

**Top seeds Paire,
 Shapovalov reach
 Winston-Salem
 third round**

Top-seeded Benoit Paire reached the third round of the ATP Winston-Salem Open Tuesday, beating Prajesh Gunneswaran 6-3, 7-5. **P15**

KFH launches open banking infrastructure

THE DAILY **tribune**



**WEEKENDER
 INSIDE**
 PAGES 7-10

Millie Bobby Brown steps in beauty business with her own make-up brand

Sudan swears in civilian-majority ruling council

The staff and management of Al Namal and VKL Group welcome the visit of Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to the Kingdom of Bahrain.



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Preparations in full swing

Indian PM Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit the Kingdom on Saturday

The Indian Mission in the Kingdom has been leaving no stone unturned to make Mr Modi's visit a grand success.

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom is all set to roll out a red carpet welcome to Indian Prime

210 fils (includes VAT)



Minister Narendra Modi, who is scheduled to visit the country on Saturday.

Mr Modi will hold talks with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, First Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Supreme Commander, senior government officials and members of Indian community.

On Saturday evening, at 5pm, Mr Modi will address a public gathering of Indian expatriates at Bahrain National Stadium. Close to 20,000 community members are expected to attend



Alok Kumar Sinha, Indian Ambassador to Bahrain

the event. Mr Modi will also visit the 200-year-old Shree Krishna Temple in Manama.

The visit will also witness many agreements and deals being signed between the Kingdom and India, mainly in the space and information technol-

ogy sector.

The Indian Mission in the Kingdom has been leaving no stone unturned to make Mr Modi's visit a grand success. Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha said the embassy is in its best efforts to facilitate the maximum participation of members of Indian expatriate community at the public event.

Those registered to participate, can collect their access card from the embassy between 8 am and 8 pm today as well as tomorrow. Prospective attendees have been urged to present their original CPRs as well as original or copy of their passports before collecting the access card.

BD1.6m rebuild plan for Manama temple

TDT | Manama

The rebuilding project of 200-year-old Shree Krishna Hindu Temple in Manama will be launched by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the Kingdom, Tribune has learnt.



Mr Thaker

The cost of rebuilding project is estimated to be BD1.6 million, Bob Thaker, President of Thattai Hindu Merchants Community said.

"The newly-built three-storied structure will have 45,000 square feet in area. It will have 80 per cent more capacity to host devotees in terms

of space," he said, adding that there will be a special facility to accommodate priests.

The project also envisages a facility for hosting Hindu weddings, in line with the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority's initiative to make the Kingdom a hub of Indian weddings.

"There will also be knowledge centre as well as a museum attached to the temple," Mr Thaker said.

Bhagwan Asarpota, a prominent member of Thattai Hindu Community, said: "We are fortunate to have Indian Prime Minister visiting the temple amidst its 200th year celebrations."



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Bahraini women's development strides hailed

Manama

The Supreme Council for Women (SCW) will today mark the 18th anniversary of its establishment.

Council of Representatives Speaker Fawziya Zainal congratulated His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, hailing the farsighted royal vision which ensured Bahraini women's landmark strides.

She commended the efforts to Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of HM the King and Supreme Council for Women (SCW) President, hailing her cru-

cial role in launched a string of initiatives, projects and awareness campaigns, including the annual Bahrain Women's Day.

She paid tribute to the SCW president, stressing the importance of the national programme to achieve gender balance, enhance the proportion of women's participation in key sectors and move from the phase of "empowerment" to that of "advancement".

The Speaker stressed co-operation with the Government, chaired by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, paying tribute to His Royal Highness



HRH Princess Sabeeka

Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.

She extended congratulations to all Bahraini women on the 18th SCW anniversary, urging them to double their efforts and bolster their role alongside men in all fields and sectors to achieve comprehensive sustainable development.

She underlined the keenness of the Council of Representatives on promoting issued related to women's affairs and highlighting their achievements, contributions and successful projects.

NPRA online service set to be launched

Manama

The Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) has announced a new service to book appointments online.

The Skiplino, which will take effect on Sunday, will cover the nationality, passports and residence services.

The new application, which can be downloaded for free via smart devices enables users to book, rebook or cancel appointments.

Applicants still have the option to report directly personally to the NPRA headquarters and assess the advanced quality of services.

The new service was first launched early this year at Muharraq Security Complex, which enabled applicants to finalise their transactions easily and smoothly.

Internet speed rises

Bahrain ranked 55th in global broadband Internet speed

Bahrain's position rose by 10 places in just one month, according to the report.

The Kingdom is preparing to take a lead in making the best out of 5G technologies.

TDI | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

The Kingdom's Internet speed has improved considerably, according to findings of a new report.

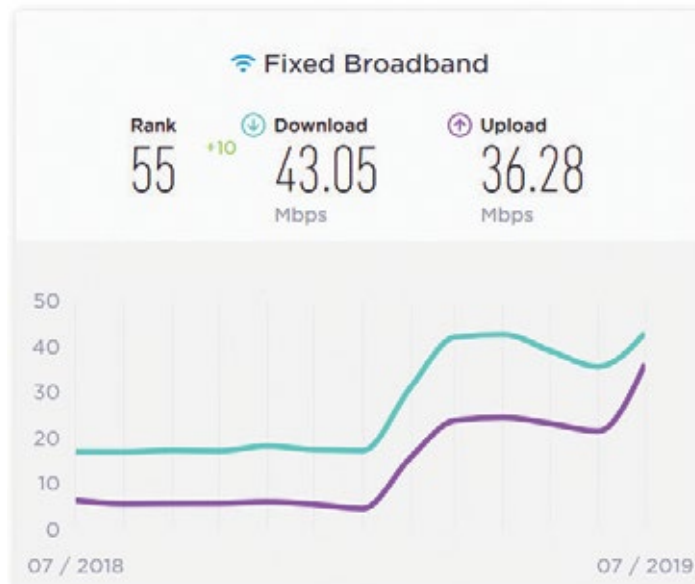
The latest Speedtest Global Index July revealed that Bahrain has the 55th fastest broadband Internet in the world.

Bahrain's position rose by 10 places in just one month, according to the report.

The monumental gain was made in July in comparison to June when Bahrain was placed 65th.

Qatar has ranked first in the Gulf region and fifth globally on the mobile Internet speed index at 59.90 Mbps.

In the region, Qatar is followed by the UAE at the third place globally at 55.12 Mbps, Saudi Arabia at the 58th place globally at 42.34 Mbps, Oman at the 94th place



A graph comparing the download and upload Internet speed in the Kingdom.

at 22.91 Mbps and Bahrain at the 55th place at 43.05 Mbps, according to Speedtest Global Index.

The index ranks mobile and fixed broadband speeds from around the world on a monthly basis.

"Results are updated mid-month for the previous month. January 1, 2019 onward countries must have at least 300 unique user results for mobile or fixed broadband to be ranked in either category.

"Prior to January 1, 2019, we

43.05
Mbps is the average broadband Internet speed in the Kingdom, says report.

required 670 unique user results for mobile and 3,333 for fixed broadband," Speedtest stated.

This comes as Bahrain prepares to take a lead in making the best out of 5G technologies.

"There were a lot of challenges along the way – ensuring spectrum availability as soon as possible was a big challenge, but overcoming these obstacles exemplifies the support and co-operation amongst Team Bahrain and demonstrates how Bahrain can move quickly, deliver enormous progress against an accelerated timeframe, and be a partner to technology leaders," said the Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications in Bahrain, Kamal Ahmed said about Bahrain's effort to launch 5G.

Batelco has selected Ericsson to launch 5G, while VIVA Bahrain has partnered with Huawei that has registered 1,529 5G patents, according to data analysis firm IPlytics.

Last month Batelco launched Xiaomi Mi Mix 3, the first 5G network supported device in Bahrain at Batelco's City Centre Branch.

The Xiaomi Mi Mix 3 was tested on Batelco's 5G network by a professional gamer who commented on the speed of the device when connected to Batelco 5G network, as well as its practicality to use digital applications including social media apps, streaming services and online games as it features a large screen with fast mechanism to switch between apps.



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Lawmakers in call to reserve govt jobs 'only for Bahrainis'

Rising unemployment among citizens cited reason behind the call

● 'Bahrain' parliamentary bloc has proposed a law in this regard.

● The proposal is expected to be debated in the upcoming sessions of the current legislative term.

TDT | Manama

A parliamentary bloc in the Kingdom is planning to oblige the government to limit the majority of job categories in the public sector to Bahrainis, considering the growing numbers of unemployed citizens in recent years.

This came as the "Bahrain" parliamentary bloc announced that it has submitted a proposed law to allow only Bahrainis to work in government jobs in different sectors, including healthcare, hospitality, legal departments, aviation and more.

According to a statement that was recently issued by the nine-member group, the jobs include nurses, accountants, engineers, teachers, physician assistants, accountant assistants, nursing assistants, recruitment staff, recruitment directors, recruitment specialist, procurement specialists, procurement officers, auditors, hotel managers, reception managers, hotel chefs, flight attendants, receptionists,



The House is expected to discuss the bill in the coming session.

legal advisors, administrative jobs, dentists, dental assistants, maintenance specialists and maintenance technicians.

For his part, MP Ahmed Al Salloom, Bloc Chairman, emphasised on the importance of the group's proposal at a time when "the numbers of unemployed Bahrainis are rising and considering that the right of employment is guaranteed to them by the constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain".

"It is necessary that we look into limiting government jobs to citizens," Mr Al Salloom commented.

He commented further: "There are many citizens who worked hard to obtain qualifications and were unable to find jobs in the same specialty, which they aspired to work in it because of the lack of job opportunities in the government sector. "As a result of this, many of them turned to work outside

their specialty to secure their source of living."

The proposal is expected to be debated in the upcoming sessions



There are many citizens who worked hard to obtain qualifications and are unable to find jobs in the same field.

MR AL SALLOOM

of the current legislative term, as the MPs' holiday is scheduled to end by October this year.

In addition to Mr Al Salloom, the bloc, which was formed in last February, includes MPs Ammar Qambar, Ahmed Al Damestani, Hesham Al Asheeri, Ali Ishaqi, Ahmed Al Aamer, Hamad Al Kooheji, Zainab Abdulameer and Fadel Al Sawwad.

Better loan schemes for pensioners urged

TDT | Manama

Considering the continually increasing expense of living in the past few years, a Bahraini lawmaker has called for introducing easier banking procedures for pensioners, especially those from the limited income category.

MP Mohammed Buhamood said in a statement issued this week that he would submit a proposal to the parliament to allow pensioners to reschedule their loans, allowing them to reduce the monthly instalments they pay to banks.

Commenting on his proposal, Mr Buhamood said: "Many citizens are forced to take loans from banks or pension replacement loans to manage their basic family life, as the loan instalments are distributed over many years without considering the post-retirement period, which witnesses a sharp decline in their monthly incomes."

"The monthly loans deduction from retired citizens who have retired and still have

loans is more than 50 per cent of their income and this is contrary to the system of the Central Bank of Bahrain and its mechanisms to lend loans," he explained.

The lawmaker justified his proposal further stating that it allows granting citizens the opportunity to reschedule personal loans they borrowed from

commercial banks after they are retired, and benefit from decreased interest rates.

Mr Buhamood added: "This system is in force in a number of our fellow GCC States, which are allowing citizens to reschedule their loans without imposing any additional fees on them, considering their humanitarian conditions and aiming to ease the financial burdens on them, especially that this category has dedicated the best years of their lives to serve the homeland in both the public and private sectors."

Mr Buhamood's statement came a week after another MP, Adel Al Asoomi, urged the government of Bahrain to interfere and curb the high interest rates imposed by banks on its clients.

Mr Al Asoomi's demand came after a recent report showed that commercial banks in Bahrain have had an increase in profit by BD241.2 million this year.

He blamed the increase in profit to the high interest rates it imposes on its clients, especially traders.



There has to be action to ease the financial burden faced by pensioners in the Kingdom.

MR BUHAMOOD

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Housing Ministry to deliver more e-services

Manama

Housing Minister, Bassim Al Hamer, has stressed the Housing Ministry's keenness to constantly develop the work of the Housing Services Directorate and the Customer Service Centre.

He also said that programme launched by the Ministry of Housing in 2011 to promote the culture of excellence is still there, and is undergoing periodic development.

During an open meeting with the employees of the Housing Services Directorate, the minister stressed that self-development of the ministry's staff should go hand in hand with the on-going institutional development, though enhancing practical and communication skills, noting that the Housing Ministry



Mr Al Hamer at the open meeting.

seeks to create a positive work environment to increase productivity.

He added that the ultimate goal

of development programmes is to improve the quality of services and increase the efficiency of the ministry's departments so as to

reach a level that would meet the citizens' aspirations.

Tackling the development plans, the minister revealed that

all services requiring the citizens to report to the Housing Ministry will become electronic, which will ensure easy procedures for

the customers, on the one hand, and develop the ministry's database on the other.

Mr Al Hamer added that the Housing Ministry will hold training workshop to enhance the practical and communication skills of its personnel, as well as inform them about the best practices and train them on the new programmes to be introduced.

The ultimate goal of development programmes is to improve the quality of services and increase the efficiency of the ministry's departments.

MR AL HAMER

Three terrorists jailed

First accused led a terror group and carried out terrorist acts

● The second defendant was in contact with many wanted men and he helped them travel to Iran to join military training sessions.

● He admitted to participating in riots from 2011 until 2014.

TDT | Manama

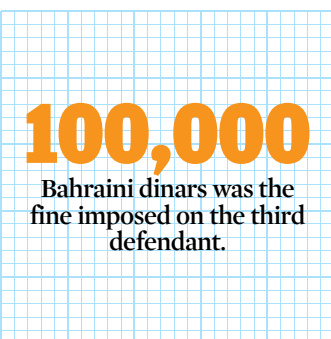
The High Criminal Court has sentenced three defendants to seven years

behind bars, while a fourth man received three years in prison for joining Al Mukhtar Brigades terrorist group in an effort to carry out terrorist activities after receiving militia training outside Bahrain.

A fifth defendant was involved in the case, but he was cleared due to lack of evidence. Meanwhile, the third defendant was fined BD100,000 too.

According to court files, the first defendant was leading the terrorist group and he committed many terrorist crimes.

The second defendant was in contact with many wanted men and he helped them travel to Iran to join military training



sessions, the Public Prosecutors said.

It's said that the second defendant recruited the third defendant for Al Mukhtar Brigades and helped him to travel to Iran, where he was trained in using explosives,

weapons and make and detonate bombs during his stay in a camp owned by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard in 2015.

A year later, he was also sent to Iraq and received similar training, but this time at a camp owned by the Iraqi Hizbollah.

During questioning, he revealed that he was participating in riots from 2011 until 2014, the year in which he joined the terrorist group.

He told prosecutors that he received some funds and he was assigned to hand over the money to terrorists.

He admitted to travelling to Iran and Iraq to receive militia training.

Sea clean-up campaign planned



The meeting in progress.

TDT | Manama

The Secretary-General of the Bahrain Red Crescent Society, Dr Fawzi Amin, held a meeting with representatives of Our Seas Clean (OSC) National Campaign - Bahrain Volunteer Diving Team to discuss the co-ordination of BRCS volunteers with the OSC campaign that runs until September 21 across the country.

The meeting gathered the First Aid Committee, Public Relations Committee, Youth

Committee and the Agriculture Team.

During the meeting, Dr Amin confirmed the readiness of BRCS to participate in this campaign, organised and managed by the Bahrain Diving Volunteer Team in co-operation with the Supreme Council for Environment and other concerned entities such as the Ministry of Interior (Coast Guard Department), the Directorate of Maritime Surveillance and Fisheries, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Ministry of Works and Municipal Affairs,

Bahrain Airport Services Company and others.

Dr Amin further pointed out that this participation also aims to raise awareness on the need to avoid dumping waste in the seas "because of the risks this phenomenon poses to marine life, and provide a clean environment and maintain a life suitable for seafarers and fishermen".

He praised the efforts of the campaigners, especially in terms of extracting waste from the sea is sorted, recycled and distributed for charity or safely

disposed.

Dr Amin stressed that the Bahraini Red Crescent puts the issue of environmental first, for its importance of providing human life sources of food, shelter and health, while the phenomena of climate change and desertification represent great challenges for relief and humanitarian work around the world, as the world is witnessing major climate changes that call for the concerted efforts of the international community to face them and reduce their negative impact.

Asian worker murder trial adjourned

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has adjourned a case involving three Asian men, who killed a fellow national by hitting him with a hammer in last May, to September 15, 2019, while extending the detention of the accused.

According to court files, the suspects killed the victim after they lured him to an abandoned land in Al Daih, where they beat him to death using hammers and cement blocks, after they argued about a financial dispute.

The case was first reported when the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science was notified about a severely injured man found in a farm in Al Daih, a few kilometres to the west of the Capital.

The victim was rushed to Salmaniya Medical Complex after informing that he was attacked and robbed by three individuals. The man succumbed

to his wounds and passed away in the hospital.

The authorities launched a manhunt to nab the three suspects, who were eventually arrested, after investigators acknowledged that they were related to the victim.

They, the three suspects, told the interrogators that they had requested the victim to meet them after he apparently cheated them by selling them an employment visa for BD1,000, promising that it is valid for two years, while it was only valid for one year.

On May 14, 2019, the Public Prosecution accused the trio of premeditated murder and robbing the victim.

The trio has been charged with premeditated murder and robbing the victim.

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

Qatar's inhumane practices against workers condemned

Manama

Chairman of the Executive Council of the Bahrain Free Labour Unions Federation (Al Hurr), Yaqoob Yusef Mohammed, has condemned the State of Qatar's inhumane practices against hundreds of thousands of Asian and African workers who are exploited and living in precarious conditions in both workplaces and accommodation.

Mr Yaqoob called for launching an international investigation, under the supervision of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), as well as international human rights organisations, to force Doha to adhere to transparency in the file of construction workers, an issue, he said, that has become exposed at the international level without any effective ac-

countability.

Al Hurr chief stressed that labour strikes, protests, deaths, and the continued failure of the Qatari government to ensure the rights of foreign workers on its territory uncover the 'real and ugly face of the Qatari regime' which is trying to exploit the organisation of the 2022 World Cup, to obscure the violations of foreign workers' rights and humanity to a level that bears the hallmark of 'collective crimes'.

He emphasised that Al Hurr joins the international human rights organisations and regional and international trade unions, which have condemned the exploitation of foreign workers' need and poverty to achieve gains on the corpses of victims, in supporting those whose minimum basic requirements have not been guaranteed by the Qatari Judiciary.

world

Sudan swears in civilian-majority ruling council

Khartoum, Sudan

Sudan took further steps in its transition towards civilian rule yesterday with the swearing in of a new sovereign council, to be followed by the appointment of a prime minister. The body replaces the Transitional Military Council (TMC) that took charge after deadly street protests brought down longtime ruler Omar al-Bashir in April.

As a result of yesterday's move, it was the first time that Sudan was not under full military rule since Bashir's coup d'etat in 1989.

The first steps of the transition after the mass celebrations that marked the August 17 adoption of a transitional constitution proved difficult however.

The names of the joint civilian-military sovereign council's 11 members were eventually announced late Tuesday after differences within the opposition camp held up the process for two days.

General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, who already headed the TMC, was sworn in as the chairman of the new sovereign council in the morning.

Wearing his usual green beret and camouflage uniform, Burhan took the oath in a short

ceremony, one hand on the Koran and the other holding a military baton under his arm.

He will be Sudan's head of state for the first 21 months of the 39-month transition period, until a civilian takes over for the remainder.

The council's 10 other members were sworn shortly afterwards and Abdalla Hamdok, who was chosen by the opposition last week to be prime minister, was to be formally appointed later Wednesday.

The sovereign council includes two women, including a member of Sudan's Christian minority, and it will oversee the formation of a government and of a legislative body.

The inauguration of a civilian-dominated ruling council was welcomed by Khartoum residents but many warned the people would keep their new rulers in check.

The transition's key documents were signed on Saturday at a ceremony attended by a host of foreign dignitaries, signalling that Sudan could be on its way to shedding its pariah status. Sudan's new rulers are expected to push for the lifting of the suspension from the African Union and to have the country removed from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism.



Aisha Mousa (C, front), a civilian member of Sudan's new sovereign council that will head the country during its three-year transition to civilian rule, speaks while flanked by other council members Raja Nicolas Abdel Massih (L), Mohamed al-Fakki Suleiman (C, behind), and Hassan Sheikh Idris (R) during a press conference after being sworn-in, in the capital Khartoum



General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the head of Sudan's ruling military council, during a swearing-in ceremony

Mind the doors

Japan bullet train runs with door open at 280 kph



Representative picture (Courtesy of Outlook)

Tokyo, Japan

A Japanese bullet train hurtling along at 280 kilometres (174 miles) per hour ran for nearly a minute with one of its doors completely open yesterday, its operator said.

The accident, due to human error, was a rare mishap for the Japanese "Shinkansen" bullet train which has a world-famous safety and punctuality record.

The Tokyo-bound Hayabusa No. 46 train screeched to an emergency stop in a tunnel shortly after leaving Sendai station in northeastern Japan when the conductor saw a warning light that the door of the ninth carriage was open, East Japan Railway said.

"The conductor checked the carriage and found that the

door was completely open," a company spokesman told AFP.

"Some 340 passengers were on board but no one was injured," he said, adding that the train resumed its journey after a check-up.

"The incident occurred after a janitor mistakenly left the carriage door unlocked so that they could manually open and close," he added.

"We sincerely apologise for the incident," he said, adding that the company will take steps to prevent it happening again.

Japan is a pioneer in high-speed rail networks, hailed for their punctuality and safety measures, including the emergency stop system, which can automatically slow trains down before a major earthquake strikes.

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Condensed statement of financial position As at 30 June 2019

	30 June 2019 (Unaudited) BD	31 December 2018 (Audited) BD
ASSETS		
Right-of-use assets	11,401	-
Property and equipment	7,095	7,882
Loans to policyholders	1,229,085	1,130,097
Investment securities:		
Available-for-sale	40,509,240	37,043,851
At fair value through profit or loss	27,833,375	25,668,807
Statutory deposits	150,228	147,730
Reinsurance contract assets	731,002	371,328
Premium debtors and other receivables	1,138,221	973,963
Cash and bank balances	3,603,790	5,234,784
Total assets	75,213,437	70,578,442
HEAD OFFICE EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Head Office equity		
Head Office account	8,568,607	7,127,027
Available-for-sale investments fair value reserve	1,128,817	(527,606)
Total Head Office equity	9,697,424	6,599,421
LIABILITIES		
Provision for employees' end of service indemnity	10,112	29,870
Insurance contract liabilities	61,441,935	60,659,021
Due to policyholders	1,061,133	978,211
Lease liabilities	11,541	-
Accounts payable	2,991,292	2,311,919
Total liabilities	65,516,013	63,979,021
Total Head Office equity and liabilities	75,213,437	70,578,442

Country Manager
Fadi Abou Ghali

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For more information, visit www.metlife-gulf.com.

Condensed statement of profit or loss (unaudited) For the six month period ended 30 June 2019

	2019 BD	2018 BD
Income		
Gross insurance premium	7,366,010	7,087,825
Insurance premium ceded to reinsurers	(1,582,838)	(1,797,886)
Net insurance premium	5,783,172	5,289,939
Interest and other investment income	881,953	865,619
Commission income	128,564	163,202
Allowance for doubtful debts no longer required written back	13,849	17,377
Net income	6,807,538	6,336,157
Expenses		
Insurance claims and loss adjustment expenses	(1,648,433)	(1,733,693)
Insurance claims and loss adjustment expenses recovered from reinsurers	547,034	700,039
Insurance benefits	(3,221,756)	(2,773,560)
Expenses for the acquisition of insurance and investment contracts	(147,419)	(389,384)
Other operating expenses	(552,060)	(540,651)
Profit for the period	1,784,904	1,588,908
Condensed statement of comprehensive income (unaudited) For the six month period ended 30 June 2019		
Profit for the period	1,784,904	1,588,908
Other comprehensive income/(loss):		
<i>Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:</i>		
Net changes in the fair value of available-for-sale investment securities	1,656,423	(1,147,836)
Total other comprehensive income / (loss) for the period	1,656,423	(1,147,836)
Total comprehensive income for the period	3,441,327	441,072

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Iran tanker too big for Greek port: minister

Athens, Greece

An Iranian tanker that has sparked a diplomatic row pitting Tehran against Washington and London is too big to dock in Greece, the country's junior finance minister said yesterday.

"This is a very large crude carrier, it is over 130,000 tonnes... It cannot access any Greek

dock," junior foreign minister Miltiadis Varvitsiotis told *Ant1 TV*.

Varvitsiotis said the Greek government had "faced pressure" by US authorities over the vessel but insisted that Athens "has sent a clear message that we would not wish to facilitate the transport of this oil to Syria under any circumstances."

Gibraltar, a British overseas



A crew member checks the new name of Iranian oil tanker Adrian Darya, formerly known as Grace 1, off the coast of Gibraltar

territory, seized the tanker on July 4 on suspicion it was transporting oil to Syria in breach of European Union sanctions, triggering a sharp deterioration in relations between Tehran and London.

Iran has repeatedly denied any violations.

Varvitsiotis said Athens was not in contact with Tehran over the tanker, which was originally called Grace 1 but has been renamed the Adrian Darya, and had received no request from Iran.

The website *Marine Traffic*, which earlier this week gave the ship's reported destination as the Greek port of Kalamata,

had placed the supertanker carrying 2.1 million barrels of oil some 100 kilometres (60 miles) northwest of the Algerian port of Oran.

The maritime tracker says the tanker is expected to arrive in Kalamata on Monday, but Varvitsiotis suggested it may not dock in Greek waters at all.

"It has named Kalamata as its port of destination but this doesn't mean anything," adding: "It could drop anchor somewhere" else.

Gibraltar's Supreme Court ordered the tanker released last Thursday, with Iranian officials saying a new crew had arrived to pilot the vessel.

Iran tanker breaks down in Red Sea: ministry

Tehran, Iran

An Iranian oil tanker has broken down in the Red Sea near Saudi Arabia but its crew are safe and carrying out repairs, the oil ministry's website said yesterday.

The HELM suffered a "technical fault" about 120 kilometres (75 miles) north of the Saudi port of Yanbu on Tuesday, the ministry's web-

site said, citing the National Iranian Tanker Company.

TankerTrackers.com, which monitors ship movements, said the HELM was carrying 1.3 million barrels of crude oil and heading towards the Suez Canal from the Iranian island of Kharg.

The vessel appears on the US Treasury's website in a list of entities subject to American sanctions.

Australia to join Gulf maritime security mission



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison

Sydney, Australia

Australia will join the US-led mission to protect shipping through the Strait of Hormuz amid heightened tensions with Iran, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced yesterday.

Morrison said Australia would send a "modest" contribution -- including a frigate, a P8 maritime surveillance aircraft and support staff -- to the mission, which will also involve British and Bahraini forces.

"Our contribution will be limited in scope and it will be time-bound," Morrison said, expressing concern about security incidents in the vital shipping lane in the past few months.

"This destabilising behaviour is a threat to Australian interests in the region," he said in a joint statement with his foreign and defence ministers.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Mark Esper had pressed for Australia's help patrolling the strategic waterway during a visit to Sydney earlier this month.

Defence Minister Linda Reynolds said Australian military staff would in coming

“Our contribution will be limited in scope and it will be time-bound”

SCOTT MORRISON
PRIME MINISTER

weeks join the security operation's headquarters in Bahrain, which announced its involvement in the operation on Tuesday.

The P8 Poseidon aircraft will patrol the region for a month, later in the year. The frigate, with a crew of some 170, will not be deployed to the joint operation until January and take part for six months, she said.

Morrison stressed that the deployment would be "modest, meaningful and time-limited" while defence experts said it was likely a "re-tasking" of planned deployments to the region to satisfy US requests.

DAMANA MIG		
Saudi Arabian Insurance Company B.S.C.(c)		
CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2019		
CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (UNAUDITED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2019		
	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018
	BD	BD
Gross premiums written	7,906,641	13,874,538
Reinsurance premiums ceded	(2,443,416)	(6,504,450)
Excess of loss premiums	(152,169)	(236,047)
Net premiums Written	5,311,056	7,134,041
Movement in unearned premiums	342,413	141,044
Net premiums earned	5,653,469	7,275,085
Gross claims paid	(4,936,555)	(17,979,897)
Reinsurance share of claims paid	745,278	13,645,726
Net movement in outstanding claims	118,059	(1,350,970)
Net claims incurred	(4,073,218)	(5,685,141)
Reinsurance commission and fees	277,183	270,238
Policy acquisition costs	(534,357)	(659,693)
Profit commission and discount received on claim paid	4,219	969
Net underwriting result	1,327,296	1,201,458
Interest income	1,436,523	1,302,725
Share of profit / (loss) from associates	69,202	(122,749)
Other income	49,830	2,115,526
	1,555,555	3,295,502
Expenses		
Operational and technical expenses	(3,617,472)	(3,403,677)
(Loss)/profit before tax for the period	(734,621)	1,093,283
Taxation	(15,778)	(11,802)
Net (loss)/profit for the period	(750,399)	1,081,481
Other comprehensive income :		
Items that may reclassified to profit or loss subsequently		
Net change in fair value of available-for-sale investments	(5,403)	91,687
Other comprehensive (loss)/income for the period	(5,403)	91,687
Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the period	(755,802)	1,173,168
CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT JUNE 30, 2019		
	(Unaudited) June 30, 2019	(Audited) December 31, 2018
	BD	BD
Assets		
Cash and Bank balances	13,145,089	12,759,427
Guarantee deposits	7,115,868	8,865,757
Group treasury account	40,578,960	39,066,334
Investment in associates	10,009,823	9,940,621
Available-for-sale investments	900,030	905,433
Premiums and reinsurance receivables	7,745,348	8,107,394
Reinsurers' share of unearned premiums	1,954,001	1,425,931
Reinsurers' share of outstanding claims	3,989,600	3,679,501
Due from related parties	622,474	510,207
Deferred policy acquisition costs	490,801	497,116
Other receivables and prepayments	836,311	1,130,189
Investment property	2,170,916	-
Property and equipment	496,425	584,194
Total assets	90,055,646	87,472,104
Liabilities and equity		
Liabilities		
Gross unearned premiums	7,248,226	7,062,569
Gross outstanding claims	13,215,160	13,023,120
Deferred commission income	255,170	205,665
Reinsurance payable	8,579,742	8,485,170
Taxes payable	151,582	241,885
Due to related parties	214,867	405,922
Accounts payable and accruals	8,311,291	5,259,826
Employees' terminal benefits	982,512	935,049
Total liabilities	38,958,550	35,619,206
Equity		
Share capital	20,000,000	20,000,000
Statutory reserve	5,331,869	5,331,869
Investments revaluation reserve	(434,737)	(429,334)
Retained earnings	26,199,964	26,950,363
Total equity	51,097,096	51,852,898
Total liabilities and equity	90,055,646	87,472,104

These statements have been extracted from the interim condensed financial information which were approved for issue on August 14, 2019 and reviewed by M/s Deloitte & Touche - Middle East.

Xinjiang backs int'l actions against terrorism, extremism



Vocational education and training programmes carried out in China's Xinjiang

Xinhua | Beijing

The vocational education and training programmes carried out in China's Xinjiang have achieved notable results and contributed experience to international actions against terrorism and extremism, said a white paper issued Friday by the State Council Information Office.

The programmes featured fighting extremism in accordance with local conditions, putting prevention first while taking firm action on terrorism and extremism, promoting the rule of law, and respecting and protecting human rights, according to the document ti-

tled Vocational Education and Training in Xinjiang.

In countering terrorism and extremism, Xinjiang draws on the experience of other countries, and provides people influenced by terrorist and religious extremist teachings with education in standard spoken and written Chinese, an understanding of the law, and training in vocational skills, according to the white paper.

These efforts have eradicated extremist thoughts, delivered widely recognized results, helped to safeguard social stability in the region, and protected the environment for the healthy development of religions, the white paper



said.

The practice of educating and rehabilitating the victims of terrorist and religious extremist teachings through vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang is similar to efforts by other countries and regions, with the same goals of dealing with the problem at source and protecting people's basic human rights, the white paper said, citing examples from other countries.

The goal of Xinjiang's efforts in vocational education and training is to eliminate the sources of terrorism and religious extremism, and this is an action that aims to respect and protect human rights, the white

paper said.

"Some people, for reasons of ideological prejudice or other ulterior motives, are doing all they can to blacken the reputation of Xinjiang's vocational education and training centers. Their censure of Xinjiang's huge effort in countering terrorism and extremism will be firmly rejected by the Xinjiang people," read the document.

A number of countries, organizations and individuals apply double standards in their approach to terrorism and extremism, which will in effect shield and incite terrorism and extremism, the white paper said.

Weekender

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AUG 22-28, 2019

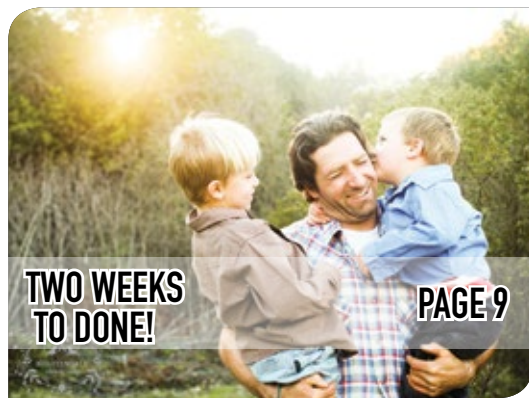
Because every week deserves a happy ending



WORLD MAN'S BEST FRIEND DAY!! PAGE 8



TAKING CARE OF YOUR DOGS IN THE HEAT PAGE 8



TWO WEEKS TO DONE! PAGE 9



TARANTINO HAS DONE IT AGAIN! PAGE 9

Where's The Biryani Party At!

As the disparity between the fortunate and the misfortunate increases, the real MVPs are the ones who take time and effort off of what is prescribed to be the ideal path to success, to lend a helping hand to the less fortunate. Then there are

those who make it their life's mission to improve the quality of life of those around them. Abbas Khan and Mahrukh Abbas are a couple worth emulating. They are the founders of the Saturday Biryani Party, an organization that serves biryani to labourers all over the

country, every Saturday. Beginning as just a meal, it is now an event that brings joy to everyone involved. Weekender had the opportunity to chat with Abbas Khan, to know more.

W. What was the spark that brought Saturday Biryani Party to life?

AK. Saturday Biryani Party is a weekly initiative to share meals with workers at their construction sites. Started in May 2015, we have shared around 73,146 complete biryani meals to date (Aug 17), over the last 223 consecutive weeks. IT is a very humble attempt to create community awareness about the conditions of these workers. In this process, we aim to teach our children certain basic social values, and their role in building a more equitable society. Thanks to this beautiful country where coexisting is an integral part of the community.

We wanted to use this forum to create awareness about the living conditions of workers. We do not see them as a human being separate from the landscape. They are part of our visual frame somewhere in the negative space, that we do not see. We enjoy clean roads, washed cars, clean tables at the food courts, etc. – without realizing that 'someone' is doing this for us. Acknowledgment of their existence is the first step, followed by recognition and realization of what they do – of what they have, and more importantly, realizing the gravity of what we have.

We started this as a family activity. It was started by my wife Mahrukh Abbas in May 2015, by distributing 15 – 25 biryani meals amongst the construction workers near our house. Before the Saturday Biryani Party saw the light, I used to make photo documentary about these workers for my Facebook page, to create awareness about their lives. When the biryani distribution began, my wife's intention to distribute food to these workers and my photography passion to document the lives of these workers were combined. We used to go out in our jeep and from one window my daughter would give drinks, from the other my son would distribute sauces



and biryani and I would take photos and interview few of them to listen to them and document their stories.

Word spread very quickly, as friends joined in, and social media and print publicity helped it further.

We share our meals with everyone, anyone in need, in a casual and friendly, yet very respectful environment. It's a 'party'!

W. What is your process, where do you source the food from or do you make it yourself?

AK. We buy biryani from a supplier. Over the years we have changed suppliers based on quality, quantity, and price. We also buy water and drinks. Apart from this, volunteers bring food to distribute at our party. They bring additional juices, fruits, cookies, chips, even cricket balls, warm clothes, used shoes, children's paintings, hand wash, shampoos, and the like. We always encourage youngsters to attend the event.

W. Who are your biggest financial supporters or helping hands?

AK. My biggest support comes from a friend who arranges the entire event every week, in my absence, since my work requires me to travel a lot. In the past 4 years, we have had a loyal group of volunteers who have supported this initiative through thick and thin. We have had financial support from Bahrain Financing Company for over a year and a half, now. Our major breakthrough was winning the Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa Award for The Best Bahraini Volunteer Project.

W. What is Saturday Biryani Party's next big hopeful step, if there is one?

AK. We aim to begin a 'Kitchen for Widows' – this would be a kitchen where we would contract widows to cook biryani for us every week. We will buy from them on commercial rates. The kitchen would be at their disposal, for them to cook and sell to support themselves and their families.

Abbas Khan also mentioned to Weekender that their logo says 'biryani has no religion'. To volunteer or donate, call on +973 39874541.



Eating out

WHAT: Après Beach
WHEN: 12:30 PM - 03:30 PM AUGUST 23
WHERE: Thai, Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain

As the sun sets each evening in our slice of paradise, join us for an evening of sundowners paired with a savory menu, along with outdoor access to the resort's Royal Beach Club pool facilities. A perfect after work escape for romantic couples or with your best group of friends.

WHAT: AFTER BRUNCH MENU
WHEN: 04:00 PM - 06:00 PM, SATURDAYS

WHERE: CANTINA KAHLO, THE RITZ-CARLTON, BAHRAIN

Cantina Kahlo is serving up a light menu perfect for guests who prefer late lunch on weekends, every Saturday after the Brunch Fiesta. The after brunch menu includes Mexican favorites like Guacamole, Ensalada Verde, Ceviches, Antojitos, Tacos, and Churros.

WHAT: SATURDAY FAMILY LUNCH
WHEN: 12:30 PM TO 03:30 PM, SATURDAYS
WHERE: LA MED

Bring your family and friends for a relaxing weekend lunch. Enjoy international specialties, live cooking stations, and a lavish dessert buffet.



Nightlife & Music

WHAT: LADIES NIGHT AT TANATAN
WHEN: ONGOING TILL AUGUST 31
WHERE: RAMEE GRAND HOTEL AND SPA

Enjoy the exquisite offer of buy one get one main course free!!! Get ready for a fun night with your girls!!!

WHAT: RnB Classics
WHEN: AUGUST 22
WHERE: CODA JAZZ LOUNGE

Get ready for a Thursday night filled with some of the greatest R&B jams from the 80s, 90s & 00s thrown down by none other than guest DJ Cossta who will be spinning those tunes in between & after our Live band! Get your groove on & bring along those dancing shoes to go down the memory lane when music was fun!

WHAT: PINK PARTY
WHEN: AUGUST 24
WHERE: UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS

Unwind at this pink party hosted by the Upstairs Downstairs Restaurant. The Upstairs Pink bar invites you to enjoy free entry and a bottle of bubbly with two main meals ordered. Enjoy live music through the night, which goes on from 8 pm to 1:30 am.

WHAT: LADIES NIGHT
WHEN: AUGUST 22
WHERE: UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS

Women rule the world! From 9 pm till 2 am, ladies take charge and will enjoy a night of great fun! There is nothing like hanging out with your best gals and enjoying the best of beverages.



Forever Home Hopefuls

Ready to take them home?

Every week, Weekender, in collaboration with the Bahrain Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BSPCA), will showcase two adorable fur babies who are looking for their Forever Homes.

BOYKA

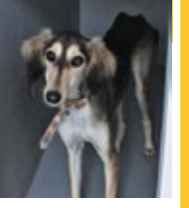
Type: Cat
Breed: DSH
Colour: White
Gender: Male
Age: 5.5 months



Boyka is a cuddly and playful little ball of fur. This curious kittle likes being around people and always shows how keen he is to be taken out and kept close to a loving person. He loves people but is sadly spending most of his childhood months at the shelter, while only catching occasional glimpses of a family and loving home when the visitors arrive. Unfortunately, he always has to watch the visitors leave without him. Boyka would love to go to a loving home where he can focus all of his care and attention on his forever family. Boyka is Fully Vaccinated.

RAIN

Type: Dog
Breed: Saluki
Colour: Black/Tan
Gender: Female
Age: 1 year 3 months



Rain is a very cool and quiet Saluki that moves like the wind. She has the cutest fluffy ears that you can't help but scratch as you look into her eyes and talk to her. Our volunteers love her because of how friendly and easy-going she is towards them. She deserves a much better home and warm family to welcome and love her, where she can spend her days being ever watchful and keeping them safe. Rain's presence instantly adds a relaxed and happy vibe to any household. Rain is neutered, tick-treated and fully vaccinated and eagerly waiting for that special someone to take her to her Forever Home!

World Man's Best Friend Day!

Every day is world dog day for all lovers of canines. They deserve all the love in the world, being the only creatures that love us more than they love themselves, and the world dog day is all about celebrating that. While the usual fanfare includes dog talent shows and beauty pageants, and all kinds of entertainment for them, accompanied by a scrumptious feast, true celebration lies in pledging to adopt a homeless dog, or feeding and nursing the strays. Bahrain is home to over 25,000 strays, and there are many organizations and individuals doing everything in their might to ensure that these dogs are fed, protected, and treated for ailments. Puppy mills and inbreeding are increasingly horrifying incidents that cities and individuals across the world are attempting to combat. This world dog day, rescue, donate, protect, save, and shower the silent harmless beings with love.



Taking care of your dogs in the heat



1) Don't Overexert Your Dog

Take your dog for his/ her walks early morning and late evening once the sun has set. Do not overexert your dog. Walk at a gentle pace. Take breaks. Carry water. If you can't take your dog outside once it's cool, make sure you have protective padding for his/ her paws. The ground can be very hot and can crack, burn, and hurt their paws. Swimming is a great option during summer. Keeps your puppy cool and they get their exercise too.

2) Hydrate Hydrate Hydrate

Make sure there is always plenty of clean, fresh, cool water for your dog. Also give water alternatives with electrolytes, buttermilk sans salt, frozen treats, fruits, and coconut water. Do NOT give human energy drinks to dogs. It's normal for a decrease/ loss in appetite during hot weather, so include fluids such as broth, curd or buttermilk with the meals.

3) Watch Out for Signs of Dehydration

Dogs have only panting as their cooling mechanism. Excessive drooling, labored breathing, bloodshot eyes, increased heart rate, restlessness, inelastic skin are some of the signs to watch out for. Recently, we have also noticed a number of dogs throwing up

clear liquid also. Get immediate veterinary help if this happens.

4) Cool Your Puppy Down

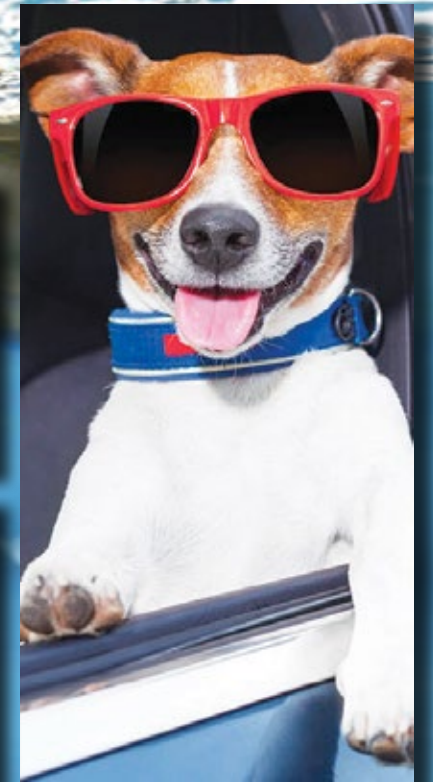
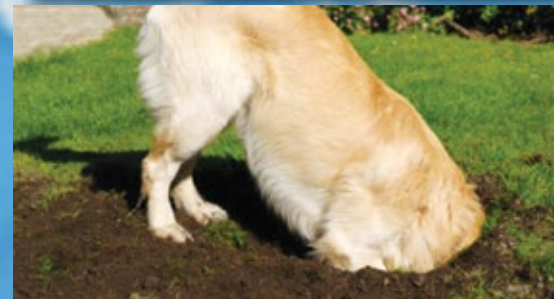
It's important to keep your puppy's temperature down during summer. Use a wet towel for your dog to lie on after a walk, wipe him/her down with a cool, wet cloth (making sure the paws, tummy, armpits, and back of the head are wiped down and wet), kiddie pool, ice cubes, placing a fan in front of a pan of ice, spraying some water on the floor, air conditioning and fans all help keep your puppy cool. Also, let your dog dig! Dogs like to dig to cool themselves.

5) Don't Leave Your Dog In a Parked Car

The car retains more heat than the outside area even if parked in the shade. Your dog's temperature can quickly rise leading to severe cases of heatstroke.

6) Don't Shave

Contrary to the thinking that shaving the fur will help in cooling your dog, the layers of fur help protect your dog from overheating and sunburn. More harm will be done if the coat is shaved. Trimming long hair is fine.



In Canine Fashion Now

Dog lovers are as obsessed with their pets as they are with their kids. Micro fashion is in, as is dog fashion. Here are Weekender's best picks of dog fashion right now!



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SCIENCE!

Adhاري

Two Weeks to Done!

We are slowly inching close to the end of the summer vacation, and as much as being a desert country means we don't particularly look forward to enjoying it the way the colder countries do, it is still a time of fun and frolic, owing to it being the vacation season. There are two weeks to go for the end of the vacation, and here are a few things to do to make the most of the laziest time of the year.



Watch a sunrise - It surely is a cliché, but it is a cliché for a reason. In Bahrain, we can see both the sunrise and sunset on the same day, as it is an island country. The magnificent art show curated by nature can never get old, and it'll make you believe that there is a little bit of magic in everything. Also, sunrises in Bahrain are particularly gorgeous, and it is a must-see. Make a trip out of it, as much as early mornings on a holiday might leave us all grumpy, it'll all be washed away the moment the sky is lit by the sunrise palette.

Take photos - Selfie craze is a thing, both good and bad. We spend most of our time on our phones, and transcribing our lives on social media is a common habit. In the midst of this, how much do we remember to capture moments that we'll forever cherish? As much as it is important to live in the moment, we'd also be surprised by the joy and everything else being reminded of these moments ten years later will bring us. It is also always amazing to see ourselves through the ages.



Tour around Bahrain - Yes, it is a fairly small country, but every day there is a new exhibition or installation or something of the sort, lending us a better grasp of the history of this land, or the intricacies of the ecosystem, handicrafts, and even promoting upcoming artists and entrepreneurs. Farms, museums, forts, and the like, that were previously inaccessible are now accessible to the public. Pack a picnic and spend the day discovering or rediscovering the island and its beaches, museums, exhibitions, farms, and so much more!

Plant a garden - Most non-local bio life cannot withstand the summer, especially the saplings. The end of the summer is the best time to re-nourish the soil and get it ready for the planting season. The joy of dirtying your hands, and seeing the literal fruit of your toil is unmatched. Visit local nurseries or flower shops, ask them about ideal seedlings for the season, and get dirty with the whole family.



Spend time with family and friends - Always a staple of any holiday, take the time to spend quality time and fun time with your family and reconnect with your friends. Busy schedules are the norm, and we are often unable to take the time to show up for plans to chill. Summer holidays are the best time to amend that. Consider it a well-deserved break from the race to the finish line.

Collect yourself - Spend some time by yourself, doing things you love, recognizing or making new goals, reevaluating your course, simply reacquainting yourself with old hobbies or likes or habits. Meditate, swim, run, dance, anything that helps you rejuvenate and reenergize for the rest of the year. Make time to do things for yourself that you couldn't because of the hectic schedule.



Weekly wellness with Sonia and Mo

Weekender teams up with Coaches Sonia and Mo who are here to help our readers on their journey to good health, but in a fun and more realistic way!

Find out more about them at www.thehealthyconscience.com



For decades, the body mass index (BMI) has been the gold standard for gauging obesity-related heart disease risk. But this handy tool doesn't always tell the whole story. It extrapolates your body fat percentage based on your height and weight. But the formula can't assess how or where your body stores its excess fat — a distinction that is crucial for cardiovascular health. By some estimates, the BMI misclassifies nearly 50% of people who are at higher disease risk from excess fat, meaning that you can be overfat even when you're not overweight.

The secret life of belly fat

Some people are genetically programmed to have a lot of fat tissue under the skin, which is deployed to store extra food energy during times of scarcity. But other people have very few of these designated fat cells. In individuals who lack an adequate quota of available fat storage cells (or people whose fat tissue is already filled to capacity), fat particles travel in the bloodstream and congregate in the liver, muscles, and other organs, which normally have no fat. This also leads to the accumulation of visceral or "belly" fat — a pattern of fat distribution that is particularly hazardous to your health. Visceral fat is associated with insulin resistance and other metabolic irregularities. It also triggers the release of inflammatory substances that damage the arteries and help set the stage for cardiovascular disease.

Who is prone to visceral fat?

The tendency to accumulate visceral fat is governed by genetic, ethnic, and gender differences. Natives of India and South Asia have a higher-than-average

propensity for abdominal obesity. White men and black women tend to accumulate more visceral fat than black men and white women.

Fat and aging

With age, people tend to lose muscle tissue, especially the type of specialized muscle fibers that produce quick bursts of speed and power. Fat frequently accumulates within the remaining muscle tissue, causing your body fat percentage to increase even when your weight remains constant. This scenario is closely linked to bodywide inflammation and diabetes risk. It may also explain why your BMI measurement doesn't provide a true reflection of your health risks. Evidence suggests that waist circumference and waist-to-hip ratio is better indicators of metabolic health than BMI. Even among people with the same BMI, those who have a large waist (defined as more than 40 inches for men and 35 inches for women) have a significantly higher risk. In addition, people who tend to carry their weight in their hips and thighs (a "pear" shape) have lower waist-to-hip ratios and are less prone to heart disease than people with abdominal obesity (an "apple" shape).

Measuring your midsection

To measure your waist accurately, exhale and wrap a measuring tape around your bare abdomen just above your navel (belly button). Don't suck in your gut or pull the tape tight enough to squeeze the area. To compute your waist-to-hip ratio, first measure your hips by putting the tape measure around the widest part of your buttocks. Keep the tape measure level. Then, divide your waist size by your hip size.

Measurements that signal high risk	Waist (inches)	Waist-to-hip ratio
Women	35 or more	0.9 or more
Men	40 or more	1.0 or more

What should you do about visceral fat?

People with abdominal obesity — even if they're not overweight — can lessen their heart disease risk with regular exercise and healthy eating habits. Reducing the total amount of fat in your body frees up storage space for fat particles in places that are associated with less metabolic risk. That's why losing as little as 7% of your total weight helps lower heart disease risk: the most dangerous visceral fat disappears first.



Gourmet Mushroom Risotto



Showing off your cooking chops can be a time consuming and laborious deal, especially if you don't particularly have cooking chops! As always, work smarter, not harder, and find the easiest recipes to leave your guests in awe. Risottos are not easy to perfect, sure, but they are not difficult to get right and are guaranteed to impress. Here's a delicious risotto recipe to delight your family or guests with, and the delectable mushrooms will guarantee the picky ones will be helping themselves to more than one serving.

INGREDIENTS

- 6 cups chicken broth, divided
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 pound portobello mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 1 pound white mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 2 shallots, diced
- 1 1/2 cups Arborio rice
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- Sea salt to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped chives
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1/3 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese

DIRECTIONS

- In a saucepan, warm the broth over low heat.
- Warm 2 tablespoons olive oil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Stir in the mushrooms, and cook until soft, about 3 minutes. Remove mushrooms and their liquid, and set aside.
- Add 1 tablespoon olive oil to skillet, and stir in the shallots. Cook 1 minute. Add rice, stirring to coat with oil, about 2 minutes. When the rice has taken on a pale, golden color, pour in the wine, stirring constantly until the wine is fully absorbed. Add 1/2 cup broth to the rice, and stir until the broth is absorbed. Continue adding broth 1/2 cup at a time, stirring continuously, until the liquid is absorbed and the rice is al dente, about 15 to 20 minutes.
- Remove from heat, and stir in mushrooms with their liquid, butter, chives, and parmesan. Season with salt and pepper to taste.



Tarantino Has Done It Again!

A review of Once Upon a Time in Hollywood by Ahmed Zayani

When it comes to hardcore film aficionados, Quentin Tarantino has to be one of the most revered mainstream directors working today. The smallest announcement or rumor is enough to get his fans excited with euphoric glee and the excitement in the air upon walking into any screening of his is palpable, to say the least. I would be remiss if I didn't go as far as considering him one of the modern-day movie masters, to the likes of Steven Spielberg, Martin Scorsese, and Christopher Nolan. However, there does exist a disparity in how the general audience views his movies with his more critically acclaimed works, being marred with criticism from your average joe, especially when compared to his more recent output.

Directed by Quentin Tarantino, Once Upon a Time in Hollywood is the ninth film in the master's filmography and tells the story of aging actor Rick Dalton (played by Leonardo DiCaprio), who along with his trusted stuntman and compatriot Cliff Booth (played by Brad Pitt) must navigate the changing landscape that is 1960s Hollywood that seems to be intent on leaving them by the wayside. With his penultimate feature, Tarantino has assembled an ensemble cast of virtually a who's who of giants in the film industry including the likes of Al Pacino (in his best role since Danny Collins) Kurt Russell, Bruce Dem, Tarantino mainstay Michael Madsen, Emile Hirsh, and Margot Robbie amongst others, and while they all shined in their respective parts, this film was through and through DiCaprio's and Pitt's showcase, and what a riveting experience it was! Over the last decade, Leonardo DiCaprio has proved to us time and time again that he is one of the best thespians working in the industry today, and this film does nothing but helps solidify that notion. In

Once Upon a Time, DiCaprio gives us a layered thought-provoking performance of a man that sees his star fading in the only world that he knows. Yes, quite a few of his scenes are played for laughs but there are many nuances beyond that. While I wouldn't go as far as to call this the next performance of the year (James MacAvoy's turn in Glass is yet to beat), this is the next best thing thus far. I was actually quite surprised by Brad Pitt's solid performance, and how he was able to stand side by side with DiCaprio. While he was never the most talented actor around, Pitt has the ability to shine in the hands of the right director and was the case with Inglorious Basterds, Once Upon a Time shows that his collaborations with Tarantino are some of his strongest performances. Beyond that, the film benefitted from wonderful cinematography and utilizing their sets and locations to their maximum. For this, Tarantino has collaborated with Richard Richardson on every movie since Kill Bill Vol. 1, and they are both all the better for it.

I believe that the thing that would divide audiences on Once Upon a Time is the story. When this movie was announced, many sources correctly asserted that it would revolve almost completely around the Manson Murders. While the movie did touch on that aspect, it was never as prominent as some audiences would like, and in most cases, it was relegated to background fodder. This film also harkens back to Tarantino's earlier films where the narrative isn't as concrete as his more recent productions which would further frustrate audiences unfamiliar with that style. I have heard and seen audiences walk out of theatres for this very reason. During my screening, two of my friends struggled to keep their eyes open. However, in my opinion, I absolutely loved every single frame of this film, so much that I was making plans for a re-watch the moment the lights came back on. I believe that hardcore movie aficionados and those more familiar with Tarantino's earlier movies will get more out of this production than the common cinema-goer, but that shouldn't take away from how good a film Once Upon a Time in Hollywood is. In a time where the cinema landscape is polluted with sequels, remakes, and CGI-laden blockbusters, it is still amazing to see something this original be given such a wide release. This is easily one of my favorite films of this year thus far, and I recommend that you give it a watch.

Verdict – 10/10

For more cinematic intel, follow @theahmedzayani on Instagram.



THE FIVE Favorite Tarantino Films

1. Inglorious Basterds
2. Pulp Fiction
3. Kill Bill Vol. 1
4. Django Unchained
5. The Hateful Eight

Watch the trailer:



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► What is your ideal end of summer event? (see page 09)

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► What is the worst vegetable to have on a ship?

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► _____ is the movie reviewed this week. (See Page 10)

► _____ is one of the movies releasing this week. (See Page 10)

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Scan the code to see the list of winners

cineco CINE GOURMET NOW SHOWING chekids cineco

OASIS JUFFAIR CITY CENTRE SEEF WADI AL SAIL SAAR

ANGEL HAS FALLEN

47 METERS DOWN UNCAGED

PORINJU MARIAM JOSE

Book your seat at cinema.bh

business

KFH launches open banking infrastructure

TDT | Manama

Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain (KFH-Bahrain) has announced going live with its Open Banking infrastructure, which allows it to partner with fin techs from around the world to deliver services in line with the demands of customers.

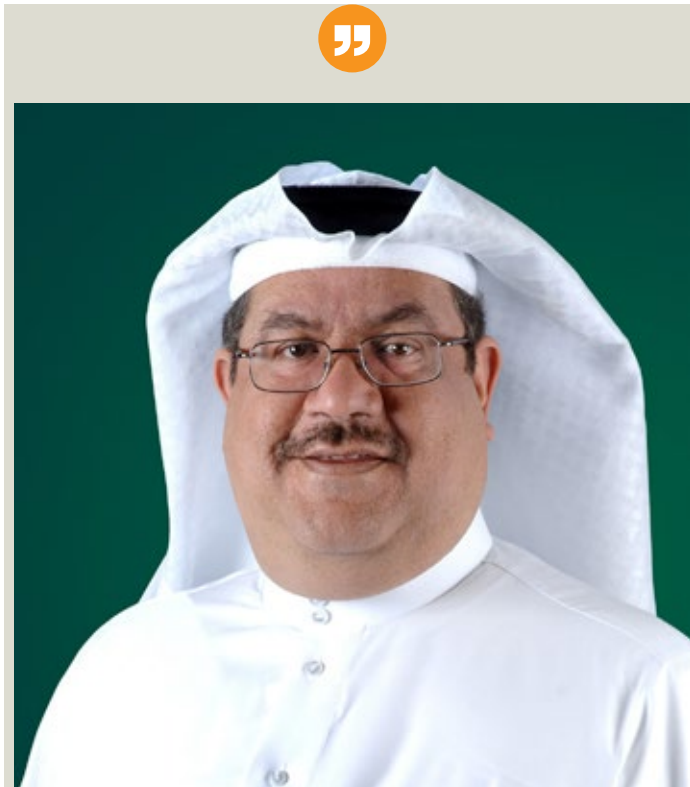
The move comes in support of the long-term vision of the Central Bank of Bahrain, as well as KFH-Bahrain's strategy to further drive and support innovation in the FinTech industry.

Bahrain is one of the earliest global adopters of mandatory open banking, putting it at the vanguard of customer-driven change in financial services.

Commenting, Khalid Rafea, Executive Manager and Head of Retail Banking Group at KFH-Bahrain, said, "Open banking will allow our customers to enjoy a wide range of innovative digital solutions and services, including a consolidated view of all their bank accounts through a single platform, which will allow for greater collaboration and integration amongst banks, financial institutions and payment service providers in the Kingdom of Bahrain."

"Open Banking will create more opportunities for commercial collaborations and strategic partnerships," he added.

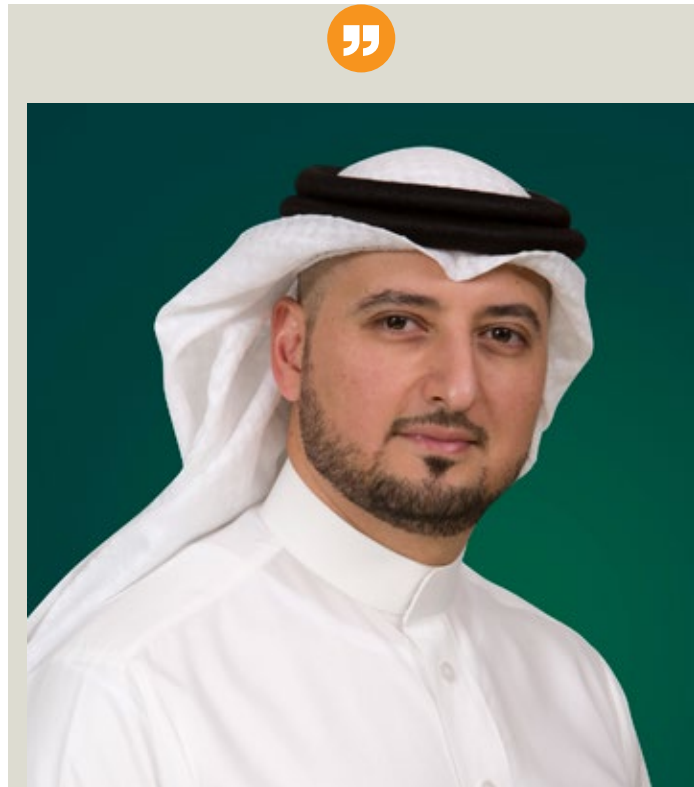
Mohammed Fahmi Hamad,



Open banking will allow our customers to enjoy a wide range of innovative digital solutions and services, including enabling a consolidated view of all their bank accounts through a single platform, which will allow for greater collaboration and integration amongst banks, financial institutions and payment service providers in the Kingdom of Bahrain

KHALID RAFEA

EXECUTIVE MANAGER, HEAD OF RETAIL BANKING GROUP AT KFH-BAHRAIN



Customers will soon be able to link their accounts to independent licensed applications offering a large range of services and solutions. From our end, we remain excited and committed to supporting these developments to ensure KFH customers receive the best service

MOHAMMED FAHMI HAMAD

EXECUTIVE MANAGER, HEAD OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AT KFH-BAHRAIN

Executive Manager and Head of Information Technology at KFH-Bahrain said the move along with the recently announced Personal Data Protection Laws will allow bank account holders to share account details and payments history to licensed third-party providers to leverage new technologies like Data Analytics and Artificial learning to make more aware financial decisions.

"In addition to that, customers will soon be able to link their accounts to independent licensed applications offering a large range of services and solutions."

In line with KFH's record, being among the first banks to integrate a FinTech through the launch of its "KFH Jazeel Banking" platform, "we are today proud to partner with Tarabut Gateway WLL, a subsidiary of Almoayed Technologies and continue that journey supporting local FinTechs and ensure that we continue delivering innovative best in class solutions," Hamad added.

Abdulla Almoayed, CEO of Almoayed Technologies said the regulation introduced by the Central Bank of Bahrain will position Bahrain as the most advanced Financial Services sector in the region and "we are honoured to partner with KFH to support this initiative deliver best in class services to the people of Bahrain."

Trump scraps Denmark visit



Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen (L) and US President Donald Trump

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump Tuesday postponed a planned visit to Denmark after Danish officials insisted its autonomous territory of Greenland was not for sale.

"Based on Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen's comments, that she would have no interest in discussing the purchase of Greenland, I will be postponing our meeting scheduled in two weeks for another time," Trump tweeted.

During a Sunday visit to Greenland -- the largest island on Earth -- Frederiksen called Trump's idea "absurd."

"The Prime Minister was able to save a great deal of expense and effort for both the United States and Denmark by being so direct," Trump tweeted.

"I thank her for that and look forward to rescheduling sometime in the future!"

IMF tells Donald Trump: It's not working

Washington, United States

US tariffs on China won't fix the trade deficit, and neither will weakening the US dollar through interest rate cuts, International Monetary Fund economists said yesterday.

In unusually blunt language, the blog post seemed targeted straight at President Donald Trump who has persistently demanded that the Federal Reserve cut interest rates to weaken the US dollar and juice the economy, while imposing round after round of tariffs on China to reduce deficit he describes



IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath

as theft.

But the US policy moves are counterproductive, won't achieve the desired results, and will slow the global economy, IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath said.

"Higher bilateral tariffs are unlikely to reduce aggregate trade imbalances, as they mainly divert trade to other countries," Gopinath warned in a blog titled "Taming the Currency Hype," co-authored by fellow IMF researchers Gustavo Adler and Luis Cubeddu.

"Instead, they are likely to harm both domestic and glob-

al growth by sapping business confidence and investment and disrupting global supply chains, while raising costs for producers and consumers."

And any plans to weaken a country's own currency value "are cumbersome to implement and likely to be ineffective," they said, adding that pressure on the central bank will not achieve that goal either. The authors warned that "one should not put too much stock in the view that easing monetary policy can weaken a country's currency enough to bring a lasting improvement in its trade balance."

Facebook hiring journalists for News Tab

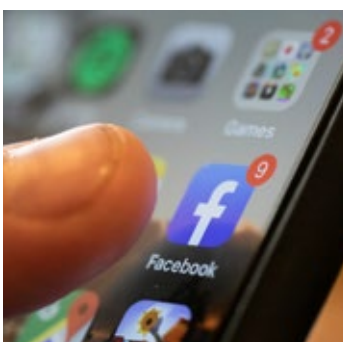
San Francisco, United States

Facebook on Tuesday confirmed plans for a News Tab that will be edited by seasoned journalists, in a departure from its longstanding practice of letting algorithms dictate a user's experience.

A human team will select relevant, reliable breaking and top news stories.

Other sections of the tab will rely on algorithms to figure out a user's interests based on "signals" such as pages followed, interactions with online news or subscriptions to publications.

"Our goal with the News Tab is to provide a personalized, highly relevant experience for people," Facebook head of news



Representative picture

partnerships Campbell Brown told AFP.

"For the Top News section of the tab we're pulling together a small team of journalists to ensure we're highlighting the right stories."

However the majority of stories people see will be determined by software, according to Brown.

The tab would be separate from the trademark news feed at Facebook that displays updates and content from people's friends.

Facebook Watch already allows users to peruse news shows funded by the social network and other on-demand online content.

California-based Facebook has launched an array of initiatives to support or bolster journalism in recent years as social media has been under intense pressure to avoid becoming a tool to spread misinformation.

"Working with news industry to get Facebook's News Tab right is our goal and focus this year," Brown said earlier this month in a tweet.

"Still early days but we are getting tremendous partner feedback on the product. I believe we can provide people on Facebook a better news experience."

Facebook will reportedly pay some publishers to license news content for the tab.

Earlier this year Facebook co-founder and chief executive Mark Zuckerberg said he wanted "to make sure that to the extent that we can, we're funding as much high-quality journalism as possible."

Romania mulls excluding Huawei from its 5G network

Bucharest, Romania

Bucharest could exclude Chinese giant Huawei from its future 5G network, according to a joint statement signed by the Romanian and US presidents and published yesterday.

The document signed by Romania's Klaus Iohannis and his American counterpart Donald Trump says the two leaders "seek to avoid the security risks that accompany Chinese investment in 5G telecommunications networks".

It was signed during a trip made by Iohannis to Washington on Tuesday.

Iohannis recently expressed "concerns" regarding Huawei's possible participation in the country's 5G network, adding the Supreme Council of National Defence (CSAT) would discuss it.

The Romanian and American delegations also signed a memorandum of understanding on Tuesday establishing the conditions that service providers will have to fulfil to be part of the network.

These include the obligation not to be under the control of a third country's government, according to Romanian news website G4Media.

US okays sale of F-16 to Taiwan

Washington, United States

The US State Department on Tuesday approved the sale of 66 F-16 fighters to Taiwan, in a move expected to anger Beijing.

Taiwan will get the latest version of the Lockheed Martin-built fighter, the F-16C/D Block 70, in the \$8 billion deal, the State Department said.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement that President Donald Trump had green-lighted the proposed sale after Congress was notified last week.

The F-16s "are deeply consistent with the arrangements, the historical relationship between the United States and China," Pompeo said.

"Our actions are consistent with past US policy. We are simply following through on the commitments we've made to all of the parties."

Taiwan's plan to upgrade its air defenses comes amid increasing Chinese military incursions into its air space.

A spokesman for the Taiwan-

China threatens sanctions

Beijing, China

China yesterday blasted a huge planned US arms shipment to self-ruled Taiwan and threatened to sanction firms involved in the sale of F-16 fighter jets.

"China will take all necessary measures to safeguard our interests including imposing sanctions on the US companies participating in this arms sale to Taiwan," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a news briefing.

The sale "is a serious interference in our internal affairs and undermines our sovereignty and security interests", he said.

China said it had lodged diplomatic protests against the deal and yesterday urged the US to "cancel this arms sale plan at once, stop selling arms to Taiwan and cut its military contact with Taiwan".

Chinese president released a statement saying the jets would "substantially enhance our air defense capabilities to help Taiwan's self-defense and maintain the people's freedom and welfare."

The sale's approval will have a key role in "peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and region, especially in the wake of China's frequent military actions... in the region in recent years," the statement said.

Beijing regards Taiwan as a part of China awaiting reunification, but the island is self-ruled and is a close ally of the United States.

In a statement, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, which oversees US foreign military sales, said Taiwan's purchase of the F-16s "will not alter the basic military balance in the region."

"This proposed sale will contribute to the recipient's capa-

bility to provide for the defense of its airspace, regional security, and interoperability with the United States."

On Monday, China's foreign ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said US arms sales to Taiwan "severely violate" agreements between Washington and Beijing and "constitute severe interference in China's internal affairs."

The United States should "immediately cancel the planned arms sales, and stop selling weapons and military contact with Taiwan," he said.

"Otherwise, the US will have to bear all the consequences."

Taiwan already has a fleet of old-model F-16s purchased in 1992, which have undergone several crucial upgrades.

Manufacturer Lockheed Martin says the newest version, the F-16 Block 70/72, includes many avionics, weapons and radar technologies not in existence when earlier models were created.

It is structurally stronger, the company says, so that it "can fly and fight to 2070 and beyond."

Israel, South Korea announce free-trade deal

Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel and South Korea announced yesterday they have concluded a free-trade agreement to eliminate tariffs on goods ranging from cars and medical equipment to lipstick and video games.

Israeli Economy Minister Eli Cohen called the deal "historic", saying it was Israel's first such agreement with an east Asian nation.

It was not clear when the agreement could enter into force.

"The advantage of this agreement will go beyond our economic ties," Cohen said at

a ceremony to announce the deal.

"I'm confident that this will also mark the start of a new era and an even closer friendship between Israel and Korea."

South Korean Trade Minister Yoo Myung-hee said at the ceremony that "I hope that Israeli companies will take full advantage of Korea as a stepping stone into the vast Asian market."

Negotiations on the agreement stretched three years.

According to Israel's economy ministry, trade between the two countries reached \$2.5 billion last year, an increase of nearly 15 percent over 2017.

World stocks rise as recession fears fade

London, United Kingdom

Stock markets mostly rose yesterday as investors appeared willing to set aside fears of recession, instead focusing on bargain hunting, analysts said.

They also seemed to largely shrug off political turmoil in Italy.

"Recession nerves look to have settled a little following last week's panic, which has brought some relief to markets," said Craig Erlam at OANDA.

Global bond yields stabilised, indicating that markets are becoming less pessimistic about the outlook for the world economy.

Key European equity markets were more than one pc higher by the close.

That included Milan's FTSE MIB index which rallied as Italian President Sergio Mattarella began talks with key players in a bid to end political limbo in the eurozone's number three economy.

The index had dived 1.1 per cent on Tuesday after the shock resignation of Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.

"The markets have seemingly taken the latest political upheaval in Italy in their stride and are gaining," noted XTB analyst David Cheetham.

US stock markets also made a better start, "aided by some stabilisation in global bond yields which had plunged recently to exacerbate market uneasiness and growth concerns", said Charles Schwab analysts.

Euro turns flat

The euro flatlined against the dollar as Italy's crisis offset

optimism that Germany's government could unveil measures to avert a downturn.

Conte resigned this week, hitting out at far-right Interior Minister Matteo Salvini for pursuing his own interests by bringing down the government coalition.

Mattarella must now decide to form a new coalition or call an election, throwing up more uncertainty and another possible budget standoff with the European Union.

Powell speech looms

Investors' focus was starting to turn to a key speech by Federal Reserve boss Jerome Powell at the end of the week.

Powell's talk at the central bankers' gathering in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, is the key event and will be closely pored over for clues about the bank's plans for next month, with experts unable to agree on whether or not he will announce further cuts.

'Crazy' German bond

In another sign that investors believe in rekindled growth down the road, the German treasury on Wednesday failed to sell out a 30-year zero-coupon government bond. The treasury, which had hoped to place two billion euros of debt, in the end found takers for just 824 million.

But those investors that did buy the bond paid over face value, taking the yield to -0.11 pc, which means that they are paying the German government for the privilege of lending it money for the next three decades.

"It's crazy," Eric Vanraes, bond manager at the Eric Sturdza bank, said.



A U.S.-made F16 fighter jet takes off from an air base in Campia Turzii, Romania (Courtesy of Defense News)

Banks weigh on Saudi index

Ten of 11 Saudi banks fall

Emaar Misr continue losses on lawsuit

Julphar falls for second day on drug recall

Savola drops on lower second-quarter profit



An investor watching stock movements at the Saudi Stock Market (AFP)

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▼ 0.9pc to 8,509 pts
ABU DHABI	▼ 0.6pc to 5,041 pts
DUBAI	▲ 0.1pc to 2,790 pts
QATAR	▼ 0.2pc to 9,877 pts
EGYPT	▼ 0.5 pc to 14,357 pts
BAHRAIN	▼ 0.2pc to 1,532 pts
OMAN	▲ 1pc to 3,929 pts
KUWAIT	▼ 0.2pc to 6,610 pts

swung to a second-quarter loss, while Saudi Fisheries shed 1.5pc as its losses widened in the same period.

Saudi Arabia's largest food products company, Savola Group, closed 2.5pc down after it reported a 21.7pc decrease in second-quarter profit.

Walaa Cooperative Insurance, which is in merger talks with Metlife AIG ANB, shed 2pc after EFG Hermes cut its target price to 11 riyals from 20.8 riyals.

In Abu Dhabi, the index dropped 0.6pc with the United Arab Emirates' largest lender First Abu Dhabi Bank slipping 0.4pc.

Gulf Pharmaceutical Industries (Julphar) lost a further 7pc a day after it plunged 9.8pc. On Tuesday, the firm said that it recalled a single batch of its Laxocodyl suppository over a labelling error.

Egypt's blue-chip index de-

creased 0.5pc, led by a 0.5pc fall in its largest lender Commercial International Bank.

Emaar Misr plunged 5.7pc extending its losses from previous session following a lawsuit filed by an Egyptian businessman against the developer claiming part of the land at the Marassi project.

Qatar's index slid 0.2pc snapping a three-session winning streak.

Petrochemical maker Industries Qatar dropped 2.3pc and Barwa Real Estate lost 1.5pc.

The index has been benefiting since the central bank said last week Qatari economic growth would accelerate over the next two years amid expectations of stable oil prices and continued strong exports.

Dubai's index edged up 0.1pc as Emirates NBD gained 1.3pc and Emirates Integrated Telecommunications increased 1.8pc.

Most major Gulf stock markets fell yesterday, with Saudi banking shares pushing that index down the most, amid rising regional geopolitical tensions and ahead of US Federal Reserve events.

Tensions in the Middle East remained in focus after the United States said it would take every action it can to prevent an Iranian tanker sailing in the Mediterranean from delivering oil to Syria in contravention of US sanctions.

Adding to the tension was Australia agreeing to join a US-led mission to protect Gulf shipping. Iran denounces the effort and insists countries in the region can protect waterways and work towards signing a non-aggression pact.

Elsewhere, focus also shifted to the minutes of the U.S. Federal Reserve's most recent meeting, due on Wednesday, given the currencies of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emir-

ates and Qatar are pegged to the US dollar.

In Saudi Arabia the index closed 0.9 per cent lower with Al Rajhi Bank declining 1.3pc and Riyadh Bank losing 1.5pc.

The Middle East's largest index was also hit by disappointment over some corporate earnings. Tabuk Agricultural Development lost 5.3pc after it

Key figures around 1540 GMT

London - FTSE 100:	▲ 1.1 pc at 7,203.97 points (close)
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▲ 1.3 pc at 11,802.85 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 1.7 pc at 5,435.48 (close)
Milan - FTSE MIB:	▲ 1.8 pc at 20,847.07 (close)
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ 1.2 pc at 3,391.66
New York - Dow:	▲ 1.0 pc at 26,231.43
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 0.3 pc at 20,618.57 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▲ 0.2 pc at 26,270.04 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	■ at 2,880.33 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1101 from \$1.1100
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.2144 from \$1.2170
Euro/pound:	▲ at 91.43 pence from 91.21 pence
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 106.45 yen from 106.23 yen
Brent North Sea crude:	▲ 91 cents at \$60.94 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 45 cents at \$56.58

SHOW

KHAYAL MAATA (PG)(COMEDY/DRAMA)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
 OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 10.45 AM + 3.45 + 8.45 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.00 + 3.00 + 4.30 + 5.30 + 7.00 + 8.00 + 9.30 + 10.30 PM + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
 CITY CENTRE VIP (II): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
 SEEF (I): 11.15 AM + 12.15 + 1.45 + 2.45 + 4.15 + 5.15 + 6.45 + 7.45 + 9.15 + 10.15 + 11.45 + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
 WADI AL SAIL: 10.30 AM + 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 3.30 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 8.30 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN
 SAAR: 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM
 AHMAD HELMY, MINNA SHALABI, HASSAN HOSNEY

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

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
 OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 1.15 + 6.15 + 11.15 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 10.15 AM + 11.15 AM + 1.00 + 2.00 + 3.45 + 4.45 + 6.30 + 7.30 + 9.15 + 10.15 PM + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
 CITY CENTRE VIP (I): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
 SEEF (II): 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
 WADI AL SAIL: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.00 + 11.30 PM
 SAAR: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
 GERARD BUTLER, MORGAN FREEMAN, JADA PINKETT SMITH

47 METERS DOWN: UNCAGED (15+)(THRILLER/ HORROR)

CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
 SEEF (II): 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN
 SAAR: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM
 SOPHIE NELISSE, CORINNE FOX, BRIANNE TJU



READY OR NOT (18+)(THRILLER/ HORROR)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 2.15 + 7.00 + 11.45 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM
 SEEF (I): 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
 WADI AL SAIL: 10.45 AM + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM
 SAAR: 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM
 SAMARA WEAVING, ADAM BRODY, MARK O'BRIEN (IX)

EL CHICANO (15+)(CRIME/ACTION/ DRAMA)

SEEF (II): 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 PM
 ADOLFO ALVAREZ, LOGAN AREVALO, JOSE PABLO CANTILLO
 SHEEP & WOLVES 2 (G)(ANIMATION/ ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
 SEEF (II): 11.00 AM + 12.45 + 2.30 + 4.15 PM
 GRAHAM HALSTEAD, MAJOR ATTAWAY, JASON GRIFFITH

FANTASTICA (G)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE)

SEEF (II): 12.00 + 1.45 + 3.30 PM
 MARIO LOPEZ, JOSEPH S. LAMBERT, SIOBHAN LUMSDEN

ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD (18+)(DRAMA/COMEDY)

CITY CENTRE: 12.45 + 6.15 + 11.45 PM
 LEONARDO DICAPRIO, BRAD PITT, MARGOT ROBBIE

DORA AND THE LOST CITY OF GOLD (PG) ADVENTURE

CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN
 SEEF (II): 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 11.00 AM + 4.00 + 9.00 PM
 SAAR: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 PM
 ISABELA MONER, Q'ORIANKA KILCHER, BENICIO DEL TORO

THE LION KING (PG)(ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)

OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 1.30 + 6.15 + 11.00 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
 DONALD GLOVER, SETH ROGEN, CHIWTEL EJIJOR

MISSION MANGAL (PG-13)(HINDI/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM
 SEEF (II): 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
 AKSHAY KUMAR, VIDYA BALAN, ANIRBAN BHATTACHARYYA

THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2 (PG)(ANIMATION)

OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 11.15 AM + 4.00 + 8.45 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 PM
 SEEF (II): 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 PM
 SUDEIKIS, JOSH GAD, AWKAFINA

ALADDIN (PG)(ADVENTURE)

CITY CENTRE: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD

WELAD RIZK 2 (15+)(ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)

CITY CENTRE: 1.15 + 6.30 + 11.45 PM
 SEEF (II): 9.15 + 11.45 PM
 AHMAD EIZZ, AMR YOUSIF,

TOY STORY 4 (G)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 PM
 TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK

FAST & FURIOUS: HOBBS & SHAW (PG-15)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 12.00 + 12.45 + 2.45 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 6.15 + 8.15 + 9.00 + 11.00 + 11.45 PM
 CITY CENTRE (IMAX2D): 10.45 AM + 1.30 + 4.15 + 7.00 + 9.45 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
 SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN
 WADI AL SAIL: 1.15 + 6.15 + 11.15 PM
 DWAYNE JOHNSON, JASON STATHAM, IDRIS ELBA

BATLA HOUSE (15+)(HINDI/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
 SEEF (II): 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 JOHN ABRAHAM, MRUNAL THAKUR, NORA FATEHI

SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15)ACTION

CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 3.45 + 9.00 PM
 TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA

MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15)(ARABIC/COMEDY)

CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 4.00 + 9.30 PM
 MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHAMED THARWAT

CRAWL (18+)(THRILLER/HORROR)

CITY CENTRE: 9.30 PM + 11.30 PM
 KAYA SCODELARIO, BARRY PEPPER, ROSS ANDERSON

SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK (15+)

CITY CENTRE: 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN
 ZOE MARGARET COLLETTI, MICHAEL GARZA, GABRIEL RUSH



THANNEER MATHAN DINANGAL (PG-13)(MALAYALAM)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.30 AM + 4.15 + 9.00 PM
 VINEETH SREENIVASAN, IRSHAD, MATHEW THOMAS

PORINJU MARIAM JOSE (PG-15)(MALAYALAM)

FROM FRIDAY 23rd
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM
 SEEF (I): 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM
 AL HAMRA: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 + (12.00 MN. THURS./FRI)
 JOJU GEORGE, CHEMBAN VINOD, NYLA USHA

NAUKAR VAHUTI DA (PG-13)(PUNJABI)

SEEF (I): 1.15 + 6.15 + 11.15 PM
 KULRAJ RANDHAWA, BINNU DHILLON, UPASNA SINGH

KENNEDY CLUB (PG-13)(TAMIL)

SEEF (I): 10.45 AM + 3.45 + 8.45 PM
 M. SASIKUMAR, BHARATHIRAJA, GAYATHRIE

MOVIE REVIEW

The Current War: A solid historical drama drowned in cinematic tricks

The battle over rival electricity systems fought out between Edison and fellow inventor George Westinghouse is illuminating

● **Benedict Cumberbatch transmits medium voltage portrait of Thomas Edison**

● **There's something worthwhile to discover at the film's heart, it's just a question of whether it's worth the effort of tuning out all the unnecessary noise**

The Current War is a 2017 American historical drama film directed by Alfonso Gomez-Rejon and written by Michael Mitnick.

The film stars Benedict Cumberbatch, Michael Shannon, Nicholas Hoult, Tom Holland, Katherine Waterston, Simon Manyonda, and Tuppence Middleton, and depicts the war of the currents between Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse. Martin Scorsese serves as an executive producer on the film.

The film premiered at the To-



Michael Shannon, left, and Benedict Cumberbatch in 'The Current War'

ronto International Film Festival on September 9, 2017. Originally to be distributed by The Weinstein Company in November 2017, the film was shelved and sold off following the Harvey

Weinstein sexual abuse allegations.

It was eventually bought by Lantern Entertainment (the successor of TWC), who then sold the domestic distribution rights

to 101 Studios.

On Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 32% based on 44 reviews, with an average rating of 4.74/10. The website's critical consensus reads:



The opening text of 'The Current War' describes the events it's about to portray as "a race to create the modern world". If true, then the race is circuitous, has a few diversions, and changes the number of its competitors part-way through

"The Current War is powered by an outstanding cast and an intriguing, history-inspired story, which makes this drama's low wattage all the more shocking."

On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 44 out of 100, based on 13 critics, indicating "mixed or average reviews".

David Rooney for The Hollywood Reporter wrote: "For all its aggressive energy, The Current War is an uninvolved bore, making it unlikely to measure up as the kind of Oscar-baity prestige entry The Weinstein Co. obviously had in mind."

Andrew Barker of Variety wrote: "Benedict Cumberbatch and Michael Shannon face off in this flashy but unilluminating story of America's early electrical system."

Dan Jolin of Empire magazine called the film a "stylish portrayal of a literal power struggle based on truly interesting historical figures and events. But it tries to take in too much in too little time, when all it needed was to centre on Edison and Westinghouse."

Peter Bradshaw of The Guardian gave the film 3 out of 5 stars and wrote: "This a watchably stylised period film, with interesting visual setpieces and faces looming up at us out of intricately contrived backgrounds." He concluded that the film "is illuminating – but perhaps not quite as much as it could have been."

celebs

John Travolta, Billy Ray Cyrus among first set of presenters at 2019 MTV VMAs



John Travolta and Billy Ray Cyrus

Los Angeles

Fans eagerly awaiting the MTV Video Music Awards have a reason to rejoice as John Travolta, Lenny Kravitz, Billy Ray Cyrus, Jonathan Van Ness, Keke Palmer, Lindsey Vonn, Rick Ross, Salt-N-Pepa and Ice-T are amongst the first set of presenters at the award night.

The other set of artistes set to rock the 2019 MTV VMAs include US Women's National Soccer Team members Alex Morgan, Ali Krieger and Ashlyn Harris; Bebe Rexha; Megan Thee Stallion; French Montana; Hailee Steinfeld; P.K. Subban; and Victor Cruz, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

MTV on Tuesday also announced that Normani, Big Sean, A\$AP Ferg, H.E.R. and Ozuna will also perform during the event.

'Bond 25' official title and release date revealed!



Daniel Craig

Los Angeles

Speculations on the name of the much-awaited 'Bond 25' movie has been finally put to rest.

The Daniel Craig starrer will be called "No Time To Die", revealed a 30-second teaser put out on Tuesday by the official 007 YouTube channel

In addition, a tweet announced the film will be released on April 3, 2020, in the United Kingdom and on April 8 in the United States.

'No Time To Die' will see Daniel return as James Bond 007. The film will also see Christoph Waltz reprise his role as James Bond's arch-enemy Ernst Stavro Blofeld.

The fullstar cast of the new film was revealed in April as the production officially began, with Oscar-winner Rami Malek confirmed to play the film's villain. Other new additions include Ana De Armas, Lashana Lynch, David Dencik, Billy Magnussen, and Dali Benssalah.



Millie Bobby Brown

Millie Bobby Brown steps in beauty business with her own make-up brand

Los Angeles

Fifteen-year-old actor Millie Bobby Brown who shot to fame with Netflix's 'Stranger Things' has stepped her foot in the make-up business with the launch of her own beauty line named 'Florence by Mills'.

With the new venture, Brown added another feather to her cap along with earning two Emmy nominations, and turning a muse for Raf Simons.

Her beauty brand is PETA-certified, cruelty-free and vegan with products having some really amazing names like the Zero Chill Face Mist, Clean Magic Face Wash, See You Never Concealer, Like a Light Skin Tint, Dreamy Dew Moisturizer, Get That Grime Face Scrub, Swimming Under the Eye Gel Pads and Look Alive Eye Balm, ac-

ording to The Hollywood Reporter.

She credited herself to be the inspiration behind launching her own line in order to create "clean" products for young people. She was working on the line for the past two years.

'Florence by Mills' is named after Bobby's great-grandmother and her own nickname to capture "individuality and bravery."

"I've been in a makeup chair since I was 10-11 years old, and I have really been introduced to all types of products. I've had special effects on my face, blood, all different types of foundation...I wanted to come into space because there was a gap in the market for young people," The Hollywood Reporter quoted Brown as saying in an interview with WWD.



Emma Stone

Release of Emma Stone-starrer 'Cruella' pushed ahead

Los Angeles

The release date of Emma Stone-starrer Disney live-action film 'Cruella' has been shifted ahead and it will now release on May 28, 2021.

Confirming the news, The Hollywood Reporter stated that the film was earlier scheduled to hit the big screens on December 23, 2020.

Stone is in the lead and will be seen portraying Cruella De Vil, the villain who is obsessed with capturing the dalmatians.

The villain was first seen in the 1961 animated classic '101 Dalmatians,' played by Hollywood actor Glenn Close, who was recently seen in 'The Wife'.

The upcoming feature is being directed by Craig Gillespie and has been penned by Tony McNamara. Meanwhile, Marc Platt, Kristin Burr and Andrew Gunn are bankrolling the film.

Apart from Stone, also a part of the film are actor Joel Fry and Emma Thompson.

Jessica Chastain, Lupita Nyong'o starrer '355' to release in January 2021

Los Angeles



Jessica Chastain, Lupita Nyong'o

Universal Pictures has finalised the release date of Jessica Chastain-starrer spy thriller '355' and it is all set to hit the big screens on January 15, 2021.

The film, also starring Lupita Nyong'o, Diane Kruger and Fan Bingbing, is being helmed by Simon Kinberg who has co-written the script with Theresa Rebeck, reported Variety. The film revolves around Chastain,

Nyong'o, Cruz and Fan, who playspies from international agencies around the world. These women must bond together, overcoming their suspicions and conflicts, to use all their talents and training to stop an event from occurring that could push the world into chaos.

Along the way, these strangers and enemies become comrades and friends, and a new faction is formed - code-named '355' (a name they adopt from the first female spy in the American Revolution).

Amy Adams-starrer 'The Woman in the Window' to hit big screens in May 2020

Los Angeles

Amy Adams-starrer adult thriller 'The Woman in the Window' is slated to hit the big screens on May 15 next year.

Based on the 2018 best-selling novel of the same name by A.J. Finn, the movie was earlier scheduled to release on October 4 this year, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Also starring alongside Adams are Anthony Mackie who is popularly known for his role in 'The Hurt Locker' and Julianne Moore. Veteran actor Gary Oldman, Wyatt Russell, and Brian Tyree Henry are also set to star in the movie.

Joe Wright of 'Atonement' fame is directing the film while Tracy Letts is writing the screenplay.

Meanwhile, Adams has also been roped in to star in Netflix's adaptation 'Hillbilly Elegy' which is seeing the direction from filmmaker Ron Howard.

Adams upcoming outing is also based on a book titled 'Hillbilly elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis' by J.D. Vance.



Amy Adams

Wendy Williams cancels Philadelphia show



Wendy Williams
Los Angeles

American television show host Wendy Williams who recently cancelled her New Jersey show has dropped yet another stop of her 'For the Record...Umm Hmm' show. And this time it is Philadelphia, reported Page Six.

On Tuesday the Kimmel Center, where the troubled talk show host was expected to continue her "For the Record...Umm Hmm!" Tour this upcoming Saturday, posted an announcement and as reported by Page Six the show is no longer happening.

"Unfortunately, the goal and purpose of the tour have been sidelined by the headlines," a statement read on the venue's website as cited by Page Six. "The show may be canceled, but Wendy's commitment and love for all of the fans that support her and continue to support her never will."

Demi Lovato roped in for Netflix' film 'Eurovision'

Los Angeles

American singer-actor Demi Lovato joined the cast of Will Ferrell's upcoming Netflix comedy 'Eurovision' According to E-News, the comedy-drama is inspired by the real-life European singing contest of the same name.

After the 27-year-old singer was spotted on the film's U.K. set, the director shared a picture on Instagram to announce the news. In the snap, Will wished 'Eurovision's' latest star a very happy birthday.

"Y'all, Will Ferrell made me a cake," the birthday girl wrote on Instagram. "It looks completely professional and store-bought so I'm not at all suspicious that he baked it himself in all of his free time."

The ensemble cast of 'Eurovision' also includes Pierce Brosnan, Rachel McAdams, and Dan Stevens. In the film, Stevens and McAdams will play Icelandic musicians Lars Ericksson and Sigrít Ericksdóttir, while Brosnan will star as Lars' father Erick Ericksson.



Demi Lovato

David Oyelowo in negotiations to join George Clooney in 'Good Morning, Midnight'

Los Angeles

American-British actor David Oyelowo is in negotiations to join George Clooney in upcoming Netflix film 'Good Morning, Midnight'. Oyelowo is expected to join the cast already including Felicity Jones and Kyle Chandler, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

The feature will be directed by Clooney himself and is an adaptation of Lily Brooks-Dalton's novel of the same name. The novel narrates a



David Oyelowo and George Clooney

post-apocalyptic story which follows the parallel stories of Augustine (Clooney), a lonely scientist in the Arctic, and the Aether spacecraft that is trying to return home to Earth, as Augustine is making every effort to make contact with the ship's crew.

SPORTS

Bahrain, UAE look to extend relations to combat sports

AFP | London

The Kingdom of Bahrain played host to a pivotal meeting regarding the future of combat sports in Asia and beyond. KHK Sports CEO Mohammed Shahid met with officials from the UAE Muay Thai and Kickboxing Federation in the presence of Ahmed Al-Wazzan, president of Bahrain Kickboxing Federation, as the parties discussed ways of developing all combat sports in the region.

The UAE Muay Thai and Kickboxing Federation is held under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the deputy prime minister for the United Arab Emirates, while KHK Sports is an organization that represents the vision of His Highness Shaikh Khaled bin Hamad Al Khalifa and all his collective efforts toward the development of a global ecosystem for all sports, including mixed



From the left Farah Salem Saeed, Ahmed Al-Wazzan, Yasser Salem Al Saadi, Mohammed Shahid, Tareq Al Mheiri, Fahad Khalfan Al Abduoli and Valeria Lang

martial arts and other combat sports.

Attending the meeting on behalf of UAE was Yasser Salem Al Saadi, the vice-chairman for the federation. He was joined by Tareq Al Mheiri, board member and executive director of the federation, aside from being a

member of the executive board at IFMA (International Federation of Muaythai Associations), the Head of Activities department, Fahad Khalfan Al Abduoli, who's also a board member, as well as Farah Salem Saeed, a board member for the federation.

The discussion revolved around mutual contributions that could be made between two giants of the combat sports scene worldwide, in order to develop all sports in Asia and beyond. Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates want to make sure their great relationship

in all areas can also extend to the development of combat sports.

"It was a very productive meeting as we look to strengthen the development of combat sports across the Arab world, Asia, and beyond. I look forward to continuing that special rela-

tionship with the shared goals of improving and developing combat sports", said Shahid.

Al-Wazzan received an open invitation from the Federation to send a Bahrain team to the next tournaments in the organization's calendar.

"It's great to see GCC nations joining hands in order to develop combat sports in the region and beyond. I'm excited for the next steps of this collaboration", said Al-Wazzan.

Between September 5th and 7th, the UAE Federation will host the Muay-Thai Open Championship in Yas Island, and the Asian Muay Thai Championships will also take place in UAE, between December 16th and 22nd. The Bahrain Federation was invited to send a team to both tournaments, marking the start of a long and prosperous collaboration between the two friendly countries also on the field of combat sports.

Top seeds Paire, Shapovalov reach Winston-Salem third round

● Paire rallies past Gunneswaran into round of 16

● Shapovalov downs Sandgren to advance

AFP | Washington

Top-seeded Benoit Paire reached the third round of the ATP Winston-Salem Open Tuesday, beating Prajnesh Gunneswaran 6-3, 7-5.

France's Paire, ranked 30th in the world, avenged a loss to India's Gunneswaran at Indian Wells in March.

Paire broke Gunneswaran in the penultimate game, then capped the contest with his 14th ace on match point to book a round of 16 meeting with fellow Frenchman Ugo Humbert, who defeated American Bjorn Fratangelo 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

After enjoying a first-round bye, Paire was glad to get to work in the heat and humidity of North Carolina as part of his build-up to the US Open, which starts on Monday at Flushing Meadows in New York.

"Honestly, I like to play before the Slam," he said. "I did the same in Lyon the week before Roland Garros and I won the tournament and after I made the last 16 at Roland Garros so it was good preparation.

"I'll try to do the same -- I'll try to win a lot of matches here. I think it's important for me to play before the US Open."

Second-seeded Canadian Denis Shapovalov also advanced, beating American Ten-



Benoit Paire of France returns a shot against Prajnesh Gunneswaran of India

nys Sandgren 6-2, 6-4.

Sandgren, ranked 73rd in the world, was coming off a first-round victory over three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray, who was playing just his second singles match since the Australian Open as he bids to return to peak form in the wake of career-threatening hip surgery.

Sandgren battled back from 0-3 down in the second set -- going up a service break before Shapovalov came through with a break in the final game to seal the victory.

"It was definitely a great win," said Shapovalov, who hadn't made it past the second round of an ATP event since Lyon in May and, like Paire, said he hoped

"Honestly, I like to play before the Slam. I did the same in Lyon the week before Roland Garros and I won the tournament and after I made the last 16 at Roland Garros so it was good preparation

BENOIT PAIRE

a strong performance in Winston-Salem would be a springboard into the US Open.

"I've been struggling a little bit during the clay and grass court season and the hardcourt swing," he said. "I thought it would be perfect to come play Winston-Salem, get a couple more matches under my belt and get ready for the Open.

"So far, so good," said Shapovalov, who next faces Serbian Miomir Kecmanovic, a 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 winner over Australian Alexei Popyrin.

South Korean Lee Duck-hee's ground-breaking tournament came to an end with a 4-6, 6-0, 6-3 loss to third-seeded Hubert Hurkacz of Poland.

Lee had become the first deaf player to win an ATP match with his first-round win over Henri Laaksonen.

"I'm a little bit disappointed right now," Lee admitted. "I had many chances that I didn't utilise, but it was a great experience overall."

Ajax finish with 10 men and a goalless draw in Cyprus

AFP | Paris

Ajax finished with 10 men on Tuesday but moved closer to the Champions League group stage with a 0-0 draw away to APOEL in Nicosia in a playoff round first-leg match.

The game was goalless but packed with incident.

Ajax, a four-time winner of the competition and a semifinalist last season, dominated possession and created a string of promising situations.

But the lively home attack, with 22-year-old Jordanian Musa Suleiman showing some eye-catching form, created the most dangerous chances.

Ajax conceded a string of free kicks in the second half and Noussair Mazraoui paid the price when a flailing tackle on Uros Matic earned him a second yellow card with 10 minutes to play.

Veteran striker Klass Jan Huntelaar, who came on with 12 minutes left, had a clear opportunity to win the game in added time, but the 36-year-old's tame chip was cleared.

"We gave the ball away too easily and we must improve

next week," said Ajax attacker Dusan Tadic. "I expect the same compact defensive zone from APOEL in the second game. But we need to play much better."

While Ajax were disappointed with an away draw, Nicholas Ioannou, APOEL captain, was happy with his team's chances.

"We played really well," he said. "We defended very well and had some good chances at the other end to score. We were quite unlucky not to. We still believe we can go through."

There was only goal from open play in the night's three matches, but it was a pretty strike to give Slavia Prague a 1-0 victory in Cluj.

Nicolae Stanciu played a 28th-minute corner to Lukas Masopust, lurking outside the penalty area. The midfielder flighted the ball into the far corner of the net with the gentlest of long-range volleys.

"We practiced those corner kicks two days ago and I couldn't hit the ball well," said Masopust adding that team captain Tomas Soucek "told me today to try it with the side-foot and it worked."



APOEL's midfielder Musa Suliman (C) is marked by Ajax's defender Nicolas Tagliafico (L) and defender Daley Blind

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