

**Lucas Martins returns, meets Rakhman Makhazhiev at BRAVE CF 35 in Brazil**

Former BRAVE CF Lightweight World Champion and Featherweight contender Lucas "Mineiro" Martins is set to make his much-anticipated return to the BRAVE CF cage. **P16**

**What it will take for everyone to be able to afford school in the US?**

THE DAILY **tribune**

**Court orders telecom company to pay BD61,000 to sacked employee**

WORLD 10 **Trump clinches \$3 billion military equipment sale**

**Hosni Mubarak mourned**  
 Manama

Following directives from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, issued an edict to fly flags at half-mast yesterday.

Under the edict, Bahrain's flags will be flown at half-mast for one day at the Kingdom's public institutions, as well as embassies and diplomatic missions abroad following the demise of former Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak. The Royal Court has mourned former Egyptian President who passed away yesterday.

In a statement issued, the court paid homage to the former Egyptian President, stressing that the Arab nation has lost an iconic leader who dedicated his life to serving his country and the Arab nation.

It also affirmed strong relations between the late former Egyptian President and Bahrain's leadership, pointing out the key role played by Mubarak in promoting Egypt's role at the Arab and international level. The Royal Court extended sincerest condolences to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi and the late former president's family.

**CBSE exams postponed**  
 TDT | Manama

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has postponed the exams for Classes X and XII at schools across the Kingdom.

The new dates for re-scheduled exams will be announced soon, it is learnt.



02 **Iran govt rapped for 'covering up' corona cases, spreading disease**

04 **DERASAT to launch skills training programme for youth**

06 **Musician, social activist to speak at BKS Book Fest**

210 fils (includes VAT)



**Iran's deputy health minister says he is infected with Corona**

Tehran

Iran's deputy health minister confirmed yesterday that he has tested positive for the new coronavirus, amid a major outbreak in the country.

Iraj Harirchi coughed occasionally and appeared to be sweating during a press conference in Tehran on Monday with government spokesman Ali Rabiei.

At the time he denied a lawmaker's claim that 50 people had died from the virus in the Shiite shrine city of Qom, saying he would resign if the number proved to be true.

In a video broadcast on state television, the deputy minister put on a brave face as he admitted he was infected.

**"I had a fever as of last night and my preliminary test was positive around midnight."**

HARIRCHI

"I too have been infected with coronavirus," Harirchi said in the video apparently shot by himself.

"I had a fever as of last night and my preliminary test was positive around midnight," he said.

"I've isolated myself in a place since. A few minutes ago, I was told that my final test was final, and now I am starting medication."

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom has registered 23 cases among individuals arriving from Iran to Bahrain International Airport, via Dubai and Sharjah, according to the National Task Force for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19), at the Crown Prince Centre for Training and Medical Research.

All passengers arriving from Iran and other countries experiencing cases of COVID-19 have been tested in a well-equipped, isolated area at the airport, task force member Dr Manaf Al Qahtani, said at a press conference yesterday.

All infected patients arriving from Iran have then been transferred to the Ebrahim Khalil Kanoo Community Health Centre in Al Salmaniya, for isolation and treatment, and all individuals who have had contact with the infected patients are also under quarantine, as a precautionary measure, he added.



Inspectors close down a pharmacy store for manipulating prices of face masks.

**Costly masks!**

The government has warned against pharma stores selling face masks at exorbitant prices. The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism inspectors yesterday shut down three pharma stores for manipulating the prices of face masks.

**Schools closed**

All public and private schools, including kindergartens, and universities as well as higher institutions are to be closed for two weeks, as a precautionary measure to ensure the containment of the virus.



**We will defeat Corona**

**No human-to-human transmission case reported yet within the Kingdom despite total infections rising to 23**

The official highlighted that there were no registered cases of human to human transmission of the COVID-19 within the Kingdom.

All COVID-19 cases are registered among individuals arriving from Iran, and were flagged at Bahrain International Airport, with the exception of patient zero, who was diagnosed after arrival to the Kingdom and has not transmitted the infection to any individual as of yet.

The Kingdom is following a comprehensive medical protocol based on guidelines set out by the Gulf Health Council (GHG) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), aimed to safeguard the health and safety

of citizens and residents, the official said. Co-operation and collaboration between national institutions is critical to combat the spread of the COVID-19, as the health and safety of citizens remains the Kingdom's top priority, he added.

Retired medical professionals will be deployed to intensify health care measures and provide the effective treatment of all infected individuals.

All public and private schools, including kindergartens, and universities as well as higher institutions are to be closed for two weeks, as a precautionary measure to ensure the containment of the virus.

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness Prince

Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister yesterday chaired the 302nd meeting of the Executive Committee to take stock of the situation.

During the meeting, His Royal Highness called for a united response to the serious challenge presented by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

HRH the Crown Prince stressed that multilateral co-operation across borders and collaboration between national institutions is critical in order to lay the foundations for controlling the spread of COVID-19 but added that co-ordination must go further than government. **See Page 2**



HRH the Crown Prince chairs the Executive Committee meeting.

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) updates:**

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Number of tests on arrivals with negative results: **25,000**

Number of negative laboratory tests: **1012**

Number of infected cases: **23**

**Measures taken:**

- Barring of all indirect flights arriving from Iran at Bahrain International Airport
- All private and public universities, higher educational institutes, schools and kindergartens are closed for two weeks
- Bahraini citizens banned from traveling to Iran, until further notice

Latest update: 10:00 PM  
 25 February 2020

**Key meeting**

Chief of Public Security, Lt-General Tariq Al Hassan yesterday chaired the emergency meeting of the National Disaster Management Committee. Representatives from concerned ministries and organisations attended.



23

**cases of coronavirus infection have been reported in the Kingdom. However, there has been no cases of human-to-human transmission here.**



# Iran govt rapped for 'covering up' Corona cases, spreading disease

**Gulf Air suspends flights**  
TDT | Manama

**G**ulf Air, the National Carrier of the Kingdom, has confirmed that it was complying with the Civil Aviation Affairs (CAA) order to temporarily suspend flights to and from Dubai International Airport for 48 hours.

The CAA urged all citizens and residents of Bahrain who are currently in areas affected by the Coronavirus (COVID 19) and who were planning to return to the Kingdom to call the following number +973 17227555.

The Gulf Air Contact Centre will contact all affected passengers and advises passengers to check the airline website before traveling or to call the Gulf Air Contact Centre for more information on +973 17373737.

Gulf Air apologised to its affected passengers for any inconvenience that this may have caused and is working closely with the concerned authorities in the Kingdom and to take all precautionary and preventive measures in order to ensure the safety and security of the citizens and residents of the Kingdom along with its passengers and crew.

All cases of coronavirus reported in the Kingdom involve individuals who have travelled to Iran

● **Iran is one of the five countries that the Kingdom has placed a travel ban.**

● **Iran's Health Ministry yesterday claimed that the total number of infections was 61 with 12 deaths.**

TDT | Manama

**I**ran's covering up of the real number of cases of coronavirus in the country has con-

tributed to the spread of the disease regionally, a Bahraini analyst group said yesterday.

Iran's assertion that it only has less than a 100 cases of coronavirus is misleading and gave pilgrims and visitors from the region a false sense of security, according to Bahraini analyst group Citizens For Bahrain.

"The excessive secrecy and deliberate hiding of data from international health officials has allowed rates of infection to spiral out of control," the group stated.

"Iran's Health Ministry on 24 February claimed that the total number of infections was 61, with 12 deaths. However, a Qom dep-

**“The excessive secrecy and deliberate hiding of data from international health officials has allowed rates of infection to spiral out of control.”**

CITIZENS FOR BAHRAIN

erty asserted that the death toll was at least 50.

"Experts point out that such a death toll in reality probably means that thousands of people are already affected; hence the

numbers of foreign pilgrims returning from Qom to their home countries and spreading the disease further afield.

"There are reportedly also growing numbers of cases in other cities across Iran, suggesting that the disease is already way out of control," it stated.

Iran's deputy health minister, Iraj Harirchi, who has spearheaded the country's efforts to contain the coronavirus, has contracted the illness, the Health Ministry said on Tuesday, renewing concerns about the spread of the virus in the country.

Iran is one of the five countries that Bahrain has placed a travel ban.

All cases of coronavirus reported in the Kingdom involve individuals who have travelled to Iran.

"One of the early reasons for the regime's cover up was its unsuccessful desire to avoid a terrible turnout in the majlis elections. In the event, most voters didn't bother to vote in a historically low turnout.

"However, this was less to do with Coronavirus and more because the Guardian Council had struck down thousands of non-extremist candidates, meaning that the reformist wing of the regime was annihilated in the vote," Citizens For Bahrain stated.

## 14 pharmacies warned over increasing face mask prices

TDT | Manama

**I**n light of the immensely increasing demand for face masks, and in a bid to curb the manipulation of prices, 14 private pharmacies received warnings from the authorities for raising the prices of face masks.

Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister Zayed Al Zayani confirmed this in a statement yesterday, clarifying that the move comes within the ministry's efforts to protect consumers.

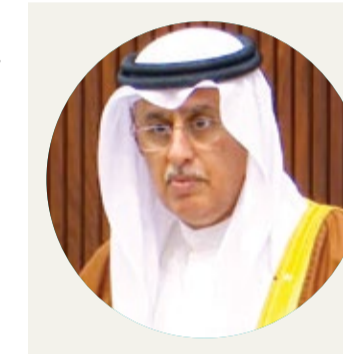
Mr Al Zayani announced, while addressing the Council of Representatives yesterday, that he has

issued a ministerial resolution yesterday to specify to the price cap of face masks sold in the market.

However, the minister didn't specify the figure in his statement nor he mentioned any of the warned pharmacies he was referring to.

The minister also explained to the MPs that "the move comes within the Consumer Protection Law and is a legal right of the ministry to prohibit any manipulation and misuse of the current circumstances, which is witnessed by Bahrain, the region and the whole world".

Mr Al Zayani affirmed that the



**“The move comes within the legal rights of the ministry to prohibit any manipulation and misuse of the current circumstances.”**

MR AL ZAYANI

ministry is taking "strong procedures" to deter others from committing such violations, clarifying that "face masks are the most sought after commodity in Bahrain

today".

He also called upon such establishments, pharmacies, to adhere to its responsibility towards the society and added that the issue

is global, while he referred to his recent visit to Italy.

"I was in a big capital of a European country two weeks ago and there were no face masks. Today's world situation and the tragedy it is experiencing is surprising and big," he said.

Tribune yesterday reported that unprecedented demand on face masks has drained its stocks from pharmacies in the Kingdom.

This comes as a result of the increasing fear of the coronavirus aka Covid-19, as the health authorities in Bahrain confirmed the rising number of cases.

Under the Patronage of  
**HIS MAJESTY KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA**  
King of Bahrain

# BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL GARDEN SHOW



**4th - 7th MARCH 2020**  
BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION & CONVENTION CENTRE



Media Sponsor **THE DAILY tribune**  
NEWS OF BAHRAIN

## 'Brave doctors' role hailed in fight against Corona

TDT | Manama

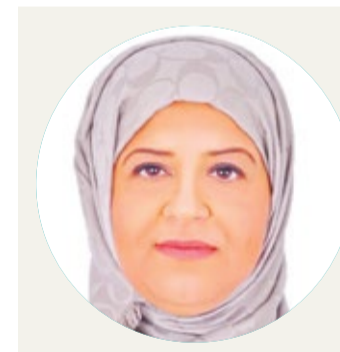
**D**r Ghada Al Qassim, Chairman of the Bahrain Medical Society (BMS), has applauded the efforts made by doctors in tackling coronavirus, and their effective role in applying best medical and health practices in examination and treatment.

She pointed out that doctors have shown great prowess in dealing with suspected and infected cases.

Dr Al Qassim noted in this regard the efforts of all medical and health staff, including nurses and lab technicians.

She said that the medical and health teams in the Kingdom have shown great efficiency in assuming their responsibility in such unprecedented emergency.

Dr Al Qassim affirmed the medical society's support for all govern-



**“The medical and health teams in the Kingdom have shown great efficiency in assuming their responsibility.”**

DR AL QASSIM

ment decisions and measures and commended the plans and efforts exerted by the supreme council of health and all governmental and private agencies in combating the virus.

"We value the efforts made to equip the infrastructure in the health sector to deal with cases of coronavirus infection, and the

preparations that included training of medical and health staff, and examination procedures in border entry points, schools and in other places, this is in addition to setting up quarantine areas.

"All of these preparations contributed to dealing with cases of corona infection accurately and smoothly," said Dr Al Qassim.

## Induction ceremony



An induction ceremony was held for the new executive committee of Indian Ladies Association at Ramada Wyndham, City Centre. The Second Secretary at the Indian Embassy, Ms Renu Yadav was the chief guest at the function. ILA President Reena Sreedhar and Vice-President Sarada Aiith attended the event.

**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





His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received here yesterday Chairman of the Arab League's Arab Tourism Organisation (ATO), Dr Bandar Al Fahid, who is currently on a visit to the Kingdom. HM the King was handed over the "Key of Arab Tourism 2020" by ATO Chairman. The move is in recognition of HM the King's support for enhancing co-operation between Bahrain and ATO in the tourism sector, and marking the designation of Manama as "Capital of Arab Tourism for 2020". HM the King welcomed ATO Chairman, and expressed thanks and appreciation to him and all ATO officials, praising the major role by the Arab Tourism Organisation to develop joint Arab tourism action through stimulating joint investments, qualifying specialised competencies and enhancing tourism exchange among Arab countries.

## DERASAT to launch skills training programme for youth

Manama

Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat) will launch a training programme in a bid to sharpen young people's skills and empower them in the areas of research, application and innovation.

"The training programme comes in response to the Rep-

resentative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, National Security Adviser and President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa's programme initiatives," said DERASAT Board of Trustees Chairman Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa announcing the scheme.

"Our programme has been de-

signed to empower young people in the area of research, monitoring and analysis," Dr Shaikh Abdullah said.

"Those who will enrol in the programme will have the opportunity to raise their skill and knowledge level and become ready to enter the labour market. Young people are the vein of any society and its drive engine for development and construction,"



**Our programme has been designed to empower young people in the area of research, monitoring and analysis.**

DR SHAIKH ABDULLAH

he added.

Dr Shaikh Abdullah pointed out that the programme is in line with the Royal vision which positions the youth at the top of Bahrain's priorities, stating that the Bahraini youth have set a great example for their counterparts thanks to the support and backing exerted to them by HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.



## United Gulf Investment Corporation BSC

### Consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2019 (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)

	31 December 2019	31 December 2018
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	35,293,094	37,493,410
Investment in an associate	929,983	913,107
Right-of-use asset	422,406	-
	<u>36,645,483</u>	<u>38,406,517</u>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	256,000	256,000
Inventories	18,653,121	16,275,306
Trade and other receivables	6,745,497	4,803,676
Mudaraba deposits	1,903,323	2,142,934
Cash and bank balances	4,429,240	10,418,816
	<u>31,987,181</u>	<u>33,896,732</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>68,632,664</b>	<b>72,303,249</b>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Capital and reserves</b>		
Share capital	20,000,000	20,000,000
Statutory reserve	2,853,603	2,853,603
Share premium	116,328	116,328
Other reserves	2,113,464	6,484,698
Equity attributable to the shareholders of the Parent Company	25,083,395	29,454,629
Non-controlling interest	5,894,950	7,249,613
	<u>30,978,345</u>	<u>36,704,242</u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Non-current portion of term loans	24,622,745	25,127,745
Non-current portion of lease liabilities	447,638	-
Employees' terminal benefits	655,624	593,023
	<u>25,726,007</u>	<u>25,720,768</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Current portion of term loans	7,127,183	3,434,000
Current portion of lease liabilities	236,675	-
Trade and other payables	4,564,454	6,444,239
	<u>11,928,312</u>	<u>9,878,239</u>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>	<b>68,632,664</b>	<b>72,303,249</b>

### Consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2019 (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
Sales	30,985,263	41,005,001
Cost of sales	(35,155,134)	(39,406,073)
<b>Gross (loss)/profit</b>	<b>(4,169,871)</b>	<b>1,598,928</b>
Other income	211,189	190,807
	<u>(3,958,682)</u>	<u>1,789,735</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
General and administrative expenses	(1,301,987)	(1,425,349)
Finance costs	(324,202)	(260,714)
	<u>(1,626,189)</u>	<u>(1,686,063)</u>
<b>Net (loss)/profit for the year before tax and share of profit from investment in an associate</b>	<b>(5,584,871)</b>	<b>103,672</b>
Share of profit from investment in an associate	16,876	26,559
<b>Net (loss)/profit for the year before tax</b>	<b>(5,567,995)</b>	<b>130,231</b>
Provision for Zakat	(113,843)	(559,380)
<b>Net loss and total comprehensive loss for the year</b>	<b>(5,681,838)</b>	<b>(429,149)</b>
<b>Net loss and total comprehensive loss for the year attributable to:</b>		
Shareholders of the Parent Company	(4,337,890)	(347,381)
Non-controlling interest	(1,343,948)	(81,768)
	<u>(5,681,838)</u>	<u>(429,149)</u>
Basic and diluted losses per share attributable to shareholders of the Company	(21.69 fils)	(1.74 fils)

### Consolidated statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2019 (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
<b>Operating activities</b>		
Net loss for the year	(5,681,838)	(429,149)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	2,217,942	2,341,335
Amortisation of right-of-use asset	56,775	-
Share of profit from investment in an associate	(16,876)	(26,559)
Reversal of excess provision for impaired trade receivables	(95,606)	(88,309)
Interest income	(103,281)	(68,571)
Provision for impaired trade receivables	150,255	-
Interest expense on term loans	264,129	260,714
Interest expense on lease liability	60,073	-
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Inventories	(2,377,815)	1,082,627
Trade and other receivables	(1,953,924)	451,805
Trade and other payables	(1,778,785)	1,810,927
Employees' terminal benefits, net	62,601	48,355
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities</b>	<b>(9,196,350)</b>	<b>5,383,175</b>
<b>Investing activities</b>		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(17,626)	(97,780)
Net movement in Mudaraba deposits	239,611	52,783
Interest income received	60,735	68,571
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>	<b>282,720</b>	<b>23,574</b>
<b>Financing activities</b>		
Interest expense on term loans	(264,129)	(260,714)
Proceeds from term loans	8,031,201	9,975,659
Repayment of term loans	(4,843,018)	(12,870,102)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities</b>	<b>2,924,054</b>	<b>(3,155,157)</b>
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(5,989,576)</b>	<b>2,251,592</b>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the year	10,418,816	8,167,224
Cash and cash equivalents, end of the year	4,429,240	10,418,816

### Consolidated statement of changes in shareholders' equity for the year ended 31 December 2019 (Expressed in Bahrain Dinars)

	Attributable to the shareholders of the Parent Company					Non-controlling interest	Total	
	Share capital	Statutory reserve	Share premium	Revaluation reserve	Other reserves			
At 31 December 2017	20,000,000	2,853,603	116,328	4,329,043	2,853,139	30,152,113	7,443,888	37,596,001
Effect of adoption of IFRS 9	-	-	-	-	(350,103)	(350,103)	(112,507)	(462,610)
Adjusted balance at 1 January 2018	20,000,000	2,853,603	116,328	4,329,043	2,503,036	29,802,010	7,331,381	37,133,391
Total comprehensive loss for the year	-	-	-	-	(347,381)	(347,381)	(81,768)	(429,149)
At 31 December 2018	20,000,000	2,853,603	116,328	4,329,043	2,155,655	29,454,629	7,249,613	36,704,242
Effect of adoption of IFRS 16	-	-	-	-	(33,344)	(33,344)	(10,715)	(44,059)
Adjusted balance at 1 January 2019	20,000,000	2,853,603	116,328	4,329,043	2,122,311	29,421,285	7,238,898	36,660,183
Total comprehensive loss for the year	-	-	-	-	(4,337,890)	(4,337,890)	(1,343,948)	(5,681,838)
At 31 December 2019	20,000,000	2,853,603	116,328	4,329,043	(2,215,579)	25,083,395	5,894,950	30,978,345

The consolidated financial statements were approved, authorised for issue by the Board of Directors and signed on their behalf by:

Rashed Abdulla Al Suwaiket Hajri  
Chairman

Abdulla Fahad Al-Subaie  
Vice - Chairman



**Bilateral ties discussed**



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday received Afzaal Mahmood, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Kingdom at Gudaibiya Palace. HRH the Crown Prince highlighted that Bahraini-Pakistani ties continue to strengthen as evidenced by expanding cross-sector co-operation. HRH the Crown Prince went on to note that these strengthened ties continue to deliver development opportunities for the peoples of both countries.

**Customs employee loses plea**

TDT | Manama

An employee at the Customs Affairs in the Interior Ministry recently got his appeal rejected by the Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal, which upheld the five year imprisonment sentence issued against him by the Fourth High Criminal Court last month.

In January this year, the court pronounced its verdict against the appellant along with an accomplice. Both men were also fined BD14,250 each for customs duty evasion of a shipment of E-cigarettes juice, aka vape juice.

A statement of Chief Prosecutor Mohammed Jamal Sultan explained that the Public Prosecution was notified about the incident by the Customs Affairs.

"The prosecution was informed about the crime, as the second defendant, the Customs employee, passed a shipment of vape juice for the first defendant and illegally exempted him from paying the BD14,250 customs duty for the shipment.

"The Public Prosecution immediately probed the incident, heard witnesses' testimonies and interrogated the defendants, before referring them to court for trial," Mr Sultan said in his statement which announced the court's verdict with regard to the case.

# Court orders telecom company to pay BD61,000 to sacked employee

The Gulf national was sacked for refusing to relocate to another GCC country

TDT | Manama

A telecommunication company was recently ordered by the First High Labour Court to pay BD61,000 in compensation to one of its Arab employees after he was sacked arbitrarily.

This comes as the company terminated the man's work contract in the same day after he refused its request to shift to another GCC country within 24 hours.

According to court files, the man joined the company in another GCC country back in 2004 and he moved to Bahrain in 2012.

The details of the case also show that he had signed a new contract with the company and was promoted to the position of project manager with a monthly salary of BD2,125 in 2017.

The new contract included his entitlement of indemnity since the date the first contract was signed between him and the company back in 2004.

In his statements with the court, the complainant said he was asked to move to another GCC country within 24 hours,

but he refused since he has his family living here with him in the Kingdom, in addition to the

**The worker shall be entitled to compensation for termination by the employer unless the termination of the contract is for a legitimate reason.**

LABOUR LAW

fact that he has a sick son who needs constant and special medical care.

However, the man said he received a letter from the company on the same day informing him that the work contract has been terminated, without settling his accounts, receiving his labour rights, or making a friendly settlement with him or compensating him.

Taking into consideration Article 101 of Law 36 of 2012 promulgating the labour law in the private sector, the court ordered the company to pay a total of

BD61,000 for the outstanding salaries, indemnity and leave compensation.

The court also ordered the company to pay the man in compensation of flight tickets to his homeland.

Article 101 of the Labour Law states: "The worker shall be entitled to compensation for termination by the employer unless the termination of the contract is for a legitimate reason.

"The burden of proof of the legitimacy of termination of the contract shall be borne by the employer."

Bahrain Development Bank B.S.C. (c)		Bahrain Development Bank B.S.C. (c)		Bahrain Development Bank B.S.C. (c)		Bahrain Development Bank B.S.C. (c)		
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS		CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS		
For the year ended 31 December 2019		As at 31 December 2019		For the year ended 31 December 2019		For the year ended 31 December 2019		
	2019 BD '000	2018 BD '000	2019 BD '000	2018 BD '000	2019 BD '000	2018 BD '000	2019 BD '000	2018 BD '000
<b>Income</b>			<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>Net income / (loss) for the year</b>		<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Islamic financing and interest income	8,234	8,268	Cash and balances with Central Bank of Bahrain	1,976		1,037	Profit / (loss) for the year	1,037
Islamic financing and interest expense	(1,588)	(1,870)	Placement with banks and other financial institutions	14,850		(1,326)	Adjustments for:	(1,326)
<b>Net Islamic financing and interest income</b>	<b>6,646</b>	<b>6,398</b>	Islamic financing and loans to customers	76,731			Depreciation	854
Fee and commission income	357	231	Investment securities	41,447			Allowance for expected credit losses / provision - net	440
Investment income	(288)	379	Investment in associates	322			Impairment on investment in associates	-
Rental income	1,706	2,007	Investment properties	11,527			Changes in fair value of investments classified as fair value through profit or loss	348
Other income	635	1,171	Property and equipment	1,991			Dividend income	(77)
<b>Total operating income</b>	<b>9,056</b>	<b>10,186</b>	Other assets	2,416			Share of profit from associates	(63)
<b>Expenses</b>			<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>151,260</b>			Loss on foreign currency translation	17
Staff costs	(4,170)	(4,324)	LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	158,205			Operating profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities	2,556
Other operating expenses	(3,472)	(3,227)	<b>Liabilities</b>				Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>(7,642)</b>	<b>(7,551)</b>	Term loans	42,293			Placement with banks and other financial institutions having original maturity of more than 90 days	2,272
Allowance for expected credit losses / provision - net	(440)	(3,982)	Deposits	34,918			Islamic financing and loans to customers	9,908
Impairment on investment in associates	-	(92)	Other liabilities	4,723			Other assets	277
<b>Total expected credit losses / impairment</b>	<b>(440)</b>	<b>(4,074)</b>	<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>81,934</b>			Deposits	(83)
<b>Net operating income / (loss)</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>(1,439)</b>	Equity	65,000			Other liabilities	(618)
Share of profit from associates	63	113	Share capital	65,000			<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>14,312</b>
<b>Net profit / (loss) for the year</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>(1,326)</b>	Statutory reserve	1,186			<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Net profit / (loss) for the year attributable to:</b>			Other capital contribution	4,048			Additions to property and equipment	(1,217)
- Owners of the Bank	1,036	(1,323)	Other reserves	654			Purchase of investment securities	(54,830)
- Non-controlling interest	1	(3)	Accumulated losses	(1,544)			Proceeds from sale of investment securities	44,970
	<b>1,037</b>	<b>(1,326)</b>	Equity attributable to owners of the Bank	69,344			Addition to investment properties *	-
			Non-controlling interest	(18)			Dividend income received	77
			<b>Total equity</b>	<b>69,326</b>			Liquidation of Investment Securities	8
			<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>151,260</b>			<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(10,992)</b>
				158,205			<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	
							Repayment of term loans	(8,314)
							Loan drawn down	-
							<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(8,314)</b>
							<b>NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>(4,994)</b>
							Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	12,753
							<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>7,759</b>
							<b>Additional information:</b>	
							Islamic financing and interest received	8,038
							Islamic financing and interest paid	1,667
							The addition to property and equipment and other liabilities of BD 741 thousand is a non-cash item.	
							The published figures are an extract from the consolidated financial statements reviewed by Ernst & Young and approved by Board of Directors on 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020.	
							<b>Khalid Al Rumaihi</b> Chairman	<b>Sanjeev Paul</b> Group Chief Executive Officer



**Graduation ceremony for new recruits**

National Security Adviser and Commander of the Royal Guard Major General HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday patronised a graduation ceremony for a special new recruits session. The celebration was attended by Royal Guard Special Force Commander Lieutenant Colonel HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa. After a briefing on the session, the graduates implemented a set of practical applications which reflected their high skills. Major General HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa presented the graduates and top achievers with certificates and prizes of appreciation. He congratulated them on their graduation, wishing them every success. The graduation ceremony was attended by Deputy Royal Guard Commander Major General Hamad Khalifa Al Nuaimi and senior Royal Guard officers.

# Drug seller receives additional five years in jail for 'money laundering'

Defendant will now have to serve 15 years jail

TDI | Manama

The Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal has upheld the imprisonment of a Bahraini man convicted of money laundering.

The appellant was earlier sentenced to five years of imprisonment and fined BD5,000 for the charge.

Additionally, he is now serving an imprisonment sentence of 10 years after he was found guilty of selling drugs.

The money laundering charge was confirmed as the investigations launched by the Public Prosecution into his bank accounts and banking activities showed that he deposited the income of selling drugs in bank accounts that belonged to him and his relatives.

Further investigation also showed that he purchased

**22,000**  
Bahraini dinars were generated by the defendant out of selling drugs, probe reveals.

and sold several cars in cash in order to legalise the money.

When arrested, police reported that five bags of methamphetamine (a drug that is locally known as Shabu), 68 grammes of hashish, BD10,000 in cash and other GCC currencies, and deposit slips worth BD7,000 were found in his possession.

During the interrogation, the defendant denied that the money was generated

from selling drugs, claiming that it was the outcome of investing in chicken hatcheries; a claim that was later proven by investigators to be false.

The probe confirmed that the man had collected over BD22,000, which he generated from selling drugs within three years.

Investigators also informed that the hatcheries the man claimed to own belonged to his relatives, who he repeatedly requested to deposit his money in their accounts after giving them different pretexts each time, as mentioned in the witnesses' testimonies.

As per the last upholding of the money laundering conviction, the man will now serve a total of 15 years imprisonment in addition to paying fines of BD5,000 for each of the two cases.

BAHRAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY (BATELCO) B.S.C.



## Update on Board Nomination

Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco) B.S.C would like to amend the announcement issued on 13 February 2020 in relation to the nomination of candidacy whereas two (2) directors will be elected for a three year term (2020-2023) where the elections will take place in the Annual General Assembly Meeting due to be held on 25 March 2020.

For those interested in nominating themselves shall apply through our website <http://batelco.com/investor-relations> no later than 27 February 2020.

## Musician, social activist to speak at BKS Book Fest

TDI | Manama

The BKS International Bookfest will be hosting musical maestro Harish Sivaramakrishnan, and politician, scholar, social activist and former member of Haryana Legislative Assembly, Swami Agnivesh, tonight.

Swami Agnivesh is best known for his work against bonded labour through his Bonded Labour Liberation Front, which he founded in 1981. He has served as the chairperson of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery from 1994 to 2004.



Harish Sivaramakrishnan

From slavery to bonded labour to allowing people full movement across borders, campaigning against foeticide, and emancipation of womanhood, Swami Agnivesh is a social justice warrior who has fought for

everything he believes in from the ground upwards all the way till testifying before the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

He has addressed gatherings at the Anti-Terrorism Global Peace Conference, and been very vocal against the defamation of Islam, and the rise of Islamophobia. He is also a proponent of interfaith dialogue, and is a member of the Board of World Leaders for the Elijah Interfaith Institute.

Harish Sivaramakrishnan is a musical exponent who has broken through the rigid rules of classical music to bring it to the common man.



# business

## More than US\$26 million to 29,000 Thimaar customers over 10 years

TDT | Manama

Prizes of over US\$ 4 million are up for grabs to more than 3,000 winners this year, as part of the ten-year anniversary of Ithmaar Bank's Thimaar prize-based saving account.

The Bahrain-based Islamic retail bank said it will have "distributed more than US\$ 26 million in prizes to almost 29,000 customers, in the ten years since it launched its prize-based saving account "Thimaar."

This year's Thimaar prizes include 100 monthly prizes, three quarterly prizes worth US\$ 200,000 each and a grand prize worth US\$ 1 million.

Thimaar loyalty draws offer 90 monthly prizes to customers who have not won a prize in the past year. There are also 60 Junior prizes for the bank's younger customers. Additionally, this year, Thimaar will distribute prizes to two monthly Elite customers for depositing amounts of BD 50,000 and above. This will bring the total number of the winners to 28,859, and the total value of prizes to US\$26,499,900.

"Ithmaar Bank is committed



Abdul Hakeem Al-Mutawa, Ithmaar Bank Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Banking Group

to becoming one of the region's premier retail banks," said Ithmaar Bank Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Banking Group, Abdul Hakeem Al-Mutawa. "We look forward to making the scheme even more rewarding in the future, to encourage customers to continue to approach saving responsibly," he said.

Along with cash prizes, the banks said, the Thimaar account offers a profit rate on the balance maintained. Customers are entered into the draws by maintaining a minimum balance of BD 30 in their Thimaar account.

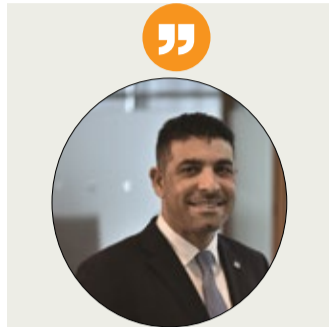
## Solidarity Bahrain reports profits

TDT | Manama

Solidarity Bahrain, one of the largest insurance companies in Bahrain and a subsidiary of Solidarity Group Holding, announced a net profit attributed to shareholders' fund of BD 720 thousand for the three months ended 31st December 2019, compared to BD 762 thousand in the prior-year quarter, with a decrease of 6 per cent, hurt by higher provisions booked in the last quarter of 2019.

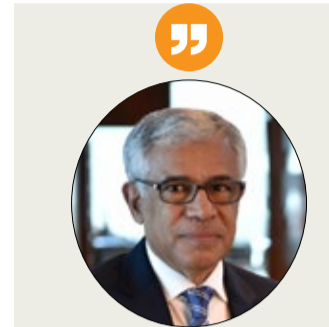
Quarterly earning per share was 6.00 fils compared to 6.35 fils for the same period in 2018. Gross premium was BD 8,743 m compared to BD 8,188 m for the corresponding previous period, representing an increase of 7pc.

Total comprehensive income attributed to shareholders' fund was BD 688 thousand compared to BD 671 Thousand in the year-ago quarter, representing 3pc increase.



In line with our commitment to pioneer the digital transformation and Insurtech domain, 2019 witnessed great achievements such as; revamping Seef Mall Branch with digital and innovative self-service solutions, introducing the first Video Insurance Service in GCC to simplify the means of transaction with Solidarity, and the implementation of a new Core Insurance system.

JAWAD MOHAMED, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Solidarity Bahrain withstood another year of solid performance. The investments made by the company over the past few years in our people have enhanced productivity and efficiency, which led to a positive return on the overall positioning of Solidarity Bahrain in the kingdom

TAWFEEQ SHEHAB, CHAIRMAN

Net profit attributed to shareholders' fund for the twelve months was BD 2.616 million against a net profit of BD 2.306

m for the corresponding previous period, representing 13pc increase which is the result of improved investment income and performance of the shareholders' fund.

Earning per share increased to 21.81 fils compared to 19.22 fils in the same period in 2018. Total comprehensive income attributed to shareholders' fund was BD 2.859 m compared to BD 2.399 m for the same period in 2018, representing 19pc increase.

Total net profit and surplus was BD 2.9 m compared to BD 2.6 m a year ago, representing 13pc increase thanks to improved investment income and underwriting performance.

Gross contribution was BD 30.852 m compared to BD 30.072 m for the corresponding previous period, representing an increase of 3pc.

The board also recommended a cash dividend of 15pc to the shareholders subject to the approval of AGM.

## BCCI, Dubai Healthcare City Authority sign deal



BCCI CEO Shaker Al Shater and Dubai Healthcare City Authority, regulatory division, Chief Executive Officer Dr Ramadan Al Bulooshi signed the deal in the presence of Deputy Chief Executive Officer Dr Abdulla Al Sada and the head and members of the health committee

Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) signed yesterday a Memorandum of Understanding with the regulatory division of Dubai Healthcare City Authority. The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) signed yesterday a Memorandum of Understanding with the regulatory division of Dubai Healthcare City Authority.

BCCI CEO Shaker Al Shater and Dubai Healthcare City Authority, regulatory division, Chief Executive Officer Dr Ramadan Al Bulooshi signed the deal at a ceremony held at the chamber's headquarters in the presence of Deputy Chief Executive Officer Dr Abdulla Al Sada and the head and members of the health committee.

The MOU sets the cooperation framework between BCCI and the regulatory division of Dubai Healthcare City Authority and aims at fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing in medical education, research, and training.

In this regard, Al Shater hailed the advanced experience of Dubai in the healthcare and medical field and underlined the importance of learning from their experience. Similarly, Dr Al Bulooshi voiced pride in the collaboration between both sides and expressed keenness in consolidating efforts with the chamber to meet the mutual goals.

On the sidelines, the health committee of the chamber presided over by Dr Abdulmajeed Al Awadhi held its meeting and deliberated about the committee's plans and latest updates in the sector.



The meeting

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION At 31 December 2019		CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME For the year ended 31 December 2019		
	2019 US\$ '000	2018 US\$ '000	2019 US\$ '000	2018 US\$ '000
<b>ASSETS</b>			<b>INCOME</b>	
Cash and bank balances	2,233	1,206	Income from:	
Murabaha Receivables	-	9,502	Investment in sukuk	428
Due from banks and financial institutions	1,000	8,496	Investment in equities and funds	89
Mudaraba receivables	-	2,496	Due from banks and financial institutions	136
Financing receivables	560	841	Financing receivables	63
Investment in sukuk	16,560	73,405	Mudaraba receivables	16
Investment in equities and funds	4,691	4,771	Less: Return to short term sukuk investors and banks	(823)
Investment in real estate	25,866	26,556		(91)
Equipment	135	137	Investment banking fees	339
Other assets	388	1,180	Ijarah income	1,184
			Foreign exchange loss	(1)
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>51,433</b>	<b>128,590</b>	Other income	539
			<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>1,970</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND OWNERS' EQUITY</b>			<b>EXPENSES</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>			Staff costs	2,635
Due to short term sukuk investors and banks	-	74,271	Depreciation	692
Staff payables	1,254	1,494	General and administrative expenses	1,243
Other liabilities	636	678	<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>4,570</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,890</b>	<b>76,443</b>	<b>NET (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR BEFORE IMPAIRMENT PROVISION</b>	<b>(2,600)</b>
<b>Owners' Equity</b>			Net (allowances) recoveries for credit losses	(52)
Share capital	59,039	59,039	Unrealised fair value loss on investments in funds	-
Reserves	8,282	8,282	Impairment reversals on investments - net	48
Accumulated losses	(17,778)	(15,174)	<b>NET (LOSS) PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(2,604)</b>
<b>Total owners' equity</b>	<b>49,543</b>	<b>52,147</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND OWNERS' EQUITY</b>	<b>51,433</b>	<b>128,590</b>		

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWNERS' EQUITY For the year ended 31 December 2019							
	Paid-up Share capital US\$ '000	Reserves			Total reserves (Accumulated deficit) US\$ '000	Total owners' equity US\$ '000	
		Statutory reserve US\$ '000	General reserve US\$ '000	Investment fair value reserve US\$ '000			
Balance at 1 January 2019	59,039	3,881	2,226	2,175	8,282	(15,174)	52,147
Net loss for the year	-	-	-	-	-	(2,604)	(2,604)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2019</b>	<b>59,039</b>	<b>3,881</b>	<b>2,226</b>	<b>2,175</b>	<b>8,282</b>	<b>(17,778)</b>	<b>49,543</b>
Balance as of 1 January 2018	59,039	3,881	2,226	2,460	8,567	(15,472)	52,134
Net profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	13	13
Cumulative changes in fair value	-	-	-	(285)	(285)	285	-
Balance at 31 December 2018	59,039	3,881	2,226	2,175	8,282	(15,174)	52,147

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the year ended 31 December 2019			
	2019 US\$ '000	2018 US\$ '000	
Net cash used in operating activities	(15,977)	(11,117)	
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>(15,977)</b>	<b>(11,117)</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	19,210	30,327	
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 DECEMBER</b>	<b>3,233</b>	<b>19,210</b>	

Hassan Amin Jarrar Chairman	Ameer Abdul Ghani Director	Amer Sadiq Chief Executive Officer
<p>These were extracted from the Consolidated Financial Statements on which Ernst &amp; Young issued an unqualified opinion dated 23 February 2020 which are available on LMC website.</p> <p>These Consolidated Financial Statements have been authorized for issuance in accordance with a resolution of the board of Directors dated 23 February 2020.</p> <p>Liquidity Management Centre B.S.C. (c) is licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain as Wholesale Islamic Bank.</p> <p>The Group's total equity as at 31 December 2019 is US\$ 49,543 million which is less than the minimum capital requirement of US\$ 100 million required under LR Module of Volume 2 of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) rule book (LR-2.5.2B) and the Shareholders of the Bank in their Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) held on 28 March 2019, passed a resolution approving the conversion of the Bank's license from an Islamic Wholesale Bank to an Investment Firm Category 1, subject to CBB approval.</p>		
<p>Liquidity Management Centre B.S.C. (c)</p> <p>CR 49092 P.O. Box 11567, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. Tel: +973 1756 8568. Fax: +973 1756 8569</p> <p>Email: info@lmc Bahrain.com</p>		

\* Note: The full consolidated statement of cash flows is available in LMC's website.



# What it will take for everyone to be able to afford school in the US?

*The US education system is radically unfair and Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren are sparking a conversation about alternatives*

JANINE DI GIOVANNI

Last week's Democratic debate was more of a brawl than a discourse. Seeing anti-billionaire candidates Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren pitted against billionaire Michael Bloomberg made me consider the wealth disparity in America. The question that came out of the debate was: how ready is America ready for socialism?

I would not call either Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren socialists, even if conservative Republicans are eager to paint them with that brush.

Ms Warren is more a pro-market leftist than a socialist. Born into poverty, she has fought hard all her life to reach the position she is in now. She calls herself a capitalist to the bones.

Brooklyn-born Mr Sanders on the other hand is a self-declared socialist who in 1985 travelled to Nicaragua to celebrate the Soviet-backed Sandinista government and four years later, to communist Cuba to laud the country's free healthcare, education and housing.

He has recently toned down his rhetoric. He no longer idolises communist regimes but looks to progressive countries like Denmark and Sweden as examples of workable socialism - in particular their health and education policies. Both he and Ms Warren intend to fix America's broken education system.

I have lived in socialist countries (France and the UK) most of my adult life. I have used

state healthcare, given birth in a public hospital and my son went to a "sous-contrat" school in Paris that was subsidised by the French government.

While there are problems with the French system - including often enforcing memorisation rather than creative thinking - it largely works. Most people in France use the state system rather than private schools, and universities are accessible to most if you get the grades.

No massive economic hurdles or crippling student loans prevent youngsters from attending - or staying - in tertiary education.

In comparison, Mr Sanders and Ms Warren have forced me to think about how radically unfair the US educational system is. In New York City, where I now live, private schools offering elite education cost about \$50,000 (Dh183,660) a year. Students are rigorously prepared to enter the elite Ivy League universities - which then cost around \$80,000. Nowhere is economic injustice more apparent than within the educational model.

To be fair, the wealthier the university the more financial aid it is able to give. Others can attend public universities - which have fewer resources. Ms Warren got financial aid and worked her way through law school. Mr Sanders went to the public Brooklyn College before transferring to the University of Chicago.

The New York City private school system has exploded since the financial boom of the



Lily Barbour, 5, holds up a campaign sign for Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders.

1980s, with competitive parents plotting their child's high school from their day of birth. This is a new phenomenon. Prior to the money boom most people just went to school.

One 1983 graduate of Dalton, one of the best elite schools in New York, recently told me that it was very different three decades ago: "In my day, people's parents were teachers or journalists or maybe lawyers - the average middle class. Now most parents are bankers."

It is frustrating to think that a level of superior education is only available to elite students - either because they have money or are groomed to

Mr Sanders believes we should "re-invest" in education, and use the first African-American Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall as an icon - his plan largely focuses on combating racism, free universal school meals and rebuilding schools.

attend such schools. They are selected on account of their

# Mahathir Mohamad has strengthened his grip

SULAIMAN HAKEMY

If a week is a long time in politics - as the former UK prime minister Harold Wilson once observed - then Malaysia has just demonstrated how much can happen in only three days.

The reformist government that was elected two years ago has collapsed. An alternative ethnic Malay-dominated coalition that would have dented Malaysia's reputation as a multicultural, multi-faith country has been proposed instead. Moreover, the prospect of Malaysia evolving into an issues-based democracy, instead of one dominated by personalities and intrigue has suffered a devastating setback.

From May 2018 until his shock resignation on Monday, Malaysia was ruled under a coalition government by Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who also served as prime minister from 1981 to 2003.

Dr Mahathir's most recent tenure in office was initially meant to be a caretaker government while his protege and designated successor, Anwar Ibrahim, awaited release from prison a royal pardon for a sodomy conviction.

The relationship between Dr Mahathir and Mr Anwar, however, has long been fraught and complicated, and many believe

that the former is resisting attempts to hand power to the latter.

Last Friday, the presidential council of Dr Mahathir's Pakatan Harapan (PH) party met to discuss a plan for the prime minister to step down and make way for Mr Anwar, who leads the People's Justice Party (PKR), to finally take office.

By the end of Monday, however, PH's coalition government had fallen apart. One party left and another splintered - hoping to form a new government by allying with the main opposition parties. Dr Mahathir had been assumed to be behind the move, not least because the party that left - Bersatu - was set up as his own vehicle to return to politics. But he refuted the claims, handed in his resignation to Malaysia's king in protest and left his own party for good measure.

As the dust is settling, two things are clear.

Whereas previously, many were pressuring 94-year-old Dr Mahathir to set a date for his departure quickly, suddenly it appears that every MP from every party wants him to remain prime minister, and mostly for as long as he wants.

Moreover, Mr Anwar's chances of succeeding him are looking slimmer than ever.

Many will see the current political turmoil solely through



Mahathir Mohamad handed in his resignation to Malaysia's King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, centre, in protest and left his own party for good measure.

the Mahathir-Anwar lens. The pair's relationship goes back to 1982, when Dr Mahathir was a newly-minted prime minister and brought Mr Anwar, then a firebrand youth leader, into the government he headed at the time, under the Barisan Nasional (BN) party.

Mr Anwar advanced swiftly through the ranks, becoming

a minister the following year, finance minister in 1991 and deputy prime minister in 1993. Five years later, though, he was sacked from all his posts and later convicted of sodomy and corruption.

Mr Anwar's supporters claimed the charges were inflated, and the sodomy conviction was later reversed. Partisans

of Dr Mahathir have claimed that Mr Anwar, although by that time already designated the former's successor, was impatient and was trying to force his mentor from office. They point out further that he was convicted in the first instance and therefore guilty as charged.

In the two decades afterwards, Mr Anwar led a new

*By resigning as prime minister, Dr Mahathir has given himself options to pick a new administration and further sideline his protege-turned-rival Anwar Ibrahim*



1914

HMHS *Britannic*, sister to the RMS *Titanic*, is launched at Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast.

1919

President **Woodrow Wilson** signs an act of Congress establishing the Grand Canyon National Park.



1929

President **Calvin Coolidge** signs an executive order establishing the 96,000 acre Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

1935

**Adolf Hitler** orders the Luftwaffe to be re-formed, violating the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles.



Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., during a campaign event in Austin, Texas.

ential to be leaders. In recent years, more students that fill the diversity quota are admitted. But even if you do not have a family sets you on the Ivy track. If you do not stand up for a chance. If your family struggled to pay rent, it is likely they are thinking of enrolling you in extra-curricular activities or pricey university preparation classes. It is precisely these students, who do not stand much of a chance, we need to reach most. They are the ones left behind. Earlier this week, I had a meeting with a dean from a north-eastern American public university (a state school that offers lower tuition to local students). Her dilemma was how to keep low-income students enrolled for the full four years and help them pay off small debts. "Some of them have to drop out because they owe \$200 in parking tickets or library fees," she said. Some of them have to support families or work in order to pay for food or housing. Everyone knows the value of education, whether it is educating girls in Afghanistan or countering violent extremism. But I often wonder guiltily – because even though he is on a full scholarship, my son goes to

a private school and I teach at Yale University, an Ivy League school – how different American society would be if young low-income students were set on leadership paths early on. What if we could reach the kind of students that Elizabeth Warren grew up with in Oklahoma? What if they had the opportunities to take unpaid internships, overseas fellowships or get help securing their first job. It is not a secret that the Ivy League brand is pretty much an assurance that you graduate with a job offer in hand, and probably a high-paying one. Recruiters don't visit the state universities; they want the best and the brightest.

This takes me back to Ms Warren and Mr Sanders. Ms Warren believes that "every kid in America should have the same access to a high-quality public education – no matter where they live, the colour of their skin or how much money their parents make."

Mr Sanders believes we should "re-invest" in education, and use the first African-American Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall as an icon – his plan largely focuses on combating racism, free universal school meals and rebuilding schools.

So while I don't think of either one of them as true, blue socialists, I do think what they are proposing in terms of education is radical and very much needed. They want to tear down the system and rebuild it. This may spell anarchy but without it, the elite who run America will continue to do so.

## Opinion on Malaysian politics

Dr Anwar advanced swiftly through the ranks, becoming minister the following year, finance minister in 1991 and deputy prime minister in 2003. Five years later, though, he was sacked from all his posts and later convicted of sodomy and corruption. Mr Anwar's supporters claimed the charges were inflated, and the sodomy conviction was later reversed.

as per his agreement with Mr Anwar. Dr Mahathir was meant to cede power after six months, pending Mr Anwar's receipt of a royal pardon and release from prison. Mr Anwar was cleared and freed shortly after the election, but nearly two years on, the handover of government never occurred.

Mr Anwar, meanwhile, has kept smiling while telling everyone not to fuss about the succession plan. But many suspect that the rapprochement between him and the prime minister is not real, and that their deal will go unfulfilled. Instead, Dr Mahathir might favour Azmin Ali, Mr Anwar's deputy in PKR. And so to this weekend, when leaders of several factions went to the royal palace to tell the king that together they represent a majority in parliament and should be allowed to form a new government with Dr Mahathir at the helm.

The group represents almost entirely ethnically Malay and some Islamist-leaning political bodies, and would have a good chance of securing the more than 50 per cent Malay-Muslim vote. For BN politicians currently facing graft charges, there would be hope that the cases would be quietly dropped.

But all of this, according to Mr Anwar, has been done falsely in the current prime minister's name. Dr Mahathir

would not work with what he regards as the corrupt BN, Mr Anwar claims. The fact that he resigned – he is acting prime minister at the moment – and left his own party gives credence to the idea that overeager subordinates have gotten ahead of themselves.

On the other hand, Dr Mahathir has switched sides before in order to maintain his influence and top position.

With the departure of the mutineers, PH has lost its majority. Mr Anwar and Lim Guan Eng, the leader of the mainly Chinese DAP – which is also part of the crumbling PH-led alliance – have pleaded with Dr Mahathir to save the coalition. The opposition's plan, they claim, is to woo him onto their side and to sideline non-Malays and non-Muslims from government.

Just what will happen in the coming days, when a new government must be formed, is unclear. But so far there is only one beneficiary: Dr Mahathir, who will have his pick of parties and politicians, with a new, devoted administration that will not require any promises about handovers.

The details of the plotting and "betrayals", as Mr Anwar calls them, will also emerge. But for now, the doctor has consolidated his grip as Malaysia's leading political force.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



What if we as a society decided it wasn't okay for three billionaires to have more wealth than half the country?

@ilhan

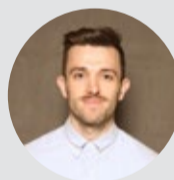
02



Cryin' Chuck Schumer is complaining, for publicity purposes only, that I should be asking for more money than \$2.5 Billion to prepare for Coronavirus. If I asked for more he would say it is too much. He didn't like my early travel closings. I was right. He is incompetent!

@realDonaldTrump

03



Ronny Jackson, ex-White House physician, on Trump's diet: "The exercise stuff never took off as much as I wanted it to. But we were working on his diet. We were making the ice cream less accessible, we were putting cauliflower into the mashed potatoes."

@kylegriffin1

04



Yet another excellent meeting and talks with my friend @realDonaldTrump. Relations between India and USA are not merely ties between two governments. Ours is a friendship that is people-driven and people centric. Our nations are cooperating extensively, which is a great sign.

@narendramodi

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

### Wide Angle

## Bahrain's battles against epidemics



JOEL INDRUPATI

The Arabian Gulf region may have experienced many waves of epidemics over the last few centuries, but not enough documentation is easily available.

However, "the British authorities' records of epidemics between 1893 and 1924 serve as our best historical source of information" says Dr Abdul Aziz Yousif Hamza who was the Undersecretary of Bahrain's Ministry of Health and whose contribution towards improving emergency services of hospitals here is immense.

In his book, "Tears on an Island: A History of Disasters in the Kingdom of Bahrain" (2009), with his painstaking research, he offers us excellent documentation on the various battles Bahrain had fought against disasters – both, natural as well as man-made.

Cholera was the first recorded epidemic. And, it was contained in the same year it had broken out, in 1893; but sadly, not before it took the lives of 7,000 people. With all steamers enforcing a strict quarantine against Bahrain at that time, there was a 33 per cent decline in the annual pearl fishing income, according to the author.

Oral history tells us that even a few decades earlier to this, two outbreaks of Cholera, in 1820 and 1871, with origins in India, had already been very tragic for Bahrain. They are remembered as 'Dharb Al-Awal' and 'Dharb Al-Thani' - 'The First Hit' and 'The Second hit'.

No proper numbers are available on the deaths, but outbreaks will remain in Bahrain's collective memory.

In his book, Dr Abdul Aziz Hamza writes that "In the period 1893-1924, nine epidemics of plague, three epidemics of cholera, and one wave of influenza occurred in Bahrain, six of which were severe. A total of 24,205 people are estimated to have died". The devastation will seem larger only when we realise that the population of Bahrain had only been around 100,000 then; which meant that nearly 25 per cent had lost their lives.

But thanks to doctors, nurses, and paramedics of the American Mission Hospital (established in 1900, which had had 110 beds by the 1910s), of the small Victoria Memorial Hospital (which closed in 1948), and also of the Quarantine established in Halat Abu Maher, in Muharraq, the country had come out undaunted from these huge medical crises.

To write this piece, as I dug into material related to contagious diseases in Bahrain, I found it fascinating that despite its small

size, Bahrain had always fought these outbreaks with formidable courage and resilience.

Plague, cholera, typhoid, smallpox, poliomyelitis, influenza, hepatitis a, rubella, mumps, measles, and meningitis have all affected Bahrain at different points in recorded history. They took scores of lives. But Bahrain's medical facilities quickly rose up to meet these challenges and successfully thwarted the outbreaks. More recently, even fears of SARS and Swine Flu have been effectively tackled and contained.

Our faith in the medical facilities of this nation, therefore, can be reinforced and bolstered when we look at history; and especially at the quick action we are seeing all around us, on the arrival of coronavirus to Bahrain's shores.

It is good to see that the government has quickly sealed off entry-points, such as airports and seaports, cancelled classes, in public and private schools, set up hotlines like 444 so that medical authorities can be easily reached, and even disseminated the needed information through text messages.

But, we should avoid panic and paranoia by not getting swayed easily by misinformation that's floating around as Whatsapp forwards.

We must remember that the real experts are the doctors and medical authorities. We must pay attention to their announcements, and heed to them. Our friends, however good their intentions could be, are not really experts. And we must be careful in evaluating their forwards.

With today's advanced medical techniques and global cooperation, Bahrain, like always, will come out strong. Yet again.

(The writer's twitter handle: @joelindrupati)



## Huawei holds first global live streaming of Industrial Digital Transformation conference



Ma Yue, Vice President of Huawei Enterprise Business Group



Zhang Lixuan, GM of Digitalization, Shenzhen Airport Group



Chen Kunte, former Chief Information Officer of China Merchants Bank and currently Chief Digital Transformation Officer of Global Financial Services in Huawei's Enterprise Business Group

### Manama

Huawei announced holding a global Industrial Digital Transformation Conference via live streaming connecting guests from across the world.

The conference on the theme "Hi, Intelligent World" follows the cancellation of Mobile World Congress (MWC) Barcelona 2020 due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The live streaming connected guests from across the world including UK, Switzerland, USA, Germany and Italy.

The conference previewed five trends of an intelligent world 10 years' from now and proposed a foundation built on new types of connectivity, computing, platform, and ecosystem. The ASEAN Economic Community, Shenzhen Airport Group, and other customers also shared their insights and experiences in digital transformation.

Ma Yue, Vice President of Huawei Enterprise Business Group, commented: "The next decade will witness the rapid development of new ICT. Huawei believes new types of connectivity, computing, platform, and ecosystem will build a solid foundation for the intelligent world of 2030. Ultra-broadband and high-speed networking built using 5G, Wi-Fi 6, and quantum communications will bridge the physical and digital worlds, laying a foundation for the intelligent world."

Ma said the intelligent world of 2030 cannot exist without the digital transformation of industries across the spectrum. Huawei has accumulated extensive experience in helping industries such as government, transportation, finance, and electric power achieve digital transformation for the present and the future, through new connectivity, computing, platform, and ecosystem.

"Currently, more than 700

cities worldwide and 228 of the Fortune Global 500 companies, including 58 of the Fortune Global 100 companies, have selected Huawei as their partner for digital transformation."

Dr Aladdin D. Rillo, Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Economic Community said: "ASEAN's digital economy soared to USD 100 billion for first time in 2019, and is expected to grow to over USD 300 billion by 2025. "To further promote digital transformation in ASEAN, new initiatives are currently being pursued such as the development of 5G ecosystem, framework on international mobile roaming, smart manufacturing, and an ASEAN innovation network. But to be successful, we also need the support of the private sector and market players like Huawei particularly in building an innovation-friendly ecosystem and addressing issues related to the big idea and data privacy."

Zhang Lixuan, GM of Digitalization, Shenzhen Airport Group (SAG), talked about how the group delivered digital transformation and constructed a smart airport. The Group selected Huawei as its strategic partner for digital transformation, using the Huawei Horizon Digital Platform with cloud-network synergy.

Chen Kunte, former Chief Information Officer of China Merchants Bank and currently Chief Digital Transformation Officer of Global Financial Services in Huawei's Enterprise Business Group, said in future, 5G will drive significant improvements in app capabilities that will help bring banking services into the digital world, helping branches and account managers regain engage with retail and corporate customers much more regularly.

Liu Jianming, Director of the Expert Committee on "Smart Grid Technology and Equipment", Industry Development Promotion Center, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) of China, believes that future power systems will integrate digital technology extensively with traditional power. As digital technologies usage continues to expand in the electric power field, future power systems will evolve toward "universal connectivity, intelligent interaction, high flexibility, and solid security and control."



Dr Aladdin D. Rillo, Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Economic Community



Liu Jianming, Director of the Expert Committee on "Smart Grid Technology and Equipment", Industry Development Promotion Center, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) of China

# Trump clinches \$3 billion military equipment sale



Trump with his wife and First Lady Melania, Modi, India's President Ram Nath Kovind and his wife Savita Kovind pose for photo during Trump's ceremonial reception at the forecourt of India's Rashtrapati Bhavan Presidential Palace in New Delhi

## India is buying 24 SeaHawk helicopters from Lockheed Martin

### Plan for "mini deal" proved elusive

### Both sides are now aiming for a bigger package

Agencies | New Delhi

US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that India will buy \$3 billion worth of military equipment, including attack helicopters, as the two countries deepen defence and commercial ties.

India and the United States were also making progress on a big trade deal, Trump said. Negotiators from the two sides have wrangled for months to narrow differences on farm goods, medical devices, digital trade and new tariffs.

Trump was accorded a massive reception in Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state on Monday, with more than 100,000 people filling into a cricket stadium for a "Namaste

Trump" rally.

On Tuesday, Trump sat down for one-on-one talks with Modi followed by delegation-level meetings to try and move forward on issues that have divided them, mainly the festering trade dispute.

After those meetings, Trump said his visit had been productive with the conclusion of deals to buy helicopters for the Indian military. India is buying 24 SeaHawk helicopters from Lockheed Martin equipped with Hellfire missiles worth \$2.6 billion and also plans a follow-on order for six Apache helicopters.

India is modernising its military to narrow the gap with China and has increasingly turned to the United States over traditional supplier, Russia.

Trump said the two countries were also making progress on a trade deal, which had been an area of growing friction between them.

"Our teams have made tremendous progress on a comprehensive trade agreement and I'm optimistic we can reach a deal that will be of great importance to both countries," said Trump in remarks made alongside Modi.

The two countries had initially planned to produce a

"mini deal", but that proved elusive.

Instead both sides are now aiming for a bigger package, including possibly a free trade agreement.

Trump said he also discussed with Modi, whom he called his "dear friend", the importance of a secure 5G telecoms network in India, ahead of a planned airwaves auction by the country.

Trump described Monday's rally in Ahmedabad and again praised Modi and spoke of the size of the crowd, claiming there were "thousands of people outside trying to get in.."

"I would even imagine they were there more for you than for me, I would hope so," he told Modi. "The people love you...every time I mentioned your name, they would cheer."

In New Delhi, Trump was given a formal state welcome on Tuesday at the red sandstone presidential palace with a 21-cannon gun salute and a red coated honour guard on horseback on a smoggy day.

### Hug gets tighter

India is one of the few big countries in the world where Trump's personal approval rating is above 50% and Trump's

trip has got wall-to-wall coverage with commentators saying he had hit all the right notes on his first official visit to the world's biggest democracy.

They were also effusive in their praise for Modi for pulling off a spectacular reception for Trump.

"Modi-Trump hug gets tighter," ran a headline in the Times of India.

In his speech on Monday, 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.

But behind the bonhomie they remain far apart on a trade deal between the world's biggest economy and its second most populous nation, dashing earlier speculation of a possible partial compromise that would have seen India lowering tariffs on Harley-Davidson motorcycles and other items.

"Harley-Davidson has to pay tremendous tariffs when they send motorcycles in here. When India sells motorcycles into the US there is virtually no tariff... That's unfair," Trump told a news conference.

"I want reciprocal, it has to be reciprocal," he said.

## Benefit from increasing Gold Rate by paying 10pc advance at Malabar Gold

### Gold Rate Protection Scheme at Malabar Gold & Diamonds

### Pay 10pc advance and benefit from increasing Gold Rate

### Block the Gold rate by paying just 10pc advance

TDT | Manama

In the wake of rising gold prices, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the larg-

est jewellery retailers globally with a strong retail network of over 250 outlets spread across 10 countries, is providing customers with the Gold Rate Protection Scheme, a unique opportunity to buy gold, be it for personal use or as an investment, at the best rates.

Customers can just pay 10 per cent advance for their favourite jewellery and get benefits from increasing Gold Rate and protect themselves from the constant increase in gold rate. If gold rate increases at the time of purchase, customers can avail the booked rate and in case it reduces they can still draw mileage of the reduced rate i.e. a customer intending to

buy gold worth BHD 1000 just needs to pay BHD 100 to avail the advance booking offer and return get protected from the increasing gold rates. As per the management team of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, this scheme has been designed in such a way that customers are not affected by the increasing gold rates. This offer will be valid until 30th April across all Malabar Gold & Diamonds stores in GCC, Malaysia, Singapore and USA.

It is always beneficial to buy gold from GCC considering the significant difference in price when compared to India. When a customer spends BHD 19,300 in Bahrain for 1 gm of gold, the

equivalent value in India is INR 4310 i.e. BHD 23, giving them a benefit of BHD 3,700 per gram. Yesterday, gold was priced at a rate of BHD 19,700 per gram compared to the rate of BHD 15,700 on 24th February 2019 which is an increase of BHD 4,000 per gram. Considering that gold is a convenient investment assuring safe returns even for the middle class, there is an increase in people deciding to invest in this metal. Even amidst several other investment options often considered by salaried expats for higher returns not performing well, the fact that gold has not lost its sheen is a major advantage for the market.



# Arctic 'doomsday vault' stocks up on more food seeds

● The latest shipment will bring to around 1.05 million the number of seed varieties placed in three underground alcoves which form the Arctic "doomsday vault", known also as Noah's Ark

Oslo

An Arctic "doomsday vault" is set Tuesday to receive 60,000 samples of seeds from around the world as the biggest global crop reserve stocks up for a global catastrophe.

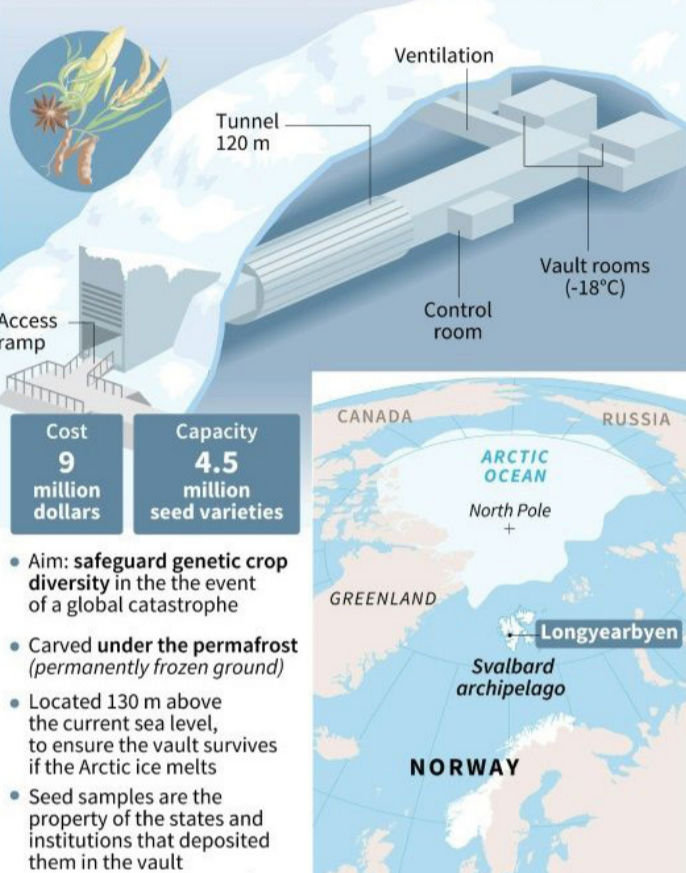
The seeds are to be deposited in the vault inside a mountain near Longyearbyen on Spitsbergen Island in Norway's Svalbard archipelago, about 1,000 kilometres (600 miles) from the North Pole.

"As the pace of climate change and biodiversity loss increases, there is new urgency surrounding efforts to save food crops at risk of extinction," said Stefan Schmitz, who manages the reserve as head of the Crop Trust. "The large scope of today's seed deposit reflects worldwide concern about the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss on food production," Schmitz added.

"But more importantly it

## The Noah's Ark of plants

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault contains 1.05 million seed samples



Cost 9 million dollars

Capacity 4.5 million seed varieties

- Aim: safeguard genetic crop diversity in the event of a global catastrophe
- Carved under the permafrost (permanently frozen ground)
- Located 130 m above the current sea level, to ensure the vault survives if the Arctic ice melts
- Seed samples are the property of the states and institutions that deposited them in the vault

demonstrates a growing global commitment -- from the institutions and countries that have made deposits today and indeed the world -- to the conservation and use of the crop diversity that is crucial for farmers in their efforts to adapt to chang-

ing growing conditions," he said. Common as well as wilder varieties of grains are being sent by institutions in countries as diverse as Brazil, the United States, Germany, Morocco, Mali, Israel and Mongolia.

The latest shipment will



bring to around 1.05 million the number of seed varieties placed in three underground alcoves which form the vault, known also as Noah's Ark.

Aimed at safeguarding biodiversity in the face of climate change, wars and other natural and man-made disasters, the seed bank has the capacity to hold up to 4.5 million batches, or twice the number of crop varieties believed to exist in the world today.

It was launched in 2008 with financing from Norway.

Its usefulness was spotlighted during Syria's civil war when researchers were able in 2015 to retrieve from the vault duplicates of grains lost in the destruction of Aleppo.

The countries and institutions that deposit seeds in the vault retain ownership over them and can retrieve them when necessary.

Paradoxically, the vault was itself hit by climate change.

In 2016, water seeped into the vault's tunnel entrance due to permafrost melting as Arctic temperatures climbed unusually high.

# Egypt's ex-president Hosni Mubarak dead at 91



A 2015 photo shows ousted Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak in a Cairo court between his sons Gamal (L) and Alaa

Cairo

Egypt's former long-time president Hosni Mubarak died Tuesday at age 91 at Cairo's Galaa military hospital, his family and state TV said.

His son Alaa Mubarak tweeted that "this morning my father, president Mubarak, passed away".

Mubarak's brother-in-law, General Mounir Thabet, told AFP that the family was at the hospital and that the presidential office would organise the funeral.

Mubarak had long been battling an illness and recently been admitted to an intensive care unit.

He took power in 1981, following the assassination of former president Anwar al-Sadat, and remained head of state for three decades.

He was overthrown after

three weeks of mass protests that started on January 25, 2011.

His toppling came amid mounting popular anger triggered partly by rampant police brutality and by 2010 parliamentary elections which were widely slammed as rigged.

Mubarak faced multiple charges after his overthrow, including over the deaths of protesters in 2011 and corruption.

After years of protracted trials and legal proceedings, he was acquitted on most charges.

Under Mubarak's 30-year-rule, Egyptians lived under emergency laws that gave sweeping powers to the country's security agencies.

The former president had survived multiple assassination attempts including one by Islamist militants in 1995 in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

# World's oldest man dies in Japan at 112



Chitetsu Watanabe after being recognised as the world's oldest living male. He has died away aged 112

Tokyo

A Japanese man recently named the world's oldest living male has died aged 112, a local official said yesterday.

Chitetsu Watanabe, who was born on March 5, 1907 in Niigata, north of Tokyo, died on Sunday at his nursing home in the same prefecture, the official said.

The news came less than two weeks after he was officially recognised by Guinness World Records.

Watanabe, who had five children, said the secret to longevity was to "not get angry and keep a smile on your face".

He admitted a penchant for sweets such as custard pudding and ice cream.

The oldest man in Japan is now Issaku Tomoe, who is 110 years old, according to Jiji Press, although it was not clear if Tomoe holds the title globally.

The oldest living person is also Japanese, Kane Tanaka, a 117-year-old woman.

Japan has one of the world's highest life expectancies and has been home to several people recognised as among the oldest humans to have ever lived.

They include Jiroemon Kimura, the longest-living man on record, who died soon after his 116th birthday in June 2013.

The oldest verified person -- Jeanne Louise Calment of France -- died in 1997 at the age of 122, according to Guinness.

# Last marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitry Yazov dies

AFP | Moscow

The last marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitry Yazov, who participated in a coup against then USSR leader Mikhail Gorbachev in 1991, has died, news agencies reported.

Russia's defence ministry said in a statement carried by agencies that Yazov had died in Moscow at the age of 95 following a "serious and prolonged illness".

Defence minister between 1987 and 1991, Yazov participated in a coup attempt against Gorbachev in August 1991, a year after being awarded the rank of marshal.



The last marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitry Yazov (right), with President Vladimir Putin, has died aged 95

The coup failed and its leaders were arrested three days later, but the attempted overthrow heralded the collapse of the Soviet Union, which was finally dissolved in December 1991.

Yazov was released from prison in 1993 and granted amnesty for his role in the failed coup in 1994.

Yazov's death leaves just one leader of the failed coup still

alive, Oleg Baklanov, a member of the Communist Party's central committee.

Last year, Yazov was sentenced in absentia in Vilnius for war crimes during a 1991 uprising in Lithuania against Soviet rule.

He remained a revered figure in Russia. On February 4, Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu awarded him the "For Merit to the Fatherland" award.

He was also decorated by President Vladimir Putin, who awarded him the Order of Honor in 2004 and the Order Alexander Nevsky in 2014.

# Bangladesh's biggest zoo calls time on elephant rides

Dhaka

Bangladesh's biggest zoo has called time on elephant rides following a long-running campaign by activists.

The ban was quietly introduced last month, Dhaka zoo curator Nurul Islam said, adding it would never be lifted.

"We agree that these rides were not good for the animals," Islam said, acknowledging the efforts of animal rights groups.

"Elephant rides are a kind of animal abuse and cruelty towards the animal."

Islam said the elephants had previously been made to give rides to up to 1,000 spectators a day before the ban.

"The mahouts (elephant caretakers) are unhappy that we stopped a source of their



A mahout guides a decorated elephant in Dhaka

income, but it was clear that the animals were suffering for the

rides," he added.

Rubaiya Ahmad of the Bang-



The zoo in Bangladesh's capital has five Asian elephants aged between 10 and 30. It is home to more than 2,500 creatures from 137 species -- including eight endangered Bengal tigers.

ladesh Animal Welfare Foundation welcomed the news as "fantastic".



# Weinstein convicted of sex assault, rape

- He faces up to 29 years in prison on the two felony convictions
- Found not guilty of first-degree rape and predatory sexual assault
- More than 80 women have accused Weinstein of sexual misconduct

AFP | New York

Harvey Weinstein was convicted Monday of rape and sexual assault but acquitted of the most serious predatory charges, a verdict hailed as a historic victory by the #MeToo movement against sexual misconduct.

The 67-year-old was remanded in New York's notorious Rikers Island jail after the jury of seven men and five women found the once powerful Hollywood producer guilty of criminal sexual acts in the first degree and rape in the third degree.

However, he left Rikers Monday evening and was admitted to Bellevue Hospital Center in Manhattan for chest pains, his spokesperson told AFP.

Oscar-winner Weinstein, whose films include "Shakespeare In Love," was found not guilty of first-degree rape and predatory sexual assault, charges that could have seen him jailed for life.

But he faces up to 29 years in prison on the two felony convictions.

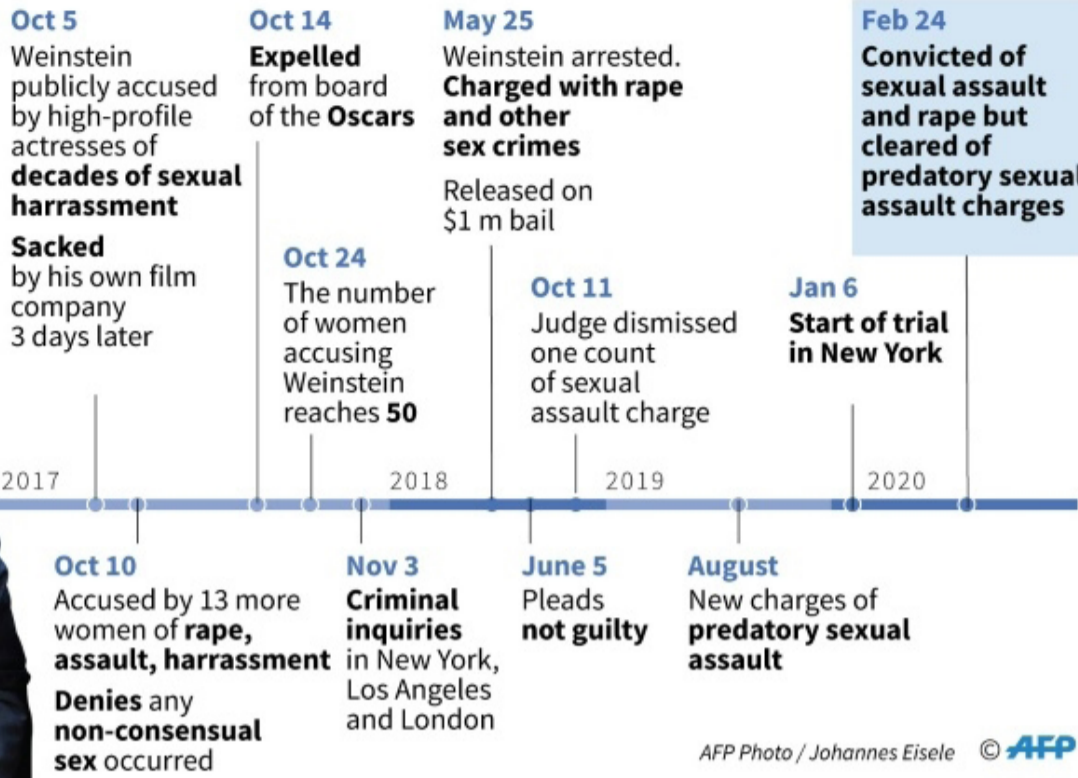
The ashen-faced defendant, who attended the trial hunched over a walker, showed little emotion after the verdict was delivered to a packed New York courtroom. He was taken into custody pending sentencing, which was scheduled for March 11.

His lawyer Arthur Aidala said a "shocked" Weinstein was muttering "I'm innocent, I'm innocent. How could this happen in

The Hollywood mogul was found not guilty of first-degree rape and predatory sexual assault charges that could have seen him jailed for life



67 years old



AFP Photo / Johannes Eisele © AFP

America?"

Lead attorney Donna Rotunno promised an appeal, saying "the fight is not over" and applauded Weinstein for taking the decision "like a man."

The mixed verdict offered a large measure of vindication for the dozens of women who made allegations against him.

It was the most high-profile sex assault conviction in the United States since Bill Cosby was found guilty in 2018 of drugging and sexually assaulting a woman 15 years prior.

The Time's Up foundation, formed in the wake of the Weinstein case, celebrated the outcome as marking "a new era of justice."

"Abusers everywhere and the powerful forces that protect them should be on notice: There's no going back," it said in a statement.

Manhattan's top prosecutor Cyrus Vance praised the women who testified against Weinstein as having changed "the course of history."

"This is the new landscape

for sexual violence survivors. This is a new day," Vance told reporters outside the New York courthouse.

"We all owe an immense debt to you, who had the courage beyond measure to speak your story to the world, to the courtroom, at great personal risk, and in great personal pain."

**'Public service'**

More than 80 women have accused Weinstein of sexual misconduct since allegations against him ignited a global reckoning against men abusing positions of power in October 2017.

But with many claims too old to prosecute, the jury considered charges related to just two: ex-actress Jessica Mann and former production assistant Mimi Haley.

The predatory sexual assault charges included testimony from "The Sopranos" actress Annabella Sciorra, who said Weinstein raped her in her New York apartment in the winter of 1993-94.

Six women took the stand to

**The prosecution cast Weinstein as a conniving predator who demanded sex in exchange for access to the film universe where he reigned, but presented no forensic evidence or third-party witness accounts.**



say they had been sexually assaulted by Weinstein.

They were subjected to ferocious cross-examination as Weinstein's defense team argued that his relationships were consensual and transactional.

The prosecution cast Weinstein as a conniving predator who demanded sex in exchange for access to the film universe where he reigned, but presented no forensic evidence or third-party witness accounts.

The state's case instead rested on asking the jury to believe the women.

Ashley Judd, who has said Weinstein destroyed her film career after she rejected his sexual advances, tweeted thanks after the verdict dropped.

"For the women who testified in this case, and walked through traumatic hell, you did a public service to girls and women everywhere, thank you," she said.

**Next stop, LA**

Weinstein, who has always said his sexual relations were consensual, was charged with raping former actress Mann in the DoubleTree hotel in midtown Manhattan in 2013.

He was also charged with forcing oral sex on former production assistant Haley at his New York apartment in July 2006 while she was on her period.

The charges of predatory sexual assault, a serious sex crime committed against more than one person, were the most grave and carried a sentence of life in



Former Actress Jessica Mann arrives for the trial of Harvey Weinstein at the Manhattan Criminal Court



Annabella Sciorra's allegation was too old to be prosecuted as an individual crime



Lawyer Donna Rotunno vowed an appeal

prison.

For the jury to convict Weinstein of that they would have had to believe either Mann or Haley plus Sciorra.

Sciorra's allegation was too old to be prosecuted as an individual crime but she was included in the indictment to bolster the predatory sexual assault charge.

Sciorra said in a statement Monday that her testimony had been "painful but necessary," according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Ex-model Lauren Young told the court Weinstein sexually assaulted her in the bathroom of a Beverly Hills hotel room in 2013 when she was a 22-year-old aspiring actress.

Eyes now turn to Los Angeles, where Young's allegations form part of a separate sex crimes investigation against Weinstein being carried out by prosecutors in the California city.

They accuse him of raping an Italian model in February 2013 and of assaulting Young the following night.

## Italian hikers rescued in Alaska after visiting infamous bus

AP | Anchorage, Alaska

An Italian man suffering from frostbite and four other tourists were rescued in the Alaska wilderness after visiting an abandoned bus that has become a lure for adventurers since it was featured in the "Into the Wild" book and movie.

Alaska State Troopers say the five Italians were rescued Saturday from a camp they set up after visiting the dilapidated bus on the Stampede Trail near the interior town of Healy.

The hikers were found 13 miles from the trailhead, Trooper spokesman Tim DeSpain said. He didn't know how far they were from the bus.

One of the hikers had frostbite to his feet and was transport-



Hikers take a break at Bus 142 on the Stampede Trail. (Representative picture)

ed to Fairbanks for treatment, injuries are not considered DeSpain said. The hiker's

life-threatening. The other four hikers were picked up by friends in Healy.

Rescuers were alerted by the hikers with a satellite-based emergency device that notified the International Emergency Response Coordination Center of a medical emergency, troopers said. That international group then notified rescuers, who reached the site by snowmobile, DeSpain said.

The rescue was the latest episode involving the bus, first made famous by Jon Krakauer's book published in 1996 and then by Sean Penn's 2007 film of the same name. Both fueled a lingering mystique about a young idealist, Christopher McCandless, who

met his death from starvation in the bus, which is about 10 miles north of the entrance to Denali National Park and Preserve.

Over the years, some hikers have been rescued and others have died while trying to retrace McCandless' last steps.

In July, a newlywed woman from Belarus died after she was swept away by the Teklanika River while trying to reach the bus with her husband.

In 2013, three German hikers trying to reach the bus were rescued after a river they crossed became impassable because of high, fast-moving water.

Families of some of those who died are now behind a proposal before Denali Borough for a feasibility study for construction of

a footbridge over the Teklanika.

The idea is in the early stages, and no decision has been made. But borough Mayor Clay Walker said there are several concerns among officials. A footbridge might give people a false sense of security. It could lead to more people trying to reach the bus, and that could lead to more rescues, Walker said.

There are more hazards in the unforgiving wilderness surrounding the bus, as Saturday's rescue illustrates.

"A footbridge wouldn't have changed the need for a rescue," Walker said. As far as he's concerned, a better solution would be to remove the bus. "The fact that the bus is there raises that attraction level," he said.



Fairbanks City Transit System Bus 142 is an abandoned 1946 International Harvester K-5 that is parked in a clearing along the Stampede Trail near Denali National Park.



It was originally one of a few buses used by the Yutan Construction Company to provide remote accommodations for the construction crew from Fairbanks that worked on road upgrades in 1960-1961.

The bus engine was removed and it was instead towed by Caterpillar D8 bulldozers. It contained beds and a wood-burning stove, which still remain today.

When the Stampede Mine ceased operations in the 1970s, all but this one bus were removed from the trail.



# SHOW



**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

**SANDOQ AL DUNYA (15+)(ARABIC/DRAMA)**  
 CITY CENTRE: 12.15 + 5.00 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM  
 SEEF (II): 5.00 + 7.00 + 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

**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 + (12.45MN 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

**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

**AVYAPPANUM 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

**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 YENELI, N SA SOF YA AKSONGUR, LKER AKSUM



**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

**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

# Ophelia is a juicy, crowd-pleasing Shakespeare revamp

In this revisionist take, Shakespeare's tragic heroine takes matters, and fate, into her own hands

Based on the novel by Lisa Klein, the film follows the story of Hamlet from Ophelia's perspective. It stars Daisy Ridley in the title role, alongside Naomi Watts, Clive Owen, George MacKay, Tom Felton and Devon Terrell.

Ophelia is a British-American romantic drama film directed by Claire McCarthy and written by Semi Chellas about the character of the same name from William Shakespeare's play Hamlet

The film received mixed reviews, praising the production, direction, and the performances, mostly Ridley, but criticizing the writing. On review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 60% based on 112 reviews. The site's critics



A scene from the movie

consensus reads: "Flawed yet intriguing, Ophelia uses Hamlet as the starting point for a noble attempt to offer a misunderstood character long-overdue agency".

Other publications also praised Ridley citing that "Daisy Ridley may have been born to play these types of roles because Ophelia is strong and powerful, just like Rey," and she gives a "beautiful performance."

Metacritic gave it a score of 60 based on 22 critics, indicating "mixed or average reviews".

Rotund Reviews states that they "can't praise this film enough and highly recommends checking it out." Film Frenzy states that the film "offers an imaginative retelling of an acknowledged masterpiece from an alternate POV" and it's "definitely worth seeing and admiring."

Additional reviews cited that the film is "moving, intoxicating, haunting; the most visually pleasurable film so far this year," and that it's "real entertainment," as "Daisy Ridley does first-rate work in the title role."

### SUDOKU

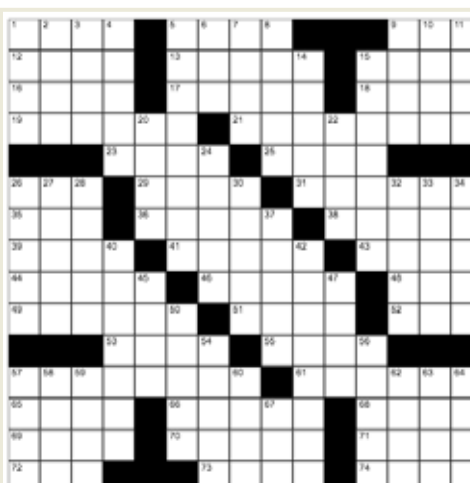
5								2
7	1	6			4	7	9	
		9		6	4	1	5	8
6	5							7
4	1	5	3	7				6
					4	3	9	5
				8	2	3		
1								6

Yesterday's solution

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

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- Hard to find; 5- Part of a process; 9- Small drink, young child; 12- Are you out?; 13- Heaps; 15- Fine cotton; 16- Blues singer James; 17- Out of line; 18- Allege; 19- Pay attention; 21- Each person; 23- Assortment; 25- Exile; 26- Just make, with "out"; 29- Alley; 31- Inhabitant of Tripoli; 35- Son of Jacob; 36- Ring; 38- Roofing stone; 39- Increase in size; 41- Pertaining to the Netherlands; 43- Goes wrong; 44- Host; 46- Jeopardy; 48- Rebellious Turner; 49- African sands; 51- Travel on; 52- Conscripted; 53- Capital of Peru; 55- Adroit; 57- Piece of luggage; 61- Skylighted lobby; 65- Moonfish; 66- Scatter; 68- Reason d'\_; 69-A hobgoblin; 70- Brazilian dance; 71- Droops; 72- \_Cat; 73- Cuddle; 74- Canonized Fr. women;  
**Down**  
 1- Monetary unit of Cambodia; 2- Not pro; 3- Goes bad; 4- Muse of lyric poetry; 5- Iberian peninsula inhabitant; 6- Shakespearean contraction; 7- Sommer of film; 8- Annoy; 9- VCR alternative; 10- Augury; 11- Shipping deduction; 14- Bulge; 15- Due; 20- Raines of film; 22- Diamond stats; 24- Get the better of; 26- Borders; 27- Destiny; 28- Methuselah's father; 30- Go into; 32- Threads; 33- Gillette razors; 34- Bird homes; 37- Bitterly pungent; 40- Affluent; 42- Refuge; 45- Actor Stoltz; 47- Took off; 50- Run up; 54- Take \_ at (try); 56- Head lock; 57- Weeps; 58- Atop; 59- Emilia's husband; 60- Writer Bombeck; 62- Let's just leave \_ that; 63- The munchies, e.g.; 64- Imbroglio; 67- Flow back;

Yesterday's solution





# CELEBS

## celebs

Paris Hilton



### Paris Hilton on failed engagement: I deserve someone amazing

Los Angeles

**S**ocialite Paris Hilton does not regret breaking her engagement to Chris Zylka in 2018. She calls it the "best decision" that she ever made.

Speaking of the split to Cosmopolitan UK, Hilton said: "No. It was the best decision I've ever made in my life. I just don't think (he) was the right person. I feel like I'm an incredible woman and I deserve someone so amazing. I just didn't feel right. I've worked way too hard to just give my life to someone. They have to be perfect." Hilton dated Zylka for two years. She said she was loving her single life because she did not want to have "someone controlling me".

She added that dating "certain people" increased the risk of "not trusting them" and implied that if she went away, she fears they would "do something to embarrass me."

The former couple ended their engagement in November 2018, only 10 months after he proposed Hilton with a \$2 million ring.



Scarlett Johansson, Chris Evans

### Scarlett Johansson, Chris Evans in Little Shop of Horrors?

Los Angeles

**H**ollywood stars Scarlett Johansson and Chris Evans are in talks to play pivotal roles in a new big-screen adaptation of Little Shop Of Horrors. The film is a remake of the cult movie-turned-Broadway musical, and is being directed by Greg Berlanti.

Actor Taron Egerton is also being considered for a leading role in the horror-comedy while Billy Porter has already been signed up for a part, reports hollywoodreporter.com.

Little Shop Of Horrors is the story of Seymour, a meek florist who works at the aptly named Skid Row Florists, where he is under the thumb of the owner, Mr. Mushnik. Seymour secretly loves Audrey, who also works at the struggling shop.



Kylie Jenner

### Kylie Jenner may bring back reality show 'Life of Kylie'

Los Angeles

**A**merican media personality Kylie Jenner is considering bringing back the reality show 'Life of Kylie' for a new season.

A source told Us Weekly that the offer to bring back the show is on the table from E!

On February 22, Jenner tweeted, "What show should I start?" and one of the fans replied with a GIF, "Start shooting season 2 of Life of Kylie."

To which the 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star retweeted the GIF, and said, "Should I really?"

Airing in August 2017, 'Life of Kylie' was a reality TV show that followed the life of beauty mogul Kylie Jenner and her famous friends. The show also showcased Kylie struggling with her life in the spotlight and juggling her many different business ventures.

However, in September 2017 the TV show didn't last and came to an abrupt end after only being on for one month.

### Weinstein accusers welcome rape, sexual assault conviction



Harvey Weinstein  
New York

Accusers of disgraced movie producer Harvey Weinstein have welcomed the guilty verdicts in the rape and sexual assault case against the former Hollywood mogul.

Actress Rose McGowan told the BBC "this is a great day", while others said the ruling brought hope to victims that their voices would be heard.

Weinstein, 67, was on Monday convicted in New York City of third-degree rape and a first-degree criminal sexual act.

He was cleared of the most serious count of predatory sexual assault.

Weinstein faces up to 25 years in prison over the guilty verdicts relating to two women. His lawyers say he will appeal.

"I'm innocent. How can this happen in America?" Weinstein's lawyer Arthur Aidala quoted his client as saying, the BBC reported on Tuesday.

### Mel C gets candid about cause of anorexia, depression

Los Angeles

**S** Spice Girls star Melanie C's struggles with eating disorders and depression date back to a BRIT Awards spat with bandmate Victoria Beckham and has now got candid about the cause of her anorexia and depression.

The singer has told BBC Radio 4's "Desert Island Discs" host Lauren Laverne she was told she would be fired if she ever took on Posh Spice again - and the showdown led to years of problems.

"I think that is where the start of a lot of my problems was... I had to be so strict with myself after that, in case I messed it up. What made it so devastating was how important I realised it was to me," she said.

"We were at the BRITs and we all had a few bevies (drinks). I was told if it happened again I would be out."

Mel C reveals the pressure she felt led to a pattern of anorexia and depression: "I was described as the plain one at the back, so I tried to make myself perfect... I ended up making myself really ill. I was anorexic for a few years. I was exercising obsessively and I ended up being incredibly depressed."



Mel C

### Beyonce bans photos of her performance during Kobe Bryant memorial

Los Angeles

**A**merican singer Beyonce who attended a public memorial for NBA great Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna at the Staples Center, banned photos of her performance during the ceremony.

According to media reports, photographers were forbidden from taking pictures of the Grammy Award-winning singer during her performance on Monday, reported Page Six.

As per Page Six, an insider at the event said, "It is so offensive to Kobe's family and the fans, Beyonce is so controlling of her image -- she usually only allows approved selected images of her to be released, so no photographers at the Kobe memorial were allowed to take her picture."

"A Staples Center staffer was dispatched to make sure not a single camera was focused on the stage. The photographers couldn't believe it. This doesn't help Beyonce's image at all, it hurts her. It makes her look like a diva. The memorial wasn't about her," the insider further added.

However, representatives for Beyonce did not immediately return a request for comment.



Beyonce

### See how Jennifer Lopez paid tribute to Kobe, Gianna Bryant



Jennifer Lopez and Kobe Bryant

Los Angeles

**A**merican singer Jennifer Lopez had her own special way to honour the late Basketball player Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna Bryant.

Just before the father-daughter duo's celebration of life kicked off at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, Jennifer took to Instagram and disclosed how she's watching the special ceremony.

In the caption J Lo wrote, 24 and 2 with purple and yellow heart emojis in honour the Los Angeles Lakers team colours.

And if given a closer look, Jennifer's fresh manicure included the numbers 2 and 24 in honour of Gianna and Kobe's respective jersey numbers.

Later the singer was spotted with fiancé Alex Rodriguez inside the Staples Center to support Vanessa Bryant and the family, reported E! News.

On February 24, an official memorial was organised at the Staples Center in Los Angeles to celebrate the lives of basketball legend Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna Bryant who died along with seven other people in a helicopter crash in Calabasas, California.

### Sanya Malhotra's big surprise: Daniel Radcliffe wishes her 'happy birthday'!

Mumbai

**A**ctress Sanya Malhotra was in for the surprise of her life when she got a birthday wish from Harry Pot-



Daniel Radcliffe and Sanya Malhotra

thanks to Sanya's close friend Junaid Hussain Nahvi.

Junaid is a London-based LSE lawyer, and it looks like he made just the right argument to convince Radcliffe to wish his big fan Sanya.

"Hi there, I am here with Junaid. Hello, Sanya, happy birthday! Wherever you are, I hope you're having a great day!" Radcliffe says in the video.

Sanya shared the video on Instagram, along with a Rubeus Hagrid gif clapping.

ter star Daniel Radcliffe!

Sanya, who turned 28 on Tuesday, took to Instagram stories to share the video that has Radcliffe wishing her.

The seemingly impossible incident, it seems, happened

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# SPORTS

## sports

## Bahrain team joins British GT

2 Seas Motorsport is set to compete in Intelligent Money British GT Championship

TDT | Manama

Bahraini racing team 2 Seas Motorsport will be competing in this year's Intelligent Money British GT Championship, it was announced yesterday.

The debutants are making sporting history as they are the first Bahraini outfit to race in the prestigious series.

They will contest this year's campaign with a pair of McLaren 720S GT3s, and Bahrain's very own racing talent HH Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla Al Khalifa is one of their drivers.

The team's Silver Cup driver combinations comprise 2019 GT4 title contender Dean Macdonald and Angus Fender, who claimed two GT3 podiums last season; as well as HH Shaikh Isa, whose British GT co-driver will be confirmed in due course.

HH Shaikh Isa co-owns 2 Seas Motorsport with business partner Nick Cristofaro. The McLaren Customer Racing team was only established in 2019 but boasts many years of experience amongst its staff.



The team's McLaren 720S GT3

Indeed, HH Shaikh Isa expects to hit the ground running when Oulton Park plays host to British GT's season-opener on April 11 and 13.

"I am really proud to be now in a position to launch 2 Seas Motorsport, confirming the first of our exciting plans for this season, running with the McLaren 720S GT3 and with the entry into the Intelligent Money British GT Championship," HH Shaikh Isa said.

"It is going to be a tough year and we are going in at a high level, as the grid is one of the strongest ever with world-class

drivers and teams all the way down. But Dean, Angus and I are all fired up for the challenge.

"While we are a new team, the 720S GT3 has proven itself on the world stage already, and the individuals who make up the team have extensive experience from all forms and series within motorsport, and we are confident going into this new programme."

The sister 720S is shared by two 19-year-old rising stars, who both impressed throughout last season. Macdonald finished third in the GT4 standings with HHC Motorsport following

particularly impressive qualifying performances, while Fender's late-season GT3 switch to Century's BMW M6 resulted in back-to-back podiums at Brands Hatch and Donington.

"2 Seas Motorsport joins McLaren Customer Racing for the 2020 season, and we are proud to be working with such an iconic name in motorsport," said Cristofaro, who was instrumental in bringing the programme together.

"We monitored the performance of the 720S GT3 closely throughout 2019 during its debut season and it has proven itself a race-winner against some of the toughest opposition including the race victory at the British GT season-finale. It has also started the 2020 season strongly with a podium at the Bathurst 12 Hour, so we enter the season full of confidence and looking to secure more silverware."

The team is scheduled to hold a testing programme ahead of the British GT's season-opener.

The 2020 championship features seven races in all, to be run until September.

## BIC opens multi-purpose stand at The Avenues



BIC's multi-purpose stand at The Avenues

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", announced today the opening of its stand at The Avenues Bahrain, as the days count down to the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2020.

The Formula 1 spectacle takes place March 19 to 22 in Sakhir, and BIC is set to light it up with a fantastic programme of racing and entertainment.

The stand is located in front of gate number one (Harbour Gate). It will be open daily between 9.30am and 10pm on weekdays and between 9.30am and 12midnight from Thursdays to Saturdays.

At the stand, fans will be able to purchase their tickets for the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2020, as well as all sorts of BIC and Formula 1 merchandise and memorabilia.

There is also a Virtual Reality game and a kids' colouring

area for visitors to enjoy.

Tickets to the Bahrain Grand Prix are selling fast and all those excited to attend are advised to purchase theirs as soon as possible.

Fans who purchase a Main Grandstand ticket for the Bahrain Grand Prix will have a chance to take home a pair of Formula 1 Paddock Club three-day passes worth almost US\$10,000 in an exciting new raffle. This is the first time this prestigious prize has ever been offered for the Bahrain Grand Prix.

Interested race-goers have until March 7 to buy their Main Grandstand ticket in order to be a part of the draw. Those who have already secured their Main Grandstand seats have also already been entered automatically.

The grand prize of two Formula 1 Paddock Club passes will give the winners access to one of the most exclusive locations from where to enjoy this year's Bahrain Grand Prix.

## BIC to host official pre-season tests of F2 and F3

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is all set to host three busy days of official pre-season testing next week for two of Formula 1's biggest feeder series.

Set to take to the tarmac from next Sunday to Tuesday (Editor's note: March 1 to 3) in Sakhir are competitors in this season's FIA Formula 2 Championship and FIA Formula 3 Championship.

Testing will be held from 9am to 7.45pm on all three days. Many of international racing's superstars of the future will be lining up in the pit lane as the look to make their way up the motorsport ladder to the top flight.

Each series will complete their running at BIC as part of their preparations for the start of their respective 2020 campaigns.

The Formula 2 drivers and

teams will also get the first chance to sample the new 18-inch Pirelli tyres—acting as a first step towards Formula 1 making the same change for 2021—during their three-day test.

Formula 3 will complete running in Bahrain over the same three-day period, making use of the state-of-the-art floodlights at BIC to allow for separate sessions to take place each day. These tests will mark the first-ever action in Bahrain for the Formula 3 championship, which is only in its second year.

Both Formula 2 and Formula 3 will be staging their first rounds of their 2020 seasons at BIC a few weeks following the tests, in support of the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix from March 19 to 22.

They are a part of the Grand Prix weekend's stellar support race programme that also includes the Porsche Sprint Chal-



Race cars in action at BIC

lenge Middle East.

Meanwhile, BIC will also be hosting testing next month for Formula 1 tyre suppliers Pirelli. These tests will be held on March 24 and 25, with Formula 1 teams Renault and Mercedes participating.

In the tests, each team will

sample the new 18-inch tyres that are set to debut in the 2021 Formula 1 season.

The Formula 2, Formula 3 and Pirelli tests this March confirm BIC's status as a favourite venue for hosting testing at the highest levels of international motorsport.

## Corral cruises past Moussa in FCTG Cup Opener

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Filipino Thess Corral overpowered Egyptian teenager Khadija Moussa in the opening match of the ladies Flight 4 division in the Eleventh Chairman's Cup, organized by the Filipino Club Tennis Group (FCTG) and supported by Almoayed Motors at the Bahrain Tennis Federation courts in Isa Town.

In other ladies Flight 4 division matches, Ana Hernandez started sturdily but regained her composure in subduing Lei Del Rosa 8-6 while Elvie Al-ico eased past Leanne Gayle



Participants at the venue

Sinacruz 8-3.

The opening ceremony and first few matches of the tournament were held on Friday. There

are total of 166 singles entries playing in seven men's divisions, three women's divisions, beginners and kids division. The

Tournament format is double elimination. Matches are played according to schedules at the BTF courts.

## Zelzaal motor show draws huge participation and crowd



Cars on display during the event

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Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", hosted the Zelzaal motor show last Friday at the BIC premises in Sakhir.

This hugely popular event took place on the sidelines of BIC's Vehicle Dynamics Area, which is a specially configured venue at the circuit's car park.

More than 2,000 vehicles including sports cars, coupes, convertibles, sedans, hatchbacks, Sports Utility Vehicles, pick-up trucks and motorbikes of various makes and models were on display to the thou-

sands who turned up for the show.

The participating owners represented all kinds of car clubs from across the Gulf, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain.

As part of the gathering, a drifting show was held along BIC's Vehicle Dynamics Area, which is a specially configured venue at the circuit's car park. The Zelzaal motor show is one of the largest in the Middle East. It has been held at BIC a few times in the past, and it has always been a huge draw for motoring enthusiasts.



# Al Sharif excels as Hague takes solo lead

Saudi teenager plays Day Two low score to go one shot behind leader in MENA Tour golf

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It was a proud moment for Saudi Arabian golf and host venue Royal Golf Club yesterday when amateur Saud Al Sharif mastered the tough playing conditions to shoot the lowest round of the day and surge to tied-second place, just one behind leader David Hague, in the \$75,000 Royal Golf Club Bahrain Open.

The 19-year-old Al Sharif, a member of the Saudi national team, learned his golf at The Royal Golf Club where he has been based for the past 10 years. He used his immense local knowledge to the fullest on a day when strong and swirling wind posed tough questions and shot a six-under par 66. That moved him to tied second place at seven-under par 137, level with France's Antoine Schwartz (70).

Hague, who turned pro after MENA Tour by Arena Qualifying School and recently finished runner-up at the NEWGIZA Open in Cairo, was five-under par



Hague plays a shot during the second round yesterday

through his front nine (the back nine of the course), but stumbled on his way back with three bogeys and a double. A birdie on the last hole helped him close with a 70 and gave him a one-

shot cushion going into the final round.

Overnight joint-leader Joel Grrbach (72) of Sweden fell to tied fourth place at six-under par 138 alongside the promising



Al Sharif at the Royal Golf Club

Irishman Ryan Lumsden (67) and resurgent Frenchman Victor Riu (67).

"It is such an amazing day. I had an unbelievable round, my lowest ever on the MENA Tour!" said Al Sharif, who had sensationally made the cut last week in Oman after holing out his second shot on the par-4 17th hole for an eagle and a birdie on the last.

"My putter was on fire. I made putts from Saudi Arabia to Bahrain. Come to think of it, my short game was something that was holding me back. I have been working really hard on my putting and chipping with Jamie McConnell at the Claude Harmon Performance Institute in Dubai and it is showing result.

"Of course, I know this golf

course better than everyone else. But playing at home also brings a lot of pressure and hopefully, I can handle it tomorrow as well as I did today."

The consistent Hague drove his opening hole – the reachable par-4 10th – and started in the best possible way with an eagle. He made the turn at five-under par before two three-putts and a poor tee shot on the par-3 seventh led to leaked shots.

"I was playing really well and was 12-under par at one stage. It's disappointing to finish at two-under, but I am happy that I managed to reach eight-under par. The conditions were quite difficult out there with the wind," said Hague.

Schwartz, who is looking for his first win on the MENA Tour,

was rewarded for his patience with two birdies in his last two holes – the eighth and ninth – both playing very difficult in the wind.

"It was a tough day and I just tried to remain patient. It was a good finish with the two birdies and I am looking forward to tomorrow. Getting into contention is the main thing in golf and if I am within one or two shots of the leader tomorrow going into the back nine, I will be happy and give it my best shot," said Schwartz, who is a member of the Challenge Tour.

Journey to Jordan leader David Langley made successive eagles on the ninth and 10th holes after making a double bogey on the second hole and was in the group at five-under par.

## Lucas Martins returns, meets Rakhman Makhazhiev at BRAVE CF 35 in Brazil

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Former BRAVE CF Lightweight World Champion and Featherweight contender Lucas "Mineiro" Martins is set to make his much-anticipated return to the BRAVE CF cage. Mineiro is another major addition to the stacked BRAVE CF 35 fight card, scheduled to take place in Balneário Camboriú, Brazil, on March 28th.

Mineiro's opponent in the upcoming Lightweight match will be Russia's Abdul-Rakhman Makhazhiev. "Soulman", as he's also known as, is coming of a successful debut at BRAVE CF, last December, in Kyrgyzstan, when he beat Sanzhar Azhibayev via submission in the very first round. In his professional career, Markhazhiev boasts a record of nine wins and five losses.



Lucas Martins holds a professional record of 20 wins and only five losses. The striking artist is returning to a 3-round

match after spending two years challenging and defending World Titles in 5-round marathons. In his last appearance, in July, 2019, Lucas was defeated by Featherweight World Champion Bubba Jenkins in London, England.

BRAVE CF 35 will take place on March 28th, 2020 in Balneário Camboriú 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, the first promoted by the Bahrain-based promotion outside of Curitiba and Belo Horizonte in Brazil, is headlined by Cleiton "Predator" making the first defense of his Lightweight title against Sweden's Guram Kutateladze.

## Riffa defeat Jordan's Al Jazeera for first AFC Cup win



Riffa's Haram, no. 14, celebrates after scoring their opening goal yesterday

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Bahrain league champions Riffa defeated Al Jazeera of Jordan 2-0 last night in their Group D clash of the 2020 AFC Cup, played at Amman International Stadium.

Ali Haram and Mohammed Salih Soulah were the scorers for the victors.

Haram gave them a dream start with a goal in the seventh minute, while Soulah applied the nail in the coffin in the second minute of second-half stoppage time.

The result gave Riffa three points from two matches. They had earlier bowed to Qadsia SC of Kuwait 1-2 in their previous game.

Haram scored with a header after Jazeera goalkeeper Nouredin Zaid punched a cross away, only for it to be sent into the net by the Bah-

rains international.

That was enough to give Riffa the lead heading into the break.

In the second half, Jazeera pushed hard to find an equaliser, but their efforts were largely off target. Ahmed Abdelhalim tried his luck from distance at the hour mark, but goalkeeper Sayed Alawi was alert to the threat and made the save.

Soulah then came on as a substitute with just a quarter-hour remaining and he pput the match to rest with a deflected shot that left goalkeeper Zaid wrong-footed.

Riffa play Dhofar Club of Oman in their next game, scheduled to take place on March 9 at home.

They are one of two Bahraini clubs in the AFC Cup. The others are Manama in Group A.

## Qualifiers of Strongest GCC Man held in Dubai

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The Organising Committee of the Strongest GCC Man has held the fourth round of the qualifiers in Dubai. This comes after the qualifiers took place in Bahrain, Saudi and Kuwait with Dubai as the fourth stop. Dubai's qualifiers were organised at Sport Time GYM and witnessed wide-scale participation from sportspeople in the country.

The event featured three competitions including torso lifting, farmer walk and car lifting. It's worth noting that the finals will take place in Bahrain in April under the patronage of



A participant in action during the event

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, and Bahrain Olympic Committee President. The championship is part of

HH Shaikh Khalid's sport and humanitarian initiatives. The funds that will be raised in the event will be dedicated to supporting cancer patients.

"We have designed a plan to

make the event a huge success in line with the vision of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa. This is the first time we expand this prestigious championship by covering other GCC countries as we aim to bolster the friendly ties among the people of this region," Mohammed Abdulmalik, President of the Coordination and Follow-up Committee, said.

"We want to form meaningful partnerships in bodybuilding and fitness sports and contribute to supporting young GCC sportspeople who are practicing these sports," he added.

The last stop for the qualifiers will be Oman on March 7, 2020.