

Wish 'The Handmaid's Tale' was fantasy, like 'Game of Thrones': Elisabeth Moss

Actor Elisabeth Moss says she wished her critically-acclaimed show "The Handmaid's Tale" was a page out of a fantasy novel like "Game of Thrones".

P14

The tragic familiarity of the Sri Lanka bombings

THE DAILY tribune

Adele might unveil heartbreak album by end of 2019

Sri Lanka death toll hits 290

Customs' revenue up by 6.3pc in first quarter

Manama

Customs President Shai-kh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa said that the logistics sector in the Kingdom, had witnessed a rapid growth as a result of the increase in the trade exchange because of standardised customs procedures and the smooth traffic of products through the facilitation of customs clearance.

He pointed out that the positive rise in imports had increased the customs revenues in the first quarter of 2019 by 6.3 per cent compared with the same period last year. The revenues are estimated to be around BD52.1 million, while it was BD49m in the same period of 2018.

He said that the rise indicated economic and commercial growth and the dedication of the Customs Affairs to improve customs procedures, performance and services to serve the development interests of the Kingdom.

He said that the Customs Affairs would continue to develop and enhance systems and procedures to facilitate the traffic of travellers and goods to meet its development strategies.

Sandstorms hit Riyadh

Riyadh

Saudi authorities have issued a weather warning as massive sandstorms continued to sweep through the Kingdom.

Winds of up to 31 km per hour hit the Saudi capital yesterday, causing widespread traffic disruption due to low visibility.



Kingdom hosts another grand Indian wedding

Legislative role lauded

Court to announce verdict on plea in Qatar poll meddle case



His Majesty in Hungary



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday arrived in Budapest on a visit during which he will meet Hungarian President János Áder. HM the King will hold talks during the visit with the Hungarian President on good bilateral relations, binding the two friendly countries and peoples, and further strengthening joint ties, in addition to regional and international developments. HM the King was received on arrival by Attila Tóth, Director of Gulf Region in the Ministry of Foreign affairs and trade of Hungary, Representative of Hungarian president and Bahrain's ambassador to Budapest.

Saudi arrests 13 accused of planning terror attacks

Riyadh

Thirteen people were arrested after finding plans to execute criminal acts that were targeting the Kingdom's security, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported yesterday.

The statement published by SPA included the names of the 13 men arrested, in addition to their civil ID numbers.

The spokesperson for the Saudi Presidency of State Security said explosive belts were found during a raid on the house of the Zulfi attackers.

Four heavily armed attackers were killed in a failed terrorist attack claimed by Daesh on an Interior Ministry building in Zulfi, north of Riyadh on Sunday.

The four terrorists that were killed belonged to Daesh.



A total of five explosive belts were found, four of which were worn by the perpetrators, and another inside a car.

SOURCES

The Presidency of State Security released the identities of the four attackers: Abdullah Hamoud Al Hamoud, Abdullah Ibrahim Al Mansour, Samer Abdulaziz Al Madid and Salman Abdulaziz Al Madid.

Saudi authorities discovered a house in Al Rayyan neighborhood in Zulfi governorate, rented by Abdullah Al-Hamoud, one of the four perpetrators, where they found what resembled to be a factory for manufacturing explosives and explosive belts.

Securing students

Special committee recommends measures to protect students from violence, drug addiction

Manama

The Cabinet, chaired by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday, was informed about the results of an investigation into the incident at the Hamad Town Intermediate Girls' School through a report submitted by the Deputy Premier and the probe committee chairman, HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa.

The committee, following its six meetings, concluded that there was no drug abuse or dealing at that school, after verifying reports from the Ministry of Education, Interior Ministry and Health Ministry, in addition to the results of the investigation carried out by the Public Prosecution.

The reports also revealed that the allegations included in the video clip were false and



HRH the Premier chairs the Cabinet.

Call to tighten anti-terror measures

HRH the Prime Minister called on the International Community to take serious stances against terrorism that target houses of worship, such as mosques and churches.

In this context, HRH the Premier condemned the "cowardly terrorist blasts" that had targeted churches and hotels in Sri Lanka during Easter Day.

The Prime Minister denounced the "inhumane" incident, calling for the need to disseminate the spirit of tolerance, love and co-existence, and to revive the human conscience to counter everything aimed at subverting peace, security and stability, extending deepest condolences to the Government and people of friendly Sri Lanka.

would fall under defamation and hype, and therefore have been referred to the judiciary.

The panel also confirmed the integrity of the administrative and legal measures taken by the Education Ministry's School Discipline Committee, adding that the two students will be allowed to sit their final exams next month and to attend school regularly next year.

The Committee recommended the consolidation of school environment protec-

Bahrain's accession to KAICIID discussed

The session discussed the Kingdom's accession to the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), and decided to refer a memorandum submitted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in this regard to the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs.

tion through developing the student behaviour regulations, involving parents and increasing communication with them, strengthening of the role of social, academic and psychological guidance in schools and intensifying administrative inspection procedures.

Bahraini chef presents lamb dish covered in gold

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

A Bahraini youngster has evoked mixed public reaction for making a lamb dish covered with gold.

Young chef Yousif Zainal who describes himself as a 'recipe developer' went viral on social media after he prepared a unique dish, which consisted of 24k gold.

The dish which he called 'lamb covered with pure gold' created a stark division



The 'lamb covered with pure gold' dish

among the social media users.

While many commended what they

described to be his creativity and eye for art, others lamented the extravagance.

On his Instagram account Zainalkitchen he posted picture of the dish along with a video of instructions on how to prepare it.

A small lamb of 10 kg was used for the preparation. He listed bukhari rice, onions, garlic, coriander, cumin and black pepper as some of the other ingredients.

The post garnered hundreds of comments within minutes. Some of the social

media users called the dish unIslamic and unethically extravagant.

"This is un-Islamic, it is either forbidden or discouraged, so it is better to delete this post and ask for forgiveness," a user commented.

Some users called the dish 'wonderful', saying that it is a creative idea. "This is a matter of personal freedom, it is up to the person to decide what to do with his money. What is the difference between eating gold and wearing it," a user commented.



His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday received His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier at the Gudaibiya Palace. They paid tribute to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, hailing royal initiatives, which are aimed to further bolster tolerance and maintain security and stability in the Kingdom. HRH the Premier and HRH the Crown Prince commended the people of Bahrain for their longstanding and unwavering support to the leadership, adding that citizens will always remain the cornerstone of national economic development.



Deputy Premier Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa stressed the importance of Government's investment in cultural and tourism infrastructure in Muharraq. The Deputy Premier made the statement as he visited a number of development and investment projects in the old city of Muharraq, at the invitation of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) President Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa. Accompanied by ministers and members of the Ministerial Committee for Development and Investment Projects, the Deputy Premier also visited landmark monuments and sites.



The newly-elected executive committee members of The Indian Club headed by president Stalin Joseph made a courtesy call to Indian Ambassador to the Kingdom, Alok Kumar Sinha.

Kingdom hosts another grand Indian wedding

● The wedding ceremony was held on the 21st and 22nd of April 2019 at the Art Rotana Hotel, Amwaj Islands.

TDT | Manama

As part of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority's (BTEA) efforts to promote the Kingdom as an ideal destination for hosting weddings and other happy occasions under the umbrella

of "Bahrain Island Wedding", which comes in line with the BTEA's efforts to enhance Bahrain's position in the region, the "Bahrain island wedding" team emerged as a key organisational entity to a major Indian wedding.

The wedding ceremony was held on the 21st and 22nd of April 2019 at the Art Rotana Hotel, Amwaj Islands.

The event brought together more than 200 guests who arrived in the Kingdom.

Commenting on this special event, Adviser at the BTEA, Dr Ali Hassan Follad, said, "BTEA has played a key role in the planning and organising of such events and in ensuring all ceremonies run smoothly and seamlessly.

"The event was organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Information Affairs and other semi-official authorities including Bahrain Airport Company, the Airport Duty-Free



The bride and the groom at the ceremony.

market and Bahrain's national carrier, Gulf Air.

"All the parties involved worked together as a single team to effectively organise the event's logistics and ensure the selection of appropriate locations. Further communications

were also made with various suppliers and specialists, and it is worth mentioning that all the event's decorations were designed and made in the Kingdom of Bahrain by a Bahraini specialised company in weddings and special occasions."



We are delighted to host more events of this nature over the course of the year, which will enhance the Kingdom's position as a destination for weddings and celebrations alike.

DR FOLLAD

"We are delighted to host more events of this nature over the course of the year, which will enhance the Kingdom's position as a destination for weddings and celebrations alike.

"The Kingdom boasts various 5-star and 4-star hotels with sophisticated world class banquet halls. In addition to the occasion itself, all types of services can be arranged to enhance the experience, including concerts and other entertainment activities," he added.

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Legislative role lauded

HRH the Premier receives House Speaker, Shura Chairman

● HRH the Prime Minister discussed with the Representatives Council Speaker and the Shura Chairman the co-ordination between the executive and legislative branches to meet the needs of the current phase.

● The speaker extended thanks and respect to His Royal Highness the Premier for his constant keenness on promoting co-operation with the Representatives' Council.

Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday stressed the government's keenness to boost co-operation with the legislative branch, lauding the role of the Representatives and Shura Council



HRH the Premier receives Ms Zainal, Mr Al Saleh.

members in serving the citizens and the nation as well as highlighting the Kingdom's political and democratic achievements at international gatherings.

This came as HRH the Premier received at Gudaibiya Palace House of Representatives Council Speaker Fawzia Zainal and Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh.

HRH the Premier hailed the

role of the legislative branch and its importance in backing the complementary efforts to achieve the best for the nation and citizens.

He stressed the government's continuous support to co-operate with the parliament to serve the democratic and national march in the prosperous era of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

HRH the Prime Minister dis-

cussed with the Representatives Council Speaker and the Shura Chairman the co-ordination between the executive and legislative branches to meet the needs of the current phase, including mainly boosting security and stability.

The Speaker extended thanks and respect to His Royal Highness the Premier for his constant keenness on promoting co-oper-

ation with the Representatives council, describing him as a role model in dedication for the nation.

The Shura Council Chairman expressed appreciation of HRH the Premier's constant support to the Shura Council, stressing that he laid the bases of co-operation between the executive and legislative branches, which is yielding its dividends by back-

ing the democratic march in the Kingdom.

Separately, Representatives Council Speaker Fawzia Zainal received Minister of Works, Municipality Affairs and Urban Planning Essam Khalaf, in the presence of the ministry Undersecretary for Municipal Affairs Dr Nabeel Abul Fatah, Southern Municipality Director General Assim Abdullatif and the minister's office Director Mohammed Ashir.

The Representatives Council Speaker stressed that Bahraini citizens are the core of development and all national efforts are directed towards boosting their welfare and improving the services provided for them, in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

She pointed out that co-operation between the executive and legislative branches represents a pillar to attain national goals and tackle issues in a very consensual way.

The meeting cast light on projects implemented by the ministry to develop the infrastructure and cope with the fast-paced urban and investment growth undergone by Bahrain.

Bangladeshi man gets five years for smuggling marijuana via post

TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court has sentenced a Bangladeshi man convicted of attempting to smuggle marijuana into the Kingdom in a mail package, to five years in jail.

The 30-year-old was caught redhanded while receiving the package.

He was additionally ordered to pay a fine of BD3,000 and will be deported once he completes the sentence.

According to court files, the Anti-Narcotics Department within the Interior Ministry received a tip-off about a mail package containing marijuana to be delivered in the Kingdom from Bangladesh.

3,000

Bahraini dinars in fine was imposed on the convict for smuggling marijuana into the Kingdom.

The department alerted the Customs, which detected the package once it arrived. After the package was inspected, quantities of marijuana were found.

In co-ordination with a private post company, a trap was set and the addressee was contacted.

The accused agreed to receive the package near a car showroom in Hamala area in the Northern Governorate, according to prosecutors.

An officer from the Anti-Narcotics Department disguised as an employee at the post company and handed a fake package to the suspect, who paid him an additional amount of money (BD17) in tip.

The officer immediately arrested and searched the suspect. Methamphetamine tablets were found in his possession.

On September 22, 2018, the Public Prosecution accused the suspect of illegally importing marijuana and drugs, before referring him to the criminal court, which announced the verdict.

Final plea verdict date set in policemen murder case

● The defendants appealed against the verdicts previously issued against them by the High Criminal Court, which were rejected by the High Court of Appeals.

TDT | Manama

A group of 58 defendants accused of killing two policemen and assisting convicts to escape from jail, will learn their fate on May 6.

This was announced by the Court of Cassation yesterday.

Fifty-eight defendants, including two women, previously received sentences varying between capital punishment, life in prison, citizenship revo-

The group was found guilty of attacking police officers apart from carrying out terror strikes.

PROSECUTORS

cation and imprisonment sentences.

The defendants were responsible for the killing of an on-duty policeman Abdulsalam Al Yafye'a, who was guarding the Reformation and Rehabilitation Centre (Jau Prison), when some of the defendants attacked the facility with firearms and assisted ten convicts in escaping from it.

They were also found guilty

of assassinating off-duty police officer Hesham Al Hammadi on January 28, 2017, in Bilad Al Qadeem village, in addition to a series of terrorist attacks during the same period in Sitra, Bani Jamrah and Nabeeh Saleh.

This also includes the smuggling of firearms, assisting wanted fugitives in escaping abroad, mainly Iran, and co-ordinating the military training of group members abroad with the aim of carrying out terrorist attacks here.

The defendants appealed against the verdicts previously issued against them by the High Criminal Court, which were rejected by the High Court of Appeals and they pleaded not guilty again.

The case is now with the Court of Cassation, which yesterday announced that it would declare the final verdict on May 6.

Kestrels rescued by animal rights group members

● The Supreme Council of the Environment has already announced that it would prosecute anyone who violates law to hunt or catch animals or birds.

TDT | Manama

Mohammed Zafran

An animal rights group has rescued three kestrels after a group of men used traps to catch the birds.

Kestrels, which are a protected species of birds, was



A kestrel trapped by a law violator.



A seized net trap that was used to catch birds.

captured by a group of men using traps.

However, the Bahrain Socie-

ty for the Prevention of Cruelty towards Animals (BSPCA) came to its rescue and released all

three birds.

According to sources, a group of people had set up traps to

catch birds near the Bahrain International Airport in Galali. BSPCA Chairman Mahmoud Faraj said that it was a concerned citizen who reported the incident to him.

Mr Faraj carried out an investigation and found that bird traps were set up at four different places in Galali.

Subsequently, he contacted Samahej Police and reported the finding.

"I spoke with Lt Col Issa Al Sulaiti, Head of Al Samahej Police Station," Faraj said.

He added that the authorities were able to catch the group that trapped the birds.

"We released the birds and confiscated six traps that were

in the possession of the poachers.

"They promised not to repeat their actions, and we accepted their affidavit that they would not repeat these actions.

"Should they repeat this, they will be arrested and will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

"Bahrain has signed international agreements that prohibit the hunting and trafficking of birds and animals listed on various ban lists," he added.

The Supreme Council of the Environment has already announced that it would prosecute anyone who violates law to hunt or catch animals or birds.

Court to announce verdict on plea in Qatar poll meddle case

Two defendants were sentenced by a lower court for illegally receiving money from a foreign country

TDT | Manama

The High Court of Appeal yesterday announced that it will declare the verdict in the case involving two Bahrainis, accused of receiving funds from a former Qatari minister with the aim of hindering the recent parliamentary elections, on April 27.

As reported earlier by Tribune, the first defendant, who was a candidate in the parliamentary elections, that took place last November, was previously sentenced by the Fourth High Criminal Court to five years of imprisonment while the second defendant received three years of sentence.

According to an announcement made by the Terror Crimes

Prosecution on February 6 this year, the first defendant was ordered by the court to pay a fine of BD2,000, while the second defendant was fined BD1,000.

The details of the case show that BD12,500 was found in the suspects' possession upon their arrival to the Kingdom, from Qatar through Kuwait last October.

Investigations revealed that both suspects often received money from the former Qatari Interior Minister Abdullah bin Khalid Al Thani through their bank accounts or by frequently traveling to Qatar to receive the cash in person.

Court files showed that the first defendant received sums of money from the Qatari official to support his electoral campaign



The first defendant received sums of money from the Qatari official to support his electoral campaign for the last parliamentary elections.

PROSECUTORS

for the 2018 parliamentary elections, held here last November.

It was also shown in the court that he received the money with the aim of winning the polls and serve the malicious Qatari agenda to harm the Kingdom's interests by affecting the work of the legislative institutions in Bah-

rain from inside the parliament.

Both defendants were arrested at Bahrain International Airport, where the Customs Department employees searched them and found the money in their possession.

During interrogation, the first defendant denied that he was attempting to hide the BD12,000 that was found in his possession, claiming that he "forgot" to declare it.

He also denied that he received the money from the Qatari official to support his electoral campaign, claiming that it was given to him "to fix rainwater insolation equipment".

A judicial permission was previously issued to control and record telephone calls between the suspects, which

confirmed the results of the investigations and led to their arrest.

Further probe and interrogation of the suspects also showed that both of them, in the period between the years 2013-2018, received a total of BD235,804 from the same Qatari official, who's listed in an international terrorism list issued by the Anti-Terror Arab Quartet, which consists of Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Both suspects were found guilty for the charges of exchanging intelligence information with someone working for a foreign country to undermine the national interests, in addition to illegally receiving money without claiming it before the Customs Department.

Three months community service for dog torturer

TDT | Manama

A man, who tortured a dog at his house in Bani Jamrah village a few weeks ago, was sentenced by the Low Criminal Court yesterday to perform three months of community service.

The defendant was arrested a few hours after he appeared in a footage showing him brutally torturing a dog and filming the incident.

He confessed to his crime during the interrogation, claiming that the dog had attacked his sheep.

The announced verdict came as an alternative punishment after the prosecutors urged to impose the toughest punishment, three months imprisonment, on the defendant.

After the footage was circulated on social networking sites, calls to amend the current law and toughen punishment for animal abuse has resurfaced.

Charity raft race raises over BD25,000

TDT | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

The charity raft race organised by the Rotary Club of Sulmaniya at the Al Bander Hotel and Resort in Sitra managed to raise over BD25,000.

The 40th Annual Raft Race was held under the theme 'Challenge Disability', and hence, funds raised will be used in projects supporting that cause, providing aid to the disabled, support to the mentally challenged and promoting public awareness in the society.

The event also had many activities for the children including face painting, jumping castle, kids' playground and caricature artists.

Seema Baqi, the race chairperson and incoming club president told, Tribune, "The 40th Annual Raft Race has managed to raise over BD25,000.

"The Rotary Club of Sulmaniya will be working under the



Twenty-four teams took part in the event held to raise funds for charity.

theme of 'Challenge Disability' to support those mentally and physically challenged in Bahrain, and to change the society's approach. The event saw 24 teams representing different

companies and generous sponsors."

"Moreover, we are glad to see a good turnout of people including families. The race started with the men's open sea category, then

moved to the mixed teams in the lagoon, and the event ended with an award ceremony. Also, since 1976, the event has raised more than BD2 million for various charities," Seema added.

Kingdom to host InsurByte Conference

TDT | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

Under the patronage of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), Bahrain FinTech Bay (BFB) will host InsurByte Conference 2019, titled "Re-imagining Insurance" on the 12th and 13th of June 2019 at the Gulf Convention Centre.

Over 150 companies from over 25 countries, will be interacting and showcasing the latest initiatives, innovations and applications related to the insurance industry at the two-day conference.

InsurByte 2019 will host keynote speeches, panel discussions, fireside chats, hands-on workshops, networking sessions, and case studies from

prominent players in the InsurTech sector, as well as insurance professionals to foster synergies among market players to find solutions, and promote innovative InsurTech practices in a collaborative, open, and transparent manner.

CEO of Bahrain FinTech Bay, Khalid Saad stated, "Bahrain FinTech Bay is delighted to host the InsureByte Conference 2019. The insurance industry is ripe for disruption and is undergoing fundamental changes due to InsurTech companies that are affectively changing all aspects of the industry. InsurByte aims to be the platform where such changes to the industry will be discussed by market players in an open, practical and collaborative manner."

Photo expo to showcase cultures, lives

TDT | Manama

Outstanding stories from the Kingdom and well beyond captured through the lenses of 29 male and female photographers will go on display at Bahrain Photographic Society's first annual exhibition.

The "Cultures ... Stories in Pictures" exhibition, co-organised by CAD World Art and Bahrain Art Gallery, will be inaugurated on April 25 at 7 pm at Art City at the City Centre and will be held under the patronage of iconic photography figure Abdullah Khan.

"The exhibition represents the essence of experiences within the Kingdom and the cultural and artistic travels of selected photographers to different countries that have diverse cultures," Bahrain Photographic Society President Shafiq Al Shariqi said.

"It is part of the society's support of artistic creativity and the enhancement of the visual cul-



Photos that will be displayed at the exhibition.

ture within the community and enrichment of the culture of the image. This explains why, thanks to the positive partnership with the head of the project Mahdi Jallawi, we opted to hold it at the Art City at the City Center."

Mr Al Shariqi reiterated that Bahrain Photographic Society would renew its trust in the strategies set by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) as among its

priorities in supporting cultural and artistic institutions in order to empower them to contribute to strengthening the society intellectually, culturally and technically.

"Bahrain Photographic Society is particularly keen on boosting the capabilities and potential of its young members and on consolidating their artistic presence abroad as they honour Bahrain in Arab and international forums.



"Last year was filled with achievements and I am thankful to all those who contributed to the success stories," Mr Al Shariqi said.

"The doors of our society will always be wide open for all young photographers. We are determined to make a difference in the development of the photographic experience in the Kingdom, and we call on the fans of art and photos to attend

the exhibition and to participate in the activities of the society."

Mahdi Jallawi, the representative of CAD World Art and Bahrain Art Gallery and the brains behind the Art City, hailed the cultural partnership with the Bahrain Photographic Society.

"Our aim is to invest in culture based on the belief in the importance of the cultural and artistic role in building the future of the Kingdom through moving art



The exhibition represents the essence of experiences within the Kingdom and the cultural and artistic travels of selected photographers to different countries.

MR AL SHARIQI

from closed galleries to open public areas where people become have an active role in the new cultural scene," he said.

"That is how the concept of Art City was created."



Takaful International Company B.S.C.

INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31ST MARCH 2019 (BAHRAINI DINARS)

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (As at 31 March 2019)

| | Shareholders | | General takaful | | Family takaful | | Total | |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Reviewed 31 March 2019 | Audited 31 December 2018 | Reviewed 31 March 2019 | Audited 31 December 2018 | Reviewed 31 March 2019 | Audited 31 December 2018 | Reviewed 31 March 2019 | Audited 31 December 2018 |
| ASSETS | | | | | | | | |
| Cash and investments: | | | | | | | | |
| Statutory deposit | 125,000 | 125,000 | - | - | - | - | 125,000 | 125,000 |
| Cash and balances with banks | 4,858,915 | 3,958,097 | 5,228,879 | 4,604,035 | 647,145 | 698,152 | 10,734,939 | 9,260,284 |
| Investments | 2,474,177 | 3,411,562 | 859,230 | 934,535 | 1,944,188 | 1,936,497 | 5,277,595 | 6,282,594 |
| | 7,458,092 | 7,494,659 | 6,088,109 | 5,538,570 | 2,591,333 | 2,634,649 | 16,137,534 | 15,667,878 |
| Takaful and retakaful receivables | - | - | - | - | 574,094 | 598,612 | 12,361,202 | 9,997,425 |
| Retakaful providers' share of takaful liabilities | - | - | 11,787,108 | 9,398,813 | 519,014 | 445,359 | 9,647,140 | 8,969,278 |
| Deferred acquisition costs | 633,241 | 600,206 | - | - | - | - | 633,241 | 600,206 |
| Property and equipment | 1,936,352 | 1,949,641 | - | - | - | - | 1,936,352 | 1,949,641 |
| Other receivables, accrued income and prepayments | 2,335,971 | 1,941,203 | 516,634 | 333,741 | 24,767 | 21,718 | 2,877,372 | 2,296,662 |
| Retakaful providers' share of family takaful technical reserves | - | - | - | - | 311,250 | 311,250 | 311,250 | 311,250 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 12,363,656 | 11,985,709 | 27,519,977 | 23,795,043 | 4,020,458 | 4,011,588 | 43,904,091 | 39,792,340 |
| LIABILITIES, PARTICIPANTS' FUNDS AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY | | | | | | | | |
| Liabilities | | | | | | | | |
| Takaful liabilities - | - | - | 20,460,021 | 19,249,875 | 729,213 | 626,874 | 21,189,234 | 19,876,749 |
| Unearned commissions | - | - | 364,268 | 313,639 | - | - | 364,268 | 313,639 |
| Family takaful technical reserves | - | - | - | - | 2,241,221 | 2,421,489 | 2,241,221 | 2,421,489 |
| Payables and accrued liabilities : | | | | | | | | |
| Takaful and retakaful companies | - | - | 3,592,178 | 2,644,765 | 824,731 | 629,105 | 4,416,909 | 3,273,870 |
| Participants' | 531,969 | 496,206 | 1,123,981 | 1,021,775 | 26,313 | 27,062 | 1,682,263 | 1,545,043 |
| Others | 2,279,797 | 2,210,235 | 2,693,177 | 1,449,032 | 98,344 | 227,746 | 5,071,318 | 3,887,013 |
| Total liabilities | 2,811,766 | 2,706,441 | 28,233,625 | 24,679,086 | 3,919,822 | 3,932,276 | 34,965,213 | 31,317,803 |
| Participants' fund | | | | | | | | |
| (Deficit) / surplus in participants' fund | - | - | (739,142) | (907,710) | 153,531 | 139,898 | (585,611) | (767,812) |
| Investments fair value reserve | - | - | 25,494 | 23,667 | (52,895) | (60,586) | (27,401) | (36,919) |
| | - | - | (713,648) | (884,043) | 100,636 | 79,312 | (613,012) | (804,731) |
| Shareholders' equity | | | | | | | | |
| Share capital | 8,500,000 | 8,500,000 | - | - | - | - | 8,500,000 | 8,500,000 |
| Statutory reserve | 587,115 | 587,115 | - | - | - | - | 587,115 | 587,115 |
| General reserve | 200,000 | 200,000 | - | - | - | - | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| Accumulated profit / (losses) | 167,915 | (72,730) | - | - | - | - | 167,915 | (72,730) |
| Investments fair value reserve | 9,051 | (36,397) | - | - | - | - | 9,051 | (36,397) |
| Equity attributable to shareholders of the parent | 9,464,081 | 9,177,988 | - | - | - | - | 9,464,081 | 9,177,988 |
| Non-controlling interests | 87,809 | 101,280 | - | - | - | - | 87,809 | 101,280 |
| Total shareholders equity | 9,551,890 | 9,279,268 | - | - | - | - | 9,551,890 | 9,279,268 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES, PARTICIPANTS' FUNDS AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY | 12,363,656 | 11,985,709 | 27,519,977 | 23,795,043 | 4,020,458 | 4,011,588 | 43,904,091 | 39,792,340 |

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY For the three-month period ended 31 March 2019 (Reviewed)

| | Share capital | Statutory reserve | General reserve | Accumulated profit / (losses) | Investments fair value reserve | Equity attributable to shareholders of the Parent | Non- Controlling interests | Total equity |
|--|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Balance at 1 January 2019 | 8,500,000 | 587,115 | 200,000 | (72,730) | (36,397) | 9,177,988 | 101,280 | 9,279,268 |
| Profit for the period | - | - | - | 240,645 | - | 240,645 | (13,471) | 227,174 |
| Other comprehensive profit | - | - | - | - | 45,448 | 45,448 | - | 45,448 |
| Total comprehensive income (loss) for the period | - | - | - | 240,645 | 45,448 | 286,093 | (13,471) | 272,622 |
| Balance as at 31 March 2019 | 8,500,000 | 587,115 | 200,000 | 167,915 | 9,051 | 9,464,081 | 87,809 | 9,551,890 |
| Balance at 1 January 2018 | 6,250,000 | 522,042 | 200,000 | (658,387) | 63,219 | 6,376,874 | 100,817 | 6,477,691 |
| Profit for the period | - | - | - | 231,633 | - | 231,633 | (18,249) | 213,384 |
| Other comprehensive loss | - | - | - | - | (148,491) | (148,491) | - | (148,491) |
| Total comprehensive income for the period | - | - | - | 231,633 | (148,491) | 83,142 | (18,249) | 64,893 |
| Balance as at 31 March 2018 | 6,250,000 | 522,042 | 200,000 | (426,754) | (85,272) | 6,460,016 | 82,568 | 6,542,584 |

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN PARTICIPANTS' FUND For the three-month period ended 31 March 2019 (Reviewed)

| | Investments fair value reserve | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| | General takaful | Family takaful | General takaful | Family takaful | Total |
| Balance at 1 January 2019 | (907,710) | 139,898 | 23,667 | (60,586) | (804,731) |
| Realised fair value loss on investments | - | - | 1,534 | - | 1,534 |
| Unrealised fair value gain on investments | - | - | 293 | 7,691 | 7,984 |
| Surplus for the period | 168,568 | 13,633 | - | - | 182,201 |
| Balance as at 31 March 2019 | (739,142) | 153,531 | 25,494 | (52,895) | (613,012) |
| Balance at 1 January 2018 | (1,615,370) | 651,931 | 21,340 | (22,286) | (964,385) |
| Realised fair value loss on investments | - | - | (4,461) | (1,554) | (6,015) |
| Unrealised fair value gain / (loss) on investments | - | - | 12,904 | (8,342) | 4,562 |
| Surplus / (Deficit) for the period | 153,388 | (17,224) | - | - | 136,164 |
| Balance as at 31 March 2018 | (1,461,982) | 634,707 | 29,783 | (32,182) | (829,674) |

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the three-month period ended 31 March 2019 (Reviewed)

| | (Figures in Bahraini Dinars) Three months ended 31 March | |
|--|--|------------|
| | 2019 BD | 2018 BD |
| Net cash from / (used in) operating activities | 248,642 | 662,041 |
| Net cash (used in) from investing activities | (98,460) | 415,068 |
| Net cash from / (used in) financing activity | - | - |
| INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | 150,182 | 1,077,109 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period | 4,446,981 | 3,316,919 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE PERIOD | 4,597,163 | 4,394,028 |
| COMPRISING: | | |
| Cash and balance in current accounts | 4,597,163 | 2,351,105 |
| Bank deposits with maturity of three months or less | - | 2,042,923 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | 4,597,163 | 4,394,028 |
| Bank deposits with maturity of more than three months | 6,137,776 | 1,327,663 |
| Cash and balances with banks as per interim statement of consolidated financial position | 10,734,939 | 5,721,691 |

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN PARTICIPANTS' FUND For the three-months period ended 31 March 2019 (Reviewed)

| | General Takaful | Family Takaful |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| Balance at 1 January 2019 | (884,043) | 79,312 |
| Realised fair value loss on investments | 1,534 | - |
| Unrealised fair value gain on investments | 293 | 7,691 |
| Surplus for the period | 168,568 | 13,633 |
| Balance as at 31 March 2019 | (713,648) | 100,636 |
| Balance at 1 January 2018 | (1,594,030) | 629,645 |
| Realised fair value loss on investments | (4,461) | (1,554) |
| Unrealised fair value gain/ (loss) on investments | 12,904 | (8,342) |
| Surplus / (Deficit) for the period | 153,388 | (17,224) |
| Balance as at 31 March 2018 | (1,432,199) | 602,525 |

INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS For the three-months period ended 31 March 2019 (Reviewed)

| | Shareholders | | General takaful | | Family takaful | | Total | |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 31 March 2019 | 31 March 2018 | 31 March 2019 | 31 March 2018 | 31 March 2019 | 31 March 2018 | 31 March 2019 | 31 March 2018 |
| Gross contributions | - | - | 6,224,255 | 6,035,684 | 369,297 | 428,284 | 6,593,552 | 6,463,968 |
| Retakaful provider's share of gross contributions | - | - | (2,061,945) | (1,985,014) | (237,084) | (236,407) | (2,299,029) | (2,221,421) |
| Retained contributions | - | - | 4,162,310 | 4,050,670 | 132,213 | 191,877 | 4,294,523 | 4,242,547 |
| Unearned contributions adjustment - gross | - | - | (999,992) | (1,187,473) | 18,084 | 24,871 | (981,908) | (1,162,602) |
| Unearned contributions adjustment - retakaful | - | - | 727,571 | 350,916 | (5,527) | 1,273 | 722,044 | 352,189 |
| Net earned contributions | - | - | 3,889,889 | 3,214,113 | 144,770 | 218,021 | 4,034,659 | 3,432,134 |
| Gross claims paid | - | - | (3,266,447) | (3,061,561) | (29,993) | (119,683) | (3,296,440) | (3,181,244) |
| Retakaful provider's and others share of claims paid | - | - | 761,441 | 811,140 | - | 28,773 | 761,441 | 839,913 |
| Outstanding claims adjustment - gross | - | - | (210,154) | (164,208) | (120,422) | 413,709 | (330,576) | 249,501 |
| Outstanding claims adjustment - retakaful and others | - | - | (123,364) | (44,217) | 79,181 | (415,751) | (44,183) | (459,968) |
| Net incurred claims | - | - | (2,838,524) | (2,458,846) | (71,234) | (92,952) | (2,909,758) | (2,551,798) |
| Fee and commission income | - | - | 263,439 | 446,382 | 5 | - | 263,444 | 446,382 |
| Other takaful expenses | - | - | (148,883) | (61,035) | (1,185) | (607) | (150,068) | (61,642) |
| Transfer to family takaful technical reserve | - | - | - | - | (30,000) | (85,000) | (30,000) | (85,000) |
| Provision for impaired takaful receivables | - | - | (68,217) | (73,492) | (1,304) | 4,623 | (69,521) | (68,869) |
| Surplus from takaful operations before wakala fees | - | - | 1,097,704 | 1,067,122 | 41,052 | 44,085 | 1,138,756 | 1,111,207 |
| Wakala fees expense | - | - | (963,405) | (939,377) | (40,565) | (85,664) | (1,003,970) | (1,025,041) |
| Surplus / (deficit) from takaful operations after wakala fees | - | - | 134,299 | 127,745 | 487 | (41,579) | 134,786 | 86,166 |
| Wakala fees income | 1,003,970 | 1,025,041 | - | - | - | - | 1,003,970 | 1,025,041 |
| Investment income - net | 105,055 | 34,944 | 45,692 | 34,191 | 17,528 | 32,473 | 168,275 | 101,608 |
| Mudarib share | 15,805 | 16,666 | (11,423) | (8,548) | (4,382) | (8,118) | - | - |
| Other income | 144,466 | 44,183 | - | - | - | - | 144,466 | 44,183 |
| | 1,269,296 | 1,120,834 | 34,269 | 25,643 | 13,146 | 24,355 | 1,316,711 | 1,170,832 |
| General administration expenses | (626,285) | (622,153) | - | - | - | - | (626,285) | (622,153) |
| Corporate expenses | (98,639) | (32,585) | - | - | - | - | (98,639) | (32,585) |
| Amortisation of acquisition costs | (317,198) | (252,712) | - | - | - | - | (317,198) | (252,712) |
| | (1,042,122) | (907,450) | - | - | - | - | (1,042,122) | (907,450) |
| Net profit and surplus / (deficit) for the period | 227,174 | 213,384 | 168,568 | 153,388 | 13,633 | (17,224) | 409,375 | 349,548 |
| Attributable to: | | | | | | | | |
| Shareholders of the parent | 240,645 | 231,633 | - | - | - | - | 240,645 | 231,633 |
| Non-controlling interests | (13,471) | (18,249) | - | - | - | - | (13,471) | (18,249) |
| | 227,174 | 213,384 | - | - | - | - | 227,174 | 213,384 |
| Earnings per share | 2.83 fils | 3.71 Fils | - | - | - | - | - | - |

These Financial Statements have been reviewed by Ernst & Young and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 22nd April 2019.

Jamal Ali Al Hazeem
Chairman

Abdulrahman Abdulla Mohamad
Vice Chairman

Essam Mohammed Al Ansari
Chief Executive Officer

Family's near miss at bombed Sri Lanka church



A woman prays at St. Sebastian's Church in Negombo

Negombo, Sri Lanka

When Dilip Fernando arrived at St Sebastian's church in Sri Lanka's Negombo on Easter Sunday, it was so crowded he went elsewhere for mass. The decision probably saved his life.

Shortly after he left, a massive bomb ripped through the church as worshippers observed the Christian holiday. Dozens died there on a day of carnage across Sri Lanka that saw at least 290 people killed in eight blasts.

On Monday morning, Fernando returned to the church in the seaside town of Negombo to see the damage at the site where he

“Yesterday me and my wife arrived at 7:30 am but it was so crowded there was no place for me. I didn't want to stand so I left and went to another church”

DILIP FERNANDO

and his family narrowly escaped death.

“I usually come to services here,” the 66-year-old retiree told AFP, as around three dozen security personnel stood outside the church.

“Yesterday me and my wife arrived at 7:30 am but it was so crowded there was no place for me. I didn't want to stand so I left and went to another church.”

But seven of Fernando's extended family including in-laws and his two granddaughters decided to stay, sitting outside because the church was so crowded.

And it was there that they saw a man they believe was the suicide bomber behind the deadly

Sri Lankans stunned

● **Little-known Islamist group NTJ (National Thowheeth Jama'ath) accused in Sri Lanka blasts**

● **At least 37 foreigners were among the dead, citizens of India, Britain, Turkey, Australia, Japan and Portugal, as well as a dual US-British passport holder**

● **Interpol is deploying a team of investigators, to help local authorities**

● **Three of the four children of Danish billionaire Anders Holch Povlsen were killed in the attacks**

AFP | Colombo, Sri Lanka

As Shantha Prasad carried children wounded in Sri Lanka's deadly attacks into a Colombo hospital, memories of the country's deadly civil war flooded back.

“I carried about eight wounded children yesterday,” he said yesterday, a day after a string of blasts hit hotels and churches, killing nearly 300 people.

“There were two girls aged six and eight, the same age as my daughters,” said Prasad, who helps carry stretchers into the hospital's triage area and wards.

“Their clothes were torn and drenched in blood. It is unbearable to see this kind of violence again.”

For many Sri Lankans, Sunday's attacks against

churches and high-end hotels brought back painful memories of a conflict that lasted three decades and killed as many as 100,000 people.

During those years, bomb attacks were a regular occurrence, and left many Sri Lankans on edge in the streets and on public transport.

In the capital, street sweeper Malathi Wickrama said Monday she was now nervous doing her job.

“Now we are afraid to even touch black plastic bags with garbage,” she said.

“The string of blasts yesterday brings back memories of the time when we were afraid to go in buses or trains because of parcel bombs.”

‘We are resilient’

With the lifting of a nationwide curfew early Monday morning, people began to emerge into Colombo's streets, where security was heavy.

Schools and the stock exchange are closed, but

some shops opened their doors and public transport was functioning.

Imtiaz Ali, a tuk-tuk driver, was looking for customers in the capital, but said his family was in mourning over the death of his nephew in the blast that hit the Cinnamon Grand hotel.

“The boy was just 23. He was a salesman at (the) Cinnamon Grand hotel and he was to be married next week,” Ali said.

“We had made all the plans to hold the wedding at home, but today it's a funeral house.”

When Ali stopped at a petrol station to get a back-up container of fuel, the attendant said police had banned the sale of petrol and diesel in cans and bottles for fear they could be used to improvise bombs.

Elsewhere in the city, some residents were making their way into work,

determined to maintain a semblance of normality despite the tragedy.

“We are resilient people,” said Nuwan Samaraweera, a 50-year-old office worker.

“We have seen so much violence during the civil war. For the outside world it may be big, but for us life goes on,” he added.

“We have to gather ourselves and move on.”

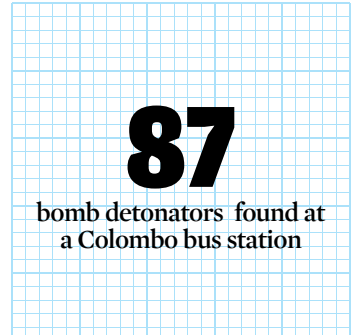
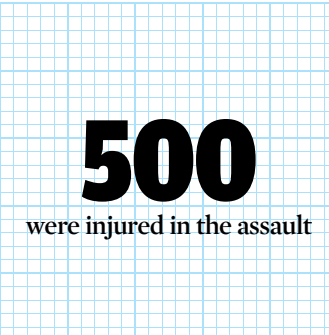
Ranjan Christopher Fernand, 55, said his friend's 11-year-old son had been killed in Negombo.

“This is the first time Christians have been attacked like this in Sri Lanka,” he said, driving his taxi around the capital.

“Tonight we will go to the church to pray for the victims. Of course I feel afraid... but we have to go to church, we have to pray for the injured to get well soon.”

Improvised bomb

An improvised pipe bomb discovered close to Colombo's main airport was successfully defused by the Sri



Lanka airforce, police said.

A police source said that a “homemade” pipe bomb had been found late Sunday on a road leading towards the main terminal, which remains open with heavy security after Easter Sunday's deadly bomb attacks.

“It was a homemade bomb, with explosives put into a pipe,” said the source.

Airforce spokesperson Group Captain Gihan Seneviratne said the IED was believed to be locally manufactured.

The discovery comes after a series of eight devastating bomb blasts ripped through high-end hotels and churches holding Easter services, killing at least 207 people, including

dozens of foreigners.

“It was a crude six-foot pipe bomb that was found by the roadside,” an air force spokesman said. “We have removed it and safely defused it at an air force location.”

People pray outside the St. Anthony's Shrine in Colombo



A Sri Lankan relative of a bomb blast victim weeps at a morgue in Colombo

explosion.
“At the end of the mass they saw one young man go into the church in with a heavy bag,” Fernando said.
“He touched my granddaughter’s head on the way past. It was the bomber.”

‘I’m so lucky’

The family wondered why he was entering the church with mass nearly over, Fernando said, adding that the man had looked to be around 30 and “very young and innocent”, according to his relatives.
“He was not excited or afraid. He was so calm.”
Shortly after the man entered the church, there was a massive

blast.
“They heard it and quickly ran away, they were so afraid. They called me immediately to ask if I was inside the church, but by then I was in a different church.”
He said no one in his family had been killed or injured, but that the community had been devastated by the attack.
“I’m so lucky because normally I would go to this church. We are relieved, we were so lucky but we’re really sad for the whole village,” he said.
“There are going to be huge funerals in this village soon.”
But he added that Sri Lanka’s Roman Catholic community, a minority that makes up just six percent of the population, would

not be intimidated.
“If the church was open this morning then I would have gone inside. We are not afraid. We won’t let terrorists win, no way.”
‘Revenge is useless’
And he said that he hoped the attack would not trigger revenge killings.
“Revenge is useless. It’s the responsibility of the government to control this, not us.”
He criticised the government, which has acknowledged that there was information warning of attacks before Sunday’s blasts.
“An attack like this should have been avoided,” he said.
Around the church, Negombo appeared to be waking up

as normal, after the lifting of an overnight nationwide curfew at 6:00 am (0030 GMT).
A steady stream of people were walking or moving on streets on bicycles and motor-bikes or in tuk-tuks.
Outside the church, Fernando and other bystanders look at the damage to the church.
Inside the church grounds, around a dozen pairs of shoes belonging to victims were piled up under a tree, with more lined up outside the church doors.
One men’s shoe had been ripped in half and blood sat congealed inside it.
Nuns, priests and Buddhist monks came to pay respects.
“This is an attack on everyone,”

said Suthammo Thero, a Buddhist monk from Poland who lives in Sri Lanka.
“I used to be a Catholic so it is very sad for me,” the 45-year-old said.
Fernando said the church had been renovated just a month earlier.
“It was looking so beautiful. We were so happy,” he said.
“The priest was awarded for the job he had done. But now this has happened, it’s terrible.”



A woman looks into a container where bodies of bomb blast victims are kept at a hospital in Negombo

Death toll hits 290



People who live near the church that was attacked



A woman and her new born baby who live near the Church that was attacked



The mother of Shaini, 13, who died in the blasts mourns at her wake in Negombo

Relatives endure grim screening to identify dead at morgue

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Some hid their eyes, some collapsed in tears as gruesome images of victims from Sri Lanka’s Easter massacre were projected on to a screen in front of distraught relatives at a Colombo morgue yesterday.
The pictures of some of the 290 dead are disturbing, with faces battered and bodies missing limbs.
A Roman Catholic priest and a Buddhist counterpart waited in the corner of the courtyard to intervene when one of scores of people in the audience recognised a mother, brother or child.

Many of the dead from attacks on three churches and three luxury hotels have been taken to the government morgue and people queued in the heat to get into the heart-wrenching identification slideshow.
Eighteen bodies were released yesterday morning after relatives recognised a victim from the gruesome images shown in a corner of the morgue courtyard.
Identification is painstaking, physically and emotionally. Many badly mutilated bodies will only be identified with the DNA of relatives, officials said.
Janaka Shaktivel, 28, father of an 18-month-old son, sat in shock outside the building waiting for the body of his wife to be handed

over.
The storeowner’s wife died when a suicide bomber hit St Anthony’s Shrine, one of Colombo’s most famous churches.
Saved by baby’s tears
Pale and grief-stricken, Shaktivel said he remembered lighting candles with his wife and baby.
“My baby started crying, I took him outside and my wife stayed inside.
“I was just at the door when I heard an ear-splitting sound. I rushed inside but there were unbelievable scenes. I frantically looked for my wife but couldn’t find her.”
Shaktivel went on a grim tour of Colombo hospitals and finally to the morgue, where he was one of many

to be called up to see the images and then inspect a body.
“I recognised her body from the wedding ring that she always wore,” he said. “I have no words to explain my feelings.”
Shalini Juwinitta Gomez, 31, lost her elder brother and his three children -- the youngest just eight months old.
The family had identified two of the dead and were waiting to find others. The brother’s wife is in intensive care in hospital with serious leg injuries.
“The baby was so cute, he was only eight months old,” said Gomez. “His head was blown off, I have gone numb. What did he do to deserve this?”
As Gomez watched pictures of bodies

flash up on the screen she broke down, slowly identifying her missing family one by one.
Still the outside official sat top at the out more Volun- water and entering “We are families. h a v e

faraway places,” Father Lawrence Ramanayake said.
“They are very poor people, we have to support them from the church,” added the pastor. “The church is doing everything possible to help the families.”
Police and doctors waited to greet families as they left the projection room, offering help. More Catholic nuns and priests waited to give advice on funerals. “It’s an unprecedented situation. We are doing our best,” said a help- less morgue worker.



Security personnel stand guard outside St. Anthony’s Shrine in Colombo

The tragic familiarity of the Sri Lanka

A country once split by ethnic hatreds is now a target for Islamic terrorism



RANDY BOYAGODA

The series of suicide attacks on churches and hotels in Sri Lanka on April 21, which has left nearly 300 dead and hundreds injured, is more than just a national or religious tragedy. For members of the Sri Lankan diaspora, including Catholics like me, who have family connections to the very places and parishes that were attacked, the country's tribulations are no longer terrible, local and hard to explain to people unfamiliar with its unsettled history. Now they are terrible, local — and familiar.

Much of the world knows the outlines of Sri Lanka's historic troubles — a three-decade civil war, fought along ethnic lines and punctuated by hundreds of suicide bombings carried out by the Tamil Tiger terrorist organisation. But broad international interest in the island nation, and familiarity with its struggles, has largely been confined to the story of its civil war, which ended in 2009, and, at most, to ongoing, uneven reconciliations and renewals that have played out since then.

Now a new, shared context has emerged: All evidence so far suggests that the attacks were carried out by locally based Islamic terrorists.

The attackers knew their targets

well, and seem to have chosen them for maximum symbolic value.

St Anthony's, in the capital city of Colombo, is a national shrine, whose turn-of-the-19th-century origins are associated with the persecution of local Catholics by the country's then-colonial Dutch rulers.

It has long been a place frequented by travellers — domestic and foreign, Catholic and non-Catholic — before they begin journeys around the island. On my last family trip to Sri Lanka, with four overtired, overheating children in the back seat, our driver took a maddeningly inefficient route out of the traffic-clogged big city just so he could first pray for the intercession of St Anthony for a safe trip.

The second prominent church that was attacked, St Sebastian's, is in my mother's place of birth, Negombo, a stout fishing town north of the capital. Negombo is nicknamed "Little Rome" because of its robust Catholic culture, which dates to 16th-century Portuguese colonialism.

Every January St. Sebastian's plays host to an island-famous festival in honour of its namesake saint. Days and nights of prayer, procession and merrymaking are enjoyed by churchgoers alongside friends and neighbours.

Significantly, this was true before, during and after the civil war. I noted as much to a cousin and her husband a few years ago, after I visited the church and attended the festival with them and their children. They cited this as evidence



A Sri Lankan security personnel stand guard outside a church in Colombo.

of the country's baseline religious pluralism, which I appreciated as a source of strong and meaningful contrast to its deep-cutting ethnic

divisions. Will that still be the case at next year's Feast of St. Sebastian?

That depends on what these attacks portend — whether the glob-

al currents of religiously inspired terrorism overwhelm the island's long-standing experience with pluralism.

Befitting an island centre of global trade, Lanka has for centuries to a diversity of faiths

Climate's troubling unknown unknowns

Environmental changes occur regularly; climate change significantly accelerates



WILLIAM B GAIL

Donald Rumsfeld famously popularised the term "unknown unknowns" in a 2002 news briefing when describing the challenges of linking Iraq to weapons of mass destruction. Troublingly, climate change may also be strewn with such unknowns, and they pose daunting tests for how we face the future.

One is choosing among policy alternatives. Should we minimise tomorrow's risks now by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, or save money today and spend it on adapting to the effects of planetary warming once threats emerge more fully, like rising seas or prolonged droughts? The policy debate increasingly tilts toward adaptation.

But we can't adapt to perils from unknown unknowns. In such cases, adaptation will largely fail; only mitigation will be effective.

The National Climate Assess-

ment released last fall provided an updated scientific summary of the "knowns." The simple version was this: Earth is warming, humans are largely responsible, ecosystems are changing in response, and the effect on societies will be large.

The report also characterised the known unknowns, as Rumsfeld might put it — those things we know at a fundamental level but about which we seek greater certainty. They include how much Earth will eventually warm, how rapidly oceans will rise, where and when weather extremes and water shortages might occur, and whether potential tipping points (like the collapse of Antarctic ice sheets) will, in fact, occur.

Unsurprisingly, the report carefully limited speculation about unknown unknowns: the many initially small environmental shifts that are potential consequences of the changing climate. What will actually emerge is largely unknowable because of the highly unpredictable nonlinear response to the warming of Earth's complex and adaptive physical and ecological systems.

Yet credible speculation on climate's unknown unknowns is

sorely needed by policymakers. Future generations will be affected by today's policy decisions, whether the underlying science is complete or not. The basics are simple: The more we warm our planet, the more likely it is that deeply surprising environmental changes will ensue.

Most of these smaller environmental changes should be manageable, readily addressed through adaptation. Inevitably, however, a rare few will most likely evolve and expand until they threaten our security, health or economy. We lack the ability to predict which are which. This is the curse of unknown unknowns. Nevertheless, things we can credibly imagine should accentuate our concern for what we are unable to imagine.

Perhaps a routinely ice-free Arctic summer, altering polar ocean life in subtle ways, sets off an unpredictable cascade of complex changes throughout the global ocean ecosystem, devastating fisheries. Maybe agricultural pests adapt to climate change stresses by evolving novel and frequently changing abilities to destroy crops, leaving farmers struggling to keep pace and



Dirty air blanketing New York's skyline.

feed populations. One unsettling risk is that mutant diseases — like Zika and Ebola today and the 1918 flu epidemic that killed 50 million people — could emerge more often because of altered evolutionary competition in a changing climate, each a greater medical challenge than the last.

Environmental changes occur regularly; climate change significantly accelerates the process.

Should warming progress too far, society risks being overwhelmed by the growing rate at which disruptive events could occur. Each new threat is likely to emerge and proliferate differently, undermining adaptation's effectiveness.

Some threats might be so startling and strange that our imaginations would struggle to comprehend them even after they arise. Timely response efforts would be

frustrated by poor knowledge of what is occurring and how to contain the threat.

Though climate change is likely to produce clearly attributable impacts, Zika hints at the possibility of a disease transformed from an infectious disease into a medical crisis. Societal consequences with childbearing uper-

1635

The first public school in the United States, **Boston Latin School**, is founded in Boston.

1655

The Siege of Santo Domingo begins during the **Anglo-Spanish War**, and fails seven days later.

1660

Treaty of Oliva is established between Sweden and Poland.



1661

King Charles II of England, Scotland and Ireland is crowned in Westminster Abbey.

Lanka bombings

terrorism

I wonder how these messages of sympathy and explanation are being received and felt by Sri Lankans. Islamic terrorism may be new, but suicide bombings are terribly familiar, after a decadelong break.

is intimately connected to Sri Lanka's origin narratives, dating from at least 100 BC; Hinduism arrived definitively a few centuries later. Muslims have been in Sri Lanka since the Middle Ages, by way of the island's commerce with the Arab world; and Christians have been there since at least the beginning of European colonialism in the 16th century.

These religions have not always lived in harmony, but such conflicts have generally been the exception, as peoples of different faiths, at least when it comes to faith itself, have generally figured out ways to live together in the distinctive shared space and comparative isolation of a small island country in the Indian Ocean.

That isolation is suddenly, undeniably gone. News reports about the recent attacks suggest that Sri Lankan authorities had already been monitoring local Islamic terror

groups, which they suspected were plotting attacks on Catholic churches, who were no doubt inspired by global currents and conflicts situated far beyond the island's shores.

At the same time, as the world responds, leaders from Pope Francis to President Donald Trump have condemned the suicide bombings of churches and hotels in words and ways that are immediately familiar. Since news of Sunday's attacks reached me in Toronto, I have been fielding a steady array of concern, and sending out my own, to loved ones back in Sri Lanka. For the first time, I can discuss a tragic situation in Sri Lanka with friends and colleagues with a searing, mutually assured comprehension.

Still, I wonder how these messages of sympathy and explanation are being received and felt by Sri Lankans. Islamic terrorism may be new, but suicide bombings are terribly familiar, after a decadelong break. They must wonder if anyone cares about the fraught efforts at political and economic renewal that have come in between, not to mention a necessarily imperfect but undeniably durable model of pluralist religious cohabitation.

Sympathy for Sri Lanka is not for what the island has lost. Rather, it is for what Sri Lanka has gained — membership in a global conflict that is at once fresh and familiar, for the island and for the world.

(Randy Boyagoda is a novelist and professor of English at the University of Toronto, where he is also principal of St Michael's College.)

knowns

ates the process

Timely response efforts would be frustrated by poor knowledge about what is occurring and how to contain the threat.

ple threatened by the mosquito that carries the virus. Though probably not a direct result of climate change, Zika starkly illustrates the type of inconceivable surprises, and their demoralising consequences, that threaten to emerge with ever greater frequency should we fail to slow global warming.

Three millenniums ago, Homer foreshadowed our dilemma. He wrote of Odysseus returning by ship across the Aegean Sea, headed homeward to Greece after his great victory over Troy. Odysseus

anticipated an arduous sea journey, but was unprepared for what followed: an interminable voyage punctuated by unimaginably difficult experiences one after another, from Sirens to the Cyclops.

Our decisions in the next few years will determine whether our climate journey follows a similar course. Perhaps current policy discussions will navigate society through the journey's recognised risks. If warming progresses rapidly, however, the known concerns — increasing temperatures, sea level rise, a melting Arctic — will not be the whole story. Nature's unforeseeable surprises, some unimaginable to us today, could become pivotal to our fate.

Without an aggressive policy commitment to mitigation by rapidly reducing our carbon emissions, our grandchildren could be destined to live in a world with nature's unknown unknowns around each year's turn.

(William B Gail is a co-founder of Global Weather Corp, a past president of the American Meteorological Society and the author of "Climate Conundrums: What the Climate Debate Reveals About Us".)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



“Our hearts go out to the families and friends of those who have lost their lives, to the Christian community, and to the people of Sri Lanka at this tragic time. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.”

@KensingtonRoyal

02



Maximum pressure on the Iranian regime means maximum pressure. That's why the U.S. will not issue any exceptions to Iranian oil importers. The global oil market remains well-supplied. We're confident it will remain stable as jurisdictions transition away from Iranian crude.

@SecPompeo

03



Seven days from today, you will get an opportunity to exercise your right to vote. Take that opportunity to make yourself heard, to strengthen our democracy and our country. Mumbai - Vote for a new India! 29th April 2019 #MumbaiVoteKar

@poonam_mahajan

04



Today, too, let us join in prayer with the Christian community of Sri Lanka, which was struck by terrible violence on Easter Sunday. We entrust to the risen Lord the victims, the wounded and all the suffering. #PrayForSri Lanka

@Pontifex

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

Jointly build the belt and road and realise shared development



HE ANWAER

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is an important initiative for international cooperation proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping to enhance both China's development and its cooperation with global partners. The BRI represents a major breakthrough in both theory and practice, which the aim is to uphold multilateralism and promote world peace and development, and it carries far-reaching significance. Since its inception, the BRI has received strong endorsement and warm support of the international community. So far, a total of 124 countries and 29 international organizations have signed BRI cooperation documents with China. Meanwhile, the BRI vision has been included in documents of major international institutions including the United Nations, the G20, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Indeed, the BRI has proved a popular and worthy cause that goes along with the trend of our times and responds to the shared aspiration of countries for development through mutually beneficial cooperation. The BRI has become one of the most important and popular global public products in the new ear.

The Second Belt and Road Forum (BRF) will be held in Beijing from 25 to 27 April this year. The theme of this year's BRF is: Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future. Representatives from over 100 countries, including about 40 leaders of foreign governments, have confirmed their attendance. As the host country, we will, together with other Forum parties, take stock of what has been achieved and draw a blueprint for future cooperation to further enrich BRI cooperation.

China hopes that the participating parties will further enrich the vision of advancing quality BRI cooperation. China hopes the participating parties will continue to follow the principle of consultation and cooperation for shared benefits, stick to people-centered development philosophy, forge extensive partnerships, and jointly promote all-round connectivity. Undoubtedly, the Forum will send a positive message of strengthening international economic cooperation, promoting global growth, and building an open global economy.

China hopes that the participating parties will set clear priorities for cooperation and make concrete progress toward quality cooperation. BRI cooperation is not a talk shop, but an action-oriented initiative that delivers real outcomes. The second BRF is expected to produce a full range of outcomes, including both governmental cooperation agreements and initiatives, and concrete cooperation projects involving participation of the business sector. China is confident that the sec-

ond BRF will produce even greater numbers of cooperation outcomes that are of still higher quality. China hopes that the participating parties will strengthen cooperation mechanisms for quality BRI cooperation. The parties concerned are currently involved in BRI cooperation in various forms. China hopes that the participating parties attending the Forum will build on successful practices and jointly develop a multi-tiered cooperation framework.

China believes that with the concerted efforts of all the participating parties, the second BRF will deliver fruitful outcomes, create more driving forces for the economic growth of both participating countries and other countries concerned, provide more opportunities for international economic cooperation, and contribute more to the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind and a new type of international relations.

Recently, some people have expressed different views about the BRI, claiming that the Initiative is China's geopolitical tool and could cause some countries to fall into a debt trap. Such

China hopes the participating parties will continue to follow the principle of consultation and cooperation for shared benefits, stick to people-centered development philosophy, forge extensive partnerships, and jointly promote all-round connectivity.

views are less than objective or balanced. They are simply a misunderstanding, misrepresentation and even biased view of the BRI. China has stressed on many occasions that the BRI is an initiative for economic cooperation that supports common development. All parties involved are equal participants, they have all contributed to the Initiative and benefited from it. The BRI is open, inclusive and transparent. It does not harbor any hidden geopolitical agenda, nor is it designed to form an exclusive circle or

impose discriminatory trade terms on others.

The friendship between China and Bahrain goes back to ancient times. The ancient silk road has long linked China and Bahrain, and has been told by many in the history of friendship between the two countries.

Bahrain is not only an important member of the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council, but also a significant cooperation partner in joint building of the BRI in the Gulf. China has always attached great importance to the development of friendly relations with Bahrain and cherished the friendship and cooperation with Bahrain. China is willing to continue to adhere the principle of mutual respect and trust with each other, catch up the important opportunity of 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between us, implement the important consensus reached by President Xi Jinping and HM King Hamad, and promote the development of friendly cooperative relations between China and Bahrain into a new level, and jointly safeguard regional prosperity and stability. I believe that with the integration and implementation of the BRI and Bahrain's Economic Outlook 2030, the future of our bilateral relations will be more and more beautiful!

(He Anwaer, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Bahrain)

business

Bahraini start-ups get the backing of Al Waha fund

TDT | Manama

Two Bahraini start-ups are benefiting from investments it has made into local venture capital funds, said Bahrain-based Al Waha Fund of Funds as the Global Economic Congress draws to a close.

Al Waha said it has invested in five funds from across the region and beyond that include BECO Capital, Middle East Venture Partners, 500 Startups, and European fund manager Finch Capital.

The Fund, launched in 2018, said its underlying portfolio managers and VC network have a good pipeline of deals emerging from Bahrain with one investment already made by 500 Startups in Inagrab – a platform that helps retail businesses scale their business with the help of A.I. and big data analytics.

Another VC – Faith Capital, part of Al Waha's wider network of VCs, is also investing in Inagrab. On top of this, Al Waha is invested through MEVP in Eat APP, an online reservation service co-found-



Areije Alshakar

ed by Bahraini entrepreneur Nezar Kadhem. Inagrab has received seed funding from Bahrain Development Bank before receiving fresh funds from the VC.

Areije Alshakar, Al Waha Fund Manager, said: "This is more evidence that our approach of building a fund of funds to attract VCs to register here and support the Bahrain ecosystem and the wider regional technology community is working."

SADAD introduces 'Save Your Card' option

TDT | Manama

SADAD, a payment platform, announced introducing a 'Save Your Bank Cards' feature to their mobile application.

The new feature is accomplished by tokenization, which is considered the safest way of storing financial card information.

This feature will allow customers to pay bills and make various transactions but only having to save their card details once.

Commenting on the new feature, Danial Jawaid, Director of IT from SADAD Bahrain said, "The latest addition to our app will provide customers with an added value to SADAD's current offering, as customers

can now easily pay their bills in a few taps without facing the hassle of having to repeatedly re-enter their card details."

Launched in 2010 with a network of over 850 kiosks across the Kingdom, SADAD is now integrated with the Kingdom's top telecoms companies, as well as the Electricity & Water Authority in order to provide a practical payment method. Amongst its offerings, SADAD also facilitates the transfer of money, donations to charitable societies as well as payments for a number of tourist activities. Also offering vouchers for Google Play, eBay, Amazon, XBOX and PlayStation, SADAD provides a one-stop solution for a variety of needs.

KFH Q1 profit rises 17.4pc

TDT | Kuwait

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) reported a 17.4 per cent increase in its first quarter 2019 net profit thanks to enhanced performance, high operating returns and low expenses

First quarter net profit was KD51.6 Million applicable to KFH shareholders compared to KD44m for the same period last year. Earnings per share was 7.50 fils, compared to 6.39 fils for the same period last year i.e. an increase of 17.4pc.

Total finance income grew 9.5pc to KD228.4m, total operating income rose 4.1pc to KD196.8m while Net operating income increased 7.1pc to KD118.1m from the same quarter last year.

Depositors accounts reached KD 12.299 Billion i.e. an increase of KD 518.6m or 4.4pc compared to the same period last year.

Chairman of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Hamad Abdulmo-hsen Al-Marzouq said the Q1



Despite the challenges in the local and global operating environment, KFH has been able to achieve positive performance for the fifth consecutive year

HAMAD ABDULMOHSEN AL-MARZOUQ
CHAIRMAN OF KUWAIT FINANCE HOUSE

positive results show another year of stable growth based on firm fundamentals capable of achieving KFH's goals and good profitability for its shareholders and customers, reflecting its enhanced performance, high operating returns and low expenses. This comes as part of spending rationalization policy and prioritization.

"Despite the challenges in the local and global operating environment, KFH has been able to achieve positive performance for the fifth consecutive year. Resulting from the core business, the operating profits reflect the success of KFH's strategy set by the Board of Directors and skillfully followed up by the executive management. The

profits came in line with KFH's plans and programs, economic developments and market movements. The results confirm KFH's feasible decisions to focus on its core business, exit nonstrategic investments, and deepen its global professional banking practices along with high commitment to regulations," Al-Marzouq explained.

CBB issues draft rules on Insurance Aggregators

TDT | Manama

The Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) yesterday announced issuing draft rules on "insurance aggregators".

Insurance aggregators, according to the CBB statement, are intermediaries with an insurance broker's license who operate an online platform which provides price comparisons and facilitates the purchase of insurance policies from several insurance licensees.

"The introduction of insurance aggregator rules is a first step for the CBB towards "Insuretech", a technology-led transformation of the insurance sector which is rapidly gathering momentum globally, especially due to demands from



The introduction of insurance aggregator rules is a first step for the CBB towards Insuretech

ABDUL RAHMAN AL BAKER, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
SUPERVISION

millennials," Abdul Rahman Al Baker, Executive Director of Financial Institutions Supervision, said.

The CBB is one of few central banks to have introduced rules relating to insurance aggregators helping Bahrain to be a leading financial hub in the MENA region.

The Central Bank of Bahrain statement added: "Insurance aggregators allow customers to find and choose insurance quotes from several insurance companies under a single electronic platform or mobile device application, instead of obtaining quotes individually and purchase insurance online from a single insurance company."

Egypt to host African summits Tuesday on Sudan, Libya

Cairo, Egypt

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi will lead two emergency summits with other African leaders on Tuesday to address events in Sudan and Libya, his presidency said.

The leaders will focus on "the evolution of the situation in Sudan" where protests continue after the military toppled president Omar al-Bashir.

They will also seek to "stem the current crisis" in Libya, where commander Khalifa Haftar is leading an offensive on Tripoli, Egypt's presidency said in a statement.

Sisi is also the current president of the African Union.

Trump to sanction allies over Iran oil, causing new friction

● Eight governments were initially given six-month reprieves from the unilateral sanctions

Washington, United States

The United States said yesterday it would start imposing sanctions on friends such as India that buy Iranian oil, in its latest aggressive step to counter Tehran that could jeopardize US relationships.

One targeted country, Turkey, vowed to defy the US demands which sent global crude prices spiraling higher, although President Donald Trump tweeted



US President Donald Trump addresses the crowd as First Lady Melania Trump looks on during the annual White House Easter Egg Roll on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, DC

that his close ally Saudi Arabia would "more than make up" for decreases in Iranian oil.

In seeking to reduce Iran's oil exports to zero, the Trump administration is targeting the country's top revenue maker in its latest no-holds-barred move to crush the economy and scale back the clerical regime's influence.

"The Trump administration and our allies are determined to sustain and expand the maximum economic pressure campaign against Iran to end the regime's destabilizing activity threatening the United States, our partners and allies and security in the Middle East," the White House said in announcing its move.

Riyadh to 'stabilise' oil market

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Riyadh is committed to "stabilise" the oil market after a US decision to end sanction exemptions for Iran's customers, Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said yesterday.

"The kingdom reaffirms its longstanding policy, which seeks to stabilise the markets at all times," he said in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

"The kingdom will coordinate with other oil producing countries to ensure adequate supplies to consumers," he add-

ed. Eight countries initially given six-month waivers include China, India and Turkey.

The Saudi energy minister said Riyadh was "following closely" market developments.

Riyadh will work with both producer and consumer countries to ensure "market stability in the interest of both parties and the growth of the world economy," Falih said.

The White House has said Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates -- close US allies -- would work to make up the difference in oil to ensure that global markets are not rocked.

Boston now a 'lot angrier'

Some 75.6 per cent of Boston voters wanted to leave the European Union in the June 2016 referendum -- the highest figure in the UK -- which highlighted unease about the effects of a rapid immigration boom in this otherwise overlooked town

AFP | Boston, United Kingdom

In the 2016 referendum, the market town of Boston in eastern England was the epicentre of the Brexit vote that shocked the world.

Fast forward to now and voters are furious that Brexit has been delayed due to gridlock in parliament, while integration between locals and Boston's thriving new east European population remains a struggle.

"Boston is a lot angrier than it was," said Judith Churrah, 66.

"Two and a half years on and we are no further forward. The anger is not against migrants



We're almost entirely reliant on EU migrant labour, as the whole of the UK horticulture sector is. We have nothing but positive things to say about them. They have a fantastic work ethic, are model employees and we would be lost without them

J. A. COLLISON AND SONS

government dried up, meaning the influx was not matched with infrastructure expansion, fueling the Brexit vote.

The Office for National Statistics estimated that in 2017, 20,000 of the 68,000 people in Boston were foreign-born, up from 6,000 out of 57,000 in 2004.

Breaking bread together

The referendum outcome triggered attempts to bridge the divide between older and newer Bostonians.

Saint Botolph's Church, Boston's towering landmark, hosts regular food and drink events to facilitate cross-community chat.

"Through learning about each other, we become more comfortable with each other," said Adam Kelk, the church's operations

14, the day before the more famous US Boston Marathon.

Data shows around half of those who did the simpler five-kilometre fun run have Boston postcodes.

"Each year, more and more of the immigrant population are getting involved," said Austin.

Shopping at different times

But just as those bridges are tentatively built, another divide could be emerging with the surge of Romanian and Bulgarian immigration after transitional limits were lifted in 2014.

Asked what has changed about Boston since the referendum, locals and longer-term east European residents in the big market square mostly cite the Romanian influx.

Fruit and veg seller Kelly Brandon said older English people predominantly visit in the mornings and younger eastern Europeans in the afternoon once their early work shifts are done.

"This market would be finished if it wasn't for them. 100 percent," said Brandon, whose family have run the stall for 25 years.

"The longer-term ones that came in on the first wave -- we know them by name, we have watched their children grow up and employed their sons.

"They're similar to us, apart from the language."

Employers lament uncertainty

The farms and factories that have proved such a migrant magnet feel left in limbo by Brexit.

Belmont Nurseries, Britain's largest outdoor tulips grower, imports its bulbs from the Netherlands and has started stockpiling lest post-Brexit paperwork imposes transit delays that would spoil the

Some 75.6 per cent of Boston voters wanted to leave the European Union in the June 2016 referendum

The referendum outcome triggered attempts to bridge the divide between older and newer Bostonians.

'Too small to cope'

Back in Boston, West Street, now dominated by shops servicing the eastern European community, is bustling.

People queue outside a packed remittances agency, while customers frequent the stores filled with imported home comforts, and grab lunch in Lithuanian restaurants.

Some feel the heavy concentration around West Street has not helped integration.

Jaidas Stirbys, 34, a food factory worker, came to Boston from Lithuania 12 years ago for work and better money, and quickly decided to stay. He now speaks five languages.

"I am happy with my situation. I just hope the UK would stay in the EU," he said.

Born in Morocco with Berber roots, France-raised Cafe de Paris owner Anton Dani has been in Britain for 24 years and married a Pole.

But he is more than just a Brexit-voting cafe owner. Dani is also a local councillor and he believes newcomers should do as he did: study English, become British and adopt UK culture.

"Integration is not happening. It's very slow motion," he said.

"Everyone gets isolated and starts living in their own communities.

"The Bostonians say they don't hate migrants; it's just that the town is too small to cope."



Workers from EU countries sort tulips at J. A. Collison and Sons

but against the politicians," she explained.

"Burn down parliament." Some 75.6 per cent of Boston voters wanted to leave the European Union in the June 2016 referendum -- the highest figure in the UK -- which highlighted unease about the effects of a rapid immigration boom in this otherwise overlooked town.

Boston is a hub for the vast,

fertile Fens inland.

The town changed dramatically after eight ex-communist nations entered the EU in 2004, with thousands, particularly from Poland and the Baltic states, drawn by ready work in Britain's food-producing heartland.

But the migration surge collided with the 2008 financial crisis, when the money from central

manager.

The annual Boston Marathon was also launched in 2016 in an attempt to promote cultural integration.

"Sport and common activities are by far the best way of addressing the problem, integrating and reducing tensions," said the event's chairman Richard Austin.

This year's event ran on April



US existing home sales retreat in March

Washington, United States

Sales of existing homes sank last month, retreating from February's surge while prices and supplies rose, an industry survey showed yesterday.

While economists had expected some decline for March, the larger-than-expected dip in the key housing sector was disappointing, given rising wages and softening mortgage rates, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Total sales of single-family houses, condos, town-homes and co-ops fell 4.9 percent from February to an annual rate of 5.21 million, seasonally adjusted, the monthly NAR report showed.

The result undershot economists' expectations and was down an even steeper 5.4 from March of last year.

The sales decline occurred nationwide, with the Midwest region seeing the biggest drop.

Nissan to reject new integration proposal from Renault

Reuters | Tokyo

Nissan Motor Co Ltd will reject a management integration proposal from French partner Renault SA and will call for an equal capital relationship, the Nikkei newspaper said yesterday, citing sources.

Nissan's management feels the Japanese company has not been treated as an equal of Renault under existing capital ties, and a merger would make this inequality permanent, the Nikkei said

Lender FAB leads Abu Dhabi higher

Abu Dhabi's National Marine soars on higher dividend

Saudi's Kayan slides on Q1 loss

Reuters

Abu Dhabi's stock market closed higher for the fourth straight session yesterday, aided by its largest lender First Abu Dhabi Bank, while petrochemical stocks pulled the Saudi market down.

The Abu Dhabi index rose 0.8 per cent, led by a 1.8pc increase in First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB).

The lender has been rising in recent sessions after it obtained regulatory approval to increase its foreign ownership limit to 40pc from 25pc.

Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB) rose 1.1pc.

On Sunday its chief executive Alaa Eraiqat was appointed chairman of Al Hilal Bank, with which ADCB is expected to merge, along with Union National Bank, in the first half of 2019.

National Marine Dredging



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

surged 11.1pc after the shareholders approved an increase in its cash dividend to 25pc from the 22pc that board had proposed.

Saudi Arabia's main index fell 0.5pc as most of its petrochemical stocks slid, with sector leader Saudi Basic Industries

shedding 0.8pc.

Saudi Kayan Petrochemical plunged 5.4pc after it swung to a first-quarter loss from a profit last year.

Arqam Capital said in a note that it expects petrochemical companies' net profit to see sharp declines year-over-year on

lower petrochemical prices.

However, their bottom line is expected to improve quarter-over-quarter as the last quarter was impacted by inventory writedowns and seasonally higher costs.

Qatar's blue-chip index added 0.4pc as its financial stocks rose.

Closing Bell

| | | |
|-----------|----------|--------------|
| SAUDI | ▼ 0.5 pc | » 9,195 pts |
| ABU DHABI | ▲ 0.8 pc | » 5,386 pts |
| DUBAI | ■ » | 2,821 pts |
| QATAR | ▲ 0.4 pc | » 10,401 pts |
| EGYPT | ▼ 0.3 pc | » 14,801 pts |
| BAHRAIN | ▼ 0.3 pc | » 1,443 pts |
| OMAN | ▼ 0.2 pc | » 3,979 pts |
| KUWAIT | ▼ 1.3 pc | » 6,169 pts |

Egypt's blue-chip index was down 0.3pc, dragged lower by Oriental Weavers Carpet Co dropping 14.6pc, to its biggest single-day loss since April 2009, as the stock traded ex-dividend.

Dubai's main index traded flat, with its largest listed developer Emaar Properties gaining 1pc.

Dubai's economy is expected to grow 2.1pc in 2019, according to a government forecast, up from 1.94pc in 2018, which was its slowest pace since a 2009 contraction.

Kuwait's index fell 1.3pc, with Kuwait Finance House declining 1.9pc, while Kuwait Projects dropped 4.4pc as the stock traded ex-dividend.

Samsung Electronics delays Galaxy Fold media events in China

The firm plans to begin South Korean and European sales in May, and Chinese sales from an undisclosed date.

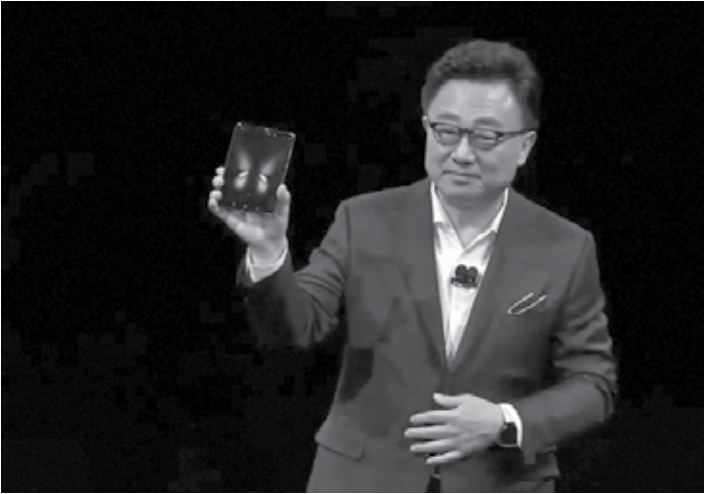
Reuters | Seoul

Smartphone maker Samsung Electronics Co Ltd has postponed media events for its Galaxy Fold planned for this week in Hong Kong and Shanghai, a company official said, days after reviewers of the foldable handset reported defective samples.

The official did not elaborate on reasons or rescheduling.

Instead of plaudits ahead of the phone's launch on April 26 in the United States, the South Korean conglomerate has been blighted by technology journalists reporting breaks, bulges and blinking screens after using their samples for as little as a day.

Samsung said it received "a few" reports of damage to the displays of samples of the \$1,980 handset, raising the spectre of the combustible Galaxy Note 7 three years ago which the firm ultimately pulled from shelves at massive cost.



DJ Koh, chief executive of Samsung's mobile division, with one of the phones

The reviewers' reports of broken screens went viral online and prompted the creation of hashtag #foldgate on Twitter.

Samsung has hailed the folding design as the future in a field that has seen few surprises since Apple Inc's iPhone in 2007. Chinese rival Huawei Technologies Co Ltd has also announced a folding handset, the Mate X.

The Samsung official yesterday said the firm was thoroughly investigating the damage reports as previously announced, and declined to comment on whether there would be any change to the U.S. release date.

Climate change protesters halt London street blockade

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Some of London's busiest streets re-opened Monday for the first time in a week as climate change protesters regrouped and plotted a new course after police made more than 1,000 arrests.

The so-called Extinction Rebellion took over the heart of the UK capital in a bid to focus global attention on rising temperatures and sea levels caused by greenhouse gas emissions.

The grassroots group was established last year in Britain by academics and has used social media to become one of the fastest-growing environmental movements worldwide.

But it has abandoned four of five main protests sites in response to a more forceful police response and an outcry from local businesses that claimed a heavy loss in sales.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan also warned Sunday that protests were starting to overstretch the police and limiting their ability to respond to daily crime.

"It simply isn't right to put

Londoners' safety at risk like this," Khan said.

'Die-in'

Extinction Rebellion organisers retreated by Monday to Marble Arch -- a monument on the edge of Hyde Park that allows limited protests to continue without disrupting traffic.

The site has been sanctioned by the police.

About 100 activists also lay day down under the gigantic skeleton of a blue whale hanging from the ceiling of the main hall of London's Natural History Museum for a self-described "die-in".

Extinction Rebellion tweeted that the action was meant to deliver a warning about an oncoming "sixth mass extinction".

The police said they had made 1,065 arrests and charged 53 people since the first protests took over a bridge and renowned London intersections such as Piccadilly and Oxford Circus.

"We remain in frequent contact with the organisers to ensure that the serious disruption to Londoners is brought

to a close as soon as possible and that only lawful and peaceful protests continue," a police statement said.

The London campaign has no formal leaders and its future plan remain unclear.

Some organisers want to engage in formal talks with the London mayor and the UK government.

The group's list of demands includes a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to a net level of zero by 2025 and a halt to biodiversity loss.

It also wants the UK government to "create and be led by the decisions of a Citizens' Assembly on climate and ecological justice".

But it said yesterday that strategic issues were still under discussion -- and that it may yet decide to resume the street blockades. "A proposal has been circulated for entering a 'negotiations' phase," a statement said.

"Despite being presented otherwise in the media, this idea remains only a proposal," it added. "Where we go with Phase Two is up to us."



Extinction Rebellion climate change activists perform a mass "die in" under the blue whale in the foyer of the Natural History Museum in London

SHOW

show

OASIS JUFFAIR

1-KALANK (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
Ⓢ VARUN DHAWAN, ALIA BHATT, MADHURI DIXIT
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.30 + 4.45 + 8.00 +11.15 PM
DAILY AT (VIP): 2.15 + 7.45 PM

2-THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER) NEW
Ⓢ LINDA CARDELLINI, RAYMOND CRUZ, PATRICIA VELASQUEZ
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 4.15 + 6.30 + 12.00 MN
DAILY AT (VIP): 12.00 + 5.30 + 11.00 PM

3-MISSING LINK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW
Ⓢ HUGH JACKMAN, ZOE SALDANA, ZACH GALIFIANAKIS
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 PM
DAILY AT (3D): 12.15 + 5.00 + 9.45 PM

4-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)
Ⓢ ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 6.00 + 11.15 PM
DAILY AT (3D): 2.15 + 7.00 + 11.45 PM

5-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)
Ⓢ COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 8.30 + 10.45 PM

6-HELLBOY (18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY)
Ⓢ DAVID HARBOUR, MILLA JOVOVICH, AND IAN MCSHANE
DAILY AT: 3.30 + 8.45 PM

7- LUCIFER (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)
Ⓢ MOHANLAL, MANJU WARRIER, VIVEK OBEROI, TOVINO THOMAS
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.15 + 4.30 + 7.45 + 11.00 PM

8- MADHURA RAJA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)
Ⓢ MAMMOOTTY, JAI, ANUSREE, SALIM KUMAR, RAMESH PISHARODY
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

9- MERA NAAM SHAJI (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW
Ⓢ ASIF ALI, BIJU MENON, BAIJU
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 5.30 + 11.15 PM

10- JERSEY () (TELGU) NEW
Ⓢ NANI, SHARDAH, SREENATH, SATHYARAJ
FROM FRIDAY 19th
DAILY AT: 2.30 + 8.15 PM

11- VELLAI POOKKAL () (TAMIL) NEW
Ⓢ VIVEKH, CHARLE, POOJA DEVARIYA
FROM FRIDAY 19th
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.00 + 5.30 PM

12- KANCHANA-3 (15+) NEW
Ⓢ RAGHAVA, LAWRENCE, VEDHIKA, OVIYA
FROM FRIDAY 19TH (TAMIL)
DAILY AT: 1.00 + 8.45 PM

CITYCENTRE

1-KALANK (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
Ⓢ VARUN DHAWAN, ALIA BHATT, MADHURI DIXIT
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)

2-THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER) NEW
Ⓢ LINDA CARDELLINI, RAYMOND CRUZ, PATRICIA VELASQUEZ
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
DAILY AT: DAILY AT (VIP I): 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM
DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 3.00 + 8.00 + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

3-MISSING LINK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW
Ⓢ HUGH JACKMAN, ZOE SALDANA, ZACH GALIFIANAKIS
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM

4-TRIPLE THREAT (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER) NEW
Ⓢ TONY JAA, IKO UWAIS, SCOTT ADKINS
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 3.30 + 7.45 + 12.00 MN

5-STOCKHOLM (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME/DRAMA) NEW
Ⓢ ETHAN HAWKE, NOOMI RAPACE, MARK STRONG
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 5.15 + 9.45 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

6-THE HUMMINGBIRD PROJECT (PG-15) (THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW
Ⓢ JESSE EISENBERG, ALEXANDER SKARSG`RD, SALMA HAYEK
DAILY AT: 1.15 + 5.30 + 9.45 PM

7-MISSION OF HONOR (HURRICANE) (PG-15) (ACTION/DRAMA/WAR) NEW
Ⓢ IWAN RHEON, MILO GIBSON, STEFANIE MARTINI
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 3.15 + 7.30 + 11.45 PM

8-KURSK (PG-15) (THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW
Ⓢ LÉA SEYDOUX, COLIN FIRTH, AUGUST DIEHL
DAILY AT: 2.45 + 7.15 + 11.45 PM

9-TEEN SPIRIT (PG-15) (DRAMA/MUSICAL) NEW
Ⓢ ELLE FANNING, REBECCA HALL, ZLATKO BURIC
DAILY AT: 1.15 + 5.30 + 9.45 PM

10-SHAZAM! (PG-15)(ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)
Ⓢ ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
DAILY AT (VIP II): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 12.15 + 5.15 + 10.15 PM

11-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)
Ⓢ COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.15 + 3.30 + 5.45 + 8.00 + 10.15 PM

12-HELLBOY (18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY)
Ⓢ DAVID HARBOUR, MILLA JOVOVICH, AND IAN MCSHANE
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN

13-LITTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY)
Ⓢ REGINA HALL, ISSA RAE, MARSAI MARTIN
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

14-DRAGGED ACROSS CONCRETE (18+)(CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA)
Ⓢ BRIE LARSON, GEMMA CHAN, SAMUEL L. JACKSON
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 3.45 + 9.00 PM

15-CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)
Ⓢ BRIE LARSON, GEMMA CHAN, SAMUEL L. JACKSON
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

16-US (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER)
Ⓢ LUPITA NYONG`O, ELISABETH MOSS, ANNA DIOP
DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.45 + 12.00 MN

17-ESCAPE ROOM (PG-15) (THRILLER)
Ⓢ TAYLOR RUSSELL, LOGAN MILLER, DEBORAH ANN WOLL
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM

18-WONDER PARK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
Ⓢ BRIANNA DENSKI, JENNIER GARNER, KEN HUDSON CAMPBELL
DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.00 + 9.00 PM
DAILY AT (ARABIC DUBBED): 11.00 AM + 3.00 + 7.00 + 11.00 PM

19-PET SEMATARY (18+) (HORROR/THRILLER)

Ⓢ JASON CLARKE, AMY SEIMETZ, JETE LAURENCE
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 4.45 + 9.15 PM

20-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA)
Ⓢ LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 3.30 + 8.30 PM

21-NADI ELREGAL EL SERI (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)
Ⓢ KARIM ABDULAZIZ, GHADA ADEL, MAJDE ALKIDDAWI
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 2.45 + 7.00 + 11.15 PM

22-GLASS (PG-15) (THRILLER)
Ⓢ JAMES MCAVOY, BRUCE WILLIS, SAMUEL L. JACKSON
DAILY AT: 1.00 + 6.00 + 11.00 PM

23-THE UPSIDE (PG-15) (COMEDY/DRAMA)
Ⓢ KEVIN HART, BRYAN CRANSTON, NICOLE KIDMAN
DAILY AT: 2.15 + 6.45 + 11.15 PM

24-JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN (PG) (COMEDY/ACTION/ADVENTURE)
Ⓢ ROWAN ATKINSON, OLGA KURYLENKO, EMMA THOMPSON
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 PM

SEEF (II)

1-KALANK (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
Ⓢ VARUN DHAWAN, ALIA BHATT, MADHURI DIXIT
DAILY AT: (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)

2-THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER) NEW
Ⓢ LINDA CARDELLINI, RAYMOND CRUZ, PATRICIA VELASQUEZ
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)

3-MISSING LINK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW
Ⓢ HUGH JACKMAN, ZOE SALDANA, ZACH GALIFIANAKIS
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM

4-TRIPLE THREAT (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER) NEW
Ⓢ TONY JAA, IKO UWAIS, SCOTT ADKINS
DAILY AT: 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM

5-STOCKHOLM (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME/DRAMA) NEW
Ⓢ ETHAN HAWKE, NOOMI RAPACE, MARK STRONG
DAILY AT: 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

6-THE HUMMINGBIRD PROJECT (PG-15) (THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW
Ⓢ JESSE EISENBERG, ALEXANDER SKARSG`RD, SALMA HAYEK
DAILY AT: 2.30 + 7.15 + 12.00 MN

7-MISSION OF HONOR (HURRICANE) (PG-15) (ACTION/DRAMA/WAR) NEW
Ⓢ IWAN RHEON, MILO GIBSON, STEFANIE MARTINI
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 6.00 + 11.30 PM

8-KURSK (PG-15) (THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW
Ⓢ LÉA SEYDOUX, COLIN FIRTH, AUGUST DIEHL
DAILY AT: 2.30 + 7.00 + 11.30 PM

9-TEEN SPIRIT (PG-15) (DRAMA/MUSICAL) NEW
Ⓢ ELLE FANNING, REBECCA HALL, ZLATKO BURIC
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM

10-MISSION IN 7 DAYS (PG) (KUWAITI/COMEDY/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW
Ⓢ ABDULLAH AL-TARARWAH MOHAMED SAFAR
DAILY AT: 6.45 + 11.15 PM

11-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)
Ⓢ COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM

12-HELLBOY (18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY)

Ⓢ DAVID HARBOUR, MILLA JOVOVICH, AND IAN MCSHANE
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 3.45 + 8.30 PM

13-LITTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY)
Ⓢ REGINA HALL, ISSA RAE, MARSAI MARTIN
DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.15 + 11.00 PM

14-CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)
Ⓢ BRIE LARSON, GEMMA CHAN, SAMUEL L. JACKSON
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 8.45 PM

15-WONDER PARK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
Ⓢ BRIANNA DENSKI, JENNIER GARNER, KEN HUDSON CAMPBELL
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 PM

16-MASHA AND THE BEAR THE NEW ADVENTURES (G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 1.45 + 3.30 PM

17-BADLA (PG-15) (HINDI/THRILLER/CRIME)
Ⓢ AMITABH BACHCHAN, TAPSEE PANNU, TONY LUKE
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.45 + 9.30 PM

18-LUCIFER (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)
Ⓢ MOHANLAL, MANJU WARRIER, VIVEK OBEROI, TOVINO THOMAS
DAILY AT: 2.45 + 8.15 PM

SEEF (I)

1-KALANK (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
Ⓢ VARUN DHAWAN, ALIA BHATT, MADHURI DIXIT
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 2.00 + 5.15 + 8.30 + 11.45 PM

2-MERA NAAM SHAJI (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW
Ⓢ ASIF ALI, BIJU MENON, BAIJU
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN

3-JERSEY () (TELGU) NEW
Ⓢ NANI, SHARDAH, SREENATH, SATHYARAJ
FROM FRIDAY 19TH
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 6.15 + 11.45 PM

4-VELLAI POOKKAL () (TAMIL) NEW
Ⓢ VIVEKH, CHARLE, POOJA DEVARIYA
FROM FRIDAY 19TH
DAILY AT: 3.45 + 9.15 PM

5-KANCHANA-3 (15+) NEW
Ⓢ RAGHAVA, LAWRENCE, VEDHIKA, OVIYA
FROM FRIDAY 19TH (TAMIL)
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 8.15 PM
FROM FRIDAY 19TH (TELGU)
DAILY AT: 2.00 PM

6-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)
Ⓢ ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM

7-SHERDIL (PG-15) (URDU/ACTION/DRAMA)
Ⓢ MIKAAL ZULFIQAR, ARMEENA RANA KHAN, BELAL SHAHID
DAILY AT: 5.15 + 11.30 PM

8-MADHURA RAJA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)
Ⓢ MAMMOOTTY, JAI, ANUSREE, SALIM KUMAR, RAMESH PISHARODY
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

SAAR

1-KALANK (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
Ⓢ VARUN DHAWAN, ALIA BHATT, MADHURI DIXIT
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.30 + 4.45 + 8.00 + (11.15 PM THURS/FRI)

2-THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER) NEW
Ⓢ LINDA CARDELLINI, RAYMOND CRUZ, PATRICIA VELASQUEZ
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.00 + (11.15 PM THURS/FRI)

3-MISSING LINK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW
Ⓢ HUGH JACKMAN, ZOE SALDANA, ZACH GALIFIANAKIS
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 PM

4-STOCKHOLM (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME/DRAMA) NEW
Ⓢ ETHAN HAWKE, NOOMI RAPACE, MARK STRONG
DAILY AT: 9.30 + (11.30 PM THURS/FRI)

5-KURSK (PG-15) (THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW
Ⓢ LÉA SEYDOUX, COLIN FIRTH, AUGUST DIEHL
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 5.45 + (11.00 PM THURS/FRI)

6-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)
Ⓢ ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL
DAILY AT: 3.00 + 8.15 PM

AL HAMRA

1-LUCIFER (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)
Ⓢ MOHANLAL, MANJU WARRIER, VIVEK OBEROI, TOVINO THOMAS
DAILY AT: 5.45 + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)

2-MADHURA RAJA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)
Ⓢ MAMMOOTTY, JAI, ANUSREE, SALIM KUMAR, RAMESH PISHARODY
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 9.00 PM

WADI AL SAIL

1-KALANK (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
Ⓢ VARUN DHAWAN, ALIA BHATT, MADHURI DIXIT
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.15 + 4.30 + 7.45 + 11.00 PM

2-THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER) NEW
Ⓢ LINDA CARDELLINI, RAYMOND CRUZ, PATRICIA VELASQUEZ
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM

3-MISSING LINK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW
Ⓢ HUGH JACKMAN, ZOE SALDANA, ZACH GALIFIANAKIS
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 PM

4-TRIPLE THREAT (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER) NEW
Ⓢ TONY JAA, IKO UWAIS, SCOTT ADKINS
DAILY AT: 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN

5-STOCKHOLM (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME/DRAMA) NEW
Ⓢ ETHAN HAWKE, NOOMI RAPACE, MARK STRONG
DAILY AT: 11.00 + 3.15 + 7.30 + 11.45 PM

6-THE HUMMINGBIRD PROJECT (PG-15) (THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW
Ⓢ JESSE EISENBERG, ALEXANDER SKARSG`RD, SALMA HAYEK
DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 PM

7-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)
Ⓢ ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM

8-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)
Ⓢ COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 PM

9-HELLBOY (18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY)
Ⓢ DAVID HARBOUR, MILLA JOVOVICH, AND IAN MCSHANE
DAILY AT: 9.00 + 11.30 PM

MOVIE REVIEW

JOB VACANCY



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CHANGE OF NAME

I, SEETHARAMA S/O GANESHA, holding Indian Passport **No. N5202591**, dated 04.08.2016 issued at **BAHRAIN** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **D.NO. 5-1105, SHREE GANESH NILAYAM, MUKRAMPADY HOUSE, KEMMINJE DARBE, PUTTUR, D.K. DIST – 574202.** presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) **BUILDING NO - 1752, ROAD 231, BLOCK NO - 302, MANAMA CENTER**, will henceforth be known as (Given name) **SEETHARAMA** (Surname) **GANESHA**. Objection(s) if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, PO Box 26106, Bldg 1090, Road 2819, Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Curse of La Llorona (also known as The Curse of the Weeping Woman in some markets) is a 2019 American supernatural horror film directed by Michael Chaves in his directorial debut, and written by Mikki Daughtry and Tobias Iaconis.

It is the sixth installment in The Conjuring Universe. Based on the Mexican folklore of La Llorona, the film stars Linda Cardellini, Raymond Cruz and Patricia Velásquez, and follows a mother in 1970s Los Angeles who must save her children from a ghost who is trying to steal them away.

The film was produced by James Wan through his Atomic Monster Productions banner.

The film premiered at South by Southwest on March 15, 2019, and was theatrically released in the



A scene from 'The Curse of La Llorona'

United States on April 19, 2019, by Warner Bros. Pictures and New Line Cinema.

The film received generally mixed reviews from critics, who felt that the film didn't deliver

anything new, criticized the “unsophisticated storytelling” and over-abundance of jump scares, but praised Cardellini’s performance and Chaves’ direction.

On review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 33% based on 102 reviews, with an average rating of 4.65/10. The website’s critical consensus reads, “Content to coast on jump scares rather than tap into its story’s creepy potential, The Curse of La Llorona arrives in theaters already broken.”

At Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 41 out of 100, based on 24 critics, indicating “mixed or average reviews”. Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of “B–” on an A+ to F scale, while those at PostTrak gave it 2.5 out of 5 stars and a “definite recommend” of 48%.

celebs



Kim Kardashian

Kim wouldn't use fame to get kids into college

Los Angeles

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian West would never use her fame and privilege to get her children into college.

The 38-year-old reality star, who is expecting her fourth child with husband Kanye West, with whom she already has North, 5, Saint, 3, and Chicago, 14 months, says that there would be no "benefit" in "forcing" her brood into a college if they did not have the necessary skillset, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

In an upcoming interview with CNN, Kim said: "If they couldn't get into a school, I would never want to use privilege to try to force them into a situation that they wouldn't thrive in anyway

"That's what I see is not appropriate. I want my kids to be as grounded as possible. To buy your way into something just wouldn't benefit anybody."

Elle Fanning says she wants to be a pop star

Los Angeles

Hollywood actress Elle Fanning, known for films like "Teen Spirit", "Maleficent" and "We Bought a Zoo", dreams of becoming a pop star.

"It's definitely crossed my mind. That's not out of the question and I feel like I did get a taste of maybe what pop stars go through with the performance element because also there would be days where I would have to just sing like the song 30 times," Fanning told website Consequence of Sound. She added: "That element of it I was like, 'Whew'. That's an element people don't think of when they think of pop stars. The strength of having to go on tour ... that would be a lot but I don't know, maybe an album or something of songs would be cool. Country songs to surprise everybody!"

Fanning also said she has been a huge music fan since her youth, reports femalefirst.co.uk.



Elle Fanning



Jenna Dewan

Jenna Dewan lived with Peruvian tribe to heal

Los Angeles

Actress Jenna Dewan has said that she lived in Peru with a tribe for two weeks to "heal" after her split from actor Channing Tatum.

"It's no secret I had, like, a very intense year and a lot of change. I'm a hippie at heart. I'm sort of a seeker. I sort of like to do practices and rituals and things that sort of connect me to something greater than myself, like bigger than myself," Dewan said.

She added: "Through that, I used a lot of those sort of techniques to help me through change and crazy year."

She has penned the book "Gracefully You: How to Live Your Best Life Every Day" about her "personal" experiences in Peru and said that she found the whole process very "cathartic", reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She said: "There's a lot of personal stories, there's a lot that I go into. I went to Peru, I lived there for two weeks with this tribe. I've always been that type of person."

On writing the book, which is released in October, she said: "It was really cathartic and actually fun to write this."

Dewan filed for divorce from the 'Magic Mike XL' star Tatum last October, after almost nine years of marriage. The former couple confirmed their split in April last year.

Scott Speer arrested over domestic dispute

Los Angeles

Filmmaker Scott Speer was arrested last week after having an alleged domestic dispute with his wife here.

According to law enforcement sources, the "Step Up Revolution" director roughed up his wife during a drunken rampage before trying to burn their San Fernando Valley house down, and he has now been booked for arson, reports tmz.com.

The publication stated that Speer was drunk when he got into a fight with his wife, who allegedly suffered some minor injuries.

Speer has been released now after setting a bond at \$250,000.



Scott Speer

Wish 'The Handmaid's Tale' was fantasy, like 'Game of Thrones': Elisabeth Moss

Los Angeles

Actor Elisabeth Moss says she wished her critically-acclaimed show "The Handmaid's Tale" was a page out of a fantasy novel like "Game of Thrones".

The actor plays the lead June Osborne/Offred in the series, based on author Margaret Atwood's 1985 dystopian drama of the same name.

Through her Emmy winning performance, Moss has become the face of women's resistance across the world and she hopes dark times in the fictitious place of Gilead is a "a long walk" from President Donald Trump's America.

Gilead is a fictional dystopian place where women have no rights and are treated like baby-making machines. The iconic red outfit with white bonnets that handmaids wear has emerged as one of the most popular feminist symbols of protest.



Elisabeth Moss

Adele might unveil heartbreak album by end of 2019

Los Angeles

Singer Adele, who confirmed her split from husband Simon Konecki over the weekend, will channel her break-up sorrow into her new album, which is expected to be out later this year.

"Adele has been writing and working on new material for a while," a source said, reports mirror.co.uk.

"She has already had meetings with her record label, Sony, in London about her progress. Producers have been approached about working with her. They are hoping the album will be released by this Christmas."

Back in 2011, the superstar said of her creative process: "When I'm happy, I ain't writing songs - I'm out having a laugh. If I ever get married, it'll be, 'Darling, I need a divorce. It's been three years - I've got a record to write'."

Adele was seen heading into a studio in New York last

month to work on the album.

The London-born star married Konecki three years ago, after being together for five years. They have a seven-year-old son Angelo.



Adele



Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas

Priyanka, Nick celebrate first Easter as couple

Los Angeles

Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas celebrated her first Easter with her husband and pop singer Nick Jonas.

The two celebrated Easter in Atlanta and shared photographs of their family time with his mother, Denise Jonas, also making an appearance in their images that Priyanka posted on Instagram on Sunday.

The couple can be seen with gift baskets in one photograph as Priyanka hugs her mother-in-law while Denise can be seen happily dancing in a video.

While Priyanka captioned the image: "Happy Easter from ours to yours."

My daughters have strong theatrical family genes, says Drew Barrymore

Los Angeles

Hollywood star Drew Barrymore says her daughters, Olive and Frankie, are "very theatrical" and enjoy coming on film sets.

The 44-year-old actor said



she can sense her children are interested in pursuing acting.

"They're very theatrical. They definitely have a Barrymore gene strong within the two of them, but they're funny and they're cool and they're adventurous and they love coming to set," Barrymore told Us Weekly.

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sports

Liverpool's halftime chat inspired goal

Juergen Klopp's side had been struggling to create clear openings against a determined Cardiff defence and went in goalless at the break

Reuters | Cardiff, Wales

Liverpool's 2-0 win at Cardiff City on Sunday restored their two-point lead over Manchester City in the Premier League title race but their inspired breakthrough goal came only as the result of a half-time chat about set pieces.

Juergen Klopp's side had been struggling to create clear openings against a determined Cardiff defence and went in goalless at the break.

But in the 57th minute, a corner was played low and deep by Trent Alexander-Arnold to

Georginio Wijnaldum, who was free to drive it home in the penalty area with a sweet first-time drive that finally set Liverpool on the way to victory.

"It was so smart," said Klopp. "We used experience from the first half for that corner in the second half."

"It was not from the training ground, it was from the dressing room at halftime when the boys decided to do that. I love that, a brilliant goal."

Klopp said that the team had realised that their normal routines had not been effective and opted to move to another approach.

"If you are not happy with all of the things on the day then we have to try something different. That's difficult on the pitch to decide because you need too many players being involved."

"But at halftime, it is possible so they did it. Brilliant, I love it."

The hard-fought win puts the pressure on City ahead of their Manchester derby on Wednesday. They have to win their game in hand to regain the lead by a point.

Then come three more games for both sides which will determine the outcome



We used experience from the first half for that corner in the second half. It was not from the training ground, it was from the dressing room at halftime when the boys decided to do that. I love that, a brilliant goal

JUERGEN KLOPP

of the title.

Klopp was delighted that his team had been able to battle through a difficult test on a dry, hard surface to pick up the three vital points.

"Going to Cardiff, you have to work there. We spoke a lot about this game, how special it is, how special the situation is for the opponent just to make clear what we had to do today," he said.

"It was not a game for a little bit of playing around, it was a game for a 100 percent fight, a battle of will again and who wants it more?"

BCC top ETS League

TDT | Manama

BCC defeated Exelon Young Boys by 74 runs in the ETS Division A league organized by Cricket Bahrain Association.

Batting first BCC posted 210 runs. Anasim Khan top scored with 78 runs, Adil Hanif supported him with 64 runs. Naim Chaudry claimed 3 wickets for Exelon Young Boys. In reply Exelon Young Boys could only manage 136 runs. Rizwan Baig and Babar Ali claimed 3 wickets each for BCC.

BCC A defeated Indian Blue by 25 runs in another fixture. Batting first BCC A posted 196 runs. Rana Kashif top scored with 71 runs and was supported by Mohd Elahi who made 54 runs. In reply Indian Blue could only manage 171 runs. Nishant Bhat top scored with 58 runs.

Pak Arab Zalmi defeated Awan Bassali by 2 wickets in another fixture. Batting first Awan Bassali posted 156 runs. Faisal Nazir top scored with 30 runs. Rizwan Gondal claimed 3 wickets for Pak Arab Zalmi. In reply Pak Arab Zalmi chased target for the loss of 8 wickets. M Usman top scored with 58 runs.

Sterling to pay for funeral of teenager who 'touched his life'

AFP | London

England star Raheem Sterling is to pay for the funeral of former Crystal Palace youth player Damary Dawkins who he says was an "example to us all".

Dawkins died aged 13 of leukaemia in March -- Sterling had supported a campaign to find a suitable stem cell donor for him.

According to an appeal page, Dawkins did receive a stem cell match a few days before Christmas but he relapsed in February.

His family had set up a GoFundMe page to raise £15,000 (\$19,400) to give Dawkins the "best send off and celebration of life" -- but Sterling has assumed all the costs himself.

ISB, NMS make good start

TDT | Manama

The Indian School and New Millennium School started well in the CBA - ALBA under 14 School Cricket Tournament.

The Indian School has registered a big margin victory over Bangladesh school by 159 runs in their first league match. The Indian School has made a huge total of 201 for 4 wickets in 20 overs. The highlights of the Indian School innings were a superb half century by the opener Aryan Pande (51 not out), well polished unbeaten 29 by captain Aravind Rajeev and a quick fire 43 runs by Nidhin Krishna.

Zubir Ahmed was the most successful bowler for Bangladesh School who took 2 wickets for 32 runs. Chasing a huge total, Bangladesh School was bowled out for just 42 runs. Yasin Arafat top scored with 21runs. Aryan Pande was declared the man of the match.

The New Millennium School has also made a good start in the tournament with a 45 runs victory over Pakistan School.

Batted first New Millennium School has made a reasonable total of 114 for 7 wickets. All rounder Jayshnav Ravishankar top scored with an unbeaten 30 runs. Mohd.Ali bowled extremely well to take 4 wickets for 15 runs and Wajahat Habib Ur Rehman gave a good support to Mohd. Ali with 2 wickets for 21runs.

In reply Pakistan School was bowled out for 69 runs. All rounder Jayshnav was the most successful bowler who



Aryan Pande

took 4 wickets for 12 runs and he was fully supported by Ru-jul Shayam (3 wickets for 14 runs) and Ansh Katayan (2 for 1 run). Jayshnav was declared the man of the match.

The other match results are as follows:

1. Noor Sports beat Colts Bahrain by 32 runs. (Noor Sports -98 for 8 wickets. Sayed Hreryan -23, Aadvik -18 and Ethan 2wickets for 16runs.)
Colts Bahrain -66 for 8 wickets. (Samuel Fisher -18 not out, Harish 2 wickets for 8 runs.

2. Colts Bahrain beat Cric Bahrain by 8wickets. (Cric Bahrain all out for 60runs. Lawrence took 4 wickets for 7runs. Colts Bahrain 61 for 2 wickets. Deon Shaji -19 not out and Ayan Khan-20.)

3. Pakistan School beat Ibn Al Hytham Islamic School by 2 wickets.(Ibn Al Hytham -86 all out. Hassam Ahmed (2 for 14 runs) and Muhammed Ali (2 for 6 runs). Pakistan School 87 for 8 wickets.(Abdullah Umer - 41 not out, Mohd.Ahmed -2 for 17 runs and Thaha - 2 for 21runs).

Brave CF creates new sports milestone

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation held its biggest-ever fight card last Friday, in Amman, Jordan. Brave 23: Pride and Honour was a legendary show, with the rise of three world champions, several knockouts and amazing performances all around. For the people of Jordan, Brave 23 meant the resurgence of mixed martial arts as part of the country's sporting culture.

Even though two Jordanian champions lost their belt, the fans still proved they are one of the most passionate crowds in the world, with an electric atmosphere greeting every fighter from the locker room to the cage. The biggest cheer was undoubtedly for Jordanian MMA pioneer Hashem Arkhagha, who made his comeback to the sport after almost seven years away.

Arkhagha is one of the most famous faces of the sport in



Audience cheer athletes at Brave 23

Jordan, and had a victorious comeback, as he floored Jeremy Smith with a one-punch knockout, making the crowd erupt with cheers for their hero. Earlier in the night, Ali Qaisi also had the fans in bliss as he dominated Georges Bardawil en route to his second win under the Brave banner.

The pre-fight events were also proof that MMA has been brought back to life by Brave's return to Jordan, as the Abdali Mall was packed with fans for open workouts, on Wednesday, and press conference and cer-

emonial weigh-ins a day later.

International fighters were amazed at the passion Jordanian fans showcased throughout fight week. Brazilian Luan "Miau" Santiago, who won the Lightweight title with a stunning KO of Abdul-Kareem Al-Selwady, claiming that Jordan was the best crowd he ever witnessed in any sporting competition. Bahrain's own Eldar Eldarov, victorious in the Super Lightweight championship bout against Mounir Lazzez, also praised the Jordanian fan-base's passion.

Former foes unite to lead France into Fed Cup final

AFP | Paris

France set up a Fed Cup final against Australia on Sunday when Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic, who once were barely on speaking terms, teamed-up to crown a 3-2 victory over Romania.

Former Roland Garros doubles champions Garcia and Mladenovic beat Simona Halep

and Monica Niculescu 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 to secure the winning point and a final date against Australia in November.

Victory was a diplomatic coup for France coach Julien Benneteau who teamed up Garcia and Mladenovic for the first time in Fed Cup since 2016 after which the pair had a bitter falling out which led to a self-imposed Fed Cup exile for Garcia, her coun-



France's Kristina Mladenovic (R) and Caroline Garcia celebrate the win

try's top player.

"Every match was incredible," said Benneteau. "I am so proud of them. It was always my intention to put them together -- and it was not hard to do."

Earlier Sunday, French Open champion Halep won her second singles of the weekend, seeing off Garcia 6-7 (6/8), 6-3, 6-4 for a 2-1 lead in the semi-final.

Mbappe at PSG to stay after flattening Monaco in title party

● **Neymar made his return for newly-crowned Ligue 1 champions Paris Saint-Germain as Kylian Mbappe fired a hat-trick past Monaco**

● **Edinson Cavani also returned for Paris Saint-Germain, reuniting the French champions famed front three**

AFP | Paris

Kylian Mbappe committed his future to newly-crowned Ligue 1 champions Paris Saint-Germain on Sunday after sweeping aside Monaco with a hat-trick in a 3-1 win that also saw the return of superstar strike partner Neymar.

"I'm here, I've signed up to the project," said Mbappe, who has been linked with Real Madrid, to TV station Canal+.

"Good for Real Madrid if there is Zizou (Madrid manager Zinedine Zidane), I will watch their matches as an admirer."

Mbappe took his league tally for the season to 30 following his treble on Sunday, which came just hours after PSG were crowned champions for the sixth time in seven years when closest challengers Lille dropped points.

Their goalless draw at Toulouse left them 16 points behind PSG with only five games to play before kick-off in Paris and allowed the capital club to celebrate the title after missing chances to seal it in their previous three matches.



Paris Saint-Germain's French forward Kylian Mbappe (L) vies with Monaco's French defender Benoit Badiashile

"I'm happy, the season isn't finished yet, and I want to score more," said Mbappe to Canal+.

The 20-year-old is targeting the domestic double ahead of next week's French Cup final against Rennes after his side crashed out in the last 16 in the Champions League.

"We're disappointed for what happened with Manchester United, but the game goes on," added Mbappe, referring to his team throwing away a

2-0 first-leg lead to the Premier League outfit.

"We obviously expected more from the Champions League but we can't let ourselves be demoralised."

Neymar's return at the start of the second half replacing Layvin Kurzawa is the cherry on the cake for Thomas

Tuchel's side, who had been without the Brazilian superstar since January 23 with a right foot

injury.

Edinson Cavani also returned to action for injury-ravaged PSG as a second half substitute, having a late strike correctly ruled out for offside, meaning that their famed front three are back together after months apart.

Thriving Mbappe

Mbappe has thrived in the absence of his strike partners, and gave his side a 2-0 first-half lead with two neat finish-

es, the first coming in the 15th minute and the second seven minutes before the break after a beautiful pass from Dani Alves.

The World Cup winner then put the three points beyond doubt when he tapped in Alves' low cross nine minutes after the break.

Aleksandr Golovin rolled home a consolation for the away side, who remain in trouble in 16th place and are only four points away from the relegation play-off spot.

"We've not been in the best of form but we played well today. We won again, and that's important," said Tuchel.

"The Champions League is a huge goal, but a club like Juventus has been waiting more than 20 years to win that trophy, and that's Juventus."

The Parisians have struggled with key injuries in recent weeks and they lost Italian international midfielder Marco Verratti with what looks like a knock to his left ankle.

PSG took the field wearing a shirt with a large image of Notre Dame replacing the usual sponsor's logo. "Notre-Dame" replaced the player names on the back of the shirts.

The iconic Paris cathedral was damaged in a spectacular blaze last Monday.

The club said that they would put a limited edition of the shirts on sale on line during the match for 100 euros each. The club said the money "will be donated to associations related to firefighters".

The club also posted a "Homage to Notre Dame" video on their web site in which players praised the team-work of the Paris fire brigade and made a gesture that imitates the two famous towers that form part of the cathedral's facade.

Young confident misfiring United will be ready for City

Reuters | London

Manchester United's players are well aware of the importance of Wednesday's Premier League clash against champions Manchester City and need no extra motivation after a 4-0 hammering at Everton, defender Ashley Young said.

Sixth-placed United's chances of finishing in the top four were dealt a blow at Goodison Park and the nature of Sunday's defeat prompted manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer to issue an apology to fans ahead of the clash with their city rivals.

"We know how important that (derby) is going to be. If you can't get yourselves up for the Manchester derby, there's something wrong," Young told the club's website.

"I've got confidence that we're going to be ready for Wednesday... we've got to dust ourselves down fairly quickly and go again this week... we've got four games left, we've got four wins to get. It's going to be tough but I'm sure we can do it."

United, who have 64 points from 34 games and sit two points adrift of Arsenal in fourth, face Chelsea, Huddersfield Town and Cardiff City in their final three matches of the season.

Ashley Young

Zidane bemused as Spanish press round on Bale

Reuters | Madrid

Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane is bemused by his team's fans' attitude towards Gareth Bale after they booed the Welsh forward during Saturday's 3-0 La Liga victory over Athletic Bilbao.

When quizzed on why a player who has won four Champions Leagues in five seasons in Madrid - in-

cluding scoring decisive goals in two of the finals - is given such a hostile reception by fans Zidane said: "I don't know. Honestly, I don't understand it."

Bale came on as a substitute after being left out from the start for the second consecutive game by Zidane and irked the Bernabeu faithful by missing a one-on-one chance.

The reaction was in stark contrast to the one that greeted Isco, who came on to the pitch at the same time as Bale to much delight from the stands.

For his part, Bale shrugged off missing the presentable opportunity by unselfishly teeing up Karim Benzema for his hat-trick but that did not save him from a mauling by local media yesterday.

"The intention is to sell him, but there's no offers forthcoming," read the front page of Marca, accompa-

nied by a picture of the 29-year-old Bale looking sullen.

"They're now open to the idea of loaning him out," the paper continued. The same newspaper reported recently that Chelsea's Belgian forward Eden Hazard will be signed to take Bale's place in the squad.

A scathing opinion piece in the paper went further.

"Madrid, or rather their president, have been procrastinating with Bale. He finished last season as a substitute for not playing well enough and it will happen again this season," it said, omitting to mention Bale's two goals, including a stunning overhead kick, in last year's Champions League final with the game finely poised.

"He keeps on saying 'good morning' rather than 'buenos dias' when he arrives at the training ground; that's if he even says anything," Marca said.



Gareth Bale

Djokovic extends lead as world no. 1

AFP | Paris

Novak Djokovic stretched his lead over Rafael Nadal at the top of the ATP rankings yesterday, after the Spaniard's failed bid to win a 12th Monte Carlo Masters title.

Djokovic, winner of the last three Grand Slam tournaments, is now over 3,000 points clear of old rival Nadal despite a quarter-final defeat by Daniil Medvedev in the Principality last week.

World number two Nadal dropped ranking points after his title defence ended with a shock semi-final loss to eventual champion Fabio Fognini.

The 31-year-old Italian reached a career-high ranking of 12th after claiming his maiden Masters trophy with a straight-sets win over unheralded Serbian Dusan Lajovic in Sunday's final.

Fognini jumped six spots to close on the top 10, while Lajovic climbed 24 places to 24th.

ATP top 10

1. Novak Djokovic (SRB) 11,160 pts
2. Rafael Nadal (ESP) 8,085
3. Alexander Zverev (GER) 5,770
4. Roger Federer (SUI) 5,590
5. Dominic Thiem (AUT) 4,675
6. Kevin Anderson (RSA) 4,115 (+1)
7. Kei Nishikori (JPN) 3,690 (-1)
8. Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE) 3,240
9. Juan Martin del Potro (ARG) 3,225
10. John Isner (USA) 3,085

Novak Djokovic

