written and issued by the person authorized by the company and stamped with the company's stamp.
- The power of attorney must be deposited at least 24 hours prior to the date of the meeting at Bahrain Financial Harbor - Bahrain Clear - Gate No. 4 - post Box 3203, Manama-Kingdom of Bahrain - Tel: 17261260 - Fax 17256362 or e-mail: csd.info@bahrainbourse.com with confirmation of receipt before the deadline.
- It is worth noting that the power of attorney issued after the deadline is not valid for meeting purposes.
- For any inquiries, please contact the Public Relation and Investor Relations Department at 17215080.

Abdul Latif Khalid Al Aujan
Chairman of the Board

Alba names new Director of Administration

TDT | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) yesterday announced appointing Bahraini Hamad Alshaibeh as its new Director of Administration, following Board Meeting on 13 February 2020.

Alshaibeh started his career as a Trainee Supervisor in the HR Department in 2002 and led various functions such as Organisation Development, Administration, Recruitment and Employee Relations. In 2009, he was promoted to Head - Employee Relations & Alba Housing Scheme followed by his promotion to Manager - Human Resources in 2014 then to Senior Manager - Human Resources in 2017.

Speaking on this occasion, Alba's Chief Executive Officer, Al Al Baqali said: "In addition to enhancing Alba's overall organisational performance,



Alba's Director of Administration - Hamad Alshaibeh

Alshaibeh, in his new role, will be responsible for achieving our overarching HR Strategy - higher levels of Bahrainisation and developing the nationals - in alignment with Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030. I wish him all the very best in his new role."

Gulf mostly end mixed



Kuwaiti traders follow the stock market at the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) in Kuwait City on October 14

- Saudi's Mobily slides after FY profit miss
- Aramco closes higher at 33.2 riyals

- 26 of 30 Egyptian blue-chips decline

Reuters

Egyptian stock markets fell sharply yesterday ahead of its central bank meeting later this week to decide on rate cuts, while Saudi shares were pulled lower by losses at Etihad Etisalat (Mobily) after it missed fiscal year profit estimates.

Other major Gulf stocks were mixed.

Egypt's blue-chip index was down 1.2 per cent with the country's largest lender Commercial International Bank Egypt losing 0.8pc. Helopolis Co

For Housing And Development fell 6.8pc a day after it traded ex-dividend.

A Reuters poll showed Egypt's central bank would likely keep interest rates on hold for a second straight time on Thursday, though some analysts expected another cut after inflation ticking up in January.

In January, the central bank kept its deposit rate steady at 12.25pc and its lending rate at 13.25pc.

Saudi Arabia's benchmark index closed 0.2pc lower with Mobily down 3.3pc. The tele-

com operator swung to a profit of 31 million riyals

(\$8.27 million) in 2019, but missed analysts' estimates of about 194 million riyals, according to Refinitiv data.

State-owned Saudi Aramco closed up 0.3pc at 33.2 riyals (\$8.85).

The Abu Dhabi index slipped 0.5pc as First Abu Dhabi Bank shed 1.3pc and Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank lost 0.7pc.

In Qatar, the index ended up 0.7pc. Qatar National Bank rose 1.6pc, while Nakilat added 2.3pc after the energy shipping and transport firm reported a 12.4pc rise in 2019 profit.

However, Doha Bank plunged 10pc to its lowest in over eight months after the lender posted a 9.2pc drop in its annual profit to 754 million riyals (\$207.14 million).

Dubai's index closed flat with the blue-chip developer Emaar Properties gaining 1.3pc and the lender Emirates NBD shedding 0.8pc.

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▼ 0.2pc to 7,859 pts
ABU DHABI	▼ 0.5pc to 5,056 pts
DUBAI	■ at 2,749 pts
QATAR	▲ 0.7pc to 9,776 pts
EGYPT	▼ 1.2 pc to 13,637 pts
BAHRAIN	▼ 0.2pc to 1,660 pts
OMAN	▼ 0.4pc to 4,149 pts
KUWAIT	▼ 1.1pc to 6,802 pts

AUB adopts UN Responsible Banking Principles

TDT | Manama

Abu Dhabi United Bank said it has signed the United Nation's Principles for Responsible Banking, an initiative spearheaded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNEP) in partnership with leading international banks.

Responsible banking principles aim at aligning global banking practices with long-term social and environmental goals and providing a roadmap for the global financial community in addressing global challenges and contributing to sustainable economic development. The Principles are accessible to all signatories at all stages of the sustainability journey.

The UN's Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB) provide a universal framework and a set of core principles for the participating banks to implement at strategic, business and



”

Subscribing to the UN's Principles of Responsible Banking is a natural next step for AUB, giving us the opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to holding ourselves to the highest standards, and a much-needed platform to collaborate with like-minded banks in making a positive impact and improving people's quality of life without compromising that of future generations

SHAFQAT ANWAR

AUB'S DEPUTY GROUP CEO - OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

operational levels.

The six cornerstones Principles require signatory banks to align their strategies and practices with the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement and to do more to have a positive impact on people and the environment.

To date, over 160 institutions from 50 countries with collective assets totalling US\$ 50 trillion have joined the initiative.

AUB's Deputy Group CEO - Operations & Technology Shafqat Anwar commented: "Since its founding twenty years ago, AUB has always been clear-eyed about its role and mission

as a responsible bank, fully committed not only to serving the best interests of our customers and shareholders, but also to the common good of the communities we serve, and in the process actively contributing to the socio-economic advancement of the countries where we operate".

Bezos launches \$10 bn fund to combat climate change

Washington

His company is often criticised for its environmental record, but Jeff Bezos, CEO of Amazon and the world's richest man, said Monday that he was committing \$10 billion to a new fund to tackle climate change.

In a post to his 1.4 million followers on Instagram, the e-commerce tycoon said the Bezos Earth Fund would "fund scientists, activists, NGOs -- any



Amazon boss Jeff Bezos

effort that offers a real possibility to help preserve and protect the natural world."

"Climate change is the biggest threat to our planet," said Bezos, whose net worth is estimated to be around \$130bn.

Hundreds of Amazon employees last month signed a blog criticizing the online retail giant's climate policies and demanding it do more to tackle climate change.

Amazon has been accused of

creating vast amounts of waste from the packaging it uses for doorstep deliveries, as well as for the greenhouse gas emissions from huge fleets of vehicles.

The company, which in December said its workforce had hit 750,000, has also been denounced over its carbon footprint because of the high energy consumption of its server farms for its lucrative cloud computing activities.

Furious shareholders blast Nissan bosses

Tokyo

Shareholders livid about the performance of struggling Japanese car giant Nissan on Tuesday blasted bosses over dividends, executive pay, the stock price, and even the type of vehicle they use.

Shareholders voted to approve new chief executive Makoto Uchida in his post but he received a barrage of furious questions at an extraordinary shareholders' meeting after the most recent results showed a more than 87-per cent plunge in net profit for the nine months to December.

"I've been a Nissan shareholder for close to 20 years. You need to review what you're doing. I have 3,000 Nissan shares. Uchida-san, you have 2,000 shares. I have more than you!" shouted one stockholder.

"I bought it at 800 yen per share. I never thought it would fall below 700 yen. It's less than 500 yen per share now. What do you think about this? Is it better to sell them on the market? What shall I do with my Nissan shares?"

The firm failed to issue a dividend to shareholders after posting a net loss of 26.1 billion yen for the three months to December, its first third-quarter loss in more than a decade.

It is still battling to restore its reputation after the stun-



Nissan CEO Hiroto Saikawa attends a joint new conference in Yokohama, Japan



Nissan Motor chief executive Makoto Uchida speaks during a news conference at Nissan Motor headquarters in Yokohama, Japan

driving off from one meeting in a competitor's car.

"After the shareholders' meeting, you rode a (Toyota) Alphard to leave Japan or leave Yokohama. Alphard! Nissan executives were enraged. Of course. You were in a competitor's model. Why did you choose to do that, Mr Senard?"

"You cannot make the alliance successful with that kind of mindset," fumed the shareholder.

A repentant Senard said there would be no repetition of the faux pas.

"As soon as I had noticed... I said that could never happen again. I apologise for that. I'm

”

After the shareholders' meeting, you rode a (Toyota) Alphard to leave Japan or leave Yokohama. Alphard! Nissan executives were enraged. Of course. You were in a competitor's model. Why did you choose to do that, Mr Senard? You cannot make the alliance successful with that kind of mindset

FUMED A SHAREHOLDER.

awfully sorry," he said.

Executive pay was also an issue on shareholders' minds, with one out-of-pocket member making the point: "If you are going to reduce the dividend by that amount, you have to revise executive compensation."

"There are 57 executives in top management. These 57 people in the top management scheme, your compensation should be less than 10 million yen (\$91,000)."

"You should immediately take this decision and send a press release immediately!"

Takaful International Company B.S.C.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2019



Bahraini Dinars

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2019 (Audited)

	Shareholders		General takaful		Family takaful		Total	
	31 December 2019	31 December 2018	31 December 2019	31 December 2018	31 December 2019	31 December 2018	31 December 2019	31 December 2018
ASSETS								
Cash and investments:								
Statutory deposit	125,000	125,000	-	-	-	-	125,000	125,000
Cash and balances with banks	5,340,231	3,958,097	4,864,318	4,604,035	1,348,964	698,152	11,553,513	9,260,284
Investments at fair value through equity	2,715,089	3,411,562	1,699,240	934,535	1,645,939	1,936,497	6,060,288	6,282,594
Investment in an associate	206,640	-	-	-	-	-	206,640	-
8,386,960	7,494,659	6,563,558	5,538,570	2,994,903	2,634,649	17,945,421	15,667,878	
Takaful and retakaful receivables	-	-	9,382,099	9,398,813	691,213	598,612	10,073,312	9,997,425
Retakaful providers' share of takaful liabilities	-	-	6,061,201	8,523,919	306,743	445,359	6,367,944	8,969,278
Deferred acquisition costs	573,803	600,206	-	-	-	-	573,803	600,206
Property and equipment	1,160,550	1,949,641	-	-	-	-	1,160,550	1,949,641
Other receivables, accrued income and prepayments	1,105,160	1,941,203	474,520	333,741	16,772	21,718	1,596,452	2,296,662
Retakaful providers' share of family takaful technical reserves	-	-	-	-	570,251	311,250	570,251	311,250
TOTAL ASSETS	11,226,473	11,985,709	22,481,378	23,795,043	4,579,882	4,011,588	38,287,733	39,792,340
LIABILITIES, PARTICIPANTS' FUNDS AND OWNERS' EQUITY								
Liabilities								
Takaful liabilities	-	-	17,466,331	19,249,875	437,273	626,874	17,903,604	19,876,749
Unearned commissions	-	-	337,810	313,639	-	-	337,810	313,639
Family takaful technical reserves	-	-	-	-	2,739,985	2,421,489	2,739,985	2,421,489
Payables and accrued liabilities:								
Takaful and retakaful companies	-	-	2,438,960	2,644,765	979,345	629,105	3,418,305	3,273,870
Participants	420,943	496,206	1,032,723	1,021,775	27,957	27,062	1,481,823	1,545,043
Others	726,559	2,210,235	1,667,106	1,449,032	224,466	227,746	2,618,131	3,887,013
Total liabilities	1,147,502	2,706,441	22,942,930	24,679,086	4,409,026	3,932,276	28,499,458	31,317,803
Participants' fund								
(Deficit) / surplus in participants' fund	-	-	(591,591)	(907,710)	163,939	139,898	(427,652)	(767,812)
Investments fair value reserve	-	-	130,039	23,667	6,917	(60,586)	136,956	(36,919)
Owners' equity								
Share capital	8,500,000	8,500,000	-	-	-	-	8,500,000	8,500,000
Statutory reserve	656,159	587,115	-	-	-	-	656,159	587,115
General reserve	200,000	200,000	-	-	-	-	200,000	200,000
Retained earnings / (accumulated losses)	548,670	(72,730)	-	-	-	-	548,670	(72,730)
Investments fair value reserve	174,142	(36,397)	-	-	-	-	174,142	(36,397)
Equity attributable to shareholders of the parent	10,078,971	9,177,988	-	-	-	-	10,078,971	9,177,988
Non-controlling interests	-	101,280	-	-	-	-	-	101,280
Total owners' equity	10,078,971	9,279,268	-	-	-	-	10,078,971	9,279,268
TOTAL LIABILITIES, PARTICIPANTS' FUNDS AND OWNERS' EQUITY	11,226,473	11,985,709	22,481,378	23,795,043	4,579,882	4,011,588	38,287,733	39,792,340

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN PARTICIPANTS' FUND

For the year ended 31 December 2019 (Audited)

	Investments fair value reserve				
	General takaful	Family takaful	General takaful	Family takaful	Total
Balance at 1 January 2019	(907,710)	139,898	23,667	(60,586)	(804,731)
Realised fair value gain on investments	-	-	52,020	22,425	74,445
Unrealised fair value (loss) / gain on investments	-	-	54,352	45,078	99,430
Surplus for the year	316,119	24,041	-	-	340,160
Balance as at 31 December 2019	(591,591)	163,939	130,039	6,917	(290,696)
Balance at 1 January 2018	(1,615,371)	651,931	21,338	(22,286)	(964,388)
Realised fair value loss on investments	-	-	18,338	17,510	35,848
Unrealised fair value gain / (loss) on investments	-	-	(16,009)	(55,810)	(71,819)
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	707,661	(512,033)	-	-	195,628
Balance as at 31 December 2018	(907,710)	139,898	23,667	(60,586)	(804,731)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 December 2019 (Audited)

	Year ended 31 December	
	2019	2018
Net cash from operating activities	1,719,689	1,972,648
Net cash used in investing activities	(3,575,948)	(3,092,575)
Net cash from financing activity	-	2,250,000
(DECREASE) / INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(1,856,259)	1,130,073
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	4,446,984	3,316,911
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE YEAR	2,590,725	4,446,984
COMPRISING:		
CASH AND BALANCES WITH BANKS		
Cash and balance in current accounts	2,590,725	2,550,232
Bank deposits with maturity of three months or less	-	1,896,752
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2,590,725	4,446,984
Bank deposits with maturity of more than three months	8,962,788	4,813,300
Cash and balances with banks as per interim statement of consolidated financial position	11,553,513	9,260,284

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2019 (Audited)

	Year ended 31 December 2019 (Audited)				Year ended 31 December 2018 (Audited)			
	Shareholders	General Takaful	Family Takaful	Total	Shareholders	General Takaful	Family Takaful	Total
Net profit and surplus / (deficit) for the year	690,765	316,119	24,041	1,030,925	651,194	707,661	(512,033)	846,822
Other comprehensive income / (loss) to be reclassified to statement of profit or loss in subsequent periods:								
Available-for-sale investments:								
Fair value changes arising during the year	182,335	54,352	45,078	281,765	(229,652)	(16,009)	(55,810)	(301,471)
Recycled to interim condensed consolidated statement of profit or loss on disposal/impairment	28,204	52,020	22,425	102,649	130,036	18,338	17,510	165,884
Other comprehensive income / (loss) for the period to be reclassified to interim condensed consolidated statement of profit or loss in subsequent periods	210,539	106,372	67,503	384,414	(99,616)	2,329	(38,300)	(135,587)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME / (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	901,304	422,491	91,544	1,415,339	551,578	709,990	(550,333)	711,235
Attributable to:								
Shareholders of the parent	900,983	422,491	91,544	1,415,018	551,115	709,990	(550,333)	710,772
Non-controlling interests	321	-	-	321	463	-	-	463
	901,304	422,491	91,544	1,415,339	551,578	709,990	(550,333)	711,235

These Financial Statements have been reviewed by Ernst & Young and approved by the board of directors at their meeting held on 18th February 2020

Jamal Ali Al Hazeem
Chairman

Abdulrahman Abdulla Mohamad
Vice Chairman

Essam Mohamed Al Ansari
Chief Executive Officer

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

For the year ended 31 December 2019 (Audited)

	Share capital	Statutory reserve	General reserve	Retained earnings/ Accumulated losses	Investments fair value reserve	Equity attributable to shareholders of the Parent	Non-controlling interests	Total equity
Balance at 1 January 2019	8,500,000	587,115	200,000	(72,730)	(36,397)	9,177,988	101,280	9,279,268
Profit for the year	-	-	-	690,444	-	690,444	321	690,765
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	210,539	210,539	-	210,539
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	690,444	210,539	900,983	321	901,304
Deconsolidation of subsidiary	-	-	-	(69,044)	-	-	(101,601)	(101,601)
Transfer to statutory reserve	-	69,044	-	-	-	-	-	69,044
Balance as at 31 December 2019	8,500,000	656,159	200,000	548,670	174,142	10,078,971	-	10,078,971
Balance at 1 January 2018	6,250,000	522,041	200,000	(658,367)	63,219	6,376,873	100,817	6,477,690
Additional paid-in capital	2,250,000	-	-	-	-	2,250,000	-	2,250,000
Profit for the year	-	-	-	650,731	-	650,731	463	651,194
Other comprehensive loss	-	-	-	-	(99,616)	-	-	(99,616)
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	65,074	-	(65,074)	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 December 2018	8,500,000	587,115	200,000	(72,730)	(36,397)	9,177,988	101,280	9,279,268

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

For the year ended 31 December 2019 (Audited)

	Shareholders		General takaful		Family takaful		Total	
	31 December 2019	31 December 2018						
Gross contributions								
Retakaful provider's share of gross contributions	-	-	20,337,132	20,589,852	1,383,454	1,444,551	21,720,586	22,034,403
	-	-	(5,440,177)	(5,359,345)	(848,114)	(938,439)	(6,288,291)	(6,297,784)
Retained contributions								
Unearned contributions adjustment - gross	-	-	14,896,955	15,230,507	535,340	506,112	15,432,295	15,736,619
Unearned contributions adjustment - retakaful	-	-	1,472	(1,150,952)	26,998	(9,126)	28,470	(1,160,078)
	-	-	204,233	(182,770)	(16,195)	16,400	188,038	(166,370)
Net earned contributions								
	-	-	15,102,660	13,896,785	546,143	513,386	15,648,803	14,410,171
Gross claims paid								
Retakaful provider's and others share of claims paid	-	-	(15,364,725)	(14,127,714)	(306,571)	(1,064,957)	(15,671,296)	(15,192,671)
Outstanding claims adjustment - gross	-	-	4,975,708	4,041,935	122,986	595,856	5,098,694	4,637,791
Outstanding claims adjustment - retakaful and others	-	-	(1,782,072)	(164,757)	162,602	430,759	1,944,674	266,002
	-	-	(2,666,951)	78,112	(122,420)	(394,041)	(2,789,371)	(315,929)
Net incurred claims								
	-	-	(11,273,896)	(10,172,424)	(143,403)	(432,383)	(11,417,299)	(10,604,807)
Fee and commission income								
	-	-	877,065	1,061,367	11	35	877,076	1,061,402
Other takaful expenses	-	-	(726,110)	(547,715)	(12,774)	(3,762)	(738,884)	(551,477)
Transfer to family takaful technical reserve	-	-	-	-	(269,763)	(430,427)	(269,763)	(430,427)
Provision for impaired takaful receivables	-	-	(113,045)	(92,759)	(2,101)	5,808	(115,146)	(86,951)
Surplus from takaful operations before wakala fees								
	-	-	3,866,674	4,145,254	118,113	(347,343)	3,984,787	3,797,911
Wakala fees expense	-	-	(3,685,444)	(3,543,764)	(146,768)	(245,574)	(3,832,212)	(3,789,338)
Surplus / (deficit) from takaful operations after wakala fees								
	-	-	181,230	601,490	(28,655)	(592,917)	152,575	8,573
Wakala fees income	3,832,212	3,789,338	-	-	-	-	3,832,212	3,789,338
Investment income - net	159,296	(51,505)	179,852	141,562	70,261	107,845	409,409	197,902
Mudarib share	62,528	62,352	(44,963					

Boris Johnson has reshuffled more than just his cabinet

The UK prime minister's latest ministerial changes mark a new attitude towards dissent and control at Downing Street

ALISTAIR BURT .

A reshuffle, in UK government cabinets, is the process by which new ministers are brought in and existing ones either dismissed or moved to different portfolios. London experienced one such event late last week.

Reshuffles have a well-established choreography. I have personally taken part in them over 35 years, as Member of Parliament, a ministerial aide, a promoted minister, a recipient of the phone call dispensing with my services and as a returning minister. The days before are filled with speculation – mostly unfounded, but often pitilessly directed at likely victims – as to who is going to be in or out.

A chart is drawn up in Downing Street with the moves set out, early phone calls are made to get the sackings done quickly and then the winners are called to walk up Downing Street in glory to receive their confirmed roles in front of the political media machine, which in turn goes into overdrive to spell out a narrative behind the prime minister's decision-making.

And there is always someone who says “no”.

Last week's reshuffle stuck faithfully to this pattern. Following a remarkable election victory in December, Prime Minister Boris Johnson was always going to take an early opportunity to



Johnson speaks during his first Cabinet meeting following a reshuffle the day before, at Downing Street in London.

shape the government he wanted. This is a key moment, especially for an administration likely to be conservative – and perhaps under Johnson's leadership – for the next decade. The UK is piloting a course outside the EU and answering questions about its place in the wider world – on trade, defence and security, alliances and the common global

challenges of climate, population and migration.

The clues to the future are in the names appointed to be his close team. Keeping Priti Patel as Home Secretary and Dominic Raab as Foreign Secretary was sound. Both shared the PM's euro-scepticism during his campaign to leave the EU, and keeping an existing Foreign Secretary in

place to build the relationships needed in a difficult world is essential, especially after he has spent only a few months in the role.

But the loss of Sajid Javid as Chancellor of the Exchequer – head of the treasury – was the big and unexpected shock. It was the “no” moment. As a Thatcherite with a smart financial back-

What Mozambique's insurgency woes can

STEPHEN RAKOWSKI

Mozambique is losing its battle against Islamist insurgents. Last week, the United Nations declared that armed militants have carried out no less than 28 attacks since the beginning of 2020. It is a notable uptick in violent activity since attacks first began in the country's northern Cabo Delgado province in late 2017.

Sadistic raids on villages are now commonplace, driving more than 100,000 people from their homes. As Andrej Mahecic, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights noted on February 7, “They speak of men in particular being targeted and beheaded, and many, many reports of women and children ... being kidnapped or simply disappearing.”

For Maputo, Mozambique's capital, the timing could not be worse. In recent years, the country has successfully courted oil majors like Total and ExxonMobil to pump billions of dollars into its promising offshore energy sector. Indeed, ExxonMobil's joint \$30 billion liquefied natural gas project with Italian giant Eni in Mozambique's Rovuma Basin is set to be by far the largest investment by an American company in Africa for many years to come. The burgeoning energy sector could be a massive boon for Mozambique's impoverished economy, which was devastated

by a decades-long brutal civil war following independence from Portugal in 1975.

Yet the offshore energy sector's uncomfortably close proximity to areas under militant attack has ratcheted up fears for these oil majors. In fact, reports surfaced in early February that Total and ExxonMobil demanded Maputo send additional security to protect their assets. Mozambican defence minister Jaime Neto has given assurances that the government “is doing everything so that these multinational [firms], including their workers, can operate with tranquillity and security.”

Nevertheless, despite the government's ongoing efforts, the insurgency shows no signs of waning. Instead, Mozambique's political class and military are woefully unprepared to deal with a problem of this magnitude. For one, the country's security forces must grapple with the tyranny of distance, as Maputo to Palma – the base of the growing LNG sector in the far north – is over 2,700km, representing a significant logistical challenge for the largely underfunded and poorly-trained Mozambican military.

In truth, much of the conflict can be laid at the feet of Maputo. Decades of alienation from the more prosperous south have increased resentment in Cabo Delgado province, where Palma is located. Largely undeveloped, the province became



Members of Mozambique's Defence Forces march past the stage during the inauguration of Filipe Nyusi at the Independence Square.

the near-exclusive property of predatory local political and economic elites who pilfered government resources meant to improve education and infrastructure. In addition to rampant corruption, security forces in the area are notorious for their heavy-handed responses. Consistent reporting suggests that mass arrests, disappearances and

possible torture are not uncommon and have escalated in lock-step with militancy.

Moreover, journalists have been largely prohibited from traveling to the area, both as a reaction to the rising danger and because Maputo seeks to strictly control the flow of damaging information. Nevertheless, this has made it difficult to ascertain

the exact nature of the conflict between the insurgents and their enemies. Many details about the insurgents, including their leadership structure and aims, remain shrouded in mystery. And the response from the government of President Felipe Nyusi, who actually hails from Cabo Delgado, has not been promising. Maputo's rhetoric has focused on

Maputo is struggling to protect its oil fields from militant groups, and shows no signs of learning from the experience

1945

World War II: Battle of Iwo Jima: About 30,000 United States Marines land on the island of Iwo Jima.

1948

The Conference of Youth and Students of Southeast Asia Fighting for Freedom and Independence convenes in **Calcutta**.

1949

Ezra Pound is awarded the first Bollingen Prize in poetry by the Bollingen Foundation and Yale University.



1953

Censorship: Georgia approves the first literature censorship board in the United States.



Keeping Priti Patel as Home Secretary and Dominic Raab as Foreign Secretary was sound. Both shared the PM's euro-scepticism during his campaign to leave the EU, and keeping an existing Foreign Secretary in place to build the relationships needed in a difficult world is essential.

son had lost a key player within weeks of winning the election.

Despite the "no" word being heard early in the process, the rest of the reshuffle continued, and the media and political world picked over its predictions to make sense of it all.

Nonetheless, there are other extraordinary features of what has happened in Downing Street. A quiet revolution is taking place in the UK, and the ministerial changes that have been made are pivotal.

Firstly, there was little attempt to ensure balance in terms of the great former divide over EU membership. The cabinet and senior ministers, to a man or woman, are individuals who either campaigned to leave the EU on any terms or have totally accepted the possibility of such an outcome, and who can therefore

be relied upon to support the prime minister's decisions on the negotiations without question.

The EU should take note of this as its negotiations with Britain get seriously underway. Mr Johnson is playing off a full deck. In addition, the removal of a number of ministers – including some of unimpeachable quality but who were perceived to be either a potential source of difficulty in future or guilty of some political misdemeanour in the past – made clear that there is no longer any tolerance for dissent. Such 'weaknesses' in the past, the thinking goes, have are partly responsible for the Conservative Party's failures since 2015.

Secondly, behind the scenes but brought to the fore by Mr Javid's sacking, is a new mentality of micro-management and direct rule, architected by the prime minister's chief adviser, Dominic Cummings. The whole government's centre of gravity now lies firmly directed in the prime minister's office at 10 Downing Street. The takeover by Number 10 of the system of special advisers – political appointees who used to be personal to ministers, but are no longer so – suggests that neither individual ministries, nor ministers, can be fully trusted to deliver the government's existing or future agendas.

Watch this space. And get very used to the name of Dominic Cummings.

ground, Mr Javid had many admirers during his time in the role. But he would only have been allowed to keep it on the condition that he dismissed his own aides and merged his advisory team with one controlled by the prime minister's office. Mr Javid said "no", and no amount of persuasion could change his mind. By accident or design, Boris John-

teach oil and gas chiefs



For governments and private companies elsewhere who invest in energy projects beyond their own borders, the lessons of Mozambique are worth noting. No amount of intervention by foreign or local powers and security forces can make up for the severe governance gaps that corrupt and incompetent host governments foster.

– has done little to stem the tide of bloodshed.

Mozambique's struggle with its northern insurgents will prove to be a cautionary tale for oil and gas majors and natural resource ministries alike.

There are several reasons for this. First, those energy companies that try to ensure sound corporate social responsibility practices – such as fair compensation and building new housing for people displaced by their projects – cannot be sure that the government will follow through on its own part in these efforts. Instead, evidence in Cabo Delgado suggests that surging local anger was the product of a belief that traditional land and fishing areas had been stolen and polluted for the benefit of corrupt elites and foreign interests, indicating

that ExxonMobil and its counterparts are on the losing end of a public relations battle despite their efforts to offset the social costs of their projects.

Second, the introduction of more security forces is unlikely to solve the crisis. At most, it will help to temporarily protect energy installations, but will do nothing more to improve the underlying situation. Again, this is because poorly-trained and abusive troops act rather as forces of insecurity, furthering alienation and anger among the victims of their cruelties.

For governments and private companies elsewhere who invest in energy projects beyond their own borders, the lessons of Mozambique are worth noting. No amount of intervention by foreign or local powers and security forces can make up for the severe governance gaps that corrupt and incompetent host governments foster. Instead, outside parties risk being party to heavy-handed tactics that only fuel more violence.

Maputo is out of its depth and simply reacting, with no clear strategy to the crisis on its hands. For their part, interested parties like oil majors and foreign governments must push Maputo to take a hard look at addressing the drivers fundamental to the conflict. Until then, the situation will only worsen, until all of the country's promising energy potential fades for good.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



This morning I spoke to Chinese President Xi to express my sympathy and support for those affected by the coronavirus outbreak. The UK government has donated vital medical equipment to the region and we will continue to offer our assistance. (1/2)

@BorisJohnson

02



London is and always will be a part of Europe - Brexit hasn't changed that. I had a good meeting with @MichelBarnier to discuss how vital it is that a Brexit deal protects our economy, the rights of Londoners and Europeans, and the relationship our city has built with Europe.

@MayorofLondon

03



Faith is what has gotten me through difficult times in my life. It provides hope, purpose, and strength. And it is what gives me the reason to believe that our nation's best days still lie ahead.

@JoeBiden

04



After decades of being ignored by Washington, the forgotten men and women in America found a champion in @realDonaldTrump. They are the same people Bloomberg has spent years insulting. He has no business leading our country!

@GOPChairwoman

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

Lebanon running out of credibility

DR DAINA KHATIB

Despite the continuing public anger and widespread protests in Lebanon, deputies went to Parliament last week to give the government a confidence vote. Some had to rely on armored vehicles to avoid facing angry protesters. It is obvious that those in power are no longer representative of the people; however, that does not change the fact that they are ruling the country. This government has the lowest confidence rating ever. It was confirmed with 49 percent of the vote. In any case, the new government is only a reincarnation of the previous ones. The same political parties are controlling the same key ministries. The change has been cosmetic by pushing to the front unknown figures who are controlled by the old guards.

The speech of Prime Minister Hassan Diab, with which he gained the confidence of the Parliament, was surreal. He spoke of promises upon promises with no real mechanism or means on how to achieve them. In Jan. 27 parliamentary session, in which the new government ratified the previous budget proposed by the Saad Hariri government, a deputy said: "No money no honey." The Lebanese political configuration, thriving on corruption, had always found someone to bail them out, but not anymore.

The Lebanese central bank can no longer create money. No one wants to lend to a country that is about to default. Since 2018, the central bank has been spending from reserves that are the economy's live flesh. A \$1.2 billion payment in Eurobonds is due on March 9. The government can choose to pay from its reserves or default. Both cases are catastrophic. The debt is no longer internal. Banks have sold a big chunk of their bonds to foreign investors at a discount to access liquidity. If the government defaults, then debtors can sue the government. If it pays off the debt, it will no longer have reserves to pay for the necessary imports.

Another alarming signal is the measure the central bank has undertaken to escape the liquidity problem. The central bank has started to print money. Printing money is the beginning of the end for any system. Though the central bank says it is doing so to replace old bank notes, observers believe the new notes were used to inject liquidity into the market.

The country's situation is grim. The government has no national or no international credibility. If any help is expected from the international community, there should be transparency as well as serious structural reforms.

Diab's long ministerial statement had no substance. It promised the Lebanese people great projects like the metro and a modern military hospital, as well as the eradication of poverty. However, when it came to the obvious economic catastrophe facing the country, the prime minister was elusive. He said that his team is preparing a plan that will be revealed in the coming month – while, logically, the rescue plan should have been the basis on which the newly appointed government was to obtain the confidence of the Parliament.

Lebanon's political leaders are trying to deflect the situation. The ousted foreign minister Gibran Bassil blamed the situation on refugees, after offering a disclaimer at the beginning of his speech, saying that there is also corruption and faulty policies being implemented. He claimed that refugees have cost the country \$43 billion, which is absurd.



WORLD
world

At least 14 dead in apparent toxic gas leak in Pakistan



Paramedics carry a patient hit by a gas leak to hospital in Karachi

AFP | Karachi

An apparent gas leak killed at least 14 people near the Pakistani port city of Karachi, officials said yesterday, as investigators worked to determine the source of the deadly emission.

Residents of Keamari, a commercial and residential area, began falling sick Sunday, officials said.

A doctor at one hospital, who asked not to be named, said 250 people had been admitted for treatment, after complaining of breathing difficulties and burning eyes.

Local health ministry

spokesman Zafar Mehdi said that 14 people had died at various hospitals.

At the state-run Jinnah Post-graduate Medical Centre, about 35 people arrived for emergency treatment.

"Most of the patients were suffering from choking and breathlessness," Seemin Jamali, who heads the emergency department, told AFP.

Authorities initially suspected some sort of gas could have leaked from the port, but the Karachi Port Trust denied that was the case. "All the casualties took place outside the port, and our facility is clean," a port spokesman said.

Maduro says 'not afraid of military combat'

● 2.4 million soldiers and members of the civilian militia are deployed throughout the country

Caracas

President Nicolas Maduro on Monday said he is "not afraid of military combat," accusing his US counterpart Donald Trump of plotting to invade Venezuela with the support of regional allies.

"We don't want war; we don't want violence; we don't want terrorism, but we are not afraid of military combat and we are going to guarantee peace," said Maduro in a televised speech, surrounded by the armed forces high command.

"Donald Trump was convinced that it is easy to get into Venezuela," said the socialist leader, accusing the US of having assembled a "mercenary force" to invade.

The US is one of more than 50 countries that have recognized opposition leader Juan Guaido as Venezuela's interim president after Maduro's 2018 re-election was widely denounced as rigged.

Maduro, however, still enjoys the support of Turkey, Russia, China and Cuba.

He also said there were groups of military "deserters" training in neighboring Colombia to "enter silently and attack military units."



Nicolas Maduro still enjoys the support of Turkey, Russia, China and Cuba but dozens of other countries do not recognize him as leader

Military exercises were carried out over the weekend, Maduro added, in response to alleged attack plans orchestrated



We don't want war; we don't want violence; we don't want terrorism, but we are not afraid of military combat and we are going to guarantee peace

NICOLAS MADURO

by the US, Colombia and Brazil.

According to official figures, some 2.4 million soldiers and members of the civilian militia were deployed throughout the

country.

The practices were carried out "based on real threats, not imagined ones," said defense minister General Vladimir Padrino, who was seated next to Maduro during the president's speech.

Trump vowed to "smash" Maduro's rule in his annual State of the Union address to Congress, which was also attended by Guaido, earlier this month.

Trump branded Maduro as a "tyrant" during his speech and called Guaido the "legitimate president of Venezuela."

After returning from a three-week international tour, Guaido said a change of government in his country was "inevitable."

On Sunday, he said the military had the opportunity to make the change less "traumatic."

Pakistan policeman killed as blast hits polio vaccine team



A Pakistani health worker administering the polio vaccine to a child at a railway station in Lahore in 2019

Peshawar Pakistan

A policeman was killed and two others wounded yesterday by a roadside bomb aimed at polio vaccination workers in Pakistan's restive northwest, officials said.

The attack came a day after Islamabad launched a nationwide anti-polio drive, aiming to immunise tens of millions of children in Pakistan -- one of only three countries, along with Afghanistan and Nigeria, where the crippling disease remains endemic.

Opposition to inoculations grew after the CIA organised a fake vaccination drive to help track down Al-Qaeda's former leader Osama Bin Laden in the Pakistani city of Abbottabad.

According to Captain Wahid Mehmood, a district police chief, a police van monitoring the polio team was hit on the outskirts of the northwestern city of Dera Ismail Khan.

"It was an IED (improvised explosive device) explosion in which one of our policemen got martyred while two others were wounded", Mehmood said.

Assange's health improving

Reuters | London

Jailed WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is no longer being kept in solitary confinement and his health is improving, his spokesman Kristinn Hrafnsson told reporters yesterday.

Assange, 48, is in Belmarsh high-security prison in London, fighting an extradition request from the United States

where he faces 18 counts including conspiring to hack government computers and violating an espionage law. He could spend decades in prison if convicted. His supporters had expressed concern about the state of his health after he appeared confused during a court hearing in October, struggling to recall his age and name and saying he was unable to think properly.

'Jetman' stuns with Iron Man-style flight over Dubai

● They used jetpacks and carbon-fibre wings

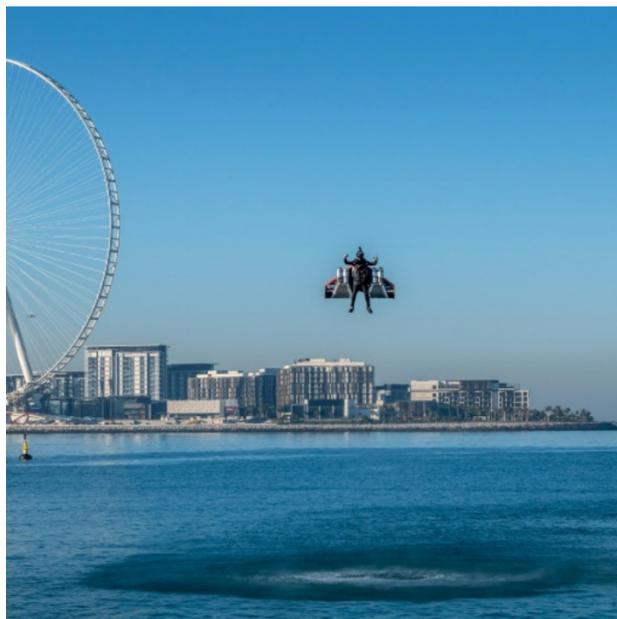
AFP | Dubai

Daredevil Vince Reffet has soared into the skies above Dubai in the latest "Jetman" stunt, taking off from the ground and climbing to 1,800 metres (nearly 6,000 feet) in a feat reminiscent of Marvel's "Iron Man" and hailed as a world first.

Reffet and his collaborators, known as "Jetmen", have literally scaled new heights with the help of jetpacks and carbon-fibre wings, staging a series of aerial displays that send them tearing through the skies at breakneck speed.

In an awe-inspiring flight captured on viral video, the Frenchman on Friday hovered five metres above the crystal waters of Dubai's coast before shooting off into the air and skimming the city's skyline.

"We accomplished another world first in 100 percent autonomous human flight with @jetmandubai, who took off from the ground before soaring



The carbon fibre wings worn by daredevil Vince Reffet for his "Jetman" stunt in the Gulf city state of Dubai are powered by four mini jet engines that he can control by his movements

to a high-altitude flight of up to 1,800m!" tweeted Expo 2020 Dubai, the mammoth trade fair that will open in October.

The Jetmen had previously launched themselves into the air by jumping down from high

platforms.

"It's the result of extremely thorough teamwork, where each small step generated huge results. Everything was planned to the split second, and I was overjoyed by the progress that



Reffet soared to heights of up to 1,800 metres (nearly 6,000 feet) over the skyscrapers of Dubai

was achieved," Reffet said in a statement.

"One of the next objectives is to land back on the ground after a flight at altitude, without needing to open a parachute. It's being worked on."

Reffet's carbon fibre wings are powered by four mini jet engines. The equipment, which is controlled by the pilot's movements, is capable of reaching speeds of 400 kilometres (250 miles) per hour.



Last year, Reffet and fellow Frenchman Fred Fugen also flew through the famed "Heaven's Gate" archway in the mountains of China's Hunan province

On Friday, Reffet hovered five metres above the crystal waters of Dubai's coast before shooting off into the air and skimming the city's skyline.

The Jetmen have pulled off a series of eye-popping flights in Dubai, soaring in tandem above the world's tallest building Burj Khalifa, and alongside an Emirates Airbus A380, the world's largest commercial airplane.

Trump set to open world's biggest cricket stadium

● Trump's first official visit to India

● He may also visit Taj Mahal in Agra

● To spend \$11-12 million on preparations for the visit

Reuters | Ahmedabad, India

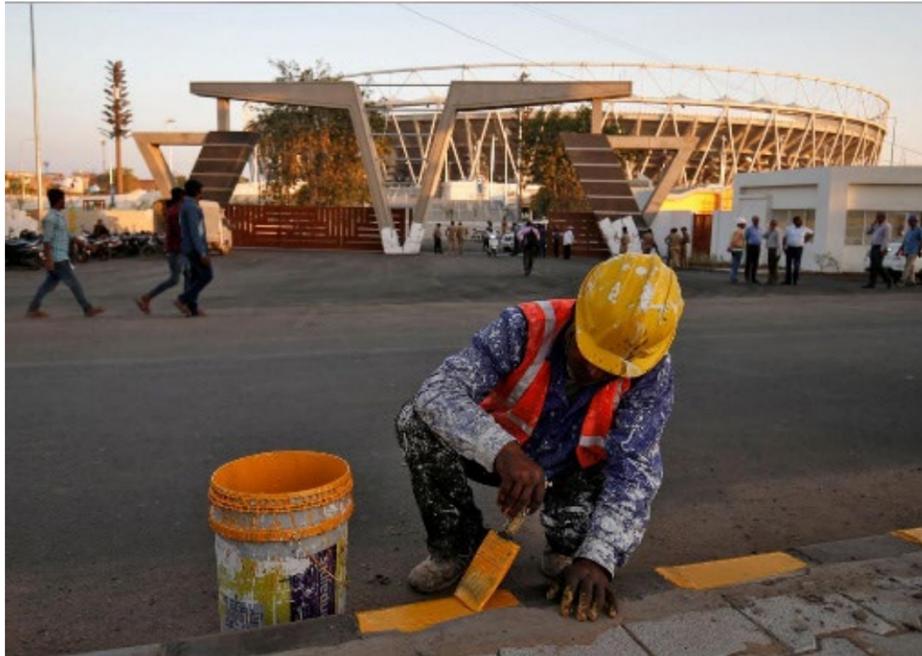
U.S. President Donald Trump will inaugurate the world's largest cricket stadium when he arrives in Ahmedabad, the home base of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Monday at the start of a two-day visit aimed at smoothing ties strained by trade disputes.

Making his first official trip to the world's largest democracy, Trump is also expected to visit the humble abode of India's independence hero Mahatma Gandhi in Ahmedabad.

The leaders of China, Japan and Israel have all visited Ahmedabad since Modi became prime minister.

It is the biggest city in Gujarat, the western state where Modi made his mark as chief minister before his party swept to power in 2014.

Authorities in Ahmedabad expect to spend around 800 million to 850 million Indi-



A worker paints footpath in front of Sardar Patel Gujarat Stadium, where U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to visit during his upcoming trip to India, in Ahmedabad, India

an rupees (\$11-12 million) on preparations for the visit by the American president that is likely to last around three hours, two government officials with direct knowledge of the plans told Reuters.

The sum is equivalent to equivalent to about 1.5 per cent of the annual budget for the home ministry in Gujarat.

Security-related costs, with more than 12,000 police officers

expected to be deployed, will account for almost half the expense, said the officials, who declined to be named as they are not authorised to speak publicly about the visit.

Ahmedabad municipal commissioner Vijay Nehra, the city's top civic official, said that authorities had already spent around 300 million rupees (\$4.2 million) on widening roads and improving infrastructure

around the new cricket stadium.

With capacity for 110,000 spectators, the Motera Stadium will dislodge the Melbourne Cricket Ground as the world's largest cricket stadium.

"Eighteen roads of about 20 kilometers (12 miles) in length from Ahmedabad Airport to Motera Stadium have been widened or re-laid," Nehra said, adding that the improvements



Senior police officials arrive to examine security arrangements at Gandhi Ashram, where Trump is expected to visit



A man applies finishing touches to paintings of Trump and Modi on a wall as part of beautification along a route that the leaders will be taking during Trump's upcoming visit in Ahmedabad

had been planned before Trump's visit was confirmed.

A further 60 million Indian rupees (\$840,000) will go on "beautification" of the city, said Nehra.

Ashok Brahmbhatt, secretary of Gujarat Cricket Association, which owns the Motera Stadium set to be opened by Trump, said it would also spend tens of millions of rupees during the event.

Nehra tweeted on Sunday

that more than 100,000 participants had registered so far to greet Trump as he heads from the airport to the city centre. Trump said last week Modi had promised "millions and millions" of people would line his route.

Trump may also visit the famous Taj Mahal monument in the city of Agra, and all leave for police officers in that city has been canceled, according to a document seen.

Lavish 'Princely tomb' belonging to mystery Iron Age man found



Inside the tomb archaeologists found the remains of a complete chariot, its chassis can be seen on the outer edge of this block, as well as weapons and armour



The full study of the pottery and other finds within the tomb, including the chassis of what was likely a chariot (seen here) will likely prompt entirely new insights into the cultural, trading and gift-exchange relationships of the aristocracy in the area



The tomb, including the ancient contents - as seen here in the pit - is believed to date back to the seventh century BC. They found pottery and clothing amongst the remains

Daily Mail

Lavish 'Princely tomb' belonging to an Iron Age man was found in Italy full of treasures including a bronze helmet, weapons and a whole chariot.

The tomb of a pre-Roman prince has been saved from 'imminent' destruction after aerial photos revealed the ancient treasure trove before it could be built over.

The body of the unidentified prince has not been found and no mound remains to mark his resting place - it may have been lost while the site was used for farming.

The hoard, found in Corinaldo, Italy, was on the site of a future sports complex and wasn't spotted until a survey of the land was carried out before building started.

The value of the discovery and the site is now being assessed before any decision over whether to move the tomb or move the sports complex is made.

The tomb is believed to date back to the seventh century BC, when it was constructed for a prince of the largely-unknown Piceni people, whose land was eventually annexed by Rome in 268 BC.

"We identified circular cropmarks, comparable to large funerary ring ditches," said Federica Boschi, an archaeologist at the University of Bologna.

"A large and slightly off-centre pit contained an extraordinary collection of cultural material."

It is the only discovery of its kind in the region, the archaeologist confirmed.

"As the first such monument identified and excavated in northern Marche this has pro-

vided an extraordinary opportunity to investigate a site of the Piceni culture," said Professor Boschi.

"Until now, this culture has been poorly documented and little understood despite its undoubted importance in the pre-Roman development of the area."

She added: "The recovery from complete obscurity and imminent danger of archaeological material of this scale and importance is a rare event within contemporary European archaeology."

The body of the unidentified prince has not been found and no mound remains to mark his resting place - possibly both were destroyed during the land's long history of agricultural use.

Nonetheless, Professor Boschi believes that the lavish tomb is

evidence enough of his status.

She said: "The extraordinarily rich funerary deposit testifies to a high-status tomb dedicated to a princely leader within the early Iron Age society of the region."

"One outstanding find among the hundred or more ceramic vessels recovered from the pit was an olla imported from ancient Daunia."

"This undoubtedly symbolises the commemorated leader's significant political, military and economic power."

"The full study of the pottery and other finds will undoubtedly prompt entirely new insights into the cultural, trading and gift-exchange relationships of the aristocracy in the area."

After seeing aerial photos of the tomb site, archaeologists initially performed a resistivity survey, where electrical currents

The body of the unidentified prince has not been found and no mound remains to mark his resting place - it may have been lost while the site was used for farming

are run through the ground to see if anything metallic is buried there.

"Aerial photography led to the first identification of the site," said Professor Boschi.

"A resistivity survey then provided an initial understanding of the extent and internal articulation of the funerary area, including a third ring-ditch not revealed by the aerial photo-

graphs.

"A targeted geomagnetic survey then produced significant information about the survival of the underground deposits, providing supporting secure evidence for a massive deposit of ironwork."

It's not entirely clear what will happen to the site next, whether the tomb and its contents will be moved or whether a new home will be found for the sports centre.

The findings have to be properly valued, both for their financial worth and their cultural worth, before anything can happen.

"The next steps are going to move toward the valorization and public fruition of the site within and in agreement with the project of the new sports complex," said Professor Boschi.

Niger stampede kills 20 at handout for refugees



Hundreds of thousands of people in Diffa, southeastern Niger, depend on food handouts to survive

Niamey

Fifteen women and five children were trampled to death on Monday in a stampede for food and money for refugees in southeast Niger, a regional governor said.

The accident occurred at a youth and culture centre in Diffa, the main town of a region of the same name that hosts more than a quarter of a million refugees and internally displaced people.

"Unfortunately, fifteen women and five children died... in this regrettable drama," Issa Lemine, the regional governor of Diffa, said on television after visiting the injured in hospital.

Aid workers confirmed the death toll and said about 10

people had been injured.

The region which abuts Nigeria and Chad has been repeatedly hit by attacks by Nigeria's Boko Haram jihadist group since 2015.

It hosts 119,000 Nigerian refugees, 109,000 internally-displaced people and 30,000 Nigeriens who have come home from Nigeria because of the instability in its northeast, according to UN figures released in October.

The aid being distributed had been given by Babagana Umara Zulum, the governor of Borno state in northeast Nigeria, a Nigerian official told AFP.

He had come to the region to visit camps for refugees and the displaced, and had already left the town when the stampede occurred.

Smog veils Central Asia cities as smoky stoves choke locals

Bishkek | Kyrgyzstan

Snow-capped peaks used to be clearly visible from the streets of Almaty and Bishkek, two of the largest cities in Central Asia that both lie in plains surrounded by mountains.

But now a heavy cloud of dark smog often blots out the view as air pollution regularly soars to levels comparable to those in New Delhi and Lahore, even though Almaty and Bishkek have fewer people and industries than their Indian and Pakistani counterparts.

In the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek, a city of one million, and Kazakhstan's second city of Almaty, which is twice as large, the onset of winter prompts a surge in pollution as people burn coal and other dirty fuels in stoves to heat their homes.

One of those monitoring the situation is Kyrgyz environmental activist Kunduz Adylbekova, who experiences the problem firsthand.

In the area of small private houses where she lives on the outskirts of Bishkek, the air quality is particularly bad.

"The air here has a kind of heavy feel," said Adylbekova, a programme manager at Archa Initiative non-profit.

Many locals use highly pollut-



A heavy cloud of dark smog often blots out the view of snow-capped mountains in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek

ing stoves to heat their homes and boil water because they are not hooked up to mains gas. Large numbers of ageing cars and trucks exacerbate the situation.

In this district, readings of PM 2.5 -- a measure of fine particles in the air -- regularly reach levels that the United States Environmental Protection Agency defines as hazardous to human health.

Sometimes readings are four times higher than the EPA minimum "hazardous" level, Adylbekova said, with locals suffering the ill-effects.

"Residents are often ill, some suffer from lung problems." - "We feel and see it" -

The bowl-shaped topography of both cities helps trap pollution.

Even worse, both have coal-fired power stations that date back to the Soviet era.

But other factors have led to a massive increase in the smog problem over the last two decades.

In Almaty, where gleaming skyscrapers reflect the country's oil wealth, many cite the huge growth in the number of cars since the breakup of the USSR.

Zhalgas Jakiyanov, a marketing specialist who works in the business district, said the growing pollution is "already having an effect on our health."

"We don't just feel it -- we can see it," he added, pointing to the leaden smog cloud that hangs over the city.

"We need to switch to gas heating instead of using solid fuels. There needs to be more emphasis on spaces for pedestrians," Jakiyanov said.

Smog also afflicts the capitals of former Soviet republics to the south, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

Morocco fortress village hopes to draw 'Game of Thrones' fans

Ait-Ben-Haddou | Morocco

Millions worldwide may have seen the desert fortress in the hit fantasy series "Game of Thrones", but fewer know they can visit the Moroccan village of Ait-Ben-Haddou.

The fortified old settlement at the foot of the majestic Atlas mountains enchanted audiences in the HBO series and also served as a dusty backdrop in Ridley Scott's epic swords-and-sandals film "Gladiator".

But unlike other famous locations from movie and television history, this UNESCO World Heritage Site has so far missed out on a mass influx of tourism -- something some of its inhabitants are eager to change.

"Several people have told me that they came here to see the filming location of 'Game of Thrones'," said Ahmed Baabouz, a local tour guide. "There is tourism linked to cinema here but frankly we have not developed it to the extent it could be."

Ait-Ben-Haddou is southern Morocco's most famous fortress. Time seems to have stopped at the site overlooking a valley some 30 kilometres (18.6 miles) from the town of Ouarzazate.

After passing through the imposing entrance way, visitors navigate a labyrinth of winding alleys that eventually lead onto a public square where the settlement's inhabitants once gathered.

There is a mosque and two cemeteries -- one for Muslims and one for Jews. Most inhabitants have long since departed though, with a few homes converted into stalls selling handicrafts.

The fortress is an ideal film



The town served as the fictional Yellow City of Yunkai in the "Game of Thrones" series

setting, located a short distance from the studios of Ouarzazate, the "Mecca" of Moroccan cinema. Productions ranging from "Lawrence of Arabia" to "The Mummy" have been filmed here.

More recently, scenes from the cult series "Game of Thrones" were shot at Ait-Ben-Haddou, with the site standing in for the fictional Yellow City of Yunkai which is conquered by Daenerys Targaryen, a key character in the "GOT" universe.

Hammadi, 61, is a privileged witness to the location's cinematic history.

"All of these productions have contributed to the reputation of the region," he said, grinning widely.

Hammadi himself has appeared as an extra in a number of films. And while like most people he lives in a more modern

home in a village on the other side of the valley, he continues to return to Ait-Ben-Haddou to welcome tourists.

'House of the Dragon'

On a wall at the entrance to Hammadi's former home, photos bear witness to the projects he has worked on.

One shows him dressed as an ancient Roman with director Ridley Scott on the set of "Gladiator".

"We have a very rich cinematic heritage that we hope to use to attract tourists," said tour guide Baabouz, who is 29.

But "nothing indicates that 'Game of Thrones' was shot here," he added.

On Morocco's Atlantic coast, the city of Essaouira also formed the backdrop to scenes from the series.

But there too, Moroccan tourism promoters are yet to capitalise on the connection.

In comparison, Northern Ireland, Malta and Dubrovnik in Croatia have attracted hordes of fans from around the world, drawn by their links to the franchise.

To remedy this, Baabouz and other young people in the village are pooling their limited resources towards an ambitious project: a museum in the fortress, gathering photography from the productions that have been filmed here.

US channel HBO has commissioned a prequel to "GOT", called "House of the Dragon". George R.R. Martin, the author of the books on which the series is based, wrote on his blog that shooting would also take place in Morocco.



Morocco's Ait-Ben-Haddou is a UNESCO World Heritage site that has served as the backdrop for numerous movies



A man overlooks the fortified old city of Ait-Ben-Haddou



Some locals hope that Ait-Ben-Haddou's association with "Game of Thrones" will attract more tourists

SHOW



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (PG)
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM
 OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 11.30 AM + 4.15 + 9.00 PM
 OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 1.00 + 3.15 + 5.30 + 7.45 + 10.00 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
 CITY CENTRE (VIP II): 11.30 AM + 4.15 + 9.00 PM
 SEEF (I): 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM
JIM CARREY, BEN SCHWARTZ, JAMES MARSDEN

FANTASY ISLAND (15+)(THRILLER/HORROR)
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 PM
 OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 1.45 + 6.30 + 11.15 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
 CITY CENTRE (VIP II): 1.45 + 6.30 + 11.15 PM
 SEEF (I): 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
 WADI AL SAIL: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM
LUCY HALE, MAGGIE Q, PORTIA DOUBLEDAY

LOVE AAJ KAL (15+)(HINDI/ROMANTIC)
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (I): 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 + 12.00 MN
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.45 + 6.00 + 11.15 PM
KARTIK AARYAN, SARA ALI KHAN, RANDEEP HOODA

BLOODLINE (18+)(CRIME/THRILLER)
 CITY CENTRE: 1.30 + 6.30 + 10.30 PM
 SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN
SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT, MARIELA GARRIGA, DALE DICKEY

ORDINARY LOVE (PG-15)(DRAMA/ROMANTIC)
 CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 PM
 SEEF (I): 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM
LIAM NEESON, LESLEY MANVILLE, AMIT SHAH

SUFNA (PG)(PUNJABI/ROMANTIC)
 SEEF (II): 12.30 + 6.00 + 11.30 PM
AMMY VIRK, TANIA, JASMIN BAJWA

BAD BOYS FOR LIFE (PG-15)(ACTION/COMEDY/CRIME)
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
 CITY CENTRE: (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
 CITY CENTRE (ATMOS): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN
 CITY CENTRE (IMAX 2D): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
 CITY CENTRE (VIP I): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
WILL SMITH, MARTIN LAWRENCE, VANESSA HUDGENS

BIRD OF PREY (15+)(ACTION/ADVENTURE/CRIME)
 CITY CENTRE (DISTRACTION FREE SCREEN): 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
 SEEF (II): 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
MARGOT ROBBIE, MARY ELIZABETH WINSTEAD, EWAN MCGREGOR

DOLITTLE (PG)(ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FAMILY)
 CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM
 SEEF (II): 11.00 AM + 1.15 + 3.30 + 5.45 + 8.00 + 10.15 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 10.30 AM + 3.45 + 9.00 PM
ROBERT DOWNEY JR., ANTONIO BANDERAS, MICHAEL SHEEN

JUMANJI THE NEXT LEVEL (PG-15)
 CITY CENTRE: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (II): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
DWAYNE JOHNSON, JACK BLACK, KEVIN HART

1917 (PG-15)(WAR/ACTION/DRAMA) 1917
 Winner of 3 Oscar Awards
 CITY CENTRE: 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM
 SEEF (II): 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM
GEORGE MACKAY, DEAN-CHARLES CHAPMAN, MARK STRONG



MALANG (PG-15)(HINDI/ACTION/ROMANTIC/THRILLER)
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 10.30 AM + 3.30 + 8.45 PM
 SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 3.30 + 8.45 PM
ADITYA ROY KAPOOR, ANIL KAPOOR, DISHA PATANI

THIEF OF BAGHDAD (PG-13)
 CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM
 SEEF (II): 1.15 + 6.30 + 11.45 PM
MOHAMMED EMAM, YASMINE RAEIS, AMINA KHALIL

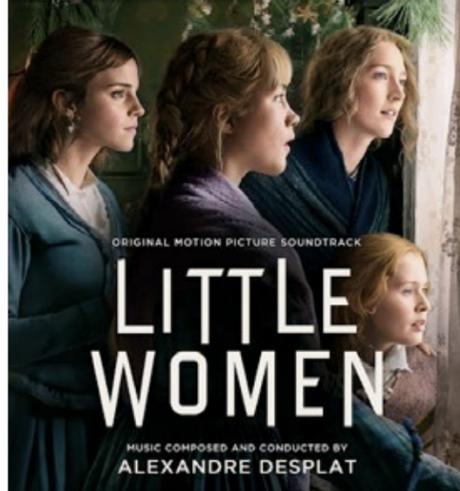
THE GENTLEMEN (15+)(CRIME/ACTION)
 CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY, CHARLIE HUNNAM, HENRY GOLDING

AL FELOUS (THE MONEY) (PG-15)(ARABIC/COMEDY/CRIME)
 CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (II): 1.30 + 6.15 + 11.00 PM
TAMER HOSNY, ZEINA, KHALID EL-SAWI

SPIES IN DISGUISE (PG)
 CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 1.15 + 3.30 + 5.45 + 8.00 + 10.15 PM
WILL SMITH, TOM HOLLAND, KAREN GILLAN

FROZEN 2 (PG)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
 CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM
 SEEF (II): 11.15 AM + 4.00 + 8.45 PM
KRISTEN BELL, IDINA MENZEL, JOSH GAD

MASAMEER: THE MOVIE (PG)(ANIMATION/COMEDY)
 CITY CENTRE: 1.30 + 4.00 PM
ABDULAZIZ AL-MUZAINI, ABDULAZIZ AL-SHEHRI, MAZROA AL-MAZROA



LITTLE WOMEN (PG)(DRAMA/ROMANTIC)
 Winner of 1 Oscar Award
 CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 6.30 PM
SAOIRSE RONAN, EMMA WATSON, FLORENCE PUGH

MIRACLE IN CELL NO. 7 (PG-15)(TURKISH/DRAMA)
 CITY CENTRE: 10.45 AM + 3.45 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
ARAS BULUT, YNEMEL, N SA SOF, YA AKSONGUR, LKER AKSUM



LATTE AND THE MAGIC WATERSTONE
 OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 11.00 AM
ASHLEY BORNANCIN, DANNY FEHSENFELD, LESLIE L. MILLER

THE ROOM (15+)(THRILLER)
 CITY CENTRE: 9.30 + 11.45 PM
OLGA KURYLENKO, KEVIN JANSSENS, JOSHUA WILSON

ANJAAM PATHIRA (PG-15)(MALAYALAM)
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.45 AM + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 PM
KUNCHACKO BOBAN, SHARAFUDHEEN, INDRANS

VARANE AVASHYAMUM (PG-13)(MALAYALAM)
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (II): 3.15 + 8.45 PM
SURESH GOPI, SHOBANA, DULQUER SALMAAN, KALYANI PRIYADARSHAN, URVASHI

AYYAPPANUM KOSHIYUM (PG-15)(MALAYALAM)
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 10.30 AM + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (I): 10.45 AM + 2.00 + 5.15 + 8.30 + 11.45 PM
 AL HAMRA: 11.00 AM + 2.15 + 5.30 + 8.45 + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.45 + 4.00 + 7.15 + 10.30 PM
PRITHVIRAJ, BIJU MENON, RENJITH, SABUMON

WORLD FAMOUS LOVER (PG-15)(TELUGU)
 From Friday 14th
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.00 AM + 5.00 + 8.00 PM
 SEEF (I): 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM
VIJAY DEVERAKONDA, RAASHI KHANNA, AISHWARYA RAJESH

OH MY KADAVULE (PG-13)(TAMIL)
 From Thurs. 13th 7:30 PM Onwards
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 2.00 PM
 SEEF (I): 2.30 + 8.30 PM
ASHOK SELVAN, RITIKA SINGH, VANI BHOJAN

NAAN SIRITHAL (PG-13)(TAMIL)
 From Friday 14th
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.00 PM
 SEEF (I): 11.30 AM + 5.30 + 11.30 PM
HIPHOP TAMIZHA ADHI, ISWARYA MENON

MOVIE REVIEW

Ordinary Love: Manville and Neeson excel in joyous heartbreaker

Ordinary Love is a 2019 romantic drama film, directed by Lisa Barros D'Sa and Glenn Leyburn, from a screenplay by Owen McCafferty. It stars Liam Neeson and Lesley Manville. It had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival on 9 September 2019. It was released in the United Kingdom on 6 December 2019, by Focus Features.

Ordinary Love, which is directed by Lisa Barros D'Sa and Glenn Leyburn (who also made Good Vibrations, a 2013 movie set in Ireland's punk

music scene), tracks a traumatic year in the life of retired couple Joan (Lesley Manville) and Tom (Liam Neeson) after Joan is diagnosed with breast cancer.

The quiet flow of their days before she got sick — daily power-walks on a peaceful Irish shoreline, amiable squabbling at the supermarket over what doesn't need to go in the shopping cart — is rudely displaced by a staccato new normal of hospital stays coloured in chilly blues, punctuated by returns to the murky browns of a cozy



Lesley Manville and Liam Neeson in 'Ordinary Love'



Lesley Manville and Liam Neeson are note-perfect as an everyday couple coping with cancer in this singular drama with universal appeal

home now silent and stained with misery. There the camera directs us to a photograph that signals another unspeakable loss that the couple sustained long before Joan was diagnosed.

Ordinary Love holds a 92% approval rating on review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, based on 49 reviews, with a weighted average of 7.62/10. The site's critical consensus reads, "Led by strong performances from Lesley Manville and Liam Neeson, Ordinary Love wrings heartrending drama out of one couple's medical travails."

SUDOKU

	4		1	8	2			
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			2					
3					8	9		
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			7					
	8	5	2		9	6		
4	3		6			2		

Yesterday's solution

5	9	8	2	1	6	3	4	7
7	6	1	5	3	4	9	8	2
2	3	4	9	8	7	6	5	1
6	2	5	8	4	1	7	9	3
4	7	9	3	6	2	5	1	8
8	1	3	7	5	9	2	6	4
3	4	6	1	2	5	8	7	9
1	8	7	6	9	3	4	2	5
9	5	2	4	7	8	1	3	6

How to play
 Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

CROSSWORD

Across
 1- Res _ loquiter; 5- Where to wallow; 9- Anguish; 12- Charge per unit; 13- Zones; 15- James of "The Godfather"; 16- Potpourri; 17- Buy alternative; 18- Reflected sound; 19- Eye membrane; 21- Hazardous; 23- Terrier type; 25- Draw in; 26- Actress Zadora; 29- Biblical birthright seller; 31- Lose; 35- Part of ETA; 36- Same here; 38- Pad user; 39- Arrived; 41- Buddy; 43- Geraint's lady; 44- _ Gay; 46- "Dallas" matriarch; 48- Had a bite; 49- Administer; 51- Hard to hold; 52- Gal of song; 53- Burn slightly; 55- Exceeded the limit; 57- In the middle; 61- Saws; 65- Cleveland's lake; 66- Razor sharpener; 68- Capital of Italy; 69- Give for a while; 70- Peace goddess; 71- Prepare a book or film for release; 72- Falsehood; 73- Redolence; 74- Fast fliers;

Down
 1- Camaro model; 2- _ Alto; 3- Arouse; 4- Ages; 5- SE Asian country; 6- Indignation; 7- Harvest; 8- Backing for an exhibit; 9- Texas city; 10- Island of Hawaii; 11- Son of Seth; 14- Watery animal fluid; 15- Actress Holm; 20- _ out a living (barely got by); 22- Coloured part of the eye; 24- Words on a Wonderland cake; 26- Walked back and forth; 27- Teheran native; 28- Defense covering; 30- Of some benefit; 32- Horne and Olin; 33- Writer Loos; 34- Warble; 37- Leers at; 40- Voted into a seat; 42- Translucent, waterproof parchment; 45- Dull pain, often in the head or back; 47- Watched warily; 50- Foot bones; 54- Back in; 56- Challenges; 57- Prison room; 58- _ saw Elba; 59- Mudville complement; 60- Historic Scott; 62- Deities; 63- Send forth; 64- Tennis matches are divided into these; 67- Lennon's love;

Yesterday's solution

E	T	A	T	L	E	E	U	C	L	A			
N	E	H	I	T	E	X	T	S	S	O	I	L	
C	R	A	G	E	V	E	N	T	E	P	E	E	
L	I	B	R	A	R	Y	C	A	R	D	E	S	
I	S	R	C	O	R	A	N	E					
D	I	S	T	I	L	A	P	A	C	H	E		
S	A	N	A	F	O	O	T	T	H	A	T	S	
O	L	I	O	Y	E	N	T	A	E	G	A	D	
U	L	T	R	A	S	T	I	N	G	E	P	I	
Y	I	E	L	D	S	C	A	N	I	N	E		
A	L	A	I	T	A	R							
C	A	T	R	E	N	E	G	O	T	I	A	T	E
L	A	I	D	T	O	T	E	M	S	L	A	V	E
A	R	O	O	S	T	O	N	Y	E	D	G	E	
W	E	N	T		A	N	T	S	A	S	S		

celebs

Justin Bieber and Hailey Baldwin



Zoe Kravitz



Netflix drops gripping trailer of 'Guilty' featuring Kiara Advani

Mumbai

A day after dropping the poster of his upcoming Netflix film, Karan Johar on Tuesday shared the trailer of the thriller 'Guilty' featuring Kiara Advani in the lead.

The edge-of-the-seat thriller revolves around a group of students from a high-end college featuring Kiara Advani, debutant Akansha Ranjan Kapoor, and Gurfateh Singh Pirzada.

The trailer begins with Advani giving viewers insight from the lifestyle of the students of the esteemed college.

While Advani and Pirzada are portraying the roles of highly privileged, rich spoiled brats, Kapoor essays the role of a student coming from a middle-class background.

Advani and Pirzada's characters are shown to be in a romantic relationship and are also portrayed as popular musicians of the college, while Kapoor remains insignificant.

The trailer then takes a sharp turn as Advani describes the one Valentine's Day night that changed the lives of the lead trio with Kapoor's character alleging Pirzada's character of raping her.



Kiara Advani

Bieber explains why he's in no rush to have kids

Los Angeles

Pop star Justin Bieber and his model wife Hailey Baldwin are taking it slow to start a family.

The two got married in 2018 and are not interested in rushing to have children, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"(We'll have kids) in due time... (I want to) go on tour, be married, enjoy travelling with just us, build more of our relationship," Bieber said during an interview with Apple Music's Zane Lowe.

Bieber has recently spoken about the work he is putting into his marriage with Baldwin to make their union the best it can be.

"Being married is so awesome, I'm telling you. But don't get it twisted, marriage is not easy," the 25-year-old said during a Q&A session with fans in London last week, February 11.

He added: "It's something you got to work for (sic). If marriage was easy, everyone would do it really fast. Everyone would just do it."

Wiz Khalifa, Amber Rose celebrate son's 7th birthday

Los Angeles

American rapper Wiz Khalifa and ex-wife Amber Rose celebrated their son Sebastian's seventh birthday with an 'It'-themed party.

The celebration showed off their blended family with Amber's boyfriend Alexander "AE" Edwards also participating in the birthday bash.

Both Wiz and Amber shared a series of pictures from the weekend celebration on their social media accounts.

"Thanks @dojoboom! Happy early Birthday to my Smart, Articulate, Sensitive, Compassion-



Wiz Khalifa and Amber Rose

ate Baby Boy Sebastian! He turns 7 on February 21st! He is so Blessed to have Amazing Family and Friends that Love him so much! WE LOVE YOU PUMPKIN!!", the model captioned the post shared on her Instagram.

Robert Pattinson is perfect for the role of Batman: Zoe Kravitz

Los Angeles

Zoe Kravitz, who is set to play Catwoman in Matt Reeves' "The Batman", says she is excited to work with Robert Pattinson as the actor perfectly suits the part of the DC superhero.

Pattinson was announced as the new Batman last year and his casting has been a topic of debate among fans. Kravitz said she is happy to



Robert Pattinson

have the British actor on board as her "partner in crime".

"I've never worked with him before, but we've been together for the last few weeks. I had to camera test with him and now we've been training together and rehearsing together and he's just a delightful person and such a wonderful, thoughtful actor."

Kim Kardashian, daughter North West shine in new TikTok video

Los Angeles

Media personality Kim Kardashian featured in a new TikTok video with her daughter proving that she is one of the coolest moms.

According to Hollywood Reporter, the famous model shared a TikTok video featuring herself and her daughter North West having fun on Monday.

In the video that Kim shared on Instagram, the mother-daughter duo was seen matching moves and facial expressions. Kardashian kept the caption minimal with writing, "Tik Tok."

While Kim is seen slaying in black leggings and a matching tank top, her daughter was seen wearing a cloud grey coloured night suit and rocking two hair buns.



North West



Kim Kardashian

Chris Pratt: I loved fantasy growing up

Los Angeles

Actor Chris Pratt loved fantasy while growing up, adding that he loved the look of fantasy characters — elves, dwarfs, massive ogres and wizards.

He will soon be seen in the animated urban fantasy film "Onward". Pratt has voiced the character of Barley Lightfoot, the big brother to Tom Holland's Ian Lightfoot.

The actor says he can also relate to Barley's love of fantasy.

"I loved fantasy growing up," he said, adding: "I had a book on dwarf culture — their weapons and their societies. There were beautiful illustrations, and I was all about just drawing as a kid, so I loved to copy the drawings. I always loved the look of fantasy characters — elves, dwarves, massive ogres and wizards."

Disney-Pixar's "Onward" is all set to release the film in India on March 6. Set in a suburban fantasy world, "Onward" introduces two teenage elf brothers who embark on an extraordinary quest to discover if there is still a little magic left out there.



Chris Pratt

Bigg Boss: Salman Khan not to return as host next season?

Mumbai

"Bigg Boss" host Salman Khan may not return as host next season because he is apparently unhappy with Sidharth Shukla winning season 13 of the show, according to the buzz.

While netizens started alleging the final result was biased in favour of Sidharth shortly after he won the show this past weekend, sources state host Salman Khan is upset too over the result, according to a report in pinkvilla.com. Incidentally, Salman had expressed his disappointment during the Weekend Ka Vaar episodes as well, Salman Khan the website added.

"Salman Khan felt that the channel was a bit biased towards Sidharth Shukla throughout the season. The superstar was left angry after the channel decided to pick Sidharth as the winner. The shoot was in fact delayed post this (the reason why the winner announcement happened post 12:00 a.m.). However, Salman has now made it clear to the channel that he won't be a part of the show any longer," claimed an unconfirmed source, according to pinkvilla.com.



Salman Khan

Knightley says film 'Misbehaviour' highlights battle for equality

London

Keira Knightley said her new film "Misbehaviour", the true story of how the Women's Liberation Movement disrupted the 1970 Miss World competition, felt relevant at a time when people were still fighting for equal treatment.

Knightley, 34, plays a member of the Women's Liberation Movement, which storms the stage of the London theater where the beauty pageant was being held. That year Miss Grenada won, the first time a black competitor had taken the crown.

The themes of feminism and racism

appealed to the actress, she said, as they had ongoing resonance in a world where equality still felt a long way off.

"What I loved about this film was that conversation because it felt so very relevant to what we're still talking about today," Knightley told Reuters in an interview.

Back in 1970, Miss World was the most-watched TV show on the planet with more than 100 million viewers, meaning the protest created quite a stir. Misbehaviour opens in British cinemas on March 13, starring Greg Kinnear as pageant host Bob Hope, the comedian, and Gugu Mbatha-Raw as Miss Grenada.



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ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE

I, **Ms. Sukhpreet**, D/O Mr. Awtar Singh, holder of Indian Passport P3210995 issued at Bahrain on 18/04/2017, permanent residence at N.D. 224, Tanda Road, Purani Kachari, Jalandhar, Punjab and temporary resident of Level 1, Building 1588, Road 3437, Mahooz, Bahrain and Mr. John Edward Fahy, holder of Irish passport No. LT5150878 issued at Dublin on 20 Feb 2018, permanent residence at 22 Loreto Grange, Vevay Road, Bray, County Wicklow, Ireland and temporary resident of Flat 1, Building 1588, Road 3437, Block 334, Mahooz, Bahrain intend to solemnize our civil marriage during March- April 2020 at the Embassy of India, Building 1090, Al Seef, P.O. Box 26106, Kingdom of Bahrain under the Foreign Marriage Act 1969 of India.

Objection(s), if any, may be forwarded to the Embassy of India, Kingdom of Bahrain within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

SPORTS
sports

Bencic soars, then crashes in Dubai



Belinda Bencic hits a return

AFP | Dubai

Holder Belinda Bencic ran off the first 19 points against Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova before collapsing to a 1-6, 6-1, 6-1 loss yesterday at the Dubai Championships.

Another former champion, the 2017 and 2018 winner Elina Svitolina, also fell, 6-2, 6-1, to US qualifier Jennifer Brady.

Pavlyuchenkova could not have made a worse start.

"It's tennis, sometimes it happens," the 31st-ranked Russian said "You go out there and you just don't feel anything.

"I just kept on fighting, still trying to hit every ball, trying to be there

"It doesn't matter what the score is, just play. Slowly I started to turn it around, I started to find my game."

"I honestly wasn't focusing on the score. Sometimes you can play amazing tennis and still lose 6-1. In the third set, it was a good level from both of us."

Pavlyuchenkova advanced in 92 minutes.

Bencic, who is Swiss was

seeded four and Ukrainian Svitolina third. That leaves the spotlight to tournament number one Simona Halep and second-seeded Karolina Pliskova, who begin in the second round after byes.

Weekend ATP Rotterdam winner Gael Monfils watched in pain as girlfriend Svitolina went down to Brady.

Svitolina had little to offer as the 52nd-ranked Brady gained her second victory this season over a Top 10 opponent after beating Ashleigh Barty in Brisbane.

The Ukrainian's usually steady game was nowhere to be found at the Aviation Club as first-round play concluded.

"It was not a bad start, but then everything just went downhill," Svitolina said.

"I wish I could regroup better. In the end, I didn't feel so good the ball. Just everything was all over the place today.

"At this level it's tough to pick just one thing; everybody is putting the ball over the net, and you have to play long rallies, you have to build the points.

India set to arrive for Fiba Asia Cup qualifier

Visitors include two seven-footers to spearhead 12-man roster

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's men's national basketball team are all set to welcome their counterparts from India today for their upcoming qualifier on Friday for the 2021 Fiba Asia Cup.

The Indian squad are expected to arrive this morning, according to the Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA).

The Basketball Federation of India Selection Committee has picked a 12-player team that is travelling to Bahrain.

The roster includes two seven-footers in Amritpal Singh and Jagdeep Singh, both of whom are a towering seven feet, two inches tall. The rest of the squad features captain Vishesh Bhriguvanshi, Muin Bek Hafeez, Joginder Singh, Prasanna Vankatesh Sivakumar, Sahil, Prashant Singh Rawat, Aravind Annadurai, Princepal Singh, Amaan Sandhu and Arvind Arumugam.

The Indians are coached by renowned Serbian tactician Veselin Matic, who has worked in the past with several top NBA players including Boris Diaw, Peja Stojakovic, Vladimir Radmanovic, Marcin Gortat, and others. He was also the former head coach of the national teams of Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Iran and Poland before signing with India.

The visiting Indian delega-



India basketball team with officials

tion is being headed by team manager B Dayananda, and it includes assistant coaches Mohit Bhandari and Pradeep Tomar, and physiotherapist V Siva Shanmuga Singh.

Friday's qualifier is scheduled for a 7pm tip-off and it will be played at the Khalifa Sports City arena in Isa Town. The BBA announced yesterday that entrance will be free for fans wishing to attend.

Meanwhile, the BBA has yet to reveal the final list of players who will be suiting up for the qualifier.

There are currently 14 on the roster, including Mohammed Hussain, Ahmed Aldurazi, Ali Shukrallah, Mohammed Bual-

ay, Subah Hussain, Mohammed Salman, Mohammed Qurban, Maytham Jameel, Hesham Sarhan, Ahmed Abdulaziz, Mohammed Ameer, Muzamel Ameer, Ahmed Najaf and CJ Giles. It is expected that two will be dropped to make a final line-up of 12.

The Bahrainis are coached by former NBA champion Sam Vincent, who is heading into his first official competition with the national team in Friday's qualifier. Following this game, the Bahrainis travel directly to Beirut to play their Lebanese counterparts just three days later on Monday next week.

Bahrain, India and Lebanon

are all in Group D of the qualification process along with Iraq.

Following their first two games, there will be a long break before the Bahrainis next take to the court on November 26, which will be away against Iraq. They then play away once again against India on November 29. Their final two qualifiers will be held in February of next year, both at home against Lebanon and then Iraq.

Only the top two teams from each of the six qualification groups book their tickets to the Fiba Asia Cup, while the third-placed teams go to another stage of qualification, where another four final spots will be up for grabs.

BIC set for Speed Weekend thrills

BIC to host Porsche, 2,000cc and BMR 600 races this weekend

TDT | Manama

Motorsport fans are in for a treat as Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) hosts the always-exciting Speed Weekend this Friday and Saturday in Sakhir.

Speed Weekend brings together three of the top circuit racing championships to have originated from BIC.

Headlining all the action will be the Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East, while plenty of thrills will also be enjoyed in the BIC 2,000cc Challenge and the Bahrain Motorcycle Racing (BMR) 600.

Both BIC's 5.412-kilometre Grand Prix track and the 2.55km Inner circuit will be used in the meeting. The Porsche and 2,000cc competitors will be battling on the Grand Prix track, while the BMR riders will be racing on the Inner circuit.

All are welcome to attend the two days of action. Tickets are



Bikes in action at BIC

available at the gate.

The Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East is the region's most professional and successful one-make GT series. It is powered by motorsport experts Lechner Racing, headed by Austrian racing legend Walter Lechner. Featuring a new name this season but the same identity, the challenge gives participating drivers an equal chance to com-

pete, as they race in identically constructed Porsche GT3 Cup cars type 991.2.

Speed Weekend's Porsche action will mark the fourth and penultimate round of the 2019/2020 season.

Practice will kick off their programme on Friday at 9.05am. Qualifying will then be held at 10.40am, setting the grid for the first 12-lap race at 1.20pm. Ac-



Cars in action at BIC

tion in the round continues on Saturday with Qualifying Two at 11.30am. That sets the grid for the weekend's second race, scheduled for a 2.19pm start. A third race will then be held starting 5.20pm to wrap up the Porsche action.

Meanwhile, the BIC 2,000cc Challenge will be staging its sixth and penultimate round of 2019/2020. The 2,000cc is the longest-running circuit racing

series in the region. Established in 2007, it follows simple regulations yet is still extremely fun to watch. The drivers are divided into two classes, including the Pro and the Novice.

All of the 2,000cc's events will be held on Friday, starting with Practice at 9.40am. Qualifying is then set for 11.15am, setting the stage for the eight-lap first race at 2.05pm. Race Two featuring a reverse grid will then be held

at 3.40pm.

The BMR 600 is a riders' championship, with participants taking to the tarmac in Yamaha, Kawasaki, Triumph, MV and Honda motorbikes.

The BMR participants will be the first out on track on Friday with Practice at 8.30am. Qualifying will then be held at 10.15am, to be followed by the first 11-lap race at 12.35pm. Race Two is then set for a 3.05pm start.

Kooheji to represent Bahrain at Brave 37

MMA hero Hamza Kooheji set to face Jaures Dea in Sweden



Hamza Kooheji

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's biggest MMA fighter has a date for his return to competition. After an unforgettable homecoming at BRAVE CF 29, when he dominated Nahuel Gandolfi in front of a sold-out Bahraini audience, Hamza Kooheji will take his talents to Sweden. "The Pride of Bahrain" is set to welcome dangerous Jaures Dea to the Bantamweight division at BRAVE CF 37, on April 18th, in Sweden.

Kooheji

will be defending a three-fight win streak, which culminated in the co-main event spot at BRAVE CF 29, where he lifted up the Kingdom of Bahrain with an incredible performance, knocking out "El Roble" in the third round and climbing up higher towards an eventual title shot.

Hamza has been hailed as a pioneer of mixed martial arts in the Kingdom of Bahrain, as he has flown the flag in the highest of places and has become synonymous with the booming sport in the Kingdom as one of the biggest professional success stories.

In front of "The Pride of Bahrain", lies a dangerous opponent. "The Crazy Cameroonian" is coming off four straight victories and makes his BRAVE Combat Federation

debut against Kooheji as the number six Bantamweight fighter in the Middle East - Hamza is listed as number four in the region.

BRAVE CF 37 will be headlined by a gigantic title fight, as current Welterweight world champion Jarrah Al-Selawe looks to defend his crown against Khamzat Chimaev, the biggest prospect in Europe.

The show will take place at the Solnahallen, in Stockholm, Sweden, in partnership with AK Fighting Championship, and marks the third European show for BRAVE Combat Federation in 2020 so far, after a successful debut in Slovenia back in January and the upcoming BRAVE CF 36, which takes place in Romania, on April 13th.



Kooheji prepares for comeback in Thailand

TDT | Manama

Hamza Kooheji has spent part of his training camp working on his stand-up in Thailand. "The Pride of Bahrain" has become a wrestling

sensation under the training of BRAVE CF Super Lightweight world champion Eldar Eldarov's tutelage, and has chosen to vary his training for his upcoming bout.

Kooheji went to Phuket to work

with specialized muay thai coaches, as well as getting different looks in order to compete at the highest level and with the aid of world-class trainers in the Kingdom of Bahrain and KHK MMA.

Hamza has looked sharp with his much-improved stand-up and has incorporated hard kicks into his already complete arsenal, making him an even bigger threat to fighters everywhere in the Bantamweight division.

Kooheji also went to Saudi Arabia at the end of the year to support his teammates at BRAVE CF 33, when he was able to train with the team and start his camp for the next fight while in Jeddah.

Silverwood backs Buttler to reignite test career

Reuters | London

England coach Chris Silverwood hopes Jos Buttler's return to form in the Twenty20 series decider against South Africa will help revive his test career in next month's tour of Sri Lanka.

The wicketkeeper-batsman's blistering knock of 57 runs off 29 balls helped England secure a five-wicket win and a 2-1 series triumph on Sunday.

Buttler has struggled in the longest format, however, managing just 158 runs in his last five tests against South Africa and New Zealand.

"Runs breed confidence



England's Jos Buttler reacts during a match (file photo)

within a batsman -- to see him come off with a smile on his face in the way he did was su-

perb," Silverwood told British media.

"Hopefully he'll take a lot of confidence from it and bring that with him to Sri Lanka."

Silverwood said England were close to finding the right balance in the squad ahead of the T20 World Cup in Australia later this year.

"The more they've played together, the better they've got -- we've seen the improvement throughout the series so I don't think we're a million miles away," Silverwood added.

"But we'll obviously refocus now on the test series against Sri Lanka and look to pick up where we left off here."

Vietnam F1 Grand Prix gets go-ahead despite virus

AFP | Hanoi

Vietnam's inaugural Formula One Grand Prix will take place in Hanoi in April as planned, organisers said yesterday, avoiding the fate of the Chinese Grand Prix which was postponed over the deadly coronavirus outbreak.

The virus, which has killed more than 1,800 people in China, has trashed Asia's sporting calendar, forcing the postponement

of top events including the Hong Kong Sevens rugby.

But Vietnamese authorities said the country's inaugural F1 race would go ahead as "scheduled" on April 5, Le Ngoc Chi, CEO of Vietnam Grand Prix said.

That flies in the face of mounting fears over the spread of the virus from neighbouring China and the risk of transmission among the crowds expected to make the journey to the

Vietnamese capital.

"The time for the... F1 race will not be postponed or delayed," Tran Trung Hieu, deputy director of Hanoi's tourism department was quoted as saying by state media yesterday.

"Although this is a sports event, it has a very huge impact on Vietnam and Hanoi's tourism," he said, adding all measures will be taken to ensure safety.

Man United's Maguire should have seen red, says Lampard



Manchester United defender Harry Maguire scores a goal

Reuters | London

Chelsea manager Frank Lampard said Harry Maguire should not have been on the pitch when he scored his side's second goal in a 2-0 Premier League win on Monday after the Manchester United defender escaped a red card for kicking Michy Batshuayi.

The Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system was in the spotlight once again after Maguire kicked Batshuayi in the groin area in the first half at Stamford Bridge.

"Maguire should have been sent off," Lampard told British media. "That's clear, and that obviously changes the game."

” Maguire should have been sent off. That's clear, and that obviously changes the game. Decisions like that are crucial. That's a major part of what VAR was brought in for: a second viewing, different angles

FRANK LAMPARD

United captain Maguire, who escaped sanction for the incident, went on to score a thump-

ing header in the 66th minute to seal the win.

"Decisions like that are crucial," added Lampard. "That's a major part of what VAR was brought in for: a second viewing, different angles. I don't get why they aren't looking at the monitor. It should be used."

VAR also ruled out two Chelsea goals from Kurt Zouma and Olivier Giroud in a frustrating night for Lampard's side, who went a fourth straight league match without victory.

"The Zouma goal should have stood," Lampard added.

"Giroud's goal being ruled out is a bit soul destroying but it's the culmination of a few incidents."