

Bahrain claim last-gasp win to advance

Nationals edge past Saudi Arabia into semi-finals of Asian Men's Handball, qualify for World championship | P12

THE DAILY tribune



Demi Lovato to perform new song at Grammys

China locks down two cities to curb outbreak

Tesla overtakes Volkswagen as world's second most valuable carmaker

Reuters

Tesla Inc has overtaken Germany's Volkswagen as the world's second most valuable carmaker behind Japan's Toyota, as the meteoric rise in the US electric vehicle maker's shares reshuffles the global market.

Tesla's stock has more than doubled in value in the last three months, with its market capitalization piercing \$100 billion on Wednesday, a first for a listed US automaker.

During the rally, its value has leapfrogged more established global rivals: Honda, BMW, General Motors and Daimler. On Wednesday, it eclipsed VW's \$99.4 billion value.

Toyota still holds pole position with a market cap of \$233 billion.

Work to start on three possible China virus vaccines

Reuters | London

Three separate research teams backed by a global coalition set up to fight epidemic diseases are to start work on developing potential vaccines against the new coronavirus that has caused a disease outbreak in China.

Its plan is to have at least one potential vaccine in clinical trials by June, offering the chance that a shot could fully developed, tested and approved for use in a year.



Bahrain ranks 41st in Global Talent competitive Index 2020

Bahrain to host top AI, Fintech & Vat conference

US Treasury Secretary advises Greta Thunberg to 'go study'

210 fils (includes VAT)



Bolstering friendly ties



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa meeting HM King Mohammed VI of Morocco, on the occasion of his fraternal visit to the Kingdom of Morocco. HM, the King hailed deep-rooted bilateral relations between Bahrain and Morocco and mulled ways to bolster them. King Hamad lauded the dedicated efforts of HM King Mohammed VI in consolidating relations between the two countries, wishing Morocco and its brotherly people further progress and prosperity.WW

Rockets jolt Tripoli ahead of peace talks

Tripoli

The Libyan capital's only operational airport has closed again after threats by forces loyal to strongman Khalifa Haftar, dealing another setback to peace efforts as regional foreign ministers prepare to meet in Algeria yesterday.

The airport has been hit multiple times since the start of a months-long offensive by fighters led by eastern-based commander Haftar to seize Tripoli from the UN-recognised Government of National Accord (GNA).

Mitiga airport authorities said late Wednesday they were suspending air traffic "until further notice" after Haftar's spokesman threatened to attack planes flying over the city.

"Any military or civilian aircraft, regardless of its affiliation, flying over the capital will be destroyed," warned Haftar's spokesman Ahmad al-Mesmari, adding that such flights would be considered a violation of a



Tripoli's airport has been the target of several air raids and rocket strikes since an offensive was launched on the Libyan capital in April

ceasefire in place since January 12.

Mesmari said the internationally-backed government was using the airport for military purposes as a base for Turkish soldiers sent by Ankara to support GNA leader Faye al-Sarraj.

The airport earlier Wednesday suspended flights for several hours after it was targeted by six Grad rockets in an offensive the GNA blamed on its rivals in Libya's five-year civil war. The attack took place just nine days after the facility reopened

following a truce.

World powers have stepped up efforts in recent weeks to find a political solution to the grinding conflict, with neighbouring Algeria the latest country to host a meeting -- set for Thursday -- to discuss ways forward.

The Algerian foreign ministry said chief diplomats from Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Chad, Niger and Mali would meet in Algiers to advance "a political settlement to the crisis through an inclusive dialogue between all parties".

World Court orders Myanmar to protect Rohingya



Rohingya refugees walk on a road at the Balukhali camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Reuters | The Hague/Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh

The International Court of Justice yesterday ordered Myanmar to take urgent measures to protect its Rohingya population from genocide, a ruling cheered by refugees as their first major legal victory since being forced from their homes.

A lawsuit launched by Gambia in November at the United Nations' highest body for disputes between states accuses Myanmar of genocide against Rohingya in violation of a 1948 convention.

The court's final decision could take years, and yesterday's ruling dealt only with Gambia's request for preliminary measures. But in a unanimous ruling by the 17 judge panel, the court said the Rohingya face an ongoing threat and Myanmar must act to protect them.

Myanmar must "take all measures within its power to prevent all acts" prohibited under the 1948 Genocide Convention, and report back within four months, presiding Judge Abdulqawi Yusuf said, reading out a summary of the judgement.

Stand strong against Iran: US Vice President Pence



Mike Pence

AFP | Jerusalem

US Vice President Mike Pence urged world leaders gathered yesterday in Jerusalem to "stand strong" against Iran, calling it the only country where Holocaust denial is "state policy."

"We must also stand strong ... against the one government

in the world that denies the Holocaust as a matter of state policy," Pence told the event held 75 years after the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp.

"The world must stand strong against the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Tehran denies it is trying to build a nuclear bomb and accusations of anti-Semitism, insisting that while it opposes the Jewish state and supports the Palestinian cause, it has no problem with Jewish people.

Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed a summit of leaders of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to "defend peace" in the face of global instability.

Virus outbreak

Indian nurse in Saudi infected by coronavirus: Minister's tweet

Agencies | Riyadh

An Indian nurse working at a hospital in southern Saudi Arabia has been infected by the coronavirus amid an outbreak that has killed 17 people in China, India's minister of state for external affairs said yesterday.

"About 100 Indian nurses, mostly from Kerala, working at al-Hayat hospital have been test-

ed and none except one nurse was found infected by coronavirus. Affected nurse is being treated at Aseer National Hospital and is recovering well," V. Muraleedharan tweeted.

Meanwhile, Dubai Airports said that it will start screening passengers arriving on direct flights from China.

Passengers arriving at Dubai International, the world's third busiest airport, will be thermally



Dubai will thermal screen all passengers arriving on direct flights from China.

screened, Dubai Airports said.

Abu Dhabi International, the base of carrier Etihad Airways, will also screen passengers arriving from China, the airport said yesterday.

"Abu Dhabi International Airport has started a screening process for passengers arriving from China in an effort to ensure the health and safety of all of our travellers," it said on Twitter.

(See page 5)



The Deputy King, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, with Sir Arthur Nicholas Winston Soames, at Gudaibiya Palace. Prince Salman highlighted the broad-ranging bilateral ties, stressing the continuous growth in cooperation across all fields with the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. For his part, Sir Arthur expressed gratitude for the opportunity to meet HRH the Deputy King and hailed HRH's continued support to bolstering Bahrain-UK relations.



Deputy King, His Royal Highness, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, with Egypt's Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Nivine Gamea, at Gudaibiya Palace. Deputy King highlighted the strength of Bahrain-Egypt ties, which continue to receive the support of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the Egyptian President, Abdul Fattah al-Sisi. HRH the Crown Prince highlighted the importance of official bilateral visits in further advancing cooperation, emphasising their role in providing opportunities that benefit both countries. Dr Gamea expressed gratitude for the opportunity to meet HRH the Deputy King, noting HRH's continued support to bolstering bilateral relations. The Minister of Finance and National Economy, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Zayed R. Al Zayani, attended the meeting.

BDF has turned into a formidable force, says Commander-in-Chief

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) has grown into a formidable force in terms of military, combat and administrative readiness, BDF Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa said.

The BDF, Shaikh Khalifa said, is moving steadily and professionally towards its objectives, thanks to the constant care and great attention of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander.

The commander-in-Chief was visiting one of the BDF units yesterday to review its military and combat readiness and training programmes.

Shaikh Khalifa said BDF is firmly moving towards boosting its competence and aptitudes to reach the highest levels of combat and administrative



BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa during an inspection visit to one of the BDF units

readiness. The BDF Commander-in-Chief hailed the dedicated efforts of the BDF personnel and their keenness on rising to their responsibilities.



Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa with the former Member of Parliament Sir Arthur Nicholas Winston Soames. The meeting reviewed the historic cooperation and friendship between Bahrain and the United Kingdom and issues of shared interest.



Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa with Bahrain's newly-appointed ambassador to Kuwait Salah Ali Al Maliki. Shaikh Khalid congratulated Al Maliki on the appointment, wished him success in his mission. Al Maliki pledged to exert efforts to consolidate the distinguished relations between the two countries.



Bahrain Defence Force Chief-of-Staff, Lieutenant-General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi with advanced command officers of the Peninsula Shield joint forces. Al Nuaimi hailed the efforts exerted of the Peninsula Shield joint forces to boost cooperation and integration among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and protect their various accomplishments and achievements.



The New Millennium School, DPS Bahrain, celebrated its 15th Annual Day, in the presence of Dr Ebrahim Al Dossery, Assistant Under-Secretary, Information & Follow up, Prime Minister's Court, Dr Jaffer Ali Al-Shaikh, Assistant Under-Secretary of Private and Continuous Education, Minister of Education, Kingdom of Bahrain, Dr Jassim Hajji, President, Artificial Intelligence Society and Abdul Rahman Hussain Darraj, Public Relation Specialist, Ministry of Education. A ceremonial lamp was lighted by Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai, guests, other dignitaries and Principal Arun Kuumar Sharma.



The Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) yesterday hosted the graduation ceremony of the specialised military session at the Royal Bahraini Air Force (RBAF). RBAF Commander Air Vice-Marshal Shaikh Hamad bin Abdulla Al Khalifa and Major Shaikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa were present. RBAF Commander presented the graduates with graduation certificates and honoured top achievers.

BIG STORY

big story

Global talent positioning system

Bahrain ranks 41st in Global Talent competitive Index 2020

TDT | Manama

Bahrain ranks 41st in the Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCI) 2020, which looks into the ability of a country to attract, grow, and retain talents.

Region-wise, Bahrain, which lies in the North Africa and Western Asia region, is placed 6th with a score of 50.35.

The index rates Bahrain, having a population of 1.57 million, as one of the top-performing countries when it comes to attracting talent.

The index is based on research done by INSEAD in partnership with The Adecco Group and Google.

The six metrics used to decide a country's rank are - enable, attract, grow, retain, vocational skills and global knowledge skills.

"This new GTCI report focuses on Global Talent in the Age of

Heatmap: Rankings on GTCI overall and by pillar

COUNTRY	GTCI RANKING	ENABLE	ATTRACT	GROW	RETAIN	VT SKILLS	GK SKILLS
Countries ABOVE the median in the overall GTCI score							
United Arab Emirates	22	22	3	24	29	31	38
Qatar	29	28	4	36	41	22	67
Saudi Arabia	40	44	41	41	42	32	49
Bahrain	41	34	17	50	45	46	86
Oman	43	40	22	40	48	44	91
Jordan	61	48	65	86	47	75	66
Kuwait	63	74	35	95	53	74	78
Egypt	97	105	116	104	74	104	52

Key Indicators	
Rank (out of 132)	41
Income group	High income
Regional group	Northern Africa and Western Asia
Population (millions)	1.57
GDP per capita (PPP US\$)	47,219.84
GDP (US\$ billions)	37.75
GTCI score	50.35
GTCI score (income group average)	61.46
GTCI 2020 Country Profile by Pillar	
Score	Rank

Artificial Intelligence, following the path initially explored by the GTCI 2017 theme of Talent and Technology," said Bruno Lanvin, Executive Director for Global Indices, INSEAD and Felipe Monteiro Academic Director of the Global Talent Competitiveness Index; Affiliate Professor of Strategy, INSEAD.

The talent competition, and

labour markets in general, have started to be impacted by the rise of AI; this trend will not diminish in the foreseeable future, the report added.

UAE leads in the region

The United Arab Emirates, ranked 22nd globally, enjoys a leading position in the North Africa and Western Asia region

with a score of 62.63, after Israel with a score of 65.66. Closely following is Qatar with a global ranking of 29.

Saudi Arabia, with a score of 51.48, is ranked 40th globally and 5th regionally.

Following Bahrain in the region are Oman (rank 7), Azerbaijan (8th), Armenia (9th), Jordan (10th), Kuwait (11th), Georgia

(12th), Turkey (13th) and Tunisia (14th) among others.

The top 3 positions in this year's index are occupied by Switzerland, the United States, and Singapore. Switzerland (1st) remains the outright leader in the GTCI by virtue of its strong performances in almost every dimension.

The worst-performing up-

per-middle-income country is Venezuela, which has primarily suffered from a worsening ability to enable and attract talent.

"Thus, Northern America and Europe—with the greatest shares of high-income countries—are the two best-performing regions, followed by Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania," the report said.

Enable (score: 61.54, rank: 34)

As per GTCI 2020, Bahrain's capability to 'enable' talents with a proper regulatory, market, business and labour landscape is ranked 34th globally and 4th regionally.

Regulatory landscape, which measures government's effectiveness, political stability, regulatory quality and business-government relations, is ranked 66th globally.

Meanwhile, market landscape, which looks into parameters including ease of doing business and R&D expenditure among others, is ranked 31. Business and Labour landscape, which assess the ease of hiring, redundancy, labour market policies etc., is ranked high at 18, globally.



Attract (score: 69.33, rank: 17)

Bahrain's capability to attract talents has been rated exceptional at a rank of 11 globally and 3rd regionally. This was based on the Kingdom's performance in External openness and Internal openness.

External openness, ranked 11th globally, measures the capability to attract business and people, while internal openness at a rank of 32nd rates social inclusion, gender equality and leadership opportunities for women.



Grow (score 43.05, rank 50)

The measure looks into various factors including availability of formal education (87th), quality of education, life-long earning (26th) as well as access to growth opportunities (64th). Regionally Bahrain is ranked 7th.

Growth opportunities look into the delegation of authority, personal right, use of virtual social and professional networks, collaborations within and across the organisation.

Retain (score 58.60, rank 45)

Bahrain capability to retain talents, according to GTCI 2020, reflects factors including Sustainability (27th) and Life-style (79th).

Quality of pension system, social protection (30th) and Brain retention (29th) made the sustainability rankings, while environment performance (81st), personal safety (92nd), physician density (84th) and sanitation (1st) influenced the lifestyle rankings. The regional ranking is 7.



Vocation and Technical skills (score 50.46, rank 46)

The ranking reflects Bahrain's capability in nurturing mid-level skills (76th) and employability (27th).

Factors influencing the mid-level skills were workforce with secondary education (114th), population with secondary education (59th), technicians and associate professionals (76th) and Labour productivity per employee (22nd).

Ease of finding skilled employees (29th), the relevance of education system to the economy (23rd), skills matching with secondary education (38th) and skills matching with tertiary education (26th) made the employability ranking. The regional rank is 8.



Global knowledge skills (score 19.09, rank 86)

Affecting the ranking were factors including high-level skills of people (70th), and talent impact (105th).

Bahrain's tertiary education of workforce (96th) and population (76th), presence of professionals (81st), researchers (72nd), senior officials and managers (24) and availability of scientists and engineers reflect the high-level skills ranking.

Talent impact shows rankings in innovation output (85th), high-value exports (110th), and scientific journal articles (65th).

What is GTCI?

GTCI, talent competitiveness refers to the set of policies and practices that enable a country to develop, attract, and empower the human capital that contributes to productivity and prosperity. The GTCI is an Input-Output model in the sense that it combines an assessment of what countries do to produce and acquire talents (Input) and the kind of skills that are available to them as a result (Output).

Attracting talent, in the context of national competitiveness, should be viewed in terms of luring foreign valuable resources, both productive businesses (through foreign direct investment and the like) and creative people (through high-skilled migration), while internal attraction is focused on removing barriers to entering the talent pool for groups such as those from underprivileged backgrounds, women, and older people.

Growing talent has traditionally meant education, but its definition should be broadened to include apprenticeships, training, and continuous education as well as experience and access to growth opportunities. The more talented the person, the wider the global opportunities he or she can find elsewhere.

Retaining talent is thus necessary to ensure sustainability, and one of the main components of retention is quality of life. Besides, the regulatory, market, business, and labour landscapes within a country facilitate or impede talent attraction and growth; the GTCI classifies these elements as parts of the Enable pillar. Together, Enable, Attract, Grow, and Retain constitute the four Input pillars of the GTCI model.



Europe leads

European countries continue to dominate the GTCI rankings, with 17 of them in the top 25 and Switzerland maintaining its position at the very top. Other top-scoring European countries include the Nordics (Sweden, 4th; Denmark, 5th; Finland, 7th; Norway, 9th; Iceland, 14th) and Western European countries such as the Netherlands (6th), Luxembourg (8th), and Germany (11th).

The other non-European counties that make the top 25 are Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, Israel, and the United Arab Emirates.

As far as the regional group (Central and Southern Asia) is concerned, Kazakhstan, India and Sri Lanka took the top three spots in the region.



Iranian activities destabilising region, world



Participants of the eighth meeting of the League of Arab States Permanent Representatives and Members of the EU Political and Security Committee of the Council of the European Union in Brussels, Belgium during a group photo opportunity

TDT | Manama

Top Arab Affairs Directorate official yesterday called for better coordination between world nations to address Iran's destabilising activities in the region and the world.

Arab countries are keen on establishing relations with Iran, Ambassador Abdulaziz Mohammed Abdulla Aleid said, but that should be based on good neighbourliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of countries.

Iran, however, has defied all those and continues to interfere in the affairs of Bahrain and other Arab countries, the Director of Arab Affairs Directorate said.

We are always keen on establishing relations with Iran, ones that are based on the principles of good neighbourliness and the non-interference in the internal affairs of countries, however, Iran, since the 1979 revolution and under exporting its revolution, has not stopped interfering in the internal affairs of Arab countries

AMBASSADOR ABDULAZIZ MOHAMMED ABDULLA ALEID

He was addressing the eighth meeting of the League of Arab States Permanent Representatives and Members of the EU Political and Security Committee

of the Council of the European Union in Brussels, Belgium held in which Bahrain took part.

Iran, Abdulla Aleid pointed out, is "smuggling arms and in-

citing sectarian strife to undermine the security and stability of Bahrain and the rest of the brotherly Arab countries."

Houthi militias supported by them are continuing their attacks on Saudi Arabia and tankers and commercial vessels in the territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates.

In this regard, there is a need to ensure the freedom of maritime navigation in international waters, he said highlighting the international conference on gulf navigation and maritime security held in Bahrain from October 21 to 22, 2019 with the participation of more than 60 countries.

On Yemen, the Director of Arab Affairs Directorate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hailed the efforts of the Arab Co-

alition in establishing stability and security, stressing Bahrain's sacrifices to support legitimacy in Yemen.

Ambassador Aleid reiterated Kingdom's supports in all efforts aimed at establishing peace in Yemen.

The meeting held discussions on the developments of the situations in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Lebanon, and Iran, as well as on counter-terrorism issues and its funding, migration issues, refugees and displaced persons.

The final communique reaffirmed the strengthening of the European-Arab partnership as an appropriate regional response and their commitment to effective multilateralism and an international system based on respect for international law.

Develop specialised scientific media: AGU official

TDT | Manama

Top Arabian Gulf University (AGU) has called upon states to develop specialised scientific media to help spread the culture of science and knowledge.

"This will have a significant impact on building the next generations basing on science and knowledge, which will contribute to the development of their nations," said Media Director at the Arabian Gulf University (AGU), Dr Abdullah Al Turaif.

Al Turaif was speaking during a lecture on "The Role of Media in Building Scientific and Technical Culture in the Society" organised by the King Fahad Bin Abdulaziz Academic Chair for Medical Biotechnology in AGU.

Developed countries, he said, had already realised this and have initiated various programmes in addition to science curricula to wipe out science illiteracy among citizens.

Further, Dr Al Turaif called upon scientists and academics to make use of the opportunities provided by the social media platforms to publish their scientific and technical materials.

Bahrain to host top AI, Fintech and VAT conference

TDT | Manama

Bahrain will host a conference on Artificial Intelligence, FinTech and VAT at the Gulf Hotel in partnership with the UAE-based Smart SMB.

Themed 'The Second Digital Transformation', the event will be held on January 29 under the patronage of the President of the Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA), Dr Abdulhussain bin Ali Mirza.

More than 30 individuals and companies in Bahrain will be honoured during the event for which Dr Mirza will be the key speaker.

Conference chairman, Dr

Jassim Haji, said that the event focuses on artificial intelligence, future sciences and role of women in the field of artificial intelligence.

The conference will attract more than 20 speakers from the Supreme Council for Health, Women in FinTech Bahrain, University of Bahrain, Bahrain Polytechnic, Derasat, GARMCO, the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF), in addition to other experts.

Held annually in Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Kenya, the event attracts a great number of participants and exhibitors from mega-companies.

Meeting mulls private sector tie-ups in projects

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's private sector will be involved in the implementation of some of the projects planned by the municipal councils and capital trust, said the Work Minister.

Essam Khalaf, the Minister of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning, was chairing a meeting of the Higher Coordination Committee between the Ministry of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning, and heads of municipal councils.

The meeting reviewed the latest plans and priorities related to services and projects of the municipal councils and the Capital Trust as well as



Minister Essam Khalaf chairing a meeting of the Higher Coordination Committee between the Ministry of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning, and heads of municipal councils.

budgets of operations and projects, expected to witness major achievements in 2020.

The minister told the meeting that the ministry is keen on enhancing coordination and com-

munication with the councils to ensure the progress of projects and services.

The ministry, Esam Khalaf said, will harness capabilities and resources to advance mu-

nicipal work and sustainability goals as outlined in the action plan and work programme of the government headed by His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.



Indian School Celebrates Book Week

Indian School Bahrain (ISB) held an Annual Book Week celebrations at its Isa Town campus from January 19 to 23, along with a book fair. The fair was inaugurated by ISB Principal VR Palaniswamy by lighting a lamp. Staff representative Johnson Devassy, Vice-Principals Anand Nair, Vinod S, Heads of Departments, staff and students were present. Book Mart, Barnes & Noble, Majestic book shop, and City bookshop took part in the fair. Competitions in English short story writing, fancy dress, Quiz on Mahatma Gandhi, book reviews and library logo designing were held on the occasion.



WORLD

world

China locks down two cities to curb outbreak

● The respiratory virus has claimed 17 lives since emerging from a seafood and animal market in Wuhan

● Trains and planes out of Wuhan were indefinitely suspended

Wuhan | China

China locked down nearly 20 million in two cities at the centre of a deadly virus outbreak yesterday, banning planes and trains from leaving in an unprecedented move aimed at containing the disease which has already spread to other countries.

The respiratory virus has claimed 17 lives since emerging from a seafood and animal market in Wuhan, infected hundreds of other people nationwide and been detected as far away as the United States.

Streets and shopping centres in Wuhan, a major port city in central Hubei province with a population of 11 million people, were eerily quiet after authorities told residents not to leave town “without a special reason”.

Trains and planes out of Wuhan were indefinitely suspended, tollways on roads out the city were closed, leading to fear and panic for those who were trapped.

Hours later, authorities in neighbouring Huanggang announced that public transport and train services would be suspended at midnight, while people were told to not leave the city of 7.5 million.

All of Huanggang’s cinemas, internet cafes, and the central market will close.

A third city, 1.1 million-population Ezhou, announced the train station had been temporarily closed earlier in the day.

“We are feeling as though it is the end of the world,” said one Wuhan resident on China’s Twitter-like Weibo platform, voicing concerns about shortages of food and disinfectant.



Children wear masks to prevent an outbreak at the Hong Kong West Kowloon High speed train station in Hong Kong



Chinese paramilitary police wearing masks stand guard at a Shanghai train station as the country faces a virus crisis at the start of the Lunar New Year holiday



Staff members wearing masks monitor thermal scanners that detect temperatures of passengers at the security check inside the Hankou Railway station in Wuhan

Another described being on the “verge of tears” when the de facto quarantine was announced, with the misery compounded by it coming on the eve of the Lunar New Year holiday.

“We are feeling as though it is the end of the world”

A WUHAN RESIDENT SAID ON CHINA’S TWITTER-LIKE WEIBO PLATFORM

nounced, with the misery compounded by it coming on the eve of the Lunar New Year holiday. In Beijing, the government cancelled massive gatherings that usually attract throngs at temples during the New Year holiday.

Empty streets

Wuhan’s train station and airport, which should have been packed with people coming travelling for holiday family reunions, were almost empty except for workers on Thursday afternoon.

The few people wandering in the streets of the city were wearing masks as mandated by police.

At a shopping centre that would have been packed in normal times, a man who works there said he understood the government’s measures.

“Even if we can’t celebrate the New Year this year, there’s always next year,” said the man surnamed Sun.

Taxis in Wuhan tripled their fares, a driver admitted.

“It’s very dangerous to be outside at this moment but we need to earn money,” the driver told AFP.

Confusion, alarm

More than 570 people have been infected with the virus across China -- with most cases found in Wuhan, where a seafood market that illegally sold wild animals has been identified as the epicentre of the outbreak.

The coronavirus has caused alarm because of its similarity to SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), which killed nearly 650 people across mainland China and Hong Kong in 2002-2003.

Like SARS, it can be passed among people through the respiratory tract.

The first case of the new virus

was confirmed on December 31, and it has since been detected in Japan, Hong Kong, Macau, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

The 17 people who died in China were aged from 48 to 89, and had pre-existing health conditions, Chinese health authorities said Thursday.

The World Health Organization on Wednesday delayed a decision on whether to declare a global health emergency -- a rare instrument used only for the worst outbreaks.

The emergency committee will meet again on Thursday, after experts were split over declaring a public health emergency.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said “more information” was needed but he also praised China’s “very, very strong measures” that will help control the epidemic and “minimise the chances of this outbreak spreading internationally”.

Unknowns

Animals are suspected to be the primary source of the outbreak, with Chinese health officials saying the virus originated from the market where wild animals were illegally sold.

Studies published this week suggest that the virus may have originated in bats or snakes.

The WHO has confirmed that the virus can be passed between people, at least those in close contact. Chinese health officials warned it could mutate and spread further.

“There are many unknowns to address in this event including clinical severity and the true extent and nature of disease transmission,” said Michael Ryan, head of the WHO’s health emergencies programme.

Chinese authorities on Thursday reported dozens of new infections, bringing the confirmed total to 571. About 5,000 people remain under medical observation.

But scientists at the Imperial College in London estimate that 4,000 people have been infected in Wuhan.

Hong Kong turns holiday camps into quarantine zones

Hong Kong will turn two holiday camps, including a former military barracks, into quarantine zones for people who may have come into contact with carriers of the Wuhan virus, officials announced Thursday.

The international financial hub has been on high alert for the virus, which has killed 17 people since the outbreak started in central China.

The same sites were used as quarantine facilities during the deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak 17 years ago.

Nearly 300 people in Hong Kong were killed by SARS, a tragedy that left a profound psychological impact on one of the most densely populated places on earth.

So far two people in the city have tested positive for the new coronavirus -- which is similar to the SARS pathogen. Both had visited Wuhan in recent days. They are being treated on isolation wards in hospital.

The gambling hub of Macau, which is hugely popular with mainland tourists, also confirmed two cases this week.

China ‘commendable’

Tedros, the WHO chief, on Wednesday indicated the situation was not escalating out of control, saying there was “stability” for the moment.

He also praised China’s openness about the outbreak as “commendable”.

But a senior US State Department official said Washington was “still concerned” about transparency in the Chinese government.

During the SARS epidemic, the Chinese government took months to report the disease and initially denied WHO experts access to southern Guangdong province, where it originated.

Three American crew killed as firefighting plane crashes in Australia

Sydney

Three American crew helping to battle Australia’s devastating bushfires were killed yesterday when their water-bombing plane crashed in mountainous terrain during a sortie to tackle another outbreak of the deadly blazes.

Officials said the Hercules C-130 plane erupted in a large fireball on impact in a national park the Snowy Mountains shortly before 1:30 pm (0230 GMT).

The cause of the crash was not immediately known, but New South Wales Rural Fire Service commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons had said earlier in the day that high winds were making flying the water tankers “very difficult”.



A Coulson Aviation C-130 Hercules dropping fire retardant during a sortie in early January

“We’ve got a number of firefighters and a number of crew that are in the area and working to contain and work around the fire,” Fitzsimmons said. The incident brought the death toll in Australia’s bushfires to at least 32 since the crisis



began in September.

The highly experienced US firefighting trio was working for Canadian firm Coulson Aviation, which had been contracted to help fight the fires.

State Premier Gladys Berejiklian said the crash highlighted the danger faced by firefighters as they attempted to extinguish massive blazes across Australia’s

southeast.

“There are in excess of 70 aircraft that have been used today alone and today is a stark and horrible reminder of the dangerous conditions that our volunteers, (and) our emergency services personnel... (face) on a daily basis,” she said.

The crash happened as at least seven fires, whipped up by scorching temperatures and strong winds, flared to emergency status following a brief lull brought by rain and cooler temperatures.

Temperatures soar

Bushfires also forced the closure of Canberra Airport yesterday, with all flights in and out of the country’s capital suspended to allow the deployment of aerial firefighting

crews to battle the approaching flames.

Temperatures soared to 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in Sydney, where a bushfire also broke out in a northwestern suburb of Australia’s biggest city.

Wind gusts had been forecast to reach 90 kilometres per hour (55 miles per hour) in some areas, but Fitzsimmons said the winds were stronger than expected, especially in the fire-ravaged southeast.

Unprecedented bushfires fuelled by climate change have devastated vast swathes of the country since September, destroying more than 2,000 homes and burning 10 million hectares (100,000 square kilometres) of land -- an area larger than South Korea or Portugal.

VERSES



Egyptian-American artist Kareem Rahma

Egyptian-American

The debut poetry collection from Arab-American poet Kareem Rahma shows the future in haiku



The cover page of Kareem Rahma's 'We Were Promised Flying Cars'

Arab News | Amman

Egyptian-American artist Kareem Rahma's latest project is an encapsulation of this polymath's experience and talents. "We Were Promised Flying Cars" is a book of haiku — poems consisting of three lines of five, seven, and five syllables — which Rahma then used his extensive experience of digital media (he's worked for Vice and the New York Times, and is a cofounder of Nameless Network) to promote, using an app called Cameo, which enables you to pay celebrities (many of whom really stretch the limits of that term) to read/sing/recite whatever you ask them to.

"I heard about (Cameo) maybe 16 months ago, and I really wanted to use it for some sort of art project but I couldn't figure out what," Rahma says. "I had the initial idea to have celebs congratulate me on publishing my book but (that) evolved when I realized it would be much more interesting and dynamic if the celebs read poems from my book. This really tied it all together with the themes of the book, because misinformation will continue to plague our society and eventually we won't care, because we'd rather be entertained than informed — which is already true, but I think it'll get more intense. The difference between now and then is that, in the future, we won't care that we're being lied to."

And so we have Anthony Scaramucci — a.k.a. The Mooch, briefly Trump's director of communications in July 2017 — reciting "Unnecessary Memories," which runs as follows: "Nostalgia is banned/Hindsight is 20-20/What's the use for truth?"

"The lack of self-awareness is truly magnificent," Rahma says. "Here is a guy who is a lying, sociopathic narcissist who made a name for himself by being a moron reading a poem about regret and the dissolution



Kareem Rahma's latest project is an encapsulation of truth." Rahma's latest project is an encapsulation of the past five years because of his choice is to express and ideas possible. one." The how to clearly," he And when found real Much of ably dyst In The D "The ri for Burni Or "Ou

Roni Helou brings sustainable fashion to Fashion Forward Dubai



A model poses with a dress designed by Roni Helou

The collection he showed used dead stock materials and discarded fabrics

Arab News | Dubai

Lebanon's Roni Helou is a regular at the region's definitive fashion platform Fashion Forward Dubai (FFWD), which was last held in October 2019. The designer is a graduate of Creative Space Beirut, and has shown at FFWD twice before. This time he is showing along with Hazem Kais at a presentation that showcases talents from his alma mater. As one of the few designers from the Middle East to address the issue of sustainability, his show was one that the industry was watching.

An avid human and animal rights activist, the designer said: "Ensuring the Roni Helou brand is as sustainable as possible is an ongoing mission for me. I've always believed in the importance of ethical practices and social justice, and I try to be careful when it comes to leaving environmental footprints behind."

The collection he showed at FFWD used dead stock materials and discarded fabrics. "The campaign images were shot at a landfill site to emphasize the

Ensuring the Helou brand as sustainable as possible ongoing mission for me. I've always believed in the importance of ethical practices and social justice, and I try to be careful when it comes to leaving environmental footprints behind.

significance of the issue Lebanon's garbage crisis in 2015, and it's still very issue... Given that the industry has a detrimental on the environment and I decided to face the i



American artist hard-hitting haiku



Kareem Rahma

— born in Cairo and raised in — has been writing poetry for five years. “I’ve always loved haiku of how accessible it is,” he says of the format for the book. “My goal is to express complex topics, philosophies and ideas by using the simplest vocabulary possible. I want my poetry to be for everyone always took risks

I’ve always loved haiku because of how accessible it is. My goal is to express complex topics, philosophies and ideas by using the simplest vocabulary possible. I want my poetry to be for everyone always took risks

KAREEM RAHMA

“The Emergency/Came and took the poor away/We are happy now.” But, Rahma adds, it also “allows plenty of space for humor, laughter and satire.” Sort of a haiku-version of “Black Mirror,” then. (He’s right, though, there are some very funny verses — “We love Muslims now/Ever since Ramadan became/A Bank Holiday.”) “Ultimately it is an exploration of the world we live in right now and an attempt to predict our trajectory forward,” he says. Rahma says he came up with the idea for the book while he was asleep in a Beirut hotel room. “I was being drawn to Beirut for artistic reasons,” he says. “I really felt like I needed to be there in order to come up with some new ideas, and in the middle of the night on my fourth or fifth night, I woke up and wrote down ‘We Were Promised Flying Cars 100 Haiku From The Future.’ When I woke up, I looked at what I’d written and



Kareem Rahma

the idea had merit. Once I came back to the USA, I began to write and it was very therapeutic and fun, so I just kept going until I had nearly 200 poems written.” The next step was to select the celebrities he wanted to read his haiku. “Tara Reid, Andy Dick and Gilbert Gottfriend were all \$100 and those were the most expensive. A dog called Puggy Smalls was the least expensive — \$10. Jennifer Love Hewitt, Freddie Prinze Jr. and Tomi Lahren all ignored my requests,” he says. “I’d ignore

my request too.” Rahma hopes the book will “open the door for new projects beyond poetry” and says he has already been approached about turning “We Were Promised Flying Cars” into “some kind of television anthology, which is exciting to me.” And he’ll definitely be heading to the Middle East for inspiration again. “I’m always being pulled there, energetically-speaking,” he says. “The Middle East has a magnetic energy to me.”

Kareem Rahma is an Egyptian-American poet and entrepreneur living in New York City. He is the founder of Nameless Network and The Museum of Pizza. Before becoming a full-time artist and entrepreneur, he was a Growth Editor at The New York Times and the Associate Director of Global Marketing at VICE



Roni Helou



A dress designed by Roni Helou

on by digging through markets and sourcing high-quality vintage fabrics and trimmings instead of using newer, chemically-treated and dyed materials,” Helou said. The Hesitation Shirt/Skirt is the piece the designer is most proud of from the collection. “As you can probably guess from the name, it is a shirt than can also be worn as a skirt. I love this piece because it was both challenging and satisfying to turn a shirt into a wearable, practical skirt; I also like the fact that it is designed to be worn in three different

ways, which means it’s a timeless piece.” It is made of three fabrics all sourced from surplus stocks. It is no surprise to hear this 27-year-old’s ultimate goal is for his eponymous label to be one of the leading luxury sustainable brands in the region. Just a few months ago Roni had the opportunity to exhibit his FW19 collection at London proving he is on track for his career goal. While the young designer believes he still has “lots to learn,” Roni Helou is indeed a label to look out for.

Roni Helou is a graduate of Creative Space Beirut, and has shown at FFWD twice before



A dress designed by Roni Helou

business

Economy failing on climate and equality: NGOs

AFP | Paris

The world economy is a direct cause of social breakdown and a key driver of climate change, a green coalition said yesterday launching the first assessment of how governments are regearing their economies towards sustainable growth.

The Green Economy Tracker assessed how countries are performing in five key policy areas, including tackling inequality and prioritising nature in the face of the systemic risk posed by warming temperatures and rising seas.

“Our global economy is not fit for purpose,” said Oliver Greenfield from the Green Economy Coalition, speaking on the occasion of the initiative’s launch in Davos.

“Inequality, poverty, climate change and biodiversity loss are not just connected. They arise from the same cause: how econ-



US President Donald Trump attended the 50th edition of the World Economic Forum in Davos this week

omies are organised, ruled and managed.”

The global business elite are gathered in the Swiss alpine resort for the 50th edition of the World Economic Forum, and discussions so far have focused on the climate.

In its annual Global Risks Report surveying the main preoccupations of business leaders on the eve of Davos, the WEF

said the top five global risks to the economy were all environmental.

Oxfam on Monday highlighted the growing gulf in wealth, saying that the number of billionaires had doubled globally and were now richer than 60 percent of the global population combined.

The GEC said governments needed to realise that climate

and the economy were intricately linked, and that action to shore up one would have tangible benefits on the other.

“Within a generation we need to move to a green and fair economy that respects nature’s limits and prioritises wellbeing,” said Greenfield.

The tracker put Sweden at the top of countries surveyed for its national green economy plans, with France coming second.

But it highlighted that “few countries” had yet taken steps to ensure a fair transition away from fossil fuels for millions of workers whose jobs may be affected.

“People must see their lives improve -- so a just transition is not just an aspiration,” said Guy Ryder, general secretary of the International Labour Organization.

“It is a prerequisite to ensure societal and worker support and therefore success.”

US Treasury Secretary advises Greta Thunberg to ‘go study’



Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg listening to the US president’s speech

Davos | Switzerland

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin yesterday advised climate activist Greta Thunberg, who has been bitterly critical of US policy at the World Economic Forum, to study economics before giving out lessons.

Asked about the Swedish 17-year-old’s demand for an immediate halt to investment in fossil fuels, he told reporters: “After she goes and studies economics in college, she can come back and explain that to us.”

The Trump administration and Greta Thunberg have

sparred indirectly since Tuesday on panels in Davos but organisers have carefully averted any direct confrontation.

In a speech on Tuesday, US President Donald Trump castigated the “prophets of doom” and those that predicted a climate “apocalypse”, while Thunberg sat in the audience.

Shortly before leaving the Swiss ski resort, Trump said he would have “loved” to have met the activist, Time magazine’s Person of the Year.

Thunberg repeated her climate warnings, hammering home in her speech that it was time to “panic” because “the house is burning”, as she did the previous year in Davos.

US officials see EU, British trade deals in 2020, not India

Reuters

The Trump administration expects to secure trade deals with the European Union and Britain this year, but not India, top US officials said yesterday.

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in several television interviews that they expected to finalize

agreements with those allies in 2020.

On Wednesday, President Donald Trump said he hoped to finalize a pact with Europe before he faces reelection in November.

“The president is very focused on trade and he’s very focused on Europe,” Mnuchin, speaking from the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, told CNBC, adding that a meeting be-

tween US and European officials this week was “good.”

“We’re very focused on a UK free trade agreement, which we hope to get done this year as well,” Mnuchin added.

Ross, speaking on Fox Business Network, echoed that sentiment on the timeline but said it was more complicated working with the EU, given the number of countries involved.

“Our working assump-

tion is that it will not fail and that we will make a deal with them,” Ross said, referring to the EU.

On India, Ross said that while the United States was eager to cooperate with the country and was in discussions, with more talks likely, a pact was unlikely in 2020.

“I very much doubt that would occur this year,” he told Fox Business Network.

World financial intelligence group re-admits Vatican after suspension

Reuters | Vatican City

The Vatican has been fully re-admitted to the Egmont Group of world financial intelligence units after a suspension two months ago sparked by an investigation into the purchase of luxury London real estate.

Carmelo Barbagallo, president of the Vatican’s Financial Information Authority (AIF), said on Thursday the AIF would “resume its collaboration with foreign financial intelligence units in full transparency and in the spirit of active cooperation”.

The Egmont Group’s president, Mariano Federici, had notified the AIF that it had been re-admitted to the use of Egmont’s secure communications network, Barbagallo said in a statement.

Egmont is a Toronto-based informal organisation with about 165 members. Its secure network allows members to share information about crimes such as money laundering, tax fraud and terrorism financing.

Egmont’s acceptance of the Vatican six years ago was seen as a major step forward in cleaning up the Vatican’s negative image following years of scandals, particularly involving its bank.



Faithful are seen gathered as Pope Francis leads the Angelus prayer in Saint Peter’s Square at the Vatican

The suspension on Nov. 13 was a major setback for the Vatican, which risked again being seen as a pariah by the international financial community.

On Oct. 1, Vatican police entered the offices of the AIF and of the Secretariat of State - the administrative heart of the Catholic Church - as part of their investigation of an investment the Secretariat had made in London real estate.

The officers, operating under a search warrant secured by the Vatican’s own prosecutor, seized

documents, computers and cell-phones during the raids.

The raid prompted concerns in the international financial community about the AIF’s ability to keep confidential documents secure and led to the suspension from Egmont.

The suspension was lifted after the signing of a memorandum of understanding with Vatican prosecutors, the AIF statement said.

Barbagallo, 63, a respected senior Bank of Italy official, was appointed by Pope Fran-

cis in November to succeed Swiss lawyer and anti-money laundering expert Rene Bruehlhart.

Bruehlhart had headed the AIF for five years and the pope decided not to renew his mandate.

Five Vatican employees were suspended after the Oct. 1 raids, including AIF director Tommaso di Ruzza.

Domenico Giani, Vatican security chief and the pope’s bodyguard, resigned later over the leak of a document related to the investigation.

Brexit deal officially becomes UK law

Reuters | London

The bill implementing Britain’s exit deal with the European Union officially became law yesterday ahead of the country’s departure from the bloc next week.

The legislation passed its final parliamentary stage on Wednesday, after more than three years of bitter wrangling over how, when and even if Brexit should take place.

Queen Elizabeth has now given it Royal Assent, the leader of the House of Commons, Jacob Rees-Mogg, said on Twitter.

Britain is due to leave the bloc at 2300 GMT on Jan. 31. A consent vote in the EU Parliament will take place on Jan 29.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to formally sign the Withdrawal Agreement in the coming days.

Comcast takes aim at CNN with NBC-Sky global news channel

Reuters

Comcast’s NBC and Sky will jointly launch a global news channel taking aim at CNN, the Financial Times reported yesterday.

The channel, NBC Sky World News, will unite Comcast’s transatlantic brands, the report said.

NBC Sky World News would draw on a 3,500-strong combined workforce of NBC and Sky news and hire 100-200 dedicated staff over time, the report added, citing Andy Lack, chairman of NBC News.

Ten new bureaus will be



opened worldwide, extending the NBC-Sky reporting footprint by about 50%. On launch, the television channel will reach 130 million households, according to the report.

Comcast did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

show



THE GENTLEMEN (15+)(CRIME/ACTION)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM
OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 12.30 + 5.45 + 11.00 PM
CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
CITY CENTRE (VIP I) : 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM
SEEF (I): 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
SEEF (II): (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
WADI AL SAIL: 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM
MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY, CHARLIE HUNNAM, HENRY GOLDING

THE TURNING (15+)(HORROR/THRILLER)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 1.45 + 6.45 + 11.45 PM
CITY CENTRE:10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
SEEF (II):11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
WADI AL SAIL:10.30 AM + 3.00 + 7.30 + 12.00 MN
MACKENZIE DAVIS, FINN WOLFHARD, BROOKLYNN PRINCE

JUST MERCY (PG-13)(DRAMA)

CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM +2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM
SEEF (II): 12.15 + 5.45 + 11.15 PM
WADI AL SAIL: 2.30 + 8.00 PM
BRIE LARSON, MICHAEL B. JORDAN, JAMIE FOXX

THE LAST FULL MEASURE (PG-15)(DRAMA/WAR)

CITY CENTRE: 12.30 + 3.00 + 5.30 + 8.00 + 10.30 PM
SEEF (II): 3.15 + 8.45 PM
WADI AL SAIL:12.00 + 5.30 + 11.00 PM
CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, SEBASTIAN STAN

PANGA (PG-13)(HINDI/ROMANTIC/DRAMA/SPORT)

From Thursday 23rd 7.00 PM onwards
OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
CITY CENTRE: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM
SEEF (II): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
WADI AL SAIL: 12.00 + 5.45 + 11.30 PM
KANGANA RANAUT, JASSIE GILL, RICHA CHADHA

STREET DANCER 3 (PG-15)(HINDI/DANCE/MUSIC/COMEDY)

OASIS JUFFAIR:11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM
CITY CENTRE:11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM
SEEF (II): 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM
WADI AL SAIL: 2.45 + 8.30 PM
VARUN DHAWAN, SHRADDHA KAPOOR, RAGHAV JUJAL

TOY GUARDIANS (G)(ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)

CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 PM
SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 PM
MITCH SANDRINGHAM, JULIA NOBLES, CATIA NATHANSON

AL NIHAYA (PG)(KUWAITI/ACTION/COMEDY)

SEEF (II): 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM
EBRAHIM AL-SHEAKHLI, MESHAAAL ALFARHAN, MOHAMMED ALHMLY

BAD BOYS FOR LIFE (PG-15)(ACTION/COMEDY/CRIME)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 3.00 + 8.15 PM
CITY CENTRE (IMAX 2D): 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 2.00 + 4.45 + 7.30 + 10.15 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
CITY CENTRE (ATMOS): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN
CITY CENTRE (VIP II) : 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
WADI AL SAIL: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
WILL SMITH, MARTIN LAWRENCE, VANESSA HUDGENS



DOLITTLE (PG)(ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FAMILY)

OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 10.45 AM + 1.00 + 5.30 + 7.45 + 10.00 PM
CITY CENTRE (IMAX 2D) :11.00 AM + 1.00 PM
CITY CENTRE: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM
SEEF (II): 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM
WADI AL SAIL: 12.45 + 5.15 + 9.45 PM
ROBERT DOWNEY JR., ANTONIO BANDERAS, MICHAEL SHEEN

1917 (PG-15)(WAR/ACTION/DRAMA) 1917

CITY CENTRE:11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
GEORGE MACKAY, DEAN-CHARLES CHAPMAN, MARK STRONG



JUMANJI THE NEXT LEVEL (PG-15)

CITY CENTRE: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
SEEF (II): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
DWAYNE JOHNSON, JACK BLACK, KEVIN HART

AL FELOUS (THE MONEY) (PG-15)

CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM
SEEF (I):10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM
TAMER HOSNY, ZEINA, KHALID EL-SAWI

FROZEN 2 (PG)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM
SEEF (II): 11.00 AM + 3.30 + 8.00 PM
KRISTEN BELL, IDINA MENZEL, JOSH GAD

SPIES IN DISGUISE (PG)

OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA):3.15 PM
CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM
SEEF (II): 1.15 + 5.45 + 10.15 PM
WILL SMITH, TOM HOLLAND, KAREN GILLAN

UNDERWATER (PG-15)

CITY CENTRE:7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM
KRISTEN STEWART, T.J. MILLER, JESSICA HENWICK

MASAMEER: THE MOVIE (PG)(ANIMATION/COMEDY)

CITY CENTRE: 10.45 AM + 3.45 + 8.45 PM
ABDULAZIZ AL-MUZAINI, ABDULAZIZ AL-SHEHRI, MAZROA AL-MAZROA

MALEFICENT 2: MISTRESS OF EVIL

CITY CENTRE: 1.15 + 6.15 + 11.15 PM
ANGELINA JOLIE, TERESA MAHONEY, MICHELLE PFEIFFER

CHHAPAAK (PG-15)(HINDI/DRAMA)

SEEF (I): 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM
DEEPIKA PADUKONE, VIKRANT MASSEY, MADHURJEET SARGHI

TANHAJI:THE UNSUNG WARRIOR

OASIS JUFFAIR : 11.00 AM + 4.00 + 9.00 PM
SEEF (I): 3.00 + 8.30 PM
AJAY DEVGN, SAIF ALI KHAN, KAJOL

BIG BROTHER (PG-15)(MALAYALAM)

OASIS JUFFAIR:10.45 AM + 4.45 + 10.45 PM
MOHANLAL, ARBAAZ KHAN, ANOOP MENON, SARJANO KHALID, HONEY ROSE, SIDDIQUE

ALA VAIKUNTHAPURRAMLOO (PG-15)(TELUGU)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 1.45 + 7.45 PM
SEEF (I):12.00 + 5.30 + 11.00 PM
ALLU ARAVIND S, RADHA KRISHNA, ALLU ARJUN, POOJA HEGDE, TABU, NIVETHA PETHURAJ

DISCO RAJA ()(TELUGU)

From Friday 24th
SEEF (I): 3.45 PM
RAVI TEJA, PAYAL RAJPUT, SATYA

ANJAAM PATHIRA (PG-15)(MALAYALAM)

OASIS JUFFAIR:12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
SEEF (I) : 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
WADI AL SAIL: 3.15 + 8.30 PM
AL HAMRA : 12.00 + 6.00 + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)
KUNCHACKO BOBAN, SHARAFUDHEEN, INDRANS



SHYLOCK (PG-15)(MALAYALAM)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
SEEF (I): 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN
WADI AL SAIL: 12.45 + 6.00 + 11.15 PM
AL HAMRA : 3.00 + 9.00 PM
MAMMOOTTY, MEENA, SIDDIQUE, RAJKIRANA

MOVIE REVIEW

The Turning: a few too many screws loose

Floria Sigismondi’s long-delayed update of ‘The Turn of the Screw’ finally surfaces

● Mackenzie Davis grapples with ghosts and an unflattering hairdo

“This can’t be real,” exclaims Kate (Mackenzie Davis) as she enters the vast Fairchild estate (supposedly somewhere coastal in the US, but in fact Killruddery House in County Wicklow, Ireland) where she has been hired as live-in governess for young, orphaned Flora (Brooklyn Prince).

Indeed, with its outdoor labyrinth, its deathly silent corridors, its forbidden wing and its creepy basement, this place seems to belong as much to the imaginative world of the gothic genre as to any kind of reality. In these hallways, festooned with dolls, portraits, mannequins, statues and other simulacra of the living, as well as with ubiquitous mirrors to catch details that the eye misses, it is easy, as the long-serving Mrs Grose (Barbara Marten) points out to



Mackenzie Davis in ‘The Turning’

Kate when she first arrives, to ‘get lost’. The most immediate reference point here is Henry James’ 1989 novella ‘The Turn of the Screw’, which was also the inspiration for Jack Clayton’s The Innocents, Michael Winner’s prequel The Nightcomers and most recently William Lima Jr’s Through the Shadow. From James’ work, writers (and twin brothers) Chad and Carey W Hayes have expressly adapted their screenplay and appropri-

ated the names of all their characters.

Yet if the title ‘The Turning’ points as much to a deviation from source as to the source itself, the story has indeed been considerably updated. Kate may joke that she has not been a live-in governess “since the 1880s”, but in fact the film takes place in 1994 (news of Kurt Cobain’s death is heard in the background). Kate, like her predecessor Miss Jessel (Denna Thomson), drives a car, the gates to the

estate open electronically, and Flora’s older, more menacing brother Miles (Finn Wolfhard) noodles on an electric guitar.

Yet despite all these signifiers of change and modernity, the past keeps finding a way to impose its ghostly influence on the present. Much as Kate wins over Flora by pointing to the sense of childhood loss that, for all their other differences, they share, and teaching her young ward to put on a “brave face” as a mask against life’s pressures,

the histories of these two women returns to haunt them and to send their conjoined narrative down divergent paths.

As buried secrets rise to the surface, as Kate finds she can no longer trust even what she sees in the mirror, as identities and influences blur, and as the confines of the estate prove difficult – perhaps impossible – to escape, The Turning differs from James’ original story. But it stays true to the spirit of the novella’s notoriously sustained ambiguities, ultimately leaving the viewer, along with Kate, utterly lost.

The film, too, has long been stuck in limbo. It began in 2016 under the title Haunted, as a passion production for Steven Spielberg, with Juan Carlos Fresnadillo set to direct. But, \$5 million into its development, the whole process was restarted and the title altered to The Turning, with a new cast attached and acclaimed music video director Floria Sigismondi, who previously made the Joan Jett biopic The Runaways, now at the helm.

The finished film was scheduled for an early 2019 release, then shelved for a year.

The reason for this delay may forever remain a mystery, but perhaps there is an uneasiness among distributors about releasing horror cinema that fails to explicitly resolve its heady confusion of the supernatural and the psychological. Sigismondi’s film has all the rich, spooky atmosphere and shadow play – all the hide-and seek and impossible apparitions – of a well-turned ghost story. But the possibility that it may not even be one will represent the biggest challenge for viewers inclined to want to pin down the object of their errant desire.

The slippery, liquid spaces of equivocation, however, will always be where the uncanny is best realised. And while The Turning does not exactly reinvent the creepy wheel, it certainly gives another turn of the screw to James’ unsettling tale, while reflecting upon its themes of transference and projection through a glass darkly.

sports

BIC hosts spectacular 7D Hologram show at The Avenues Mall this weekend



7D Hologram show at The Avenues Mall

TDI | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) has unveiled a spectacular, first-time-in-Bahrain 7D hologram show that premiered on Wednesday night during the official launch of the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2020.

The 7D live experience at The Avenues Mall is open to the public till Saturday, from 5pm each day. Entry is free of charge.

The content of the show reflects key elements of this year's race, including a celebration of Gulf Air and FI's 70th anniversary, the BIC's racing and entertainment package, as well as Bahrain's unique

culture and heritage.

It is located in a special dome next to Gate 3. All are welcome to enjoy this spectacle that has never been seen in the Kingdom, or indeed anywhere in the Middle East.

In addition to the hologram show, a range of other entertainment will keep fans amused, including racing simulators, virtual reality games and coffee and food stands.

The show has been brought to Bahrain as part of the highly anticipated launch of the Bahrain Grand Prix, which takes place this year from March 19 to 22 at BIC, "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", in Sakhir.

All content for the 7D show has been created using highly specialised technology, never seen before in the Middle East, to give the audience a 360-degree immersive experience that is amplified by the sheer scale of the dome.

Hologram technology involves the capturing and recording of light fields that can be viewed without the aid of special glasses. It scatters a recorded pattern of light and presents the resulting images as an immersive 360 spectacle. The 7D refers to the technology of capturing a high-quality hologram with seven parameters. Each position is in a 3D space, and this position captures viewing direction in 2D space. Additionally, there are two parameters that are captured for each direction, which is time and intensity.

Exciting eight-race card set for today at REHC



Action from a previous week's events (file photo)

TDI | Manama

Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) has lined up an exciting racecard of eight events, scheduled to take place today at the club premises in Riffa.

Five of the races will be offering a Lexus Cup, while one is for the Royal Golf Club Cup and another for the Fatees Al Hajeri Cup.

The two main events of the day are the eight and seventh races, both for a Lexus Cup. They offer the richest total prize of the meeting at BD3,000 apiece.

The eighth race is over seven furlongs and it is for imported horses two years old and up, rated zero to 80. A total of 15 have entered, representing some of the country's top owners and trainers.

The seventh race is over nine furlongs, and it is also for imported horses aged three and up. Only six are entered in the event, with three being tipped to have a chance at the win. They

include Inclination, owned by Al Afoo Racing Stable, trained by Mohammed Saeed and ridden by Lee Newman; Jensue, competing for Khalid Abdulrahman Janahi, Khalid Al Khatri and Ebrahim Nader; and Bint Soghaan, racing for FF Racing, Khalid Al Khatri and Abdulla Faisal.

The fifth, second and first races of the day are also for a Lexus Cup. Race five is over six furlongs with a BD2,000 total prize. A total of 13 imported horses aged three years old and up are competing, with Likethelook, Roman River and Five Angels all tipped with a chance. Likethelook is competing for Ramadhan Stable, Jaber Ramadhan and Abdulla Faisal; Roman River is for M and E Racing, Alan Smith and Paddy Mathers; while Five Angels is racing for Victorious, Yousif Taher and Anas Al Siyabi.

The second race is over a straight of six furlongs with a BD2,000 prize for imported three-year-olds. With a chance are Aryaaf, owned by Al Afoo

15
horses have entered for the eighth race of the day, which is over seven furlongs for imported horses two years old and up, rated zero to 80

Racing Stable, trained by Mohammed Saeed and to be ridden by Lee Newman; Teenar for Al Mohamediya Racing, Ali Al Ansari and Paddy Mathers; and Bill Neigh competing for FF Racing, Khalid Al Khatri and Ebrahim Nader.

Race one is the first race of the day offering a Lexus Cup. It is over a straight of five furlongs with a BD2,000 total prize. Thirteen locally bred horses are entered, with Galayid, Navy Blue and Najim all tipped with a chance. Galayid is owned by HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, trained by James Naylor and to be rid-

den by Brett Doyle; Navy Blue is owned by Victorious, trained by Alan Smith and to be ridden by Lee Newman; and Najim is owned by HH Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, trained by James Naylor and to be ridden by Andrew Elliott.

The sixth race of the day is for the Royal Golf Club Cup, and it covers eight furlongs with a BD2,500 total prize. Fourteen locally bred horses are entered.

The third race for the Fatees Al Hajeri Cup is over six furlongs with a BD1,500 prize. Tipped with a chance are Krayan 1706 owned by Victorious, Al Saqlawy 1757 owned by Safra, and Kuheilani Umm Zorayr 1766, also owned by Safra.

Rounding up the day's events is the fourth race for locally bred horses aged three years old and up. Seven are entered, and they will be competing over six furlongs for a share of the BD2,000 total prize.

All are welcome to REHC today. Entrance is free.

Lakmal sets up Sri Lanka win in first Test against Zimbabwe

AFP | Harare

Suranga Lakmal took four for 27 to set up Sri Lanka for a 10-wicket win over Zimbabwe in the first Test in Harare on Thursday.

Resuming on 30 without loss and needing 157 to make Sri Lanka bat again, Zimbabwe recovered from the loss of three early wickets to Lakmal to reach lunch at 120 for three.

The tall pace bowler struck again immediately after, removing Brendan Taylor for 38, and Zimbabwe slumped to 170 all out, losing their last seven wickets for 50.

Sri Lanka needed just 14 to win and the openers Oshada Fernando and Dimuth Karunaratne knocked off the runs in three overs.

Angelo Mathews was named man of the match for his 200 not out in Sri Lanka's first innings of 515 for nine declared. "I wanted to go for a biggy," said Mathews after the game. "It was very slow going and they gave nothing away with their umbrella field."

"We didn't want to bat in the fourth innings. There was some variable bounce and turn. We wanted a lead of 160 so I had to make sure we got there."

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Bahrain claim last-gasp win to advance

Nationals edge past Saudi Arabia into semi-finals of Asian Men's Handball, qualify for World championship

TDT | Manama

Ahmed Fadhul sent Bahrain into the semi-finals of the 2020 Asian Men's Handball Championship yesterday after firing in the winning goal in a dramatic 18-17 victory over Saudi Arabia in their concluding main round game at Shaikh Saad Al Abdulla Sports Hall Complex in Kuwait City.

Fadhul scored from the six-metre line on the right wing just as time expired, gifting the Bahrainis the last-gasp win and surviving a scare in the competition, where they have been billed as one of the pre-tournament favourites.

With yesterday's result, the Bahrainis also earned one of the four coveted berths in the 2021 IHF World Men's Handball Championship in Egypt. It will be their fourth appearance at the global competition following their previous participations in 2011, 2017 and 2019.

Bahrain are advancing to the Asian tournament's final four as runners-up from Group One in the main round. They completed the stage with two wins from three matches for four points.

Japan were the group winners with a full six points. They closed out this phase with a comfortable 31-19 win against the UAE yesterday.

The Emiratis end the main round in third place with one victory and they now play in



Bahrain's Almqabi attempts to score against Saudi

GROUP A STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Japan	3	3	0	0	86	64	6
Bahrain	3	2	0	1	70	60	4
UAE	3	1	0	2	60	80	2
Saudi Arabia	3	0	0	3	59	71	0

the game for fifth place; while Saudi, who were winless in three outings, will play for seventh overall.

Bahrain face Group Two winners Qatar in the semi-finals, which are scheduled to take place tomorrow. It will be a re-match of the final of the 2019 edition of the tournament, which the Qataris won to claim the gold medals. Bahrain will

be hoping to reverse that result this year.

The Japanese, on the other hand, face either South Korea or Iran, whoever finishes as runners-up in Group Two. The other team in their division, hosts Kuwait, have been eliminated from further contention and will take on Saudi for seventh on the final classification.

Bahrain got off to a brilliant



Bahrain's Al Sayyad looks to attack the Saudi defence

start yesterday as they took a commanding 5-0 lead against the Saudis. They continued to have firm control of the contest at the half with a 10-6 advantage.

In the final 30 minutes, however, the Bahrainis were shaky and they began to let their opponents back into the game. In the dying minutes, the Saudis were able to go ahead by a single goal but Bahrain's Ali Mirza was able to level the proceedings once more. The Saudis were then un-

able to find the net on their final possession, giving the ball back to Bahrain with less than half-a-minute to play.

The Bahrainis were initially stopped in their first attempt to score, but after regrouping, Fadhul received the ball at the right corner of the court and then timed his move perfectly, taking a shot at the game's very last second and scoring the winner past the Saudi goalkeeper as the final buzzer went off.

The goal was one of four from Fadhul in the contest. Teammate Ahmed Almqabi was Bahrain's leading scorer with five. Mirza and Mahdi Saad each finished with two, while Ali Eid, Hasan Al Samahiji, Bilal Askani, Jassim Alsalamat and team captain Hussain Al Sayyad all finished with one goal.

Ahmed Hazazi and Sadiq Al-mohsen both topped the Saudi scoresheet with four goals apiece.

Nadal, Kyrgios through as freak weather hits Australian Open



Spain's Rafael Nadal hits a return against Argentina's Federico Delbonis

AFP | Melbourne

Rafael Nadal and Nick Kyrgios reached the Australian Open third round on Thursday after the weather-disrupted tournament faced a new challenge: dirty rain which left courts muddy and unplayable.

After a day of clean-up operations and delays, Australia's Kyrgios fought his way past Frenchman Gilles Simon in four sets and Wimbledon champion Simona Halep stamped her class with a win over Britain's Harriet Dart.

Nadal, a 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 6-1 winner over Argentina's Federico Delbonis, miscued a shot that hit a ballgirl in the head, but he melted hearts when he apologised and gave her a kiss on the cheek.

"I was so scared for her, honestly," the 19-time Grand Slam winner said. "The ball was quick and straight on the head. She's a very brave girl."

Kyrgios, increasingly popular with home fans after his fundraising efforts for Australia's bushfire crisis, was cruising at two sets up when

he dropped the third set and with it, his composure.

But just when it looked like he would suffer one of his trademark implosions, he rallied for a 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 victory.

"I definitely lost my way a little bit... but I decided to refocus," Kyrgios said of his mini-meltdown in the third set. "I could have gone to a very dark place in the fourth set but I put it away."

Kyrgios and Nadal stay on course for a fourth-round clash and the next instalment in their grudge match after the Aussie hit back at criticism from the "super salty" Spaniard last year.

Their victories followed a day of upheaval caused by the dirty rain, the latest weather problem at a tournament which has contended with bushfire smoke, heavy downpours and strong wind.

Rain mixed with a dust storm coated the Melbourne Park facilities in a fine layer of mud which took hours to clean and made many outside courts temporarily unusable.

Vincent names 24 players to prepare for Fiba Asian Cup qualifiers



BBA president Kanoo, seated third from left, and Coach Vincent, seated third from right, with other BBA officials and national team players during their meeting

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA) have named an initial 24-player national team that will begin training for Bahrain's upcoming qualifiers for the 2021 Fiba Asia Cup.

Those games are scheduled to begin next month and Bahrain are in Group D of the qualifiers along with India, Lebanon and Iraq.

The Bahrainis' first game will be against their Indian counterparts at home on February 21. They then travel directly to Beirut to play against their Lebanese counterparts on February 24.

The 24 players named to the national team include four from defending league champions

Muharraq, namely Bader Abdulla Malabes, Ahmed Aldurazi, Ali Shukrallah and Mohammed Buallay; four from Khalifa bin Salman Cup holders Riffa, including Kuwaited brothers Mohammed and Younes, Subah Hussain and Mohammed Salman; five from Al Ahli including Mohammed Qurban, Maytham Jameel, Hesham Sarhan, Ali Aqeel and Hassan Al Arabi; and nine from Manama, namely Mohammed Hussain, Ahmed Najaf, Ahmed Abdulaziz, Mustafa Hussain, Hussain Shaker, Ahmed Salman, Mohammed Jassim and Ameer brothers Mohammed and Muzamel.

The roster is completed by Ahmed Khalifa from Al Hala and naturalised big man CJ Giles from Al Najma.

The BBA recently held a meeting with the players, headed by BBA president Talal Kanoo and attended by newly signed national team head coach Sam Vincent from the US.

Vincent's assistant coach is Ayoob Haji.

Following next month's qualifiers, there will then be a long break before their next game on November 26 away against Iraq, after which they place away once again against India on November 29.

Their final two qualifiers will be held in February of next year, both at home against Lebanon and then Iraq.

The top two teams from each of the six qualification groups book their tickets to the Fiba Asia Cup, while the third-placed

teams go to another stage of qualification, where another four final spots will be up for grabs.

Meanwhile, the draw for the Khalifa bin Salman Cup 2020 will be held on Sunday at Zain Basketball Arena in Um Al Hassam.

The Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA) have done all the preparations for the event.

BBA board member Osama Al Kooheji said that Muharraq and Manama have been chosen to head the two groups of the competition's first round, based on the results of the preliminary stage of the Bahrain league.

Al Kooheji added that each team will be allowed to field two professional players in the tournament.