

Girrbach, Kramer and Hague share lead at Bahrain Open

Joel Girrbach of Switzerland, Max Kramer of Germany and David Hague of England were the joint-leaders yesterday after the first round in the \$75,000 Royal Golf Club Bahrain Open, following solid scores of six-under par 66. **P16**

THE DAILY **tribune**

Nasa pioneer dies
 Florida

Pioneering African-American Nasa mathematician Katherine Johnson has died at the age of 101.

Nasa announced her death on Twitter, saying it was celebrating her life and honouring "her legacy of excellence that broke down racial and social barriers".

Ms Johnson calculated rocket trajectories and Earth orbits for Nasa's early space missions.

She was portrayed in the 2016 Oscar-nominated film Hidden Figures.

The film tells the story of African-American women whose maths skills helped put US astronaut John Glenn into orbit around the Earth in 1962. Ms Johnson verified the calculations made by new electronic computers before his flight.

SICO to advise KFH-AUB acquisition
 TDT | Manama

SICO, a leading regional asset manager, broker, market maker and investment bank (licensed as a wholesale bank by the CBB), announced yesterday that it has been mandated by Kuwait Finance House KSCP (KFH) as Bahrain receiving agent, Bahrain execution adviser and cross-list-



Ms Al Shirawi

ing adviser in KFH's offer to acquire Ahli United Bank.

The cross-border acquisition would create a USD104 billion regional banking powerhouse that is set to become the world's largest Islamic bank in terms of assets.

"We are extremely proud to be making history through our role as one of the lead advisors on this transformational cross-border transaction," said SICO CEO Najla Al Shirawi.

Full story Page 7



04 Witnesses to testify in human trafficking trial

210 fils (includes VAT)



6 084010 110021 >

HAVE A MILLION DREAMS?
 Realise them with MyHassad

Annual Prize **US\$ 2 million**
 21 Weekly Prizes **US\$ 1,000**

2 Quarterly Prizes **US\$ 1 million**
 Eid Al Adha Prize **US\$ 500,000**

Call 17 22 1 999 now

ahliunited.com
 @ahliunitedbank

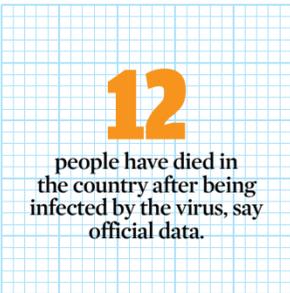
Iran accused of corona coverup

Tehran

Iran's government vowed yesterday to be transparent after being accused of covering up the deadliest coronavirus outbreak outside China, dismissing a lawmaker's claim the toll could be as high as 50.

The authorities in Iran have come under mounting public pressure since it took days for them to admit to "accidentally" shooting down a Ukrainian airliner last month, killing 176 people.

The government announced Iran's coronavirus death toll had jumped by four to 12 — by far the highest outside China — as its neighbours closed



their borders and imposed strict quarantine measures.

But Ahmad Amirabadi Farahani, a lawmaker from the holy city of Qom, south of Tehran, alleged the government was "lying."

Ministry of Health

Coronavirus (COVID-19) updates:

Number of negative results: 305
 Number of infected cases: 2

Latest update: 11:00 PM
 24 February 2020

Measures taken:

Immediate transfer of the infected cases for treatment and isolation

Infected Case 1:
 Examination of those who were in contact with the infected individual (parents, passengers traveling with him on the trip, and students who were driven by him through his work as a driver)

Closure of 3 schools and a pre-school in Sitra for two weeks as a precaution, as the infected person works as a school bus driver serving those schools

Infected Case 2:
 Examination of those who were in contact with the infected individual (family members traveling with her on the trip) and isolating them as a precaution

Legislative role hailed



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has lauded the dedicated efforts being exerted by the Legislative Branch in order to perform its constitutional duties and assume its supervisory and legislative role to strengthen the pillars of the national democratic march and develop laws and legislation that serve the citizens and meet all their needs, noting that history bears witness to the exemplary cohesion and solidarity among Bahrainis throughout the Kingdom's glorious march. HM the King made the statements while receiving, at Al Sakhir Palace yesterday, the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Fawzia Zainal, Chairman of the Shura Council, Ali Al Saleh, and their deputies, in addition to the members of the Reply to the Royal Speech committees at the two councils. They submitted to HM King Hamad the two councils' replies to the royal keynote speech delivered by HM the King while opening the second session of the Fifth Legislative Term. See Page 6

TDT | Manama

Two cases of coronavirus infections were reported in the Kingdom yesterday by the Health Ministry.

While the first case was that of a man, a school bus driver, the second infected with the virus turned out to be a woman, who was diagnosed at the Bahrain International Airport itself.

"The infected citizen arrived in Bahrain after a visit to Iran, accompanied by her husband and her sister in law. The accompanying relatives were also moved to isolation as a precautionary measure, after testing negative for the virus," the Ministry of Health tweeted last night, confirming the second case.

Earlier yesterday, the Ministry of Health has confirmed a patient infected with the Coronavirus (COVID-19), arriving from the Iran, via Dubai, has been immediately transferred to the isolation ward at the Ebrahim Khalil Kanoo Community Medical Centre, located in Salmaniya, and is receiving further treatment.

The ministry added that the patient, a school bus driver, had worked on Sunday, dropping off children at two schools, the

Two coronavirus cases confirmed

High alert in the Kingdom after two cases of infection were reported

Crown Prince stresses precautionary measures

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday stressed the Kingdom's strategies in place to tackle coronavirus infections during a meeting with House Speaker Fawzia Zainal and Shura Council Chairman Ali Al Saleh.

HRH the Crown Prince noted that the Ministry of Health is

following the highest standards of epidemiological monitoring to prevent the virus from spreading, following the report of the first confirmed case in the Kingdom.

HRH the Crown Prince added that preventive efforts require constructive, strategic co-operation among the government, citizens and residents, urging all to adhere to the established health guidelines.

Individuals who have been in contact with the patient were contacted and tested to ensure they are free of the virus, as well as being placed under supervision for 14

days at a designated quarantine centre for suspected cases."

The ministry outlined that the infected individual arrived at Bahrain International Airport

on 21 February, from Iran, via Dubai, with no symptoms, noting that the patient's symptoms appeared a few days later. In line with established public health procedures, the ministry has contacted all passengers on the same flight for medical testing.

The ministry has called upon all citizens and residents who are experiencing symptoms of the Coronavirus COVID19, including high temperature, coughing and difficulty breathing, or those who have travelled or had close contact with anyone who has travelled to countries with high infection rates to isolate themselves at home, call 444, and follow the instructions given by the medical team. **See Page 2**

Corona threat: Schools directed to maintain best hygiene standards

Education Ministry sends guidelines to schools on levels of hygiene

TDI | Manama

Schools in the Kingdom have been ordered to maintain a high-level of cleanliness at buildings as part of efforts to combat the risk of coronavirus.

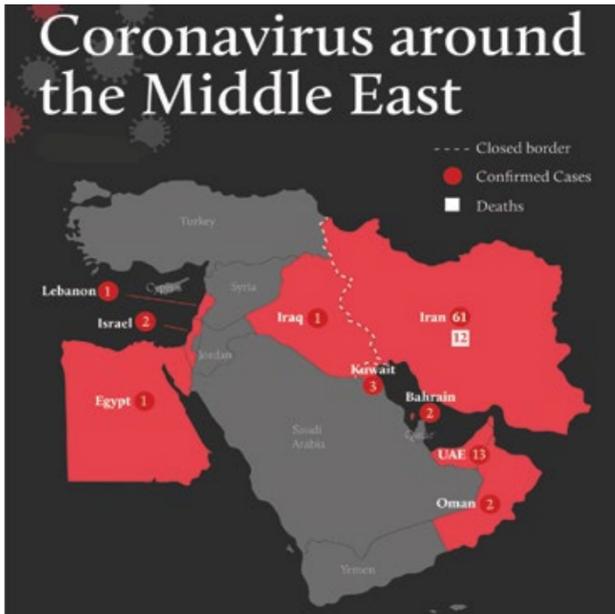
Sources said the Education Ministry authorities have urged schools to keep an extra high level of hygiene to thwart the risk of coronavirus virus, which was confirmed to have infected a Bahraini citizen yesterday.

The ministry has sent a set of guidelines to schools on maintaining high level of cleanliness and hygiene.

It ordered the educational institutions to make sure highest hygiene standards are implemented across classrooms, canteens, and its building premises.

It also instructed schools to educate students on cleanliness procedures and health awareness programmes and also educating the student on what to do if they find themselves sick.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health has stepped up efforts to spread awareness about corona-



The number of coronavirus infections have been increasing in the region.

virus as they urge residents and citizens to take 'hygiene measures' The ministry has urged citizens and residents to take various

measures to protect themselves from coronavirus. The ministry sources said that educational campaigns are in full



Ebrahim Khalil Kanoo Community Medical Centre has been designated as an isolation centre.

swing to create awareness in the public about the novel coronavirus. The modes used to create awareness include traditional me-

dia, social media and even SMS campaign which was recently done. "Dear citizens and residents,



Citizens and residents should take various measures to protect themselves from coronavirus.

HEALTH MINISTRY

kindly be reminded to take the following precautions to reduce the risk of contracting the Coronavirus (Covid-19): Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly using soap and water. Use alcohol-based sanitisers.

"Clean and disinfect frequently used objects and surfaces such as door handles. Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing, and dispose of used wipes properly. Avoid contact with people experiencing a fever or suffering from a cough.

"The Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)," the ministry stated in a mass SMS campaign, which was sent out to Bahrainis and expatriates across the Kingdom.

Acute mask shortage at pharma stores

TDI | Manama

Face masks were out of stock at many pharma stores across the Kingdom as people began buying them in large numbers over coronavirus fear.

The shortage is attributed to declining supply and increasing demand in the Kingdom.

This comes in light of the Kingdom's Health Ministry confirming its first case of coronavirus infection.

Earlier, speaking to Tribune, a pharma store manager, who doesn't want to be named, had said: "We have a huge shortage of face masks as we sold out our stocks in the last two days.

"Though no cases are reported in the Kingdom, people here are taking special caution and a good number of them are wear-



There is a huge demand for face masks across the Kingdom.



We have a huge shortage of face masks as we sold out our stocks in the last two days.

PHARMA STORE MANAGER

ing face masks, which is one of the ways to prevent being infected."

He said masks were being imported from China and the supplies have declined owing to huge demand in that country.

"If you see, the Chinese authorities have asked everyone at risk to wear face masks. The demand is vast as China is the largest populated country in the world," he added.

However, on the contrary, there were also many reports on media, which states there are not enough evidences to suggest that wearing a face mask has any benefit for the general public.

Health experts have said that the choice of mask could make a big difference to its effectiveness.

Of the two main types of face masks on the market -- N95 respirators that fit tight to the face and include a filtration system, and the surgical face masks typically worn by hospital workers -- it is the latter that offers the best defence against the virus, a health expert said.

"Respirators are designed to protect the user, because they want to keep the contaminants out," he added.

"Surgical masks, actually in the healthcare environment are meant to protect the patients."

The World Health Organisation has warned that the huge surge in demand for face masks and other protective clothing could lead to a shortage for those who need them most: doctors and nurses treating coronavirus patients.

Call to comply with health guidelines

TDI | Manama



The Ministry of Health has called for immediate compliance with the health guidelines set out, alongside other precautionary efforts the Ministry continues to take, in order to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Ministry of Health, in co-ordination with related entities, has ensured the readiness of all health workers, in response to the first confirmed case in the Kingdom following a citizen's return from Iran carrying the virus.

"All necessary medical precautions, including monitoring those who have been in contact with the patient, have been taken," the ministry said.

Citizens can help prevent the spread of infections by washing their hands thoroughly with

All necessary medical precautions, including monitoring those who have been in contact with the patient, have been taken.

HEALTH MINISTRY

soap, refraining from close interactions such as shaking hands, hugging or kissing, in addition to covering their mouths and noses with a tissue while sneezing or sneezing into the crook of their elbow.

The ministry noted that the immune system, which is at the core of health and wellness, can be strengthened through exercise, a healthy diet, adequate sleep, vaccinations, drinking plenty of water to avoid dehydration, not smoking and avoiding stress.

'First cases linked to Iran'

Dubai

Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Iraq yesterday recorded their first new coronavirus cases, all people who had been in Iran, which raised its toll from the disease to 12 dead and 61 infected.

Oman's health ministry said two Omani women were diagnosed with the virus after arriving from Iran, while the sultanate's civil aviation authority said on Monday it had halted all flights to the Islamic Republic.

Iraq said the new coronavirus was detected in an Iranian theology student in Najaf, who entered the country before it banned the entry of non-Iraqis coming from Iran.

Kuwait recorded the virus in



Kuwaiti special forces wearing protective masks guard the entrance to a hotel, where people evacuated from Iran are being held in quarantine, in Fahaheel, Kuwait.



three people among 700 who had been evacuated on Saturday

from the Iranian city of Mashhad. They were a 53-year-old Kuwaiti

man, a 61-year-old Saudi man and a 21-year-old whose nationality

was unclear.

The United Arab Emirates on

Monday banned its citizens from traveling to Iran and Thailand due to concern over coronavirus, state news agency WAM said.

The UAE, a major air transit centre and tourism and business hub, has recorded 13 cases since Jan 28; the latest two are an Iranian tourist and his wife.

Kuwait Airways and Iraq Airways last week suspended flights to Iran while Saudi Arabia suspended travel to Iran. Iraq has shut its Safwan border crossing with Kuwait to travelers and trade at Kuwait's request.

Iran's Deputy Health Minister, Iraj Harirchi, said 12 people had died and up to 61 had been infected in Iran. Most infections were in the Shi'ite holy city of Qom.

To all citizens and residents
If you experience the following symptoms related to the
Coronavirus (COVID-19):



Fever



Cough



Difficulty breathing



And if you have traveled to one of the countries infected with the virus or have interacted with a person traveling from any of those locations or interacted with an infected patient

Please follow these instructions:

- 1. Quarantine yourself at home, in a separate room**
- 2. Call 444**
- 3. Follow the instructions given by the medical team**
- 4. Avoid close contact with others**

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Exposure Prevention Instructions



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



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



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



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

Bahrainisation push call

Cabinet reviews Bahrainisation steps by various ministries, departments

● The Cabinet reviewed a joint memorandum submitted by ministries on proposals to increase the number of graduate Bahraini doctors within training programmes.

● The Cabinet also approved an MoU between the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications and the UAE's General Civil Aviation Authority.



HRH the Crown Prince chairs the Cabinet session.

Manama

The Cabinet chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister yesterday followed up on the directives of HRH the Prime Minister to expedite the employment process for Bahraini jobseekers.

It also stressed the need to recruit more Bahraini doctors,

highlighting the need to offer further training to medical professionals.

Additionally, in light of HRH the Crown Prince's directives to ensure Bahraini nationals remain the priority within the Kingdom's labour market, the Cabinet reviewed a joint memorandum submitted by the Minister of Health, and Minister of Labour and Social Development, on proposals to increase the number of graduate doctors within training

programmes, and to abide by the 20 per cent Bahrainisation rate on all medical jobs within the Kingdom's private sector.

The Cabinet referred the Memorandum to the Ministerial Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs and Financial Balance, to submit to the Government's Executive Committee.

Among other things, the Cabinet approved transferring infrastructure and construction projects implemented by the

20
per cent Bahrainisation rate has to be attained as per HRH the Crown Prince's directives on all medical jobs within the Kingdom's private sector.

Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs to the Ministry of Works,

Municipalities affairs and Urban Planning within two phases, following a memorandum submitted by the Minister of Youth and Sports Affairs.

The first phase will begin by outlining the procedures needed to transfer the infrastructure and construction projects from the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs to the Ministry of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning.

The second phase will focus on

restructuring the Projects Management Department within the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs and reducing the number of employees within the department to ensure integrated efforts are made between the two ministries.

The second phase further ensures aligned workstreams, aimed at improving the quality of public services, and a reduction in expenditures.

The Cabinet also approved an MoU between the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications and UAE's General Civil Aviation Authority, aimed at enhancing bilateral co-operation in providing air navigation services and systems, and support of technical and operational aspects of the systems.

The session gave nod to an MoU between Bahrain's National Space Science Agency (NSSA), and the Russian Space Agency (Roscosmos), regarding collaboration on exploration activities and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. The memorandum also aims to support bilateral co-operation in the fields of exploring space technologies for peaceful purposes and co-operation on space research.

Witnesses to testify in human trafficking trial

TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court has adjourned the trial of two Asian men accused of human trafficking to March 1, 2020, to hear witnesses testimonies.

The two men were arrested in No-

vember last year for their involvement in luring an Asian female domestic worker to escape her employer's house less than a month from reaching Bahrain.

They convinced the victim of escaping after they reaching out to her on WhatsApp through a fellow national

(female), promising her a job with better pay.

The female accomplice agreed with the victim to escape on a certain date, on which the one of the defendants showed up at the doorsteps of her employer's house, picked her up and took her to meet a woman in Manama, ac-

cording to Prosecutors.

There the victim was informed that the job is in flesh trade and the accomplice immediately "sold" her to the second defendant for BD350.

Investigations showed that the victim was detained in a room, where she was forced to have sexual inter-

course with male clients for BD5 for each man.

This continued until she managed to escape the room and asked for help from the first person she saw on the road, a Bahraini taxi driver, who took her to the police station to lodge an official complaint.



BAHRAIN MIDDLE EAST BANK B.S.C.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION At 31 December 2019

	2019 US\$ '000	2018 US\$ '000
ASSETS		
Balances with banks and financial institutions	4,483	13,086
Placements with financial institutions	12,885	14,461
Investment securities	2,357	14,528
Loans and advances	-	-
Exposures to related parties	-	-
Other assets	889	1,344
TOTAL ASSETS	20,614	43,419
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Due to financial institutions	131,471	150,524
Due to customers	3,196	4,076
Other liabilities	2,497	1,450
Total liabilities	137,164	156,050
EQUITY		
Share capital	100,000	100,000
Accumulated losses	(216,550)	(212,631)
Total equity	(116,550)	(112,631)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	20,614	43,419

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY For the year ended 31 December 2019

	Share capital US\$ '000	Accumulated losses US\$ '000	Total equity US\$ '000
Balance at 31 December 2017 (Restated)	100,000	(23,259)	76,741
Total comprehensive loss for the year	-	(189,372)	(189,372)
Balance at 31 December 2018	100,000	(212,631)	(112,631)
Total comprehensive loss for the year	-	(3,919)	(3,919)
Balance at 31 December 2019	100,000	(216,550)	(116,550)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME For the year ended 31 December 2019

	2019 US\$ '000	2018 US\$ '000
OPERATING INCOME		
Interest income	377	12,473
Interest expense	(361)	(1,044)
Net interest income	16	11,429
Gain (loss) on investment securities	1,017	(442)
Fee and commission income	97	229
Other income	205	182
Foreign exchange gain	189	39
Total operating income	1,524	11,437
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Staff expenses	2,388	2,688
Travel and business development expenses	9	424
Legal and professional expenses	835	604
Premises and equipment expenses	228	432
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	463	227
Other operating expenses	1,823	876
Total operating expenses	5,746	5,251
NET (LOSS)/ PROFIT FOR THE YEAR BEFORE IMPAIRMENT ALLOWANCE	(4,222)	6,186
Impairment reversal (allowance) - net	303	(195,558)
NET LOSS FOR THE YEAR	(3,919)	(189,372)
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE LOSS FOR YEAR	(3,919)	(189,372)
BASIC AND DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE (IN US\$ CENTS)	(0.98)	(47.34)

Note:

These financial statements have been audited by Ernst & Young who have expressed a disclaimer of opinion as they have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence with respect to the basis of going concern adopted by the Bank, to provide a basis for an audit opinion on the consolidated financial statements

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 24 February 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

These financial statements were extracted from the audited consolidated financial statements on which Ernst and Young issued a disclaimer of opinion dated 24 February 2020.

Please refer to consolidated financial statements available on the Bank's website: www.bmb.com.bh
Bahrain Middle East Bank B.S.C. is licensed as conventional wholesale bank by the Central Bank of Bahrain

Khalifa Bin Duaij Bin Khalifa AlKhalifa
Chairman

Abdulrahman Abdulla Mohamed Husain
Vice Chairman

Abdulla Mohamed Abdulla Dawood
Acting Chief Executive Officer

KUWAIT FINANCE HOUSE K.S.C.P.

(Incorporated in the State of Kuwait)
Commercial Registration Number 26066

بيت التمويل الكويتي
Kuwait Finance House



KUWAIT FINANCE HOUSE K.S.C.P. VOLUNTARY CONDITIONAL OFFER TO ACQUIRE 100% OF THE ISSUED AND PAID UP ORDINARY SHARES OF AHLI UNITED BANK B.S.C. BY WAY OF A SHARE SWAP AT AN EXCHANGE RATIO OF 1 NEW KFH SHARE FOR EACH 2.325581 AUB SHARES

OFFEROR'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF DISPATCH OF THE OFFER DOCUMENT TO THE OFFEREE

THE OFFER DOCUMENT IS A COMPLEX DOCUMENT AND THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY ONLY AND IS QUALIFIED IN ITS ENTIRETY BY, AND IS SUBJECT TO, THE CONTENTS OF THE OFFER DOCUMENT

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

THE CENTRAL BANK OF BAHRAIN, BAHRAIN BOURSE AND THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND TOURISM, IN THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN, ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS OF THE STATEMENTS AND INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ANNOUNCEMENT AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIM ANY LIABILITY WHATSOEVER FOR ANY LOSS HOWSOEVER ARISING FROM THE RELIANCE UPON THE WHOLE OR ANY PART OF THE CONTENTS TO THIS ANNOUNCEMENT.

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

THE DIRECTORS OF KUWAIT FINANCE HOUSE K.S.C.P. ISSUING THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, WHOSE NAMES APPEAR IN THE OFFER DOCUMENT, JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCURACY OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ANNOUNCEMENT. TO THE BEST OF THE KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF OF THE DIRECTORS, WHO HAVE TAKEN ALL REASONABLE CARE TO ENSURE THAT SUCH IS THE CASE, THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FACTS AND CONTAINS NO OMISSIONS LIKELY TO AFFECT THE IMPORTANCE AND COMPLETENESS OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT.

Reference is made to the notice of Firm Intention to make an Offer issued by Kuwait Finance House K.S.C.P. (the "Offeror" or "KFH") dated 5 February 2020 to Ahli United Bank B.S.C. (the "Offeree" or "AUB")'s board of directors. Capitalised terms used herein and not defined have the meaning as defined in the Offer Document. The Offer

KFH's voluntary conditional offer to acquire 100% of the issued and paid up ordinary shares of AUB by way of a share swap and subject to the fulfilment, or waiver by KFH, of the conditions outlined below (the "Offer").

Dispatch of the Offer Document

KFH dispatched the Offer Document to the board of directors of AUB on Monday 24 February 2020.

Pursuant to TMA-2.7.7 of the Central Bank of Bahrain ("CBB") Rulebook, Volume 6, Takeovers, Mergers and Acquisitions Module ("TMA"), the Offer Document and the Offeree board circular must be sent to the Offeree shareholders by, or on behalf of, the Offeree within 21 calendar days of the date of receipt of the Offer Document by the Offeree.

The Offeror

Kuwait Finance House K.S.C.P.
PO Box 24989 Safat 13110 Kuwait
Telephone: + (965) 22445050

KFH is registered with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in the State of Kuwait under commercial registration number 26066 as a Public Kuwaiti Shareholding Company whose ordinary shares are listed on Boursa Kuwait (the "BK").

KFH is licensed by the Central Bank of Kuwait (the "CBK") as a locally incorporated bank operating as an Islamic bank and provides a wide range of banking Sharia'a compliant products and services.

KFH has an authorized share capital of KWD1,117,648,920.200 and an issued and paid up share capital of KWD697,648,920.200 divided into 6,976,489,202 ordinary shares with a nominal value of KWD0.100 each.

Board of Directors of the Offeror	Title
Hamad Abdul Mohsen Al Marzouq	Chairman
Abdul Aziz Yacoub Alnafisi	Vice Chairman
Fahad Ali AlGhanim	Director
Muad Saud Al Osaimi	Director
Khaled Salem Al Nisf	Director
Noorur Rahman Abid	Director
Hanan Yousef Ali Yousef	Director
Motlaq Mubarak Al-Sanei	Director
Salah Abdulaziz Al-Muraikhi	Director

Management of the Offeror	Title
Mazin Al-Nahedh	Group Chief Executive Officer
Shadi Zahran	Group Chief Financial Officer
Waleed Mandani	Group Chief Retail and Private Banking Officer
Abdulwahab Al-Rushood	Group Chief Treasury Officer
Ahmed Al Kharji	Group Chief Corporate Banking Officer
Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem	Group Chief Strategy Officer
Gehad El-Bendary	Group Chief Risk Officer
Frederick Carstens	Group Chief Human Resources Officer
Srood Sherif	Group Chief Information Officer
Abdullah Abu Al-Hous	Group Chief Operations Officer
Wissam Sami El-Kari	Group Chief Internal Auditor
Dr. Khaled Mohammed Al-Jumah	Group General Manager Legal
Khaled Yousef Al-Shamlan	General Manager Corporate Banking Kuwait
Ahmad Eissa Al-Sumait	General Manager Treasury Kuwait
Fadi Elias Chalouhi	Group General Manager Retail Banking
Dharar Aldakhil	General Manager Group Risk Management
Abdulla Abdulmohsen Al-Mejhem	General Manager Private Banking

The Offeree

Ahli United Bank B.S.C.
Building 2495, Road 2832, Al Seef District 428
PO Box 2424, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain.

AUB is registered with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism in the Kingdom of Bahrain under commercial registration number 46348 as a Public Bahraini Shareholding Company whose ordinary shares are listed on the Bahrain Bourse (the "BB") and BK.

AUB is licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain (the "CBB") as a locally incorporated bank operating as a conventional retail bank.

AUB has an issued and paid up share capital of USD2,193,611,070.250 divided into 8,774,444,281 ordinary shares with a nominal value of USD0.25 each.

Details of securities for which the Offer is made

The Offer is to acquire AUB shares that comprise 100% of AUB's issued and paid up share capital. That is inclusive of 8,774,444,281 (eight billion, seven hundred and seventy four million, four hundred and forty four thousand and two hundred eighty one) AUB shares of a nominal value of USD0.25 each and any AUB shares that are issued, whether as dividends shares, shares issued pursuant to AUB's employee stock option plan and/or otherwise, after the date of the Offer Document, but before the Effective Date (the "AUB Shares").

KFH has not purchased or sold AUB Shares during the 12-month period prior to the date of the Offer Document and does not hold any AUB Shares and has not held in the past any direct or indirect shareholding in AUB as of the date of the Offer Document. Mr. Hamad Abdul Mohsen Al Marzouq, the Chairman of KFH, currently owns 15,378,272 shares in KFH (0.220%) and 14,306,762 AUB Shares (0.163%).

Consideration for the Offer

The consideration for the offer is new shares in the Offeror at a share exchange ratio of 1 New KFH Share for each 2.325581 AUB Shares.

Conditions Precedent to the Offer

The implementation of the Offer will be subject to the fulfilment or waiver, where applicable, of the following Conditions Precedent. For the avoidance of doubt, the Offer shall not become unconditional unless the below Conditions Precedent are fulfilled or waived by KFH:

- Receipt of valid Acceptances in respect of AUB Shares that represent at least 85% of the total issued share capital of AUB at the time of the Initial Offer Closing Date (the "Requisite Acceptances").
- Following receipt of the Requisite Acceptances, the AUB Shareholders approving, amongst other things, and subject to any legal and regulatory requirements, converting the AUB business in Bahrain to Sharia'a compliant at the AUB EGM by a majority vote of two thirds of the AUB Shares represented at the AUB EGM.

- Receipt of all regulatory and statutory approvals, exemptions and/or waivers in connection with the Offer and the acquisition of no less than 100% of the issued and paid up ordinary shares of AUB, including receipt of the CBB and CBK final approvals, exemptions and/or waivers required to implement the Offer, receipt of the CMA approval for the issuance of the New KFH Shares and receipt of any other approval required from any regulatory or statutory authority as may be determined.

- KFH successfully completing a cross-listing on BB in line with the applicable rules and regulations of the CBB and BB.

In respect of Condition Precedent (b) above, the invitation to the AUB EGM will be published upon declaring the Offer unconditional as to Requisite Acceptances in line with the provisions of the TMA Module and the Commercial Companies Law.

AUB Shareholders and/or potential investors of AUB should note that the Offer is subject to the satisfaction or, with the exception of Conditions Precedent (a) and (d) above, waiver (where applicable) of the Conditions Precedent and conditional upon, the Offer becoming or being declared unconditional in all respects. Accordingly, the Offer may or may not become unconditional. Shareholders and/or potential investors of AUB should therefore exercise caution when dealing in the securities of AUB. Persons who are in doubt as to the action they should take should consult their licensed brokers, dealers, solicitors, professional accountants or other professional advisers.

Offer expected timeline and key dates

The key dates for the Offer will be determined in accordance with the CBB's regulations and, in particular, the TMA. The timetable set out below is indicative and may be subject to change. Any changes to the timetable will be announced by the Offeror.

Date of the Offer Document	24 February 2020
Last Trading Date for AUB Shares	22 March 2020 ⁽¹⁾
Suspension Date for trading of AUB Shares	23 March 2020
Record Date for AUB BB Shares	24 March 2020
Record Date for AUB BK Shares	25 March 2020
Offer Opening Date	26 March 2020
Initial Offer Closing Date	15 April 2020 (subject to extension)
Offer Acceptance/Rejection Announcement Date	15 April 2020
Last day for the Offer to become or declared unconditional as to Requisite Acceptances	24 April 2020
Right of Accepting AUB Shareholders to withdraw their Acceptance arises unless the Offer has become unconditional as to Requisite Acceptances	29 April 2020
AUB EGM	7 May 2020
Final Offer Closing Date	12 May 2020
Offer to be declared unconditional in all respects	Expected to be 12 May 2020
Release of the New KFH Shares to AUB Shareholders	Effective Date
Effective Date	Expected to be 18 May 2020

(1) If an official public holiday is declared in Kuwait, then the date in Kuwait shall be 19 March 2020.

KFH post acquisition strategy

Following the successful implementation of the Offer and acquisition of shares, KFH intends to maintain AUB's commercial registration, however, KFH intends on changing AUB's name to become "Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain", in due course. Given that KFH is a Sharia'a compliant institution and undertakes only Sharia'a compliant activities, the principal change to be implemented immediately post-Offer would be to commence the process of converting the business of AUB in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq and the United Kingdom to Sharia'a compliant offering full range of Sharia'a compliant banking products.

Following the successful completion of the offer, KFH will commence converting AUB's subsidiary in Kuwait to a digital bank as requested by the CBK. Immediately following the successful completion of converting AUB's business to Sharia'a compliant, KFH will commence the process of conducting a statutory merger to merge its two wholly owned subsidiaries in Bahrain, being AUB and KFH Bahrain.

Further details of KFH's post-acquisition strategy can be found in Section 11 of the Offer Document.

Procedures for accepting the Offer

AUB Shareholders of AUB BB Shares who wish to accept the Offer must submit the completed Acceptance and Transfer Form (along with the required documentation) at one of the Participating Branches of AUB or at the dedicated desk of the Bahrain Receiving Agent at Bahrain Bourse during the Offer Period.

AUB Shareholders of AUB BK Shares who wish to accept the Offer must submit their details to the Kuwait Receiving Agent (along with the required documentation) during the Offer Period.

Copies of the Offer Document can be obtained from the offices of the Receiving Agents, BB and the Participating Branches. Copies of the Acceptance and Transfer Form can be (i) in Bahrain, obtained from the offices of the Bahrain Receiving Agent, BB and the Participating Branches; and (ii) in Kuwait, provided and completed electronically at the offices of the Kuwait Receiving Agent.

Offer finance sources

Excluding the impact of fractional entitlements, issuance of AUB dividends shares for the year ending 31 December 2019 and the shares issued pursuant to AUB's employee stock option plan, the consideration of the offer will be financed through an issue of 3,773,011,682 New KFH Shares, which has been approved by the KFH extra ordinary general assembly held on 20 January 2020. The final consideration number of New KFH Shares will be determined and announced by KFH as part of the offer process on or around the Initial Offer Closing Date.

Important note: Pursuant to TMA-2.20 and TMA-2.21, the Offeror's associates are reminded of the restrictions to dealing and to disclose all dealings in any securities of Ahli United Bank B.S.C.

On behalf of the Board of Kuwait Finance House K.S.C.P.

Hamad Abdul Mohsen Al Marzouq
Chairman

Offeror
Kuwait Finance House K.S.C.P.



Financial Advisor to the Offeror
Goldman Sachs International



Legal Advisor to the Offeror
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP



Bahrain Receiving Agent
Bahrain Clear B.S.C.(c)



Bahrain Receiving Agent, Bahrain Execution Advisor and Cross Listing Advisor
SICO B.S.C.(c)



Kuwait Receiving Agent and Allotment Agent
Kuwait Clearing Company K.S.C.





Representatives Council Speaker Fawzia Zainal praised the wise vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, describing it as an action plan for all branches and institutions and an incentive for the Representatives Council to boost efforts in assuming the constitutional duties as well as the legislative and monitoring role. The Representatives Council Speaker asserted keenness on building on previous achievements by upgrading the legal and legislative system in order to achieve citizens' aspirations and meet their needs. This came during a meeting yesterday with His Majesty the King who received her and her Deputies as well as Head and members of the committee in charge of replying to HM the King's speech. Shura Council Chairman Ali Al Saleh paid tribute to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for his unflinching support to legislative work to serve the nation and citizens.



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday received Fawzia Zainal, Council of Representatives Speaker, and Ali Al Saleh, Shura Council Chairman, at HRH's majlis in Gudaibiya Palace. HRH the Crown Prince began by affirming that Bahrain continues to enact strict precautionary measures designed to ensure the continued safety of citizens and residents amid the global outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID19). HRH the Crown Prince noted that the Ministry of Health is following the highest standards of epidemiological monitoring to prevent the virus from spreading, following the report of the first confirmed case in the Kingdom.



His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa deputised Southern Governor His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa to attend a reception party marking the Kuwait's 59th National Day and the 29th Liberation Day. Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Shaikh Thamer Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah hosted the ceremony at the Gulf Hotel Convention Centre, in the presence of senior officials, members of the diplomatic corps and invitees. HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa conveyed congratulations from HRH the Premier to the Amir of Kuwait His Highness Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah on his country's National Day, Crown Prince HH Shaikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah and to Prime Minister HH Shaikh Sabah Khalid Al Hamad Al Sabah.

Underground trash bin may 'become a reality'

TDT | Manama

A proposal to instal underground rubbish bins have gained traction. The government is looking into the proposal which called for underground rubbish bins, it is learnt.

The Northern Municipality has put forth a proposal to establish underground garbage bins in the government.

The proposal gained traction after the Ministry of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning referred it to the Municipal Affairs Agency for further study.

The ministry stated: "We would like to note that the recommendation of the council has been referred to the Municipal Affairs Agency to study."

ipal Affairs Agency to study."

The author of the proposal Ahmed Al Kooheji said that the proposal aims to improve the environmental situation and to remove eyesore of trash cans from public sight.

"The existing trash cans are an eyesore and it is best we look for innovative solutions such as the underground rubbish bins."

The proposal cited experiences of Arab countries applying similar solutions such as Saudi Arabia, Oman and the UAE. However, recent reports in the UAE suggest that underground garbage bins are far from a success there.

"Underground rubbish bins installed for what is believed to have been millions



The installation of underground trash bins were not a great success in the UAE.

of dirhams are lying unused and an eyesore," residents say.

The bins were introduced in 2009 and

dozens were installed across the capital by 2011.

"But of 10 of the machines inspected

during the week, only one was working. Residents complained of unhygienic conditions around the bins," The National reported.

"Access to the bins is through a receiver unit at street level, in which rubbish is deposited. The containers are encased in a metal frame and sunk inside a concrete sleeve.

"The bins were designed to serve pedestrians, street cleaners and small shops and to remove many of the health hazards, such as flies breeding and foraging by stray cats.

"They were also supposed to cut the number of trips made by rubbish lorries, reducing costs, fuel and the carbon footprint," the report added.

business

SICO appointed receiving agent for KFH's AUB offer

The cross-border acquisition would create a USD104 billion regional banking powerhouse

TDT | Manama

SICO, a leading regional asset manager, broker, market maker and investment bank, announced yesterday it has been mandated by Kuwait Finance House (KFH) as Bahrain receiving agent, Bahrain execution advisor and cross-listing advisor in KFH's offer to acquire Ahli United Bank (AUB).

The cross-border acquisition would create a USD104 billion regional banking powerhouse that is set to become the world's largest Islamic bank in terms of assets.



Wissam Haddad Head of Investment Banking and Real Estate at SICO



SICO CEO Najla Al-Shirawi

"We are extremely proud to be making history through our role as one of the lead advisors on this transformational cross-border transaction," said SICO CEO Najla Al-Shirawi.

The acquisition will be implemented through a voluntary conditional offer by KFH to AUB shareholders to acquire 100 per cent of AUB's issued and paid-up ordinary shares.

The offer by KFH is by way of share swap at an exchange ratio of 1 new KFH share for every 2.325581 AUB shares.

The offer is conditional upon



KFH's acquisition of AUB is the latest in a wave of recent Gulf banking sector M&As that have included the merger of First Abu Dhabi Bank and Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank and the acquisition of BISB by NBB.

KFH receiving valid acceptances for AUB shares representing at least 85pc of the total issued share capital and is subject to approvals, exemptions and/or waivers granted by the CBB.

The commencement date for the offer is set to be announced at a later stage.

Wissam Haddad Head of Investment Banking and Real Estate at SICO said, "As part of the nonwaivable conditions within KFH's offer, KFH will cross-list its shares on the Bahrain Bourse as part of the successful closure of the transaction."

Rihanna wears Chopard Jewelry to the 51st Annual NAACP awards



jewellery by Chopard



Global icon, singer, and actress Rihanna

Manama

Global icon, singer, and actress Rihanna attended the 51st Annual NAACP Image Awards wearing jewellery by Chopard.

Rihanna wore earrings featuring amethysts, blue sapphires, rubies, pink sapphires, and Paraiba tourmalines set in 18-carat white gold from the Temptations collection.

The earring features purple and pink sapphires set in titanium, while the ring features a 9.96-carat round-shaped emerald, 2.99 carats of tsavorites, blue sapphires, garnets, blue tourmalines, amethysts, and emeralds set in 18-carat white gold all from the Haute Joaillerie collection. Also among were a timepiece featuring a white mother of pearl dial and 11.94 carats of diamonds with a case in 18-carat white gold from the Happy Sport collection.

Rubik's Cube Mona Lisa fetches 480,000 euros at Paris auction



The "Rubik Mona Lisa" of French street artist Franck Slama sold for 480,000 euros at an auction in Paris on Sunday.

Paris

The Mona Lisa as puzzling as the smile of Leonardo da Vinci's muse -- made out of nearly 300 Rubik's Cubes -- sold for nearly half a million euros at auction in Paris on Sunday evening.

Created by the French street artist Franck Slama, famous for the pixelated Space Invader mosaics that have popped up on city streets around the world, the "Rubik Mona Lisa" sold for 480,000 euros (\$521,000), a record for the artist, Artcurial auction house said.

Its guide price was 120,000

to 150,000 euros.

Slama, who works under the pseudonym "Invader", has playfully styled himself the founder of a new school of art that uses the iconic 1980s puzzle as the medium: "Rubikcubism."

The 2005 "Rubik Mona Lisa" was the first in a series of pieces inspired by the great paintings in history.

Slama has also produced pixelated reproductions of Edouard Manet's 1863 masterpiece "Le Dejeuner sur l'Herbe" (The Luncheon on the Grass) as well as Gustave Courbet's "L'Origine du Monde" (The Origin of the World).

Investcorp acquires US \$164m residential properties in South Florida

TDT | Manama

Investcorp, a leading global provider and manager of alternative investment products, yesterday said its US-based real estate team has acquired two residential properties in South Florida for around US \$164 million.

"Over the last several years, we have been actively building our US multifamily real estate portfolio by targeting properties in strategic locations that enable us to capitalize on the secular trend toward renting rather than homeownership," said Yusef Al Yusef, Head of Gulf Institutional Clients Group at Investcorp.

Multifamily property portfolios currently represent the largest part of Investcorp's global real estate platform, with an approximate value of US \$2.3 billion. Investcorp's multifamily portfolios span across 15 markets totalling 18 properties and more than 14,000 units. Since inception, the value of Investcorp's real estate investments has totalled over US \$18 billion across more than 800 properties.



Yusef Al Yusef, Head of Gulf Institutional Clients Group at Investcorp.

The acquisition of the two Class B, "for rent" apartment properties in South Florida provides Investcorp with a 95% occupied portfolio of 836 units. The two properties feature recently renovated interiors, upgraded common areas with amenities, including clubhouses and pools. Both properties are located in neighbourhoods with several retail and entertainment attractions and are near downtown Fort Lauderdale and South Florida's employment hubs.

Amalfi Foods launches pancake factory in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Amalfi Foods announced launching the first pancake factory in Bahrain on the occasion of the celebration of International Pancake Day.

Commenting on the launch, Wassim Sami Farhoud, Chief Executive Officer of Amalfi Foods, said the boutique factory will introduce a new range of pancake products that cater to all audiences.

He added: "We aim to make innovative, delicious and convenient confectionery goods available to everyone. The first product that we will launch is our pancake sandwich modelled after the Japanese dorayaki."

The first product, best described as a pancake sandwich, will be a 6.5cm round pancake filled with Belgium hazelnut chocolate sandwiched by another pancake creating a burger style sandwich. The locally produced pancake is designed to have an airy quality and a smooth filling while remaining convenient in size.

Amalfi Foods said it aims to elevate the local F&B industry and contribute towards the Kingdom's economy. "The launch of Amalfi Foods will create numerous local job opportunities in the Kingdom," its statement said.

Amalfi Foods pancakes will be available in select stores soon.



Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Sameer Nass at his office in Bait Al Tijjar yesterday with a Somali business delegation headed by the Minister of Commerce and Industry Abdullahi Ali Hassan. The meeting commended the bilateral relation and deliberated about investment and partnership potentials, particularly in the livestock, agriculture, banking, and petrochemicals sectors. Present at the meeting were also BCCI's first vice-chairman Khalid Najibi, Chief Executive Officer Shaker Al Shater and Deputy CEO Dr Abdulla Al Sada.

Hyperactivity, Boris Johnson and the dead cats on the table

There is much activity in Boris Johnson's government but how much is real progress and how much is just clever PR spin?

GAVIN ESLER

When I was a trainee journalist on the Belfast Telegraph newspaper in Northern Ireland, my mentor was a wonderful editor called Norman Jenkinson. He was a hard-headed Ulsterman of wit and wisdom, affectionately nicknamed "Jenks." He would see me rushing into the office breathlessly excited about some news story involving a political announcement and would calm me down with a simple phrase. "Listen, lad," he would say, staring at me above his glasses, "never confuse activity with progress."

Nowadays, when I hear politicians make announcements and public promises of action, Jenks's observation comes to mind. It happens constantly with US President Donald Trump's promises to "build a wall and make Mexico pay for it," or forcing China to take more US imports, or reviving America's old industries in the so-called "rust belt" states or, in some unspecified way, "Making America Great Again." I wondered then, and still wonder now, if Mr Trump's Mexican-funded "wall" will ever come into existence, even if he wins another term. Since America has always seemed "great" to me, I continue to wonder in what sense Mr Trump would re-create its greatness. We shall see. Or not.

Here in Britain, Jenks's phrase



Johnson looks on during a visit to a construction site for the new High Speed 2 (HS2) rail project in Birmingham.

In Britain, from blue passports to impossible bridges to Ireland, Mr Johnson is masterfully steering Britain's national conversation with his own "dead cats on the table."

comes to mind almost daily. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's new government is a fountain of hyperactivity, although it is unclear where real progress is being made. We have a daily blizzard of announcements, slogans, plans and promises. One big promise is to "level up" the British economy by investing more in the north of England. I am all for it. The most eye-catching bit of "levelling up" is the announcement to build the "HS2" high-speed rail line, which will eventually connect London with the great northern English cities of Manchester and Leeds at a

cost in excess of £100 billion. I am for that too.

Then there was the announcement that "experts" will be studying whether to build a bridge from Scotland to Ireland. This is a daft idea and it will likely never happen. There are further announcements: Britain will next month switch the colour of its passports from the current red burgundy to blue. Add to this rumours that the government has declared war on the BBC and will scrap its funding model. And news that immigration rules will be changed with a new points-based system for skilled workers.

And a determination within the government not to talk about Brexit any more since on leaving the European Union on January 31; Brexit is, in the words of their election slogan, "done."

So much activity! But how much real progress amid the snowstorm of announcements? How much is reality, and how much just spin and clever public relations?

The case to build HS2, for instance, is ultimately sound, but construction work has been going on for years. HS2 actually began in 2009. All Mr Johnson's government has done is manu-

facture a PR coup by not actually cancelling it. If he was really "levelling up" the economy of the north of England, then full construction work on the project would be starting in the north. It is not. It is starting in London, and is merely another great building project which increases London's dominance of the British economy, even if connectivity will eventually benefit the north of England too.

Then there is the switch to "traditional" blue passports. This is the clearest symbol of a government obsessed with public-relations activity rather than progress. The Home Secretary Priti Patel says blue passports are in some way "entwined with our national identity." Well, possibly among some citizens over 50. Britain agreed to switch from blue to red passports 30 years

ago. But this was not a European Union imposition. Croatia, a EU member, still has blue passports. Yet London is trumpeting switching back to blue as some kind of "taking back control" activity. Moreover, these new (or old?) blue passports will be printed not, as you might expect by a patriotic British company but in Poland by French-Dutch consortium Gemalto. Giving contracts to Polish workers and foreign companies may be Ms Patel's sense of "national identity" but not everyone agrees.

In all this there is a bizarre phrase much loved by political insiders to describe such public relations activities – "throwing a dead cat on the table." It means that when everyone is talking about something that the government finds unhelpful or negative, the way to change and dominate the national conversation is to interrupt with something else, however bizarre – like interrupting a business meeting with a dead cat. Everyone ends up talking about the dead cat. Mr Trump has used the "dead cat" technique brilliantly in his tweets.

In Britain, from blue passports to impossible bridges to Ireland, Mr Johnson is masterfully steering Britain's national conversation with his own "dead cats on the table." Whether his PR hyperactivity results in any discernible progress remains uncertain. Jenks would suggest we all treat it with great suspicion.

20 tips for CBSE Boards 2020



ANIRUDDHA BARANWAL

In continuation of our expert column in education section for CBSE students here are some general and subject wise tips and guidelines for the students of Grades X and XII who would be appearing in Science and Mathematics CBSE Board Exams.

Now that most of the students have already prepared well, some last moment tips will surely help them to optimize their performance. This is all the more important with the revised pattern for CBSE Board exams.

General tips for classes X and XII students:

1. Must know the format of question paper like duration,

number of questions, number of sections and marking scheme.

2. Utilise your reading time effectively: This extra 15 minutes given to the students must be used to decide about the questions to start with, mentally formulate the answers while reading. They should think of the formula, graphs, reasons, diagrams to be given while answering.

3. Answer as per marking scheme: Students must know how much to write for 1 mark, 2 marks, 3 marks, 5 marks or 6 marks.

4. Presentation matters: Remember, the easier we make evaluator's work to check our answer sheets, more will be the marks obtained. Even an average student can increase one's marks anywhere between 5 and 10 just by good presentation. A good presentation must always include relevant labelled diagrams, ray diagrams, circuit diagrams, balanced chemical equations, underlining keywords, using rough works separately and leaving at least one line spacing after the completion of each question.

5. All numerical based questions must start with the relevant formula. FIITJEE has been

providing formula booklets to its students. Mention what is given and what is asked with proper sign convention. And students must ensure to check the given values in regards to their units.

6. Take sufficient mock tests and get evaluated by your respective teachers. Keep track of your mistakes and work on those, which are recurring.

7. Students must ensure to read the questions at least two times so as to double sure that all information have been picked. After completing the question, they must go through the questions once again so as to ensure that all the parts have been attempted.

8. Make sure you finish the paper at least 15 minutes early and this available time must be devoted for revision, checking your calculation and making your answers more presentable.

9. Once you get the question paper take a deep breath and remind yourself- "I have done sufficient revision and there is no reason that I don't do well".

10. After doing few questions, take a sip of water and mentally boost yourself by saying, "I am going well".

Specific tips for Class XII students

Mathematics:

11. Since one mark questions play a major role in new pattern as they carry 25 per cent of the total marks, enough attention must be given to this section. Mastering NCERT text books would ensure a good score in this section.

12. Most expecting 6 marks could be from the following chapters: Application of derivatives and Integrals, 3D Geometry, Matrices, Determinants and Areas under curves.

13. Before going to examination, students must revise formulae for Integration and Inverse Trigonometric Function.

Physics:

14. Students must do all the solved examples of NCERT.

15. Students in the last days must ensure to revise all the derivations, devices and experiments

thoroughly. Most expecting five markers could be from electrostatics, optics, magnetism, EMI and AC.

Chemistry:

16. Practise all named reactions of organic chemistry through writing. In Inorganic Chemistry, structure and shapes of all the compounds must be learnt.

17. All NCERT intext questions must be done thoroughly with special focus to numerical-based questions for Physical Chemistry.

Specific Tips for Class X Students:

Mathematics:

18. Use sharp pencil for construction. The scoring areas are mensuration, statistics, construction and quadratic where all four markers can easily be solved. Last day revision should cover only solved examples of all chapters.

Physics:

19. Numericals will be mainly from lens and mirror formulae and series and parallel combination of resistances. One can always expect one long answer type question from one of the defects of eye and electro-magnetic induction. Applications of left and right hand rule should be made thorough.

Chemistry:

20. Wherever possible, give balanced chemical reactions. In diagram-based questions like electrodot diagrams, diagrams for electron transfer or circuit for electrolysis, labelling must be done.

FIITJEE WISHES ALL THE STUDENTS A VERY BEST OF LUCK FOR CBSE BOARDS !!!!!

(The author is an Ex-irrian currently working with FIITJEE and has been providing consultancy and guidance to CBSE students in Bahrain for CBSE Board, IIT-JEE and other similar Exams for more than 12 years and has been guiding force behind many success stories. For more tips and further guidance he can be reached at aniruddha.baranwal@fiitjee.com)

1797

Colonel William Tate and his force of 1000-1500 soldiers surrender after the Last invasion of Britain.

1831

Battle of Olszynka Grochowska, part of Polish November Uprising against Russian Empire.

1836

Samuel Colt is granted a United States patent for the Colt revolver.



1843

Lord George Paulet occupies the Kingdom of Hawaii in the name of Great Britain in the Paulet Affair.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



During his speech at the #NamasteTrump programme, @POTUS @realDonaldTrump highlighted aspects of his vision for USA. He also spoke at length about India's greatness as well as the greatness of our culture, ethos, people and more. I thank him for his kind words.

@narendramodi

02



WOW! A sea of over 100K people wearing #NamasteTrump hats! What a sight to behold! Well done, India, well done!

@WayneDupreeShow

03



Our two national constitutions both begin with the same three beautiful words: "We the people." That means that in America and India alike, we honor, respect, trust, empower, and fight for the citizens we proudly serve!

@realDonaldTrump

04



Our First Lady looks absolutely STUNNING in India today! Melania Trump is wearing a beautiful white jumpsuit from Atelier Caito for Hervé Pierre in crème crêpe. The look also features a green silk sash with gold metallic thread.

@MELANIAJTRUMP

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

How Nato's Iraq expansion is a test for its Middle East plans

Buffeted by internal divisions and pressure from Washington, the Atlantic alliance's Middle Eastern objectives look uncertain



Iraqi foreign minister Mohamed Ali Al Hakim and his German counterpart Heiko Maas meet at the 2020 Munich Security Conference in Germany.

Jean Loup-Saaman

This month, Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg announced that the Iraqi government has approved an expansion for the Atlantic alliance's mission to train the Iraqi armed forces.

The operational contours of Nato's work in Iraq remain uncertain. Mr Stoltenberg has refrained from specifying the number of advisers expected to deploy. In fact, it seems that a substantial portion of what would go under the Nato label consists of resources already committed by European nations through the global coalition against ISIS.

Despite speculation in the region, the implications of Mr Stoltenberg's statement are more political than military, and the politics behind the decision have less to do with the Middle East itself than with the fragile state of European politics and US-European relations.

Nato officials have indicated that this expansion in Iraq is meant as the first measure in a broader re-envisioning of the alliance's engagement with the Middle East. This comes after three years of intense US lobbying in that direction. After calling Nato an "obsolete" organisation during the 2016 elections, US President Donald Trump urged the other member states to adapt by contributing more to counter-terrorism operations – the biggest priority, in Washington's view. Mr Trump repeated that view last January after the killing of Iranian Gen-

eral Qassem Suleimani, when he called upon Nato partners "to get more involved in the Middle East".

The narrative being conveyed by the alliance's representatives in Brussels of a larger Middle Eastern engagement is therefore intended primarily for an American audience.

However, there are two reasons to remain cautious about interpreting this narrative as involving major military changes: the endurance of disagreements among Nato members regarding their strategic priorities and the mixed record of the alliance in the region so far.

First, Nato nations do not all agree on prioritising counter-terrorism in the Middle East. This matters for a military alliance in which any major decision requires consensus among all 29 member states. The membership as it stands can generally be divided into an 'eastern camp' and a 'southern camp'. The former comprises the countries who believe that Nato should focus on the alliance's eastern border with Russia, while the latter sees the security crises across the Mediterranean, from North Africa to the Levant, as their most pressing challenges.

Typically, Nato member states like Poland or Estonia believe the Middle East to be a distraction. They would rather remain committed to the alliance's historical mission of defending Europe against Moscow's assertiveness. Meanwhile, Southern European countries like Italy and Spain may feel that this "Russian threat" is inflated

First, Nato nations do not all agree on prioritising counter-terrorism in the Middle East. This matters for a military alliance in which any major decision requires consensus among all 29 member states. The membership as it stands can generally be divided into an 'eastern camp' and a 'southern camp'.

by their Eastern European colleagues and view the migrant issue and political instability in the Middle East as clear and present dangers.

But even within the member states who prioritise the Middle East and counter-terrorism, there are divisions. At last December's Nato summit, Turkey tried and failed to get the alliance to endorse its view that Syrian Kurdish fighters were terrorists. Moreover, Ankara's disputes over the last decade with several of Nato's strategic partners in the region – in particular, Israel and Egypt – have had direct consequences for the alliance's ability to deepen its engagement there.

These political obstacles within Nato have played a key role in turning its overall contribution to the region into a very modest enterprise. It is unlikely that the expansion of the training mission in Iraq will break that mould.

Initiated in 2004, the training mission was then largely

dependent on the presence of American forces in Iraq and was actually disbanded following the 2011 decision of the United States' then-president Barack Obama to withdraw those forces. The mission eventually resumed in 2018. However, the resources provided by Nato – approximately 500 advisers – hardly match the demands of building the new Iraqi army. Given the political mood in Brussels, it is unlikely that Nato members are ready to commit to much more than a symbolic level of growth.

Beyond its Iraqi engagement, Nato has used two main partnerships in the region – the Mediterranean Dialogue and the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative – to cover the Middle East and North Africa, including the Arabian Gulf. Notably, in 2017 Kuwait opened the first regional centre dedicated to joint military training for Nato and Gulf officers. Since its creation, the centre has enabled officials from Brussels and Gulf capitals to enhance their co-operation at the operational level.

While Nato has long undertaken similar defence co-operation initiatives, including tactical training and military education, with Middle Eastern allies, the alliance's political dialogue with these partners has been slow-moving for more than a decade. That is a concrete consequence of the internal disagreements between Nato members.

In the Gulf, for instance, Nato has refrained from qualifying Iran as a major threat. Back in

2010, France's then-president Nicolas Sarkozy triggered uproar from Nato partners – particularly Turkey – when he publicly declared that the group's missile defence systems were targeting the "Iranian threat". Since then, Nato officials have constantly elided the Iranian question in their exchanges with Gulf counterparts.

Likewise, the Mediterranean Dialogue was created after the Oslo Accords to support multilateral security engagement between six Arab states and Israel, but it petered out when the Oslo framework collapsed. Once again, a lack of consensus among Nato members – this time concerning solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian crisis – have resulted in the alliance's leadership strictly maintaining that it should have no active role in a major regional dispute.

This state of play is likely to generate frustration from those advocating more active involvement from Nato in the Middle East. But all these limitations highlight the real meaning of Mr Stoltenberg's latest announcement, which is that the training mission in Iraq and the talks of a broader engagement in the region have less to do with the Middle East than with the internal politics of the alliance and the attitude of European nations towards Washington's priorities. Until the alliance's divisions are resolved and it figures out a way to defend to Washington its relevance, the policy implications of any expansions in Iraq or elsewhere in the region are likely to be modest.



President Trump's visit opens a new chapter in our relationship -- a chapter that will document the progress and prosperity of the people of America and India

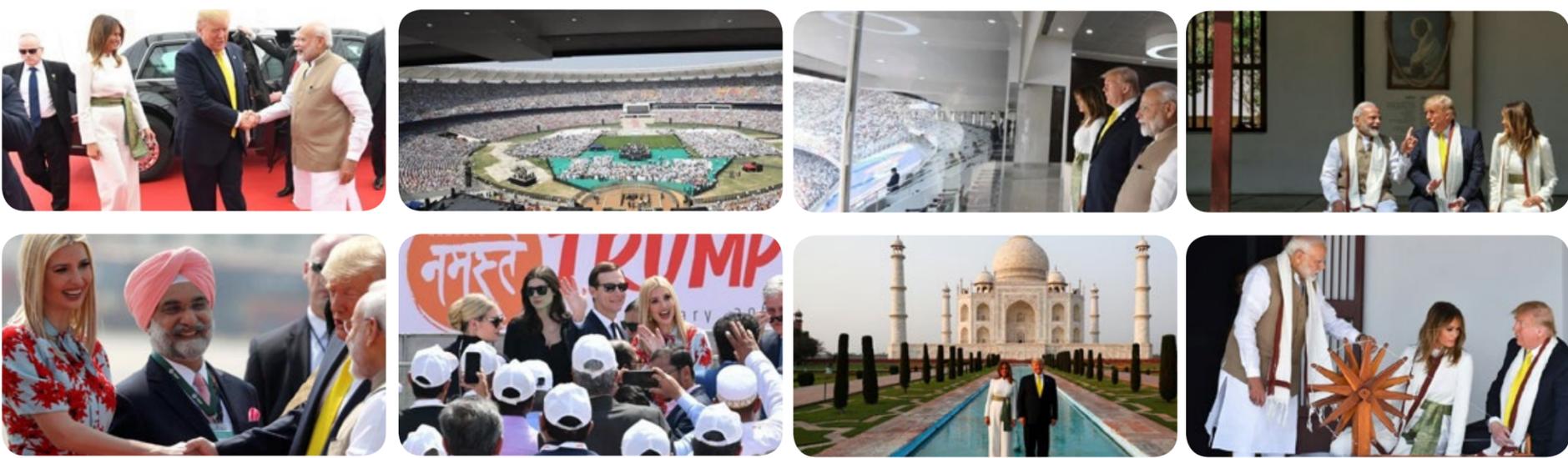
NARENDRA MODI

America loves India. America respects India, and America will always be faithful and loyal friends to the Indian people

DONALD TRUMP

Namaste Trump

Trump hails 'exceptional' Modi at huge India rally



Agencies | Ahmedabad, India

US President Donald Trump received a red-carpet welcome in the world's biggest democracy yesterday, addressing a huge rally at a mega cricket stadium on a maiden official visit to India where he promised "an incredible trade deal" and "the most feared military equipment on the planet". Indians wore cardboard Trump masks and "Namaste Trump" hats to welcome the US president at the huge new Motera stadium in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's own political homeland, the western city of Ahmedabad.

Modi embraced Trump as he stepped off Air Force One, along with his wife, Melania.

Folk dancers carrying colourful umbrellas danced alongside the red carpet as drummers, trumpeters and other musicians performed at the airport to welcome Trump and the U.S. delegation. Crowds lined the route along his cavalcade, many taking pictures on their phones.

In Modi's home state of Gujarat, Trump and First Lady

Melania visited independence hero Mahatma Gandhi's ashram, where Modi gifted him a "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" three wise monkeys statue.

The billionaire and the tea seller's son then headed to a new cricket stadium -- the biggest in the world -- where Trump heaped praise on Modi as an "exceptional leader, a great champion of India" in front of a crowd of around 100,000.

"America loves India. America respects India, and America will always be faithful and loyal friends to the Indian people," Trump told the ecstatic crowd, many in Trump-emblazoned baseball caps.

"You have done a great honour to our country. We will remember you forever, from this day onwards India will always hold a special place in our hearts," Trump said to thunderous applause.

"As we continue to build our defence cooperation, the United States looks forward to providing India with some of the best and most feared military equipment on the planet," Trump said.

A new chapter

"President Trump's visit opens a new chapter in our relationship -- a chapter that will document the progress and prosperity of the people of America and India," Modi said.

"The whole world knows what President Trump has done to fulfil the dreams of America." In his speech Trump extolled India's rise as a stable and prosperous democracy as one of the achievements of the century.

"You have done it as a tolerant country. And you have done it as a great, free country," he said.

India is one of the few big countries in world where Trump's personal approval rating is above 50%. It has built up ties with the United States in recent years as Washington's relationship has become strained with India's foe Pakistan.

Excited spectators had queued from 4:00 am for the "Namaste Trump" rally, reciprocating a "Howdy Modi" event in Houston last year where Trump likened Modi to Elvis.

"Events like these will galvanise people to start to cooperate in new initiatives," said Pramit

Maakoday, an Indian-American in the stadium.

Later yesterday Trump and Melania -- dressed in an off-white jump suit and Indian sash alongside her husband in his usual suit and tie -- flew to the Taj Mahal for sunset before the main official talks on Tuesday.

Parts of the white marble "jewel of Muslim art", according to UNESCO, were given a mud-pack facial to remove stains, while efforts were made to lessen the stench of the adjacent river.

Children lined the route cheering and waving flags as his convoy drove past.

Trump and Melania posed for pictures at the Taj, the 17th century monument to love. "It's incredible," he told reporters.

Trump, who faces his own re-election campaign this year, has frequently praised Modi for his crowd-pulling power.

"Very tough negotiator"

The two sides did not manage to hammer out a trade deal ahead of the visit, with differences remaining over agriculture, medical devices, digital

trade and proposed new tariffs. Trump said he was going to discuss economic ties with Modi, describing him as a tough negotiator.

"We will be making very, very major, among the biggest ever made, trade deals. We are in the early stages of discussion for an incredible trade agreement to reduce barriers of investment between the United States and India," he said.

"And I am optimistic that working together, the prime minister and I can reach a fantastic deal that's good and even great for both of our countries - except that he is a very tough negotiator."

"There is so much that we share, shared values and ideals ... shared opportunities and challenges, shared hopes and aspirations," said Modi at the rally.

Rather than a wide-ranging trade deal, reports said Trump and Modi may instead sign smaller agreements covering products such as Harley-Davidson motorcycles and US dairy products.

"We are in the early stages of discussions for an incredible

trade agreement," Trump told the rally, calling Modi a "very tough negotiator".

Defence deals

The two men were expected to sign a number of defence deals during the visit, and to discuss the supply of six nuclear reactors.

Trump said the two countries will sign deals on Tuesday to sell military helicopters worth \$3 billion and that the United States must become the premier defence partner of India, which relied on Russian equipment during the Cold War. It was reported earlier that India has cleared the purchase of 24 helicopters from Lockheed Martin worth \$2.6 billion.

Russia, however, remains India's biggest supplier in arms, with India having agreed to buy Moscow's \$5.4-billion S-400 missile defence system despite the threat of US sanctions.

The US has pressured India to stop buying Iranian oil, while US businesses have raised concerns over New Delhi's plans to force foreign firms to store Indian consumers' personal data inside the country.

Turmoil in Malaysia as PM Mahathir resigns

● Political allies sought to form a new coalition

● That coalition would reportedly have excluded Anwar, Mahathir's presumptive successor

● Mahathir previously served as premier from 1981 to 2003

AFP | Kuala Lumpur

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad resigned yesterday in a shock move after his political allies sought to form a new coalition in a bid to block the succession of leader-in-waiting Anwar Ibrahim.

It followed weekend political drama that saw an attempt by Anwar's rivals within his own "Pact of Hope" coalition -- which stormed to a historic election victory in 2018 -- and opposition politicians to form a new government.

That coalition would reportedly have excluded Anwar, Mahathir's presumptive successor and a former opposition icon who was jailed for years on questionable sodomy charges, blocking his ascent to the premiership.

Anwar and Mahathir -- the world's oldest leader, aged 94 -- have a notoriously stormy relationship but joined forces to oust a corruption-plagued government at the 2018 polls.

Mahathir, who previously served as premier from 1981 to 2003, had made a pre-election pledge to hand power to Anwar



Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has submitted his resignation to the king

but has repeatedly refused to fix a date.

With the ruling coalition's fate still uncertain on Monday morning, Mahathir's office made the surprise announcement that he had "sent a resignation letter as prime minister of Malaysia" to the king at 1:00 pm (0500 GMT). No reason was given.

Shortly before, Mahathir's Bersatu party announced it was leaving the ruling coalition and 11 lawmakers resigned from Anwar's party, leaving the Pact of Hope in tatters and fuelling suggestions efforts could be underway to form a new alliance.

Despite speculation Mahathir -- a wily political operator known for authoritarian tendencies during his first stint in power -- was leading the push for a new coalition, Anwar in-

sisted this was not true.

Anwar said Mahathir had assured him Monday that "he played no part in it", adding he was "very clear that in no way will he ever work with those associated with the past regime".

According to local media, the new coalition would have included the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), the party of disgraced ex-leader Najib Razak, which was ejected from power in 2018.

'Nefarious' bid to topple govt

Lim Guan Eng -- a senior member of the Democratic Action Party, which formed part of the "Pact of Hope" -- said that Mahathir told him that he was resigning in protest at the "nefarious attempt" to topple the government.

Anwar said Mahathir had assured him yesterday that "he played no part in it", adding he was "very clear that in no way will he ever work with those associated with the past regime"

"Mahathir clearly stated that he cannot work with UMNO when we worked so hard to reject UMNO successfully in the 2018 general elections," he said.

He added his party would nominate Mahathir to continue as prime minister at an emergency meeting Monday evening.

The final outcome of the drama was far from clear, however, and some analysts said a snap poll could be called.



Anwar Ibrahim

Both Anwar and Mahathir had audiences Monday with the king, although their intentions were unclear. While his role is largely ceremonial, the monarch appoints the country's prime minister, who must show he commands the support of a majority of MPs.

Many Malaysians were angry at the prospect of the democratically elected government being replaced without an election.

The people "will not agree to or cooperate with any 'backdoor' government formed out of the selfish, self-preservation agenda of certain MPs", said a statement from a group of leading activists and academics.

Anwar had teamed up with former nemesis Mahathir to oust the government of Najib, who had become embroiled in the massive IMDB graft scandal, and

they led their alliance to victory against a coalition that had ruled Malaysia for six decades.

The pair's difficult relationship has dominated Malaysia's political landscape for over two decades. Anwar was sacked from government in the 1990s by Mahathir and then convicted of corruption and sodomy, in what his critics said was a politically motivated case.

The Pact of Hope had always seemed an uneasy alliance and their popularity had been falling, as they were accused by critics of failing to look after the country's ethnic Malay Muslim majority and push forward reforms.

Race and protection of Malays rights are highly sensitive in Malaysia, which is about 60 percent Muslim but also home to substantial ethnic Chinese and Indian minorities.

Sequins, skin and politics as Rio carnival opens

AFP | Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro kicked off its annual carnival parades Sunday in a swirl of glitter, sequins and barely covered skin, an over-the-top spectacle that this year is packed with political commentary on Brazil's far-right government.

Vying for the title of carnival champions, the city's 13 top samba schools get around one hour each to wow spectators and judges with elaborate shows flush with scantily clad dancers, small armies of drummers and huge floats built on seemingly impossible feats of engineering.

The event has taken a particularly political turn after a year under far-right President Jair Bolsonaro, who has deeply divided Brazil with his overt attacks on just about every cause close to the carnival community's heart: diversity, gay rights, environmentalism, the arts.

"This carnival has a lot of protests because we want the world to see what's going on here. There are lots of people who are against this very extreme government," said Camila Rocha, dressed as an enormous gemstone as she prepared to enter the "Sambadrome," the massive avenue-turned-stadium where the groups parade.

Her samba school, Estacio de Sa, kicked things off with a show on the theme of "rocks" that featured floats covered in dinosaurs



Right, a parade. Left, Members of the Viradouro samba school perform during the first night of Rio's carnival parade at the Sambadrome



Some samba schools depicted Jesus, others chose themes such as fake news in Brazil's 2018 presidential race and black and women's rights



Often based in Rio de Janeiro's poorest neighborhoods, the samba schools spend most of the year getting ready for carnival

(prehistoric rocks), sparkling diamonds (precious rocks) and, finally, the moon.

Director Rosa Magalhaes said that was meant to evoke the Earth turning into a barren, moon-like rock -- the kind of environmental catastrophe that critics warn the world could face if Brazil does not do a better job protecting the Amazon.

Bolsonaro has faced condemnation from environmentalists and the international community over his policies on the world's largest rainforest.

Deforestation of the Brazilian Amazon increased 85.3 percent in his first year in office.

Biblical battle

Reigning champions Mangueira then threw religion into the mix.

Their show depicted Jesus returning as a resident of one of Rio's impoverished favela neighborhoods and preaching a message of tolerance -- only to be beaten and persecuted by the police.

Mangueira presented various revisionist versions of Jesus -- black, a woman, a man in eye-shadow and rouge.

That drew backlash even before the parade from a key group of Bolsonaro supporters, Christian fundamentalists, who sent

the school a petition calling the show "blasphemous."

"It caused a huge controversy, but the school was just celebrating tolerance," said Sirio Sazer, a 34-year-old lawyer decked out as a Roman soldier for the show.

Another group, Uniao da Ilha, also explored the theme of police violence in poor communities, after killings by the authorities in Rio de Janeiro state surged by 18 percent last year, setting a record.

The group's floats were encircled by police helicopters. Instead of firing bullets, though, these helicopters, marked "Agents of the Peace," fired

white T-shirts and glitter.

"We want the general public to know our community isn't just violence," said one "pilot," Leandro Barcelos, 36, after a crane extracted him from his helicopter at the finish line.

The most successful school in the history of the contest, Portela, wrapped up the first of two days of parades well after dawn, with a tribute to Brazil's indigenous Tupinamba people.

Their central samba song featured veiled criticism of Bolsonaro and Rio Mayor Marcelo Crivella, a fellow far-right politician who is also a bishop in one of Brazil's biggest evangelical mega-churches.

US students accused of Italy cop murder brace for trial

● **Finnegan Lee Elder and Gabriel Natale-Hjorth, teenagers at the time of the attack last July, have been charged with killing newlywed Mario Cerciello Rega**

● **The pair are expected in court for the first hearing**

AFP | Rome

Two US students go on trial in Italy on Wednesday over the fatal stabbing last year of a policeman in Rome during a botched drug bust.

Finnegan Lee Elder and Gabriel Natale-Hjorth, teenagers at the time of the attack last July, have been charged with killing newlywed Mario Cerciello Rega, 35, who was stabbed 11 times. They face a life sentence if convicted.

The pair are expected in court for the first hearing in a case that has garnered heated media coverage in Italy and strong public sympathy for Cerciello, who had just returned to work from his honeymoon when he was killed.

But the case has been marked by inconsistencies as well as missteps by police -- including the blindfolding of Natale-Hjorth during his police interrogation, which caused outrage. Comparisons have been made to the high-profile trial of Amanda Knox, a US student convicted and later acquitted of a 2007 murder in Italy.

Californian native Elder, who was in Rome on holiday



Police officer Mario Cerciello had just returned to work from his honeymoon when he was killed in the botched drugs bust

Californian native Elder, who was in Rome on holiday with high-school friend Natale-Hjorth, has admitted to stabbing Cerciello with a 7-inch (18 cm) combat knife, but told investigators he thought he and his friend were being attacked by drug dealers.

with high-school friend Natale-Hjorth, has admitted to stabbing Cerciello with a 7-inch (18 cm) combat knife, but told investigators he thought he and his friend were being attacked by drug dealers.

Cerciello and his partner Andrea Varriale had been tasked

with intercepting the teens after an intermediary on a drug deal reported them to the police hours earlier for stealing his bag when they were sold aspirin in the place of cocaine.

The officers knew where they would be, because the intermediary had agreed to hand over money and cocaine in exchange for his bag at a designated meeting place in an upscale neighbourhood near the teenagers' hotel.

The handover never took place, and the young men and key prosecution witness Varriale have given conflicting accounts of what happened next.

Maximum penalty

Elder, now age 20, told police they were jumped from behind by the officers as they rounded

a corner in a dark street, and believed they were thugs sent by the drug intermediary.

Varriale has said he and Cerciello, both in plain clothes and unarmed, told the young men they were police, but that Elder pulled out a knife and attacked Cerciello, while Natale-Hjorth wrestled with Varriale.

The teens then fled to their nearby hotel, where police later found the military knife hidden behind a ceiling panel. Surveillance footage capturing the police arriving and the young men fleeing indicated the attack lasted just 32 seconds.

Under Italian law, Natale-Hjorth, who was 18 years old last July, faces the same charge of "voluntary homicide" with a special circumstance of killing a police officer even

though he did not stab Cerciello.

Both young men are also charged with attempted extortion. They face a maximum penalty of life imprisonment in isolation.

No badges?

The prosecution plans to display in court Instagram photos of Elder posing with a knife and wads of cash, a judicial source said, painting him as a rich kid with a taste for drugs and violence who once seriously injured another teen during an illegal boxing match while in high school in San Francisco.

A source close to the Elder family said that the teen was "hit and kicked and spat on" by police during his interrogation.

"I'm concerned we have a prosecution that doesn't seem too terribly concerned with examining the actions or inactions

of the Carabinieri (police) that night as carefully as they do trying to make these boys look bad," said the source.

Last week, Elder's lawyer, Renato Borzone, said that a leaked jail conversation between Elder and his father which suggested Elder knew Cerciello was a policeman was poorly translated with key portions missing.

A new translation indicates Elder saying "they didn't show anything," referring to police badges, the Corriere della Sera newspaper reported. Moreover, Elder's apparent reference to a "tank" - interpreted as referring to a police car - was actually "bank," Borzone said.

In violation of police rules, the officers had been unarmed and without back-up. After the attack, an ambulance could not quickly locate them, potentially worsening the chances of saving Cerciello, who died in hospital.



A photograph taken of one of the suspects, Gabriel Natale-Hjorth, blindfolded during interrogation, appeared in media reports, causing outrage

Car drives into German carnival parade, several injured - police



A car drove into a carnival parade in Volkmarshen in central Germany

Reuters | Berlin

Ten people were injured yesterday after a car ploughed into a carnival parade in the western German town of Volkmarshen, police said, adding that the driver had been arrested.

Police declined to say if was an accident or if the driver had deliberately rammed the car into the crowd.

German news website HNA cited witnesses as saying that the driver appeared to have deliberately targeted children and that he had driven into the crowd "at full throttle."

The incident comes less than a week after a gunman gunned down 11 people, including himself, in one of the worst racist attacks in Germany since World War Two.

Police cars and ambulances rushed to the scene in Volkmarshen, 263 miles, 423 km west of Berlin.

Carnival is hugely popular in parts of western Germany, especially in Rhineland cities such as Cologne and Duesseldorf, where festivities peak on "Rose Monday" with tens of thousands attending street parades featuring comical or satirical floats.

Lesotho PM in court over murder of estranged wife

Maseru | Lesotho

Lesotho Prime Minister Thomas Thabane appeared in court yesterday over the murder of his estranged wife after a weekend in which he was said to be receiving emergency medical care in South Africa.

In the latest twist of a saga that has gripped the southern African kingdom, the 80-year-old premier attended the magistrates court in the capital Maseru, a correspondent reported.

Charges had been expected to be formally read out to him for allegedly acting in "common purpose" in the June 2017 killing of 58-year old Lipolelo Thabane, whom he was in the process of divorcing.

But after a brief sitting, the matter was deferred to the High Court and the prime minister was not formally charged.

He was accompanied by his current wife Maesaiah Thabane, 42, whom he married two months after Lipolelo's death and who is considered a co-conspirator in the murder case.

She has already been charged with murder and is out on bail. Defence lawyer Qhalehang Letsika argued that Thabane should not be charged as long as he remained a prime minister.

"My client cannot be prosecuted while in office but he is not above the law," said Letsika,



Flashback to June 16, 2017: Thabane and his future wife, Maesaiah Thabane, attend his inauguration, two days after his wife's murder

adding the beleaguered premier was "entitled to immunity" because of his status.

During the hearing, the lawyer asked whether a sitting prime minister should be subject to criminal prosecution as this could mean that he be placed in custody.

Thabane had initially been due in court on Friday for the preliminary appearance but was a no-show, prompting police to warn they could issue an arrest warrant.

His aide initially said Thabane had gone to neighbouring South Africa for "routine" health checks, but later his office said he was seeking "emergency" medical attention and would appear in court on his return.

On Saturday police said Thabane's sick note said that the

premier would be "unfit" until February 27.

Wearing a navy-blue striped suit with a powder-blue shirt and flanked by his spouse, Thabane appeared nervous as the couple sat on one of the court benches.

Lipolelo's murder sent shockwaves through Lesotho -- a tiny landlocked nation of 2.2 million with a history of political turmoil.

She was gunned down outside her home in Maseru just two days before her husband took office. The couple had been embroiled in a bitter divorce.

The accusations against the prime minister came after communications records from the scene of the murder included Thabane's mobile phone number.

Togo President Faure Gnassingbe wins fourth term



Last May, Gnassingbe oversaw an overhaul of the constitution that allowed him to run this year -- and potentially remain in office until 2030

Lome

Togo President Faure Gnassingbe has won a fourth term in power, the national electoral commission declared yesterday, as his main rival accused authorities of fraud.

The incumbent leader took 72 percent of the vote share in the first round of the presidential election, the commission said, far ahead of former prime minister Agbeyome Kodjo, with 18 percent.

The widely expected win extends more than a half century of dynastic rule over the former French colony by Gnassingbe's family despite broad disillusionment over its failure to drag many out of poverty.

Gnassingbe has led the country of eight million people since taking over in 2005 following the death of his father Gnassingbe Eyadema, who ruled with an iron fist for 38 years.

SHOW



BRAHMS: THE BOY II (15+)(HORROR/THRILLER)
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM
 OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 2.15 + 6.30 + 10.45 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI.)
 CITY CENTRE (VIP II): 10.30 AM + 2.45 + 7.00 + 11.15 PM
 SEEF (I): 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI.)
 WADI AL SAIL: 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM
 KATIE HOLMES, RALPH INESON, OWAIN YEOMAN

THE CALL OF THE WILD (PG)
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM
 OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 12.00 + 4.15 + 8.30 PM
 OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 2.45 + 7.15 + 11.45 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN
 CITY CENTRE (VIP II): 12.30 + 4.45 + 9.00 PM
 SEEF (II): 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM
 HARRISON FORD, DAN STEVENS, OMAR SY

BHOOT: PART ONE -THE HAUNTED SHIP
 FROM THURSDAY 20th 3.00 PM ONWARDS
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (I): 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI.)
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.30 + 5.45 + 11.00 PM
 VICKY KAUSHAL, BHUMI PEDNEKAR, ASHUTOSH RANA

COLOR OUT OF SPACE (15+)(THRILLER/HORROR)
 SEEF (II): 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN
 WADI AL SAIL: 11.15 AM + 4.00 + 8.45 PM
 NICOLAS CAGE, JOELY RICHARDSON, MADELEINE ARTHUR

EMMA (PG-13)(DRAMA/COMEDY/ROMANTIC)
 SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 1.30 + 6.15 + 11.00 PM
 ANYA TAYLOR-JOY, JOHNNY FLYNN, BILL NIGHY

ELCANO & MAGALLAN: FIRST TRIP AROUND THE WORLD
 CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 PM
 SEEF (II): 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 PM
 HERNAN 'RIO' CHAVARRO, CHRIS JAHN, BETSY DURKIN

VIC THE VIKING AND THE MAGIC SWORD (PG)
 SEEF (II): 11.00 AM + 12.45 + 2.30 + 4.15 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 10.45 AM + 12.30 + 2.15 + 6.45 PM
 ROLAND BEARNE, TIM BENTINCK, KONRAD BÖSHERZ

AFTER MIDNIGHT (15+)(DRAMA/HORROR)
 SEEF (I): 10.45 AM + 2.45 + 6.45 + 10.45 PM
 JEREMY GARDNER, BREA GRANT, JUSTIN BENSON

SANDOQQ AL DUNYA (15+)(ARABIC/DRAMA)
 CITY CENTRE: 12.15 + 5.00 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM
 SEEF (II): 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM
 EMAD AL BAHAT, KHALID AL SAWEE, RANAYOUSIF

AZMA MALIYAH (PG)(ARABIC/COMEDY)
 SEEF (I): 12.45 + 4.45 + 8.45 PM
 KHALID AL-KHALDI, EID AL-DHAHERI, MAITHA MUHAMMAD

BAD BOYS FOR LIFE (PG-15)(ACTION/COMEDY/CRIME)
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
 CITY CENTRE: (1.00 AM THURS/FRI.)
 CITY CENTRE (ATMOS): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN
 CITY CENTRE (IMAX 2D): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
 CITY CENTRE (VIP I): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN
 WADI AL SAIL: 4.00 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
 WILL SMITH, MARTIN LAWRENCE, VANESSA HUDGENS

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (PG)
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 2.45 + 7.15 + 11.45 PM
 OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM
 SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM
 JIM CARREY, BEN SCHWARTZ, JAMES MARSDEN

FANTASY ISLAND (15+)(THRILLER/HORROR)
 CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN
 LUCY HALE, MAGGIE Q, PORTIA DOUBLEDAY

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

BIRD OF PREY (15+)(ACTION/ADVENTURE/CRIME)
 CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM
 SEEF (II): 8.45 + 11.15 PM
 MARGOT ROBBIE, MARY ELIZABETH WINSTEAD, EWAN MCGREGOR



DOLITTLE (PG)(ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FAMILY)
 CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM
 SEEF (II): 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 PM
 ROBERT DOWNEY JR., ANTONIO BANDERAS, MICHAEL SHEEN

JUMANJI THE NEXT LEVEL (PG-15)
 CITY CENTRE: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
 DWAYNE JOHNSON, JACK BLACK, KEVIN HART

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

AL FELOUS (THE MONEY) (PG-15)(ARABIC)
 CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
 TAMER HOSNY, ZEINA, KHALID EL-SAWI

THIEF OF BAGHDAD (PG-13)
 CITY CENTRE: 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM
 MOHAMMED EMAM, YASMINE RAEIS, AMINA KHALIL

FROZEN 2 (PG)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
 SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 PM
 KRISTEN BELL, IDINA MENZEL, JOSH GAD

MALANG (PG-15)
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.45 AM + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 PM
 SEEF (II): 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 ADITYA ROY KAPOOR, ANIL KAPOOR, DISHA PATANI

SPIES IN DISGUISE (PG)
 CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 4.00 + 8.30 PM
 WILL SMITH, TOM HOLLAND, KAREN GILLAN

MIRACLE IN CELL NO. 7 (PG-15)(TURKISH/DRAMA)
 CITY CENTRE: 2.15 + 7.00 PM
 ARAS BULUT YNEMLI, N SA SOF YA AKSONGUR, LKER AKSUM

LITTLE WOMEN (PG)(DRAMA/ROMANTIC)
 Winner of 1 Oscar Award
 CITY CENTRE: 2.30 + 8.15 PM
 SAOIRSE RONAN, EMMA WATSON, FLORENCE PUGH

LE MANS '66 (PG-13)(DRAMA/SPORT/BIOGRAPHY)
 Winner of 2 Oscar Award
 CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 5.15 + 11.00 PM
 MATT DAMON, CHRISTIAN BALE, JON BERNTHAL

JOKER (15+)(THRILLER/CRIME/DRAMA)
 Winner of 2 Oscar Award
 CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 4.15 + 9.00 PM
 JOAQUIN PHOENIX, ZAZIE BEETZ, ROBERT DE NIRO

PARASITE (15+)(KOREAN/COMEDY/DRAMA/THRILLER)
 Winner of 4 Oscar Award
 CITY CENTRE: (DISTRACTION FREE SCREEN): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
 SEEF (II): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 3.00 + 8.15 PM
 SONG KANG HO, LEE SUN KYUN, MARIA SIMON

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

AYYAPPANUM KOSHIYUM (PG-15)(MALAYALAM)
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 1.00 + 4.15 + 7.30 + 10.45 PM
 SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM
 AL HAMRA: 5.30 + 8.45 + (12.00 MN THURS./FRI)

PRITHVIRAJ, BIJU MENON, RENJITH, SABUMON



MAFIA (PG-13)(TAMIL)
 From Friday 21st Feb.
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (I): 10.45 AM + 3.45 + 8.45 PM
 AL HAMRA: 3.00 PM
 ARUN VIJAY, PRASANNA, PRIYA BHAVANI SHANKAR

AL MALLU (PG-15)(MALAYALAM)
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.45 + 6.00 + 11.15 PM
 SEEF (I): 10.45 AM + 3.45 + 8.45 PM
 AL HAMRA: 12.00 NOON.
 NAMITHA PRAMOD, ANOOP MAJEED, SIDDIQUE

MOVIE REVIEW

Emma: Austen's sweet satire gets a multiplex makeover

● A gorgeous new Emma adaptation strikes just the right balance of modern and authentic

Emma is a 2020 comedy-drama film directed by Autumn de Wilde and written by Eleanor Catton. It is based on the 1815 novel of the same name by Jane Austen. The film stars Anya Taylor-Joy, Johnny Flynn, Josh O'Connor, Callum Turner, Mia Goth, Miranda Hart, and Bill Nighy.

It was released in the United Kingdom on February 14, 2020, and in the United States on February 21, 2020, by Focus Features.

Emma Woodhouse, a young, beautiful aristocrat lives in a large mansion in Hartford, Highbury with her elderly father. Despite her beauty and sharp mind, Emma refuses to marry, much to the disappointment of everyone around her.



A scene from the movie



Anya Taylor-Joy stars in the latest movie adaptation of the Jane Austen novel about a young woman's romantic meddling

On review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 88% based on 98 reviews, with a weighted average of 7.01/10. The website's critics consensus reads: "Other adaptations may do a better job of consistently capturing the spirit of the classic source material, but Jane Austen fans should still find a solid match in this Emma."

On Metacritic, the film was assigned a weighted average score of 69 out of 100, based on 31 critics, indicating "generally favourable reviews".

SUDOKU

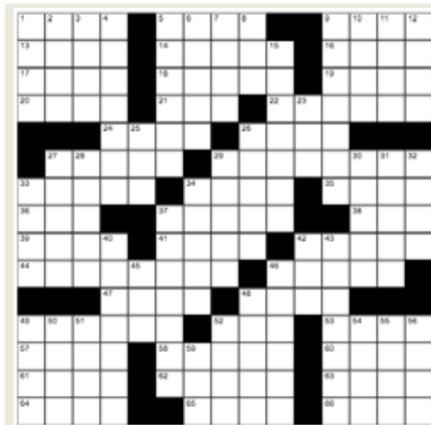
8		7						3
	1							6
						8	2	9
	4		1	3				7
		6	8		9	3		
	2		4		7			8
	8	4	2					
	3							4
	6				4			8

Yesterday's solution

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

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

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Peeling potatoes, perhaps; 5- Pentathlon need; 9- Circle at bottom, point at top; 13- Boxer Max; 14- Piece of poetry; 16- Peter Fonda title role; 17- Logical beginning; 18- Diamond flaw; 19- Winder for holding flexible material; 20- Strong taste; 21- Refusals; 22- Series of prayers; 24- Repose; 26- Syrup brand; 27- Muse with a lyre; 29- Foyer or vestibule; 33- Smell, usually a pleasant one; 34- That's ___ haven't heard; 35- Tibetan beasts; 36- Foster Brooks persona; 37- Nahuatl speaker; 38- Graffiti; 39- Hullabaloo; 41- Christmas; 42- Bungling; 44- Belongs; 46- Maker of Pong; 47- Hoar; 48- Laugh heartily; 49- Open shelter; 52- Paddle; 53- Oboe, e.g.; 57- Beige; 58- On the up-and-up, briefly; 60- Neighborhood; 61- Son of Zeus in Greek mythology; 62- Chip dip; 63- Like some orders; 64- Cincinnati team; 65- Driving aids; 66- Being to Brutus;

Down

1- Passing notice; 2- Zip; 3- Sharp; 4- Schedule of activities; 5- Nevertheless; 6- Reform Party founder; 7- Goes astray; 8- That, in Tijuana; 9- Superficial; 10- Olive genus; 11- ___do-well; 12- Slippery; 15- Unpredictable; 23- Vein contents; 25- LAX posting; 26- Use a prie-dieu; 27- Eat away; 28- Chopper topper; 29- Paps to play; 30- Western; 31- Giraffe's cousin; 32- High-ranking NCO; 33- Quickly, quickly; 34- Form of oxygen; 37- Creatures; 40- Austrian composer; 42- Call ___ day; 43- Give an account; 45- Help, resource; 46- Main arteries; 48- Bring up; 49- The back end of something; 50- Farm measure; 51- TV horse; 52- Stare; 54- Historical chapters; 55- Electric fish; 56- Roy's "singing" partner; 59- Grab a bite;

Yesterday's solution

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

celebs

Hrithik Roshan stands up for student bullied over stutter

Mumbai

Hrithik Roshan came in support of an individual who was asked to not to give a presentation in class due to stuttering issue. The Bollywood star said that stuttering should never hold him back from dreaming big.

A social media user wrote: "My cousin who has a stuttering issue, was giving a presentation in his class when the HOD/lecturer told him *if u cannot speak properly maybe u shouldnt study* in front of the entire class. He hasn't come out of his room since this incident."



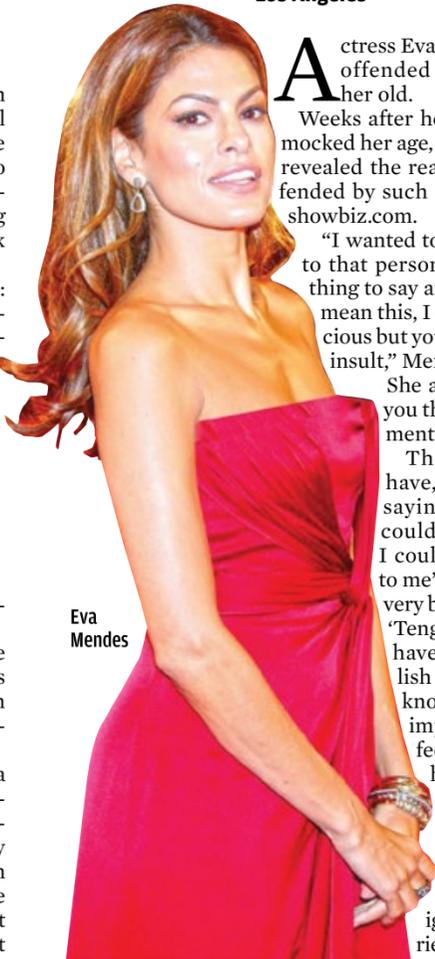
Hrithik Roshan

The user added that "He now refuses to go back to his university and face anyone in the classroom or study, his confidence is shattered."

Hrithik, who himself had a speech disorder known as stammering and overcame his problem through speech therapy classes, took to Twitter on Sunday and wrote: "Please tell your cousin that that professor and his judgement both are irrelevant."

Eva Mendes is not offended by troll calling her old

Los Angeles



Eva Mendes

Actress Eva Mendes says she is not offended by a troll who called her old.

Weeks after her retort at a troll who mocked her age, the 45-year-old actress revealed the reason she didn't feel offended by such rudeness, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I wanted to make sure to get back to that person because I had something to say and I felt like. Look, you mean this, I don't think it was malicious but you mean it kind of like an insult," Mendes told people.com.

She added: "I want to show you that I take it as a compliment because I'm still here."

The actress said: "And I have, you know, instead of saying I am 46, I wish we could change it and I wish I could say, 'I have 46 years to me' because in Spanish it's very beautiful. It says you say, 'Tengo cuarenta seis anos' I have 46 years and in English I know, it's a little, you know it's semantics but it's important. It's like I don't feel 46 but I do feel like I have 46 years of experience to me. I just find that so empowering."

Although she believes the troll bears no malice, Mendes felt such ignorant comments carried dangerous meaning.

Kristen Bell doesn't believe in soulmates

New York

Kristen Bell

Actress Kristen Bell wouldn't have wed her husband Dax Shepard if they'd met five years earlier.

The "Frozen II" actress made the revelation when she appeared on the Build Series here when she opened up on the concept of soulmates, reports aceshowbiz.com.

While promoting her new baby brand Hello Bello, Bell said: "I think it's who you choose to make it work with. I don't think you could ever find your soulmate if you're not ready. I don't know if I think soulmates exist."

"The Good Place" actress went on to say there's "no way" she would have married "Spin the Wheel" star Shepard if they'd met five years earlier, laughing: "We'd be a tabloid headline."

"We met at the time when we were both evolving into a place where it was 'Okay, what are the outcomes I want in my life?' I think you have to go through your own personal evolution to get there."

The actress previously said that she felt no spark when the couple first met, she said she thought he talked too much.

The two got married in 2013 and now have daughters Lincoln, six, and Delta, five.

Dwayne Johnson: Emily Blunt is one of the most talented actors

Los Angeles

Actress Emily Blunt has recently turned a year older, and her "Jungle Cruise" co-star Dwayne Johnson is all praise for the former on her birthday.

"Happy birthday to my dear friend and one of the most talented actors of our generation. Emily Blunt. And yes, I am contractually obligated to say nice things about her. Truth is, she's family. Happy birthday, sis. You look amazing for 102," Dwayne, who is also known as The Rock, wrote on Instagram on Monday.

He also posted a picture in which they are seen sharing smiles with each other.

The Disney's "Jungle Cruise" is scheduled to release later this year. It is directed by Jaume Collet-Serra.



Dwayne Johnson

Deepika receives flak over '83' tweet

Mumbai

Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone faced a backlash over her tweet on the role of Romi Dev in the upcoming film "83".

The actress posted her look as Romi on February 19. It was the tweet that accompanied the post that didn't go down well with social media users.

"To be able to play a small part in a film that captures one of the most iconic moments in sporting history has been an absolute honour."

"I've seen very closely the role a wife plays in the success of her husband's professional and personal aspirations in my mother and 83 for me in many ways is an ode to every woman who puts her husband's dream before her own...#thisis83," she had captioned the image.

A user wrote: "Just to promote the film such a backward chatter. How annoying."

Another said: "good God, every woman who puts her husband's dream before her own' has been happening since the dawn of time and needs to stop. NOW."

"@deepikapadukone we aren't in '83 anymore. Patriarchy is dying; let's look for those husbands who put their wife's dream before their own, in the new millennium," said one.

One user asked: "Will you out your career behind to promote your spouse career?"



Deepika Padukone

Katrina Kaif to Priyanka Chopra: It's always a blast with u

Mumbai



Katrina Kaif and Priyanka Chopra

What happens when three Bollywood super-divas meet? They've claimed to be the best of buddies so they bond over many things, and cosmetics is certainly a big topic of discussion.

When Priyanka Chopra and Alia Bhatt came calling on Katrina Kaif at her residence on Sunday, that certainly seems to be the case. Katrina's Monday evening Instagram post would stand as evidence. In the post, she hints that she gifted some nice lip colours to Priyanka, from her recently launched makeup brand Kay Beauty. By Katrina.

Dua Lipa chops off her damaged hair

Los Angeles

Dua Lipa

Singer Dua Lipa was forced to cut her hair due to "bleached breakages".

The "New rules" hitmaker debuted her new look earlier this week, with two-tone bangs and a cropped blonde fringe – a style the Lipa said wasn't her choosing, reports aceshowbiz.com.

After fans probed the singer on social media about her new cut, she wrote: "PSA: This is not a haircut, it's bleached breakages but I'm running with it," explaining that since she had bleached her hair so much, it started to 'break off'.

Lipa is gearing up for the release of her new album titled "Future Nostalgia", which comes out on April 3, 2020. She will kick off her European tour on 26 April in Madrid, Spain.



CLASSIFIEDS

WHAT TO DO AFTER EXAMS ???
KEY to success is Keep Educating Yourself
FIITJEE Offers BRIDGE COURSE for

Students Moving to Class X	Students Moving to Class XII
Refresh Class IX Concepts	Refresh Class XI Concepts
Intro to Class X Boards	Intro to Class XII Boards
Orientation for Competitive Exams	SAT Subjects
Last Date For Registration	Explore IIT - JEE

29th Classes Begin From FEBRUARY 2020

FIITJEE Please Call / WhatsApp: +973 33784481, 33911860
 E-mail: bahrain.classes@fiitjee.com | Log on: www.fiitjeebahrain.com

Kangana's new 'Thalaivi' look launched on Jayalalithaa's birth anniversary

Chennai

Today is the birth anniversary of J. Jayalalithaa, and a new look of Kangana Ranaut as the late former Tamil Nadu chief minister in the latter's upcoming biopic "Thalaivi" was

unveiled on social media by the actress's sister Rangoli Chandel.

Kangana looks almost perfect as Jayalalithaa in the picture. She wears a white saree with a red-white-black border, in sync with the flag of Jayalalithaa's party, AIADMK. Her hair is tied, and she wears a small red bindi on the forehead with dazzling studs.

When the makers of "Thalaivi" released Kangana's first in the film a few months ago, it brought its share of criticism, with many saying that the actress looked nothing like the Iron Lady of Tamil Nadu. However, it looks like the makers have taken notes from the flak, be-



cause Kangana's new look seems flawless.

Said AL Vijay, director of the film: "We've brought in specialists from the USA to work on Kangana's look. In terms of the story, we would like to portray her (Jayalalithaa's) human side without trying to glorify her."

At a media interaction a while

back, Kangana had said that while she isn't entirely like Jayalalitha in real life, she does find certain similarities. "It is a big challenge to fit into Jayalalithaa's shoes because she was a glamorous actress like Aishwarya Rai, which I am not. But I do find a common point. She was a reluctant actor. It is the same with me. I never wanted to be an actor. I think she always felt that she was worth more than just being a glam doll (in films), and she became a politician. Like how I became a filmmaker because I felt that being an actress was very limiting for me. So, I think there are parallels," she said.

SPORTS

BAS end BKEC season in style

BAS Motor Sport Team enjoy spectacular ending to endurance karting season

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Airport Services (BAS) Motor Sport Team wrapped up a fine campaign in the 2019/2020 Bahrain Karting Enduro Championship (BKEC), putting in a superb performance in the fourth and final round held as a 24-hour challenge at Bahrain International Karting Circuit in Sakhir.

All four of the BAS squads that took to the track made it onto the podium of their respective categories, making for a brilliant ending to a memorable season.

BAS Chief Operations Officer and BAS Motor Sport Team manager Tony Smith commented: "The whole events of the four rounds have just been amazing; the dedication that all the BAS staff have shown was really impressive, and they have made BAS extremely proud of their achievements."

"Without the support from BAS CEO Mr Salman Al Mahmeed, all of the achievements would not have been possible and our thanks goes out to him."

The BAS A team comprised Gavin Halls, Ahmed Abduljaleel, Khalifa Al Yaqoobi and young BAS Motor Sport Team Ambassador Lewis Smith. They made it onto the race's overall podium in third place with a total of 1,118 laps—just three laps behind the winners.

They had an additional reason to celebrate as their efforts also earned them the runner-up trophy in the Pro class.



BAS Motor Sport Team members and officials with their trophies at the end of the 24-hour final round of the season

"I remember when I started off, my best lap was 1:43 and I never expected to get down to 1:15 in this 24-hour race. I had so much fun and I really enjoyed doing it"

SUJUSHA BHIKU BAKAAL

phy in the Pro class.

Meanwhile, the BAS C and BAS F teams were both amongst the top three in the Corporate category.

The BAS C squad was composed of Don Vinura, Mohammed Al Ansari, Ammar Al Ghawas, Yousif Alaskari, Mohammed Fadhel, Mohammed Rabea, Benjamin John and Husain Habib, and they registered 1,079 laps.

The all-ladies BAS F team had their best performance of the championship, taking third in class with 1,048 laps. Sharing time in their kart were Marwa Mandeel, Jeiel Macaraan, Fatima Mohammed, Sujusha Bakaal, Alya Adel and Christina Anieliesia.

Finally, the BAS B team claimed third place in the Nations category, posting a total of 1,108 laps over the day-long challenge. Their squad featured the talents of Mohammed Faqih, Ahmed Al Kooheji, Mahmood Al Saati, Mohammed Maki and Ziyad Khalifa.

BAS B team driver Ahmed Al Kooheji was overwhelmingly impressed by how much the entire team had improved from the start of the season to the final chequered flag.

"In our first day of practice for this last round, you could tell that the team has evolved

180 degrees," Al Kooheji explained. "It is something you can be very proud to be a part of. It is something you won't find everywhere, but we were able to deliver. It shows the spirit of BAS and the kind of people we have on our team—if we work together we can achieve these great things."

"This was only our first season competing, and we learned a lot. Thanks to BAS for providing us this opportunity, and we hope to keep growing and developing for next season."

Al Kooheji was especially pleased with how the BKEC finale turned out, in particular with the ladies' squad.

"The energy level and motivation required for this last race—which was almost 36 hours all together—was absolutely high."

"We were battling in every category, and the ladies in particular did a remarkable job.

Al Anezi goal lifts Manama over Al Ahed in AFC Cup



Manama midfielder Ahmed Moosa vies for the ball with Al Ahed's Ahmad Zreik

TDT | Manama

Manama posted their first victory of the 2020 AFC Cup last night following a 1-0 decision over defending champions Al Ahed of Lebanon at the Khalifa Sports City stadium in Isa Town.

Isa Al Anezi fired in the winner in the second half and it was enough to give the Bahrainis the win.

Al Anezi was able to tap the ball in from close range in the 69th minute after Al Ahed goalkeeper Ali Daher failed to control a low cross from right wing by Manama defender Mohammed Adel.

Al Anezi got enough of a touch on the pass to get it past Daher, and after it rolled through his legs all the Manama striker had to do was to guide it into an open net. The result gave Manama their first victory in two matches in Group A of the AFC Cup's opening stage. They were earlier held to a goalless draw against Al Jaish of Syria in their opening fixture played earlier this month.

Al Areen hosts first Spartan Trifecta Weekend in Bahrian

TDT | Manama

Adventure seekers around the region gathered for the annual Spartan race in Bahrain with this year's edition taking place in the primely located Al Areen Development Project, a growing destination for sports, leisure and tourism. Under the Patronage of His Highness Shaikh Nasser Bin Hamad Foundation, GFH Financial Group (GFH) and Al Areen Investment Company brought to the Kingdom not only the first ever Trifecta Weekend to be hosted in Bahrain, but the first 2020 Spartan Trifecta event in the world.

A race that has grown in popularity amongst Bahrainis, more than 3,250 participants, both new and seasoned, and over 6,000 attendees enjoyed the scenes across the 2,000,000 sq/m desert oasis while taking in the awe-inspiring beauty of the stark desert panorama offered by Al Areen, the destination partner, which also houses the Lost Paradise of Dilmun (LPOD) waterpark, ranked no. 11 World's Best Water Park and destination boasting the largest wave pool in the Middle East, over 25 slides, swimming pools and an interactive kid's play area equipped with 10 pint-sized slides and tipping buckets.

During a panel discussion



Chief guests and officials during the inauguration

hosted to launch the event at the Al Areen Palace and Spa, Ayman AlMoayad, Minister of Youth and Sport Affairs, said, "As a leading regional centre for sport, the Kingdom of Bahrain is pleased to be hosting this landmark global event. In line with the Kingdom's Vision 2030, we continue to sustainably build Bahrain's position and competitive edge on the international sporting stage for the benefit of our youth, community and economy."

"Promoting and fostering an environment that raises awareness of and creates opportunities for youth and athletic development in the Kingdom of Bahrain is a key national objective. We're excited to see this important global race brought to the Kingdom and proud to

lend our support to making it a great success for the organizers, sponsors and the many participants it will attract from within the Kingdom and from abroad," added Mohammed Al Nusuf, Secretary General of the Bahrain Olympic Committee.

Abdulrahman Askar, Assistant Secretary General of Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, further noted, "We are pleased to have welcomed Spartans from around the world and here from the region and the Kingdom to this exciting race. A first of its kind globally, Bahrain continues to help support and pioneer new and innovative platforms for promoting health, sport and opportunities to develop, attract and advance healthy competitions in the Kingdom."

Dr. Essa Faqeeh, CEO of Al

Areen Investment Company, said, "We're delighted to be the main sponsors this year for the Spartan race in Bahrain and to have hosted this exciting event at our Al Areen development project. We continue to focus on promoting the development of sport in the Kingdom and our own unique lifestyle developments throughout Bahrain, which can serve as world-class sports tourism venues, helping to attract visitors and athletes from around the world to Bahrain. We are redoubling our efforts and will step it up through sponsorships and events like the Spartan Race to enhance awareness of and participation in lifestyle and health-focused competitions and as a way of drawing visitors and investment to the Kingdom."

BIC set to crown new champions in Bahrain drag racing's season finale

TDT | Manama

An action-packed season finale is on the cards in the 2019/2020 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship.

The meeting gets underway today at Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir. The series' fifth and final round will be the culmination of yet another ultra-competitive campaign, and it will help determine the newest group of champions who will each be taking home not only their first place trophies, but also a coveted Wally from the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA).

The first two days of the meeting today and tomorrow will see participants hard at work testing and tuning their respective challengers, both cars and motorbikes.

Around 140 competitors were entered in the 16 competition categories in the previous round, and even more are expected this time. Being the region's biggest and most competitive drag racing championship, it attracts top drag racers from all over the world, including many legends of the sport.



A car in action at BIC

Following the Test and Tune, Qualifying will then be held on Thursday and then the season-ending eliminations will take place on Race Day Friday. Test and Tune will be held from 6pm to 11pm on both nights, while Qualifying will be from 4pm to 11pm. Race Day will begin from 4pm on Friday and continue until the completion of all events.

BIC's quarter-mile drag strip hosts all the action. BIC is a member of the prestigious Worldwide Network of the USA-based NHRA, allowing the Bahrain championship to run under the prestigious NHRA banner.

All race fans are welcome to attend the season's final round. Tickets can be purchased at the gate.

Adur, Gordon to square off in Brazil



● Marcel Adur will face Malcolm Gordon in BRAVE Flyweight tournament

TDT | Manama

After announcing Jose “Shorty” Torres vs Matheus Nicolau as the first bout scheduled for its prestigious Flyweight tournament, BRAVE CF officials have confirmed that a match between Marcel Adur and Malcolm Gordon will also be featured in the first round of the contest that will decide the promotion’s very first World Champion up to 57kg. The Flyweight clash will take place in Balneário Camburiú, Brazil, at the upcoming BRAVE CF 35 card.

A long-time BRAVE CF veteran, Marcel Adur is going to his sixth appearance under the Bahrain-based banner. With a professional record of 15 wins and only 5 losses, Adur won 4 out of his 5 last bouts, including 3 TKOs.

With the Flyweight Tournament Adur will have his third shot at the BRAVE CF Flyweight

title, with the Brazilian being denied the first two due to events beyond his control. In 2018, the match against Velimurad Alkhasov ended up not being valid for the title after the Russian failed to make weight and in 2019 the fight against Jose “Shorty” Torres was cancelled last-minute after the American pulled from the card during the fight week.

Ranked #1 in the Flyweight division in Canada, Malcom “X” Gordon is set to make his BRAVE CF debut against Marcel Adur. The 29-year-old Calgary-born holds a professional record of 12 wins and three losses and is currently on a 4-win streak -- all of them via knockout or submission.

BRAVE CF 35 will take place on March 25th, 2020 and marks the fifth time the fastest-growing MMA organization in the world hosts an event in Brazil. The country will become the number one home of BRAVE Combat Federation alongside the Kingdom of Bahrain. The show is headlined by Cleiton “Predator” making the first defense of his Lightweight title against Guram Kutateladze.

Shoaib Yousaf and Tae Kyun Kim to clash at BRAVE CF 36



TDT | Manama

Englishman Shoaib Yousaf and South-Korea’s Tae Kyun Kim are the latest additions to the return of BRAVE Combat Federation to Romania, scheduled for April 13. Yousaf and Kim will meet in a Featherweight bout (up to 66kg).

Fighting out of Lancashire, England, Shoaib Yousaf is currently on a 5-win streak, including his successful BRAVE CF debut last December, when he submitted Hassan Talal in the second round with a rear-naked choke in Saudi Arabia. “The Assassin” holds a professional record of seven wins and only one loss.

Still undefeated in his pro-

fessional career, South Korea’s Tae Kyun Kim had a meteoric rise since he made his debut in late 2017. Roughly two years after his first time inside the cage, Kim was arriving at BRAVE CF, in the stacked Kingdom of Bahrain card, defeating Erick da Silva via unanimous decision, expanding his record to six wins and no losses.

BRAVE 36 will take place on April 13, in Romania, marking the second visit of the fastest-growing MMA promotion in the world to the Eastern-European country. The card, promoted in partnership with local MMA powerhouse RFX, will be headlined by the Lightweight bout between England’s Sam Patterson and New Zealand’s John Brewin.

Girrbach, Kramer and Hague share lead at Bahrain Open

TDT | Manama

Joel Girrbach of Switzerland, Max Kramer of Germany and David Hague of England were the joint-leaders yesterday after the first round in the \$75,000 Royal Golf Club Bahrain Open, following solid scores of six-under par 66.

Girrbach was playing his first competitive event in three months after losing his European Tour card last year. But his hard work paid off as he joined Kramer and Hague on top of the leaderboard. The 26-year-old was an even-par for opening day after successive bogeys on the seventh and eighth holes, but covered his last 10 holes in six-under par.

Hague, who turned pro after MENA Tour Qualifying School and recently finished runner-up at the NEWGIZA Open in Cairo, had an even better recovery. He was one-over par after eight holes and then made five birdies and a spectacular holed-out eagle from the fairway bunker on the 17th.

However, it was 36-year-old Kramer who had the most remarkable story of the day. The Dusseldorf-based player was diagnosed with an arrhythmic

heart last year and stopped playing after just four events in 2019. Now trying to make a comeback, he was seven-under par through 10 holes with two eagles, before losing steam towards the end of his round.

Frenchman Antoine Schwartz was alone in fourth place at five-under par 67, while there was a group of six players at 68 – Scotsman Scott Henry, the Irish duo of Paul McBride and Robin Dawson, Sweden’s Mathias Weiderman and the English pair of Tom Combe and Mitch Waite.

Girrbach, who graduated to the European Tour last season before finishing 229th on the Race to Dubai and losing his card, took nearly three months off from competitive golf to get his game back in shape, including a long trip to South Africa to work with his coach Dougie Wood.

“I haven’t played a competitive round after missing out at the second stage of the European Tour Qualifying School,” Girrbach said. “It was a disappointing season and I put in a lot of work in my technique. This is the first competing round for me to see where my game is and I am very pleased.”

“I felt ready after the win-



Max Kramer in action during the event

ter work and I was looking for tournaments to play. With my category on the Challenge Tour, I will only be able to play events from May. So, I asked a few friends and they all highly recommended the MENA Tour. I asked for an invite and here I am.

“I made a couple of mistakes towards the end of my front nine and I just tried to be aggressive after that. I drove the green on the par-4 10th, and nearly drove the green on the par-4 11th. Those two birdies were a good start to the back nine and I just continued from there.”

Kramer, on the other hand, is just happy to be back on the golf course after surviving a health scare last year that restricted his schedule to just four tournaments on the EuroPro Tour.

“I had played a few events at the start of 2019, but I wasn’t feeling very good. I went to the doctor and they found out I had arrhythmia of heart,” he said. “It was very scary when we found out because this is no age to get a heart condition. However, after three months of complete rest, I am much better,” said the

Kaymer.

“It was an amazing round for me. I was seven-under par through the first 10 holes with an eagle on the third and par-4 10th holes. I played the last eight in one-over, but I am so happy with this round. Especially with what happened last year, and also the way I played last week in Oman where I shot an 11-over par round and was hitting the ball over the place.”

The consistent Hague was relishing a fast start, having opened with a 72 in finishing second in Cairo and a 69 in tied-10th place at the Ghala Open last week.

“I drove it really well all day and kept it in play even though I did not start that well. Made two three-putts from the fringe and was one-over par after eight. I just told myself to remain patient and the birdies would come, and that’s exactly what happened,” said Hague.

“The eagle on 17th was nice towards the end of the round. I hit it into the right bunker and had 142 yards from there. Hit a good shot and it took a couple of bounces and went in.”

Saudi Arabia’s Bahrain-based Saud Al Sharif, a member of Royal Golf Club, was the leading amateur at one-under par 71.



Joel Girrbach in action during the event

Bahrain fall to dominant Lebanon in Fiba Asia Cup qualifier

TDT | Manama

Bahrain were outclassed by continental giants Lebanon 73-116 last night in their Group D qualifier for the 2021 Fiba Asia Cup.

The Bahrainis struggled against their heavily favoured rivals from the opening tip and were never in contention for the win.

The game was played at Nuhad Nawfal Sports Complex in Beirut and it was both teams’ second fixtures in this stage of qualification.

The loss was Bahrain’s first after starting their campaign with an inspiring win over India last week. The Lebanese, meanwhile, remained unbeaten after two games having added to their big victory over Iraq in the first qualifier.

Bahrain fell behind early last night and already faced a 20-point deficit in the first half. Lebanon were coolly confident and were boosted by their home crowd. They led 27-16 at



Bahrain's Mohammed Buallay tries to drive past Lebanon's Wael Arakji during their game last night

the end of the first quarter and then stretched their advantage to 50-31 at the half.

In the final 20 minutes, they never took their foot off the gas and led by as many as 43-point final margin. They were also red hot from the field, making 41 of their 66 shot attempts, including a stunning 19 three-pointers.

Elie Chamoun led all scorers with 26 points, including six triples, for Lebanon. Ali Mansour and Karim Zeinoun added 15 apiece, while Ater Majok, Mohamed Haidar and Aziz Abdel Massih contributed 12 points apiece.

CJ Giles paced Bahrain in the loss with 21 points and nine

rebounds. Mohammed Ameer was their only other player in double figures, finishing with 15 points.

There will now be a long break before the Bahrainis next take to the court in qualifying. That will be on November 26 when they play away against Iraq.