

Mandy Moore gets Hollywood Walk of Fame star

Singer-actress Mandy Moore has been honoured with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Moore received the star in the company of her "A Walk to Remember" co-star Shane West, reported dailymail.co.uk. **P14**

OP-ED **8** An election not quite as it seems

THE DAILY **tribune**



Nikki Bella announces retirement from WWE **14** CELEBS

WORLD **6** New blackout hits swaths of Venezuela including Caracas

Plan to promote nationalism

Manama
 As part of the Royal vision to promote loyalty and patriotism, Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa yesterday launched the National Plan to Promote the Spirit of Belonging to the Nation and Reinforce the Values of Nationalism. The event was attended by ministers, senior officials, religious scholars, members of the Council of Representatives and the Shura Council, presidents of universities and institutes, heads of schools, representatives of human rights organisations, editors-in-chief of newspapers, businessmen, lawyers, doctors, owners of majlis and heads of sports clubs and youth centres.



General Shaikh Rashid

"The purpose of the National Plan is to protect the authentic values and traditions of the children of Bahrain which represent the best form of solidarity among the people of a nation."

Security reviewed

Manama
 The Public Security Chief inspected the security preparations to ensure the success of the Bahrain Grand Prix (Formula 1). He was briefed on the deployment of patrols, security checkpoints and the level of preparedness ahead of the international sporting event. He hailed the directives of the Minister of Interior General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa to take all measures to maintain the security of the race, the participants and the public.

Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa stressed the crucial role of culture as a bridge to strengthen interstate relations and bolstering positive cooperation.

He made the statement as he attended the Thai Culture and Food Festival, stressing the importance of events and exhibitions in highlighting cultures and civilisations and expanding co-operation.

HRH the Premier was received on arrive at the festival by Advisor to the Thai Foreign Minister



HRH the Premier tours Thai Culture and Food Festival.

Chaisiri Anamaram. He toured the festival and the accompanying events, which reflect long-standing Thai history and civilisation. "Bahrain and Thailand boast millennia-old civilisational heritage which represents and enriching asset that contributes to strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries in all fields," he said.

Thai Authority for Tourism Authority of Thailand Middle East held the festival at the Gulf Hotel, in partnership with the Thai Embassy in Manama and Gulf Air. The event featured events reflecting deep-rooted Thai civi-

lisation, including culinary art, fashion and folklore.

The Premier hailed strong historic relations binding the two friendly countries and peoples, commending the event which represents a facet of cultural cooperation between the two friendly countries.

He hailed the events line-up for the festival, reflecting deep-rooted Thai civilisation, thanking the organisers of the festival and the participants for their efforts to ensure the success of the cultural event. He wished Thai leaders, Government and people development and progress.

Premier lauds Bahrain-Thai relations

● **Successful commercial trials for 5G technology in the Kingdom were held in June 2018.**

● **The products and services will be in line with the 3GPP standards issued in 2018 and will predominantly utilise bandwidth in the C-Band spectrum.**

Manama

Transportation and Telecommunications Minister Kamal Ahmed has announced that preparations for the rollout of 5G networks in the Kingdom are complete and anticipates that Bahrain will be one of the first countries globally to provide commercial 5G services to consumers by June 2019, pending availability of consumer handsets.

He said that, having completed all the necessary regulatory work, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) is scheduled to allocate licensing and spectrum by the first week of April.

Mobile operators in the King-

dom have already begun rolling out the necessary network infrastructure. "This project comes as part of the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister, of further promoting competitiveness within the Kingdom – in line with Bahrain Vision 2030."

"The project reflects the Kingdom's drive for innovation, the use of the latest technologies, and the continuous support of all stakeholders including the TRA and the national Spectrum Strategy and Coordination Committee (SSCC), all of which serve to highlight the Kingdom's continued role as a regional leader in telecommunications and ICT sector.

"The launch of 5G also reaffirms the Kingdom's leading role in 5G networks and the imple-

Bahrain to be among first countries in the world to provide 5G services to customers

5G by June



“The launch of 5G reaffirms the Kingdom's leading role in the implementation of cutting-edge technology and promoting innovation.”

MR AHMED

mentation of cutting-edge technology and promoting innovation," said the minister.

This announcement positions Bahrain as one of the world's leading 5G-ready countries, increasing its appeal as a destination for companies trialling next-generation technologies such as autonomous vehicles and virtual/augmented reality goods, as the Kingdom contin-

ues to encourage investment in world-class telecommunications infrastructure and services.

These products and services will also be ably supported by the National Broadband Network (NBN), which will offer ubiquitous high-speed fibre-based products to operators and consumers throughout the Kingdom.

Successful commercial trials for 5G technology in the King-

dom were held in June 2018 and all licensed operators are preparing to provide commercial 5G services which will be ready to go when consumer handsets become available.

The products and services will be in line with the 3GPP standards issued in 2018 and will predominantly utilise bandwidth in the C-Band spectrum (3GHz) and will allow Bahraini companies to tap into the global 5G services market, which is anticipated to grow from an estimated \$60 billion in 2020 to an estimated \$125bn in 2025.

The Kingdom of Bahrain ranks first in global ICT indices, being ranked first in the Arab region in the ITU's ICT Development Index (IDI), and fourth globally in the UN's Telecommunications Infrastructure Index (TII) of the E-Government Development Index (EGDI) in 2018.

Countdown begins



Some of the biggest motorsport stars arrived in the Kingdom for this weekend's Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2019. Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) will host the racing and entertainment spectacle from Thursday to Sunday in Sakhir. It will mark the second round of the 2019 FIA Formula 1 World Championship and race no 999 in the history of the top flight. It is also the 15th edition of the event and the sixth time it is taking place under BIC's state-of-the-art floodlights as a night race. Amongst the Formula 1 stars who have already touched down are McLaren's British rookie Lando Norris, who has had some success at BIC in the past while competing in Formula 2, and Formula 1 returnee Robert Kubica of Poland, who had captured pole position in the 2008 edition of the Bahrain race.

SPORTSMAN SPIRIT

Zealous soccer fans dig tunnel to reach stadium

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Overzealous football fans dug a tunnel to reach the stadium for watching a game between Bangladesh and Bahrain.

The strange incident happened at Khalifa Sports City Stadium in Isa Town a few days ago.

Sources said many Bangladeshi soccer fans were denied permission inside as seats to watch the game were all taken, well before the match began.

However, the relentless fans "engaged in an adven-



A screenshot of the video showing soccer fans digging a tunnel to make their way to the stadium.

ture" to get inside and see their favourite stars in action.

"The game drew a large crowd. The seats were filled before the match began and it was impossible for new spectators to enter. The security personnel started blocking fans from entering," sources said.

"The tunnel was dug using a shovel and many of them successfully entered the stadium crawling through it."

Isa Town also witnessed a huge traffic tailback as hundreds flocked to the stadium. Bahrain won the match (1-0).



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His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa praised strong and growing relations of friendship and co-operation between Bahrain and Thailand, which are based on mutual understanding and respect. He stressed the Kingdom's keenness to further bolster bilateral co-operation to achieve common interests mainly in the economic, trade and investment fields. HRH the Premier was speaking as he received at Gudaibiya Palace yesterday Advisor to the Thai Foreign Minister Chaisiri Anamaran who is on a visit to Bahrain leading a delegation comprising economic and cultural figures. HRH the Prime Minister hailed the visit of the Thai delegation to Bahrain which is part of the efforts made to promote bilateral co-operation.



HRH Prince Andrew, Duke of York, and Chancellor of British University of Huddersfield toured the Royal University for Women in the presence of Education Minister and officials. A letter of intent between the two universities was signed to promote co-operation. Separately, HRH Prince Andrew honoured 37 students from the English Language Centre at the University of Bahrain, who won the bronze badge through their participation in the IDEA competition. Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi, President of the University of Bahrain, Dr Yusuf Hamza attended.



His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, yesterday met the participants in the second edition of Pitch@Palace competition, at the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) headquarters. He was received by Tamkeen Chairman Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa and Chief Executive Officer Dr Ibrahim Mohammed Janahi. The meeting was part of his visit to the Kingdom to attend the concluding ceremony of Pitch@Palace competition, which will be held today. The competition was launched by Prince Andrew in 2014, as one of leading international initiatives to celebrate entrepreneurship, and to provide a platform for emerging businesses for further grow and prosper.

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Bangladesh Ambassador to Bahrain Major General K M Mominur Rahman yesterday hosted a reception marking the 49th Bangladesh Independence and National Day, which was attended by diplomats, senior government officials and dignitaries.

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Bahraini yoga therapist and social worker Fatima Al Mansoori took part in the 'Love March' that was held in Christchurch, New Zealand, in tribute to the victims of attacks on mosques there. She also visited attack survivors at hospitals as well as offered condolences to the family members of the victims.

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'Protecting nation's heritage one of top priorities'

Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday made an inspection visit to a number of heritage, religious, historical and commercial sites in the Manama region.

HRH the Prime Minister exchanged talks with a number of citizens and visitors of the sites, stressing the government's unwavering efforts to develop various areas and provide them with sufficient services.

HRH the Premier highlighted the government's unwa-



HRH the Premier during an inspection visit to heritage and religious sites.

”
The government's developmental projects are aimed at achieving the citizens' comfort.

HRH THE PREMIER

vering interest in developing regions to achieve the aspirations of the citizens, noting that many development projects aimed at achieving the citizens' comfort and boosting the commercial sector are being implemented.

While visiting the site of the Al Mehza Mosque, which he had ordered to be reconstructed in a way that would preserve its historical status and religious role, HRH the Prime Minister affirmed that directives had already been given to the competent authorities to expedite the completion of the technical procedures in order to immediately embark on the reconstruction and the revamp of the iconic mosque.

HRH the Premier affirmed the government's interest in taking care of the houses of worship so as to be able to assume their religious and social role.

MoE 'committed to ensure' safety of pupils at schools

Two students were suspended from a public school for 'selling drugs to classmates'

● **Reportedly, the students confessed to possessing and distributing drugs at the government school.**

● **Mr Al Awadhi stressed that the Public Prosecution had launched an extensive investigation after receiving the notification.**

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

The Ministry of Education has taken necessary steps to ensure safety of all school students following the recent drug scandal that hit a public school, the ministry an-

”
The Public Prosecution will announce its findings as they unfold, in accordance with the provisions of the law.

MR AL AWADHI

nounced yesterday.

Firm action will be taken against those who attempt to harm the safety of the schools in the country, the ministry warned.

It further confirmed that the drug that was allegedly sold by the student was Lyrica and stated that the case is being thoroughly investigated by a nine member committee.

Two students were suspended from the public school after it emerged that they sold drugs in the school.

In a video that went viral, a

Bahraini psychologist who was seen counselling a student, made various claims about what happened in the school in addition to drug scandal.

The Ministry of Education denied those claims stating that in their testimony to the investigative team, the students did not reveal such information.

Dr Fawzi Al Jowder, Undersecretary for Educational and Curricula Affairs, confirmed that the students were suspended for possession and sale of drugs within the school.

"The ministry has already taken action on this. This particular issue is an old one, it took place in January. The ministry had quickly formed an investigate team and took the necessary action," he said.

Tribune reported yesterday that a school in the Southern Governorate suspended two students, reportedly female, for their involvement in serious violations related to drug possession and distribution.

Reportedly, the students confessed to possessing and distributing drugs at the government school. According to sources, the students are 13 years old.

Meanwhile, Capital Prosecution Chief, Nawaf Al Awadhi, has asserted that the Public Prosecution has been notified by the General Directorate of Anti-corruption, Economic and Electronic Security about a video in circu-

lation featuring a group of people talking about the expulsion of a schoolgirl from a school for selling pharmaceutical drug that legally requires a medical prescription to be dispensed.

Mr Al Awadhi stressed that the Public Prosecution had launched

an extensive investigation after receiving the notification.

He affirmed that the Public Prosecution, out of its role in preserving the rights and interests of society, would take all necessary procedures, in line with its legal mandate, to uncover the truth

and identify all those involved in the crime.

The Public Prosecution will announce its findings as they unfold, in accordance with the provisions of the Law, and in a way that would not affect the course of investigation, he added.



Lyrica tablets were allegedly sold by the students at the public school.

600 visitors attend mental health expo

Manama

Students of the College of Medicine and Molecular Sciences organised an awareness campaign, titled "Mental Health Between Concepts and Myths".

The campaign was held at the Avenues Mall, where 600 people visited the campaign headquarters to learn more about all the

scientific concepts related to psychiatry.

More than 100 students from the College of Medicine and Molecular Sciences worked behind the integrated psychiatric awareness campaign that sought to show the difference between mental health as science, misconceptions and popular myths.

This was done by providing

the definition of the most common mental diseases such as depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, in addition to other phenomena such as hyperactivity and lack of attention, bullying.

Through these stations, the visitors have briefed on the symptoms of these mental diseases and methods of prevention or treatment in the event of an occurrence.

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ArtBAB rakes in over BD93,000

ArtBAB initiative is being held in collaboration with Tamkeen



Many international speakers talked about art and commerce, technology and the impact of AI and blockchain on art.

TDT | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

The 2019 edition of ArtBAB, Bahrain's premier international art platform, was marked by a triumphant engagement of new ideas and new avenues to take Bahraini artists to bigger global platforms.

Held under the patronage of HRH Princess Sabeekha bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of the King, the show saw eleven countries participating in the fair this year: Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Russia, Bulgaria, Argentina, India, Belgium, UK, Italy and Portugal.

The 16 participating international galleries recorded sales of BD93,156.

This year, the annual fair also saw a rise in sales overall, ringing in BD257,700 in overall sales.

Of this, Bahraini artists recorded sales of BD156,097 which is a jump over last year's BD 147,900 and the highest recorded so far at ArtBAB.

Participating local galleries and universities recorded total sales of BD11,050. The Bahrain-based galleries and universities included Baghdad Art Gallery, the Bahrain Contemporary Art Association, Art for Heart, the University of Bahrain and the Royal University for Women. This year there were 17 artist stands and a BAAB Pavilion for Bahraini contemporary art show framing the works of 30 selected Bahraini artists.

"The success of the Bahraini artists, especially the emerging talent, is a sign that ArtBAB as a movement has clearly helped to elevate the recognition levels and commercial victory of

"We are delighted with the warm response of art-lovers, collectors and the artist community to ArtBAB."

SHAIKHA MARAM

Bahraini art which is increasingly finding a place in some of the most prestigious collections around the world," commented Fairs and Programme Director Kaneka Subberwal.

She added, "The growing weight of excellence that the ArtBAB shows have brought to international attention, has resulted in many significant collaborations and exposure. Ten Bahraini artists will be participating in an artists' residency

programme in New York, founded by well-known art authority Nathalie Angles. The eighteen-month programme which begins in September 2019, will be a valuable insight for our artists on trends and techniques of the contemporary art scene internationally. The artists will attend the residency in two batches of five artists each."

In another development, the works of five Bahraini artists being selected for inclusion in CollectorIQ, a US-based art-collection management online system that lists over 320,000 artists and 6.5 million listed works of art from around the world. The Bahraini artists listed on CollectorIQ are Balqeas Fakhro, Omar Rashid, Jamal Abdulrahim, Faika al Hasan, Nabeela Al Khayer and Othman Khunji.

"We are delighted with the warm response of art-lovers, collectors and the artist community to ArtBAB – it's an indication of the continuing relevance of the fair to the spread of Bahrain's artistic narrative across borders," said Shaikha Maram bint Isa Al Khalifa, Director of the Office of Her Royal Highness, Princess Sabeekha bint Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of the King of Bahrain, who is the Patron of ArtBAB. "We are pleased to have started new global conversations about contemporary Bahraini art and

the Kingdom's crafts heritage." The much-anticipated 'Conversations@ArtBAB' proved to be an intellectual magnet with over 40 speakers and panelists from around the world discussing viewpoints on art and commerce, AI and VR as game changers for the arts and the role of blockchain and artificial intelligence to improve transparency, attribution and authentication of art works.

The ArtBAB initiative is being held in collaboration with Tamkeen.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
For the year ended 31 December 2018		
	2018	2017
	BD	BD
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net Profit / (loss) for the year	41,578	(89,269)
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation	6,276	8,949
Provision for end-of-services benefits (Reversal) / Provision for credit losses - net	14,017	4,106
Operating profit / (loss) before changes in operating assets and liabilities	(1,608)	19,465
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Mudaraba	500,124	(499,491)
Murabaha receivables	(285,837)	(130,522)
Other assets	(17,247)	3,659
Accounts payable, accruals and other liabilities	(43,946)	15,405
Net cash from (used in) operating activities	213,357	(667,698)
INVESTING ACTIVITY		
Wakala placements with original maturities of above 90 days	(1,585,000)	-
Purchase of equipments, furniture and fixtures	(4,359)	(1,097)
Net cash used in investing activities	(1,589,359)	(1,097)
FINANCING ACTIVITY		
Wakala financing	2,000,000	-
Net cash from financing activity	2,000,000	-
NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	623,998	(668,795)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	223,089	891,884
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 DECEMBER	847,087	223,089
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS COMPRISES:		
Cash in hand	1,759	3,776
Balances with banks	191,198	119,313
Mudaraba with financial institution with original maturity of 90 days or less	354,130	100,000
Wakala with financial institution with original maturity of 90 days or less	300,000	-
	847,087	223,089

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
At 31 December 2018		
	2018	2017
	BD	BD
ASSETS		
Cash and balances with banks	192,957	123,089
Mudaraba	354,130	600,062
Wakala	1,885,000	-
Murabaha receivables	1,766,280	1,478,897
Equipment, furniture and fixtures	7,750	9,667
Other assets	60,200	42,953
TOTAL ASSETS	4,266,317	2,254,668
LIABILITIES AND OWNERS' EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Wakala Financing	2,000,000	-
Accounts payable, accruals and other liabilities	113,105	143,034
	2,113,105	143,034
Owners' equity		
Share capital	5,000,000	5,000,000
Accumulated losses	(2,846,788)	(2,888,366)
Total owners' equity	2,153,212	2,111,634
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND OWNERS' EQUITY	4,266,317	2,254,668

STATEMENT OF INCOME		
For the year ended 31 December 2018		
	2018	2017
	BD	BD
INCOME		
Income from Mudaraba	15,459	17,280
Income from Wakala	9,371	-
Income from Murabaha receivables	483,712	459,013
Fee income	56,800	42,385
Other income	148,200	77,990
Total income	713,542	596,668
EXPENSES		
Staff cost	561,010	557,322
General and administrative expenses	106,286	100,201
Depreciation	6,276	8,949
Total expenses	673,572	666,472
NET PROFIT / (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR BEFORE PROVISION FOR CREDIT LOSSES	39,970	(69,804)
Reversal / (Provision) for credit losses - net	1,608	(19,465)
NET PROFIT / (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	41,578	(89,269)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWNER'S EQUITY			
For the year ended 31 December 2018			
	Share capital	Accumulated losses	Total owners' equity
	BD	BD	BD
Balance at 1 January 2017	5,000,000	(2,799,097)	2,200,903
Net Loss for the year	-	(89,269)	(89,269)
Balance at 31 December 2017	5,000,000	(2,888,366)	2,111,634
Balance at 1 January 2018	5,000,000	(2,888,366)	2,111,634
Net Profit for the year	-	41,578	41,578
Balance at 31 December 2018	5,000,000	(2,846,788)	2,153,212

The above Statements were extracted from the Financial Statements of Family Bank B.S.C. for the year ended 31 December 2018, which were audited by Ernst & Young who expressed an opinion on 21 March 2019.

H.E. Mr. Jameel Bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan
Chairman

Dr. Khalid Abdulla Ateeq
CEO & Board Member

For full financial information details, please visit our website: www.familybankbh.com

Manslaughter convict loses appeal

The assailant was charged with beating the victim to death.

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court upheld the sentence issued against an Asian man who pushed his colleague to death after a worksite row.

The duo were serving in a construction company and they were assigned to visit a site to perform some of the tasks when the incident occurred, according to Prosecutors.

"I pushed him to the ground, and his head bled profusely. I didn't mean to kill him," the defendant told prosecutors.

A medical report said that the victim suffered injuries in his face, lower jaw as well as fractures in his skull, because of which he died.

The assailant was charged with beating the victim to death.

He was tried before the High Criminal Court which sentenced to five years behind bars.

RAFIDAIN BANK		
BAHRAIN BRANCH		
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	2018	2017
31 December 2018	BD	BD
ASSETS		
Cash and balances with the Central Bank of Bahrain	462,291	612,692
Due from banks and financial institutions	16,846,050	14,504,108
Loans and advances	455,701	525,504
Due from Head Office and other branches	1,225,471	1,225,471
Other assets	181,283	194,044
TOTAL ASSETS	19,170,796	17,061,819
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Due to banks and financial institutions	136,470	116,985
Customers' deposits	5,896,771	4,029,063
Due to Head Office and other branches	4,778,527	4,881,626
Other liabilities	1,240,849	1,257,611
Total liabilities	12,052,617	10,285,285
Equity		
Branch capital	4,500,000	4,500,000
General reserve	260,686	260,686
Statutory reserve	-	227,347
Retained earnings	2,357,493	1,788,501
Total equity	7,118,179	6,776,534
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	19,170,796	17,061,819
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	2018	2017
Year ended 31 December 2018	BD	BD
Interest and similar income	575,579	426,046
Interest and similar expenses	(25,540)	(7,055)
NET INTEREST INCOME	550,039	418,991
Net gain on foreign currencies	10,967	94,157
Other income	128,500	52,977
Reversal of provision for impairment of credit losses - net	9,702	-
TOTAL INCOME	699,208	566,125
Staff expenses	68,198	73,923
Other operating expenses	122,624	128,621
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	190,822	202,544
NET PROFIT AND TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	508,386	363,581
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	2018	2017
Year ended 31 December 2018	BD	BD
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net profit for the year	508,386	363,581
Adjustments for non-cash items:		
Depreciation	5,758	6,136
Reversal of credit loss expense on loans and advances	(10,416)	-
Reversal of credit loss expense on due from banks and financial institutions with an original maturity of ninety days or more	(71,716)	-
Operating profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities:	432,012	369,717
Mandatory reserve with the Central Bank of Bahrain	16,000	116,000
Due from Head Office and other branches	-	6
Loans and advances	43,768	9,881
Other assets	16,305	(114,129)
Due to banks and financial institutions	19,485	55,971
Customers' deposits	1,867,708	(1,138,159)
Due to Head Office and other branches - net	(103,099)	1,650,782
Other liabilities	(16,762)	(29,135)
Due from banks and financial institutions with an original maturity of ninety days or more	(3,328,284)	(4,000,000)
Net cash used in operating activities	(1,052,867)	(3,079,066)
INVESTING ACTIVITY		
Purchase of equipment	(9,302)	(1,169)
Net cash used in investing activity	(9,302)	(1,169)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Transfer to Head Office	(16,362)	(7,567)
Additional capital transferred from Head Office	-	3,033,642
Net cash (used in) from financing activities	(16,362)	3,026,075
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(1,078,531)	(54,160)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	11,038,800	11,092,960
ECL transition reserve upon adoption of IFRS 9 on due from banks and financial institutions	(113,928)	-
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	9,846,341	11,038,800
Dr. Ahmed H Atshan	Ernst & Young	
General Manager	Auditors	

Public official loses plea

Woman Labour Ministry official was sentenced to one year for embezzlement

TDT | Manama

A senior official in the Ministry of Labour convicted of embezzlement has had her sentence upheld.

The defendant, a manager with a department in the ministry, has been sent to trial over accusations of pocketing around BD23,000 after she was assigned to collect money from Bahraini citizens, who had received the financial support, despite being ineligible.

The mistake was attributed to wrong identification of beneficiaries by the department, according to sources.

According to court files, the woman was referred for investigations after she failed to hand over all the money returned to her to the finance department at the ministry.

“Some of the citizens were paid the financial support between the years 2014-2016, although they weren't eligible to receive it. They were asked to



The ministry was supposed to receive BD38,065, but there was a missing amount of BD23,390.

SOURCES

return the funds, and the defendant was responsible for collecting the amount from them,”

a source close to the case said, “The ministry was supposed to receive BD38,065, but there was a missing amount of BD23,390,” the sources added.

The woman reportedly returned BD14,675 when she was put under probe.

Nevertheless, her case was reported to the Public Prosecution, and she was put on trial on embezzlement charges.

She was sentenced to one year behind bars and was ordered to settle the embezzled amount.

Grand celebrations at Hindu temple

● The event will take place at the temple premises in Manama from 10.30 am to 11.30 am, according to organisers.

TDT | Manama

Under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence and the Managing Committee of Shreenathji (Shree Krishna) Hindu Temple

will organise a grand celebration today, commemorating 200 Years of establishment of the ancient and iconic temple.

The temple was established in 1817 by the Thattai (Bhatia) Hindu Community with the blessings of the Royal Family of the Kingdom.

It holds the distinction of being the first and oldest temple in the Gulf countries and has been catering to the needs of the large Hindu expatriate community since centuries.

The event will take place at the temple premises in Manama from 10.30 am to 11.30 am, according to organisers.

Bahrain deplores US move on Golan Heights

Manama

Bahrain expressed its regret over the United States' recognition of the Syrian Golan Heights as an Israeli territory in a move that disrupts all efforts aimed at achieving a lasting peace in the Middle East.

“Bahrain affirms its unequivocal position in recognising the Golan Heights as Syrian Arab territory occupied by Israel in June 1967 as stated by the resolutions of the UN Security Council,” said the ministry's statement issued yesterday.

The ministry stressed the need to abide by the resolutions of international legitimacy, calling for concerted efforts to end Israel's occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights and to withdraw from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 in order to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

President Donald Trump has officially recognised Israeli sovereignty over the occupied Go-

Bahrain affirms its unequivocal position in recognising the Golan Heights as Syrian Arab territory occupied by Israel in June 1967.

FOREIGN MINISTRY

lan Heights, seized from Syria in 1967, in a move hailed as “historic” by Israel's prime minister.

Benjamin Netanyahu, who faces an election next month, was by Mr Trump's side as he signed the proclamation.

Syria said Mr Trump's decision was “a blatant attack on its sovereignty”.

Israel annexed the Golan Heights in 1981, in a move that is not recognised internationally.

A spokesman for United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Monday he was “clear that the status of Golan has not changed”.

Bilateral ties focus of discussion

Manama

In the framework of his visit to Japan, the Southern Governor, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, highlighted that the visit aims to strengthen bilateral relations in various fields.

The Southern Governor said that as he yesterday met Governor of Tokyo Yuriko Koike to discuss broadening co-operation and learning about the Governorate of Tokyo's duties and responsibilities and its role at various levels, including security, social, economic and development, as it is one of the world's largest cities.

The Southern Governor pointed out the industrial, educational and cultural projects that have been established in the Southern Governorate, thanks to the directives of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy



Yuriko Koike receives Shaikh Khalifa.

Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

The Governor of Tokyo expressed her country's readiness to expanding co-operation and boosting co-ordination with the Kingdom in governorate management, security, social, economic and cultural areas, praising the development seen by Bahrain. She said that Japan

has included educational curricula on the Kingdom of Bahrain in 35 schools.

Bahraini Ambassador to Japan, Ahmed Al Dossari and Japanese Ambassador to Bahrain Hideki Ito was present at the meeting.

Separately, Prince Akishino, the son of the Emperor of Japan, received Shaikh Khalifa.

Prince Akishino also expressed thanks and appreciation to Shaikh Khalifa for his key efforts to enhance the existing friendly relations at all levels.

In this regard, Prince Akishino cited the “Japanese Village” event, organised recently by the Southern Governorate in co-operation with the Japanese Embassy in Bahrain, and its outstanding success in terms of attendance and distinguished Japanese cultural and folklore programmes and shows, praising the governor's interest in Japan's culture and history.

Shaikh Khalifa stressed that the Southern Governorate is among the important governorates in the kingdom given its strategic, historical and social importance, adding that the Southern Governorate has hosted numerous international events, initiatives and activities, which, he said, has entitled it to be a favourable tourist destination for the visitors of Bahrain.

Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance (Middle East) B.S.C. (c)



Consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2018

	2018 US\$ '000	2017 US\$ '000
ASSETS		
Property and equipments	3,739	3,396
Intangible assets	3,451	2,098
Goodwill	40,125	40,125
Available for sale investments	65,365	60,535
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	102	89
Held to maturity investments	6,257	5,349
Deferred acquisition costs	23,788	24,596
Reinsurers' share of unearned premiums	25,958	25,727
Reinsurers' share of outstanding claims	47,852	35,310
Receivables arising from insurance and reinsurance contracts	83,816	82,760
Due from agent	340	340
Other receivables and prepayments	17,492	18,281
Deferred tax asset	261	253
Bank balances, cash and restricted deposits	384,140	364,167
Total assets	702,686	663,026
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Unearned premiums	145,042	145,856
Outstanding claims	133,862	122,909
Reinsurance payable	29,640	27,089
Other liabilities and provisions	65,694	59,207
Employees' end-of-service indemnity	10,218	9,709
Total liabilities	384,456	364,770
Capital and reserves		
Share capital	54,312	54,312
Statutory reserve	23,443	20,164
Contingency reserve	13,524	13,524
Restricted reserve	618	618
Asset revaluation reserve	145	146
Available for sale investments reserve	(874)	(271)
Retained earnings	126,707	112,830
Equity attributable to equity holders of the Parent	217,875	201,323
Non-controlling interests	100,355	96,933
Total equity	318,230	298,256
Total liabilities and equity	702,686	663,026

Consolidated statement of profit or loss For the year ended 31 December 2018

	2018 US\$ '000	2017 US\$ '000
Gross insurance premium	336,115	339,424
Premium ceded to reinsurers	(73,576)	(82,562)
Net earned premium	262,539	256,862
Underwriting expenses		
Gross claims incurred	(151,118)	(139,035)
Reinsurers' share of claims	42,303	26,661
Net claims incurred	108,815	112,374
Commission incurred	(50,450)	(52,212)
Commission income on ceded insurance	4,703	9,339
Net commission incurred	(45,747)	(42,873)
Underwriting profit	107,977	101,615
General and administrative expenses	(68,682)	(64,614)
Net underwriting profit	39,295	37,001
Investment Income - net	10,935	8,409
Distribution of surplus to policyholders from insurance operations	(1,147)	(1,000)
Profit for the year before tax	49,083	44,410
Income tax and deferred tax	(2,262)	(1,951)
Profit for the year	46,821	42,459
Attributable to:		
Equity holders of the Parent	37,886	33,678
Non-controlling interests	8,935	8,781
	46,821	42,459

Chairman

Managing Director

A copy of the Financials would be available at the Registered Office of the company. Office no: 21, Building 662, Road No 2811, Block No 428, Al Seef, PO Box No. 11871, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain.

New blackout hits swaths of Venezuela including Caracas

● Cellphone signals were disrupted and television was blanked out

● President Nicolas Maduro's government blamed the outage on an "attack"

AFP | Caracas, Venezuela

A new blackout swept across Venezuela on Monday, including much of Caracas, sowing alarm two weeks after a nationwide outage that paralyzed the country.

The power cut in the capital occurred around 1:20 pm (1720 GMT) and knocked out electricity in the city center.

After nightfall, many apartment buildings in the Caracas metro area -- home to around six million people -- were aglow again and traffic lights were back on, but people reported they were still in the dark in many other states.

Communications Minister Jorge Rodriguez blamed the latest blackout on "an attack on the charging and transmission center" at the Guri dam, which supplies 80 percent of the power to the country of 30 million.

"What (last time) took days, now has been taken care of in just a few hours," Rodriguez said, saying the fix had been made in "record time."

Earlier, a local newspaper reported that the power was out at Venezuela's main international airport outside Caracas.

Cellphone signals were disrupted and television was blanked out. Shops hastily low-



People queue to get on a bus during a partial power cut in Caracas

“Sitting in the office, without power but with a generator, wondering ‘How long will this new blackout last? Do I have enough water at home? What about the meat and chicken in the freezer?’”

ANDRES BETANCOURT

ered shutters, fearing looters.

President Nicolas Maduro's government blamed the outage on an "attack" targeting the Guri hydroelectric plant.

Rodriguez told state television that the opposition was responsible, claiming it "wants

to plunge the population into profound unease."

Juan Guaido, the opposition leader recognized as Venezuela's interim president by the US and many of its allies, countered on Twitter that Maduro's government "uses these moments to disinform and create anxiety."

He said "at least 17" of the country's 23 states were affected, as well as much of the capital district covering Caracas, retweeting a graphic by web monitoring organization Net-Blocks showing the internet down for 57 percent of Venezuela.

Anxious Twitter users who were online said several big cities in the west of the country including Barquisimeto, Maracaibo and Barinas were impacted.

"Not another blackout, no God, no," tweeted Flore Meller, a 29-year-old resident in the town of Ocumare del Tuy

US will not 'stand idly' on Russian role: Pompeo

Washington, United States

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned Russia Monday the United States will not "stand idly by" as Moscow inserts military personnel into Venezuela to support the regime of President Nicolas Maduro.

In a phone call with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Pompeo denounced the growing Russian military reinforcements as prolonging the political crisis in the South American country.

Pompeo told Lavrov "the United States and regional countries will not stand idly by as Russia exacerbates tensions in Venezuela," the State Department said in a statement.

"The continued insertion of Russian military personnel to support the illegitimate regime of Nicolas Maduro in Venezuela risks prolonging the suffering of the Venezuelan people who overwhelmingly support interim President Juan Guaido," he said.

Pompeo urged Russia to "cease its unconstructive behavior" and support Guaido.

southeast of Caracas.

During last blackout which started on March 7 and lasted a week, more than a dozen patients in hospitals died, public transport came to a halt, production slowed in the vital oil sector and water supplies were interrupted, forcing citizens to turn to sewage outflows and polluted water sources.

Shakespeare in Cuba



Britain's Prince Charles (2-L) and his wife Camilla (L) unveil a sculpture of English poet, playwright and actor William Shakespeare along with Havana City Historian Eusebio Leal, in Old Havana in the Cuban capital. Britain's Prince Charles and his wife, the Duchess of Cornwall, are on the first royal visit to communist-run Cuba at a time when ally Washington is seeking to ramp up sanctions against the island.

Female reporters quit over Vatican call for 'obedience'

Vatican City, Holy See

The all-female editorial team behind the Vatican's women's magazine have resigned over what they describe as attempts to stifle their reporting and bring in more "obedient" journalists, its founder said.

"We are throwing in the towel because we feel surrounded by a climate of distrust and

progressive de-legitimation," Woman Church World founder Lucetta Scaraffia wrote in an editorial published by Italian religious news blog Il Sismografo.

The magazine -- which has not shied away from tackling hard-hitting issues -- began life seven years ago as an insert and is published along with the Vatican's L'Osservatore Romano newspaper.

Egypt puts 145 people on terrorism list: judicial source

Cairo, Egypt

An Egyptian court upheld yesterday a decision to put 145 people, including staunch Muslim Brotherhood supporters, on the country's "terrorism list", a judicial source said.

The Court of Cassation rejected appeals against a ruling passed by a lower court in June last year.

The defendants were accused of training militants and plotting violence in the country, the source said.

The list includes senior Brotherhood figures, many of whom fled Egypt following the military ouster of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013.

The Brotherhood was designated a "terrorist organisation" months after Morsi's overthrow.

India seizes cash, drugs, booze worth \$70m in pre-vote crackdown

AFP | New Delhi, India

Indian authorities have seized more than \$70 million worth of cash, booze and illegal drugs under special laws designed to curb vote buying during the world's biggest election, officials said yesterday.

Around 900 million Indians are eligible to vote in the mammoth polls, which start April 11 and run nearly six weeks in a huge endeavour some experts say could cost \$10 billion.

From the moment the election was announced on March 10, special laws took effect banning all Indians from carrying large amounts of money, gold or silver to reduce the risk of politicians buying votes.

Officials such as police and railway staff are granted temporary powers during the campaign to seize booze, cash or other goods they believe are being used to sway voters.

So far, authorities have confiscated 4.4 million litres of liquor



Indian election officials test and prepare Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) at a distribution centre ahead of the Indian elections in Ahmedabad

and 1.5 billion rupees (\$21.8 million) in cash considered suspicious, the election commission said in a statement.

Illegal drugs worth an almost similar amount had been seized,

the commission said.

"Freebies" stockpiled in trucks along highways worth an estimated 120 million rupees were also confiscated. No exact description of the goods was provided, but in the past political parties have used mobile phones, televisions and other electronic gadgets to entice votes. Poorer voters are particularly targeted by unscrupulous politicians during elections and plied with cash and luxury items to garner support and influence.

To combat this, special election laws prohibit anybody from possessing more than one kilogram of gold or silver, or carrying in excess of one million rupees, until the results are declared on May 23.

In the 2014 elections, 16 million litres of liquor and 17,000 kilograms of drugs seized.

This election, a mobile-based application lets voters report any wrongdoing taking place in their electorate, in a bid to clean up the the poll.

NASA scraps all-women spacewalk for lack of well-fitting suits

Washington, United States

The US space agency NASA scrapped yesterday a planned historic spacewalk by two women astronauts, citing a lack of available spacesuits that would fit them at the International Space Station.

Christina Koch will now perform tasks in space Friday with fellow American Nick Hague -- instead of Anne McClain as originally planned.

Had Koch and McClain done their spacewalk together, it would have been the first ever by two women astronauts.

Until now, male-only or mixed male-female teams had conducted spacewalk since the space station was assembled in 1998 -- 214 spacewalks until now.



NASA astronauts Christina Hammock Koch and Nick Hague, members of the International Space Station (ISS) expedition 59/60, react shortly before the launch onboard the Soyuz MS-12 spacecraft from the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan

McClain worked outside the station last week -- with Hague -- when she realized that a "medium"-sized upper half of her spacesuit fit her better.

"Because only one medium-size torso can be made ready by Friday, March 29, Koch will wear it," NASA explained.

The spacesuits aboard the ISS are in fact assemblies of several parts put together as best adapted to each astronaut's body, explained Brandi Dean, spokeswoman of the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas where American astronauts are based.

She said two upper parts in each of the three available spacesuit sizes are currently held at the ISS: medium, large and extra large.

"We do our best to anticipate the spacesuit sizes that each astronaut will need, based on the spacesuit size they wore in training on the ground, and in some cases astronauts train in multiple sizes," she said in explaining the problem that hampered Friday's planned spacewalk.

"However, individuals' sizing needs may change when they are on orbit, in response to the changes living in microgravity can bring about in a body.

"In addition, no one training environment can fully simulate performing a spacewalk in microgravity, and an individual may find that their sizing preferences change in space."

US hits Iran Guard finance network with sanctions

Washington, United States

The US Treasury took fresh aim yesterday at the international network funnelling dollars and euros to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), naming 25 individuals and entities for financial sanctions.

The targets were front companies of the IRGC-controlled Ansar Bank and Ansar Exchange in Iran, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, that have collectively been able to move more than \$1 billion for the Tehran regime, the Treasury said.

The funds have benefited both the IRGC and the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces



Key figures in Ansar Bank and Ansar Exchange were designated for sanctions

Logistics, according to a Treasury announcement.

The sanctions seek to lock those named out of the global

financial system by banning US citizens and US businesses -- including international banks with a US presence -- from doing business with them.

"Any foreign financial institution that knowingly facilitates a significant transactions for any of the individuals or entities designated today could be subject to US sanctions," the Treasury warned.

The 25 named were mostly relatively small trading and money exchange firms, dubbed by the Treasury "front companies," and their owners and managers who worked with Ansar Bank and Ansar Exchange.

In addition key figures in An-

sar Bank and Ansar Exchange were designated for sanctions.

"This vast network is just the latest example of the Iranian regime's use of deceptive practices to exploit the global financial system and divert resources to sanctioned entities," said Treasury Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Sigal Mandelker.

Washington has stepped up economic pressure on Iran since President Trump decided to withdraw last year from the 2015 agreement to freeze the country's development of nuclear weapons, saying Tehran was "not living up to the spirit of the deal."

South Korea professor forced students to write daughter's thesis: report

Seoul, South Korea

A Seoul university professor forced students to write her daughter's thesis to gain entry to an elite dental school, a government report revealed yesterday, the latest scandal to hit South Korea's hyper-competitive education system.

The professor, who teaches at Seoul's Sungkyunkwan University, made her graduate students conduct a three-month experiment -- and even asked them to fabricate the results -- before the daughter published the findings in an academic journal under her own name.

The daughter then included the thesis in an application to Seoul National University's dental school -- the top institution of its kind in the country -- and earned admission last year.

The daughter also won a number of academic awards for posters and research reports that were actually completed by her mother's students

"The Education Ministry plans to ask her university to expel the professor," an official said.

The investigation discovered the professor had one of her students do 54 hours of volunteer work -- converting a book into braille -- in her daughter's name, for which she was paid 500,000 won (around US\$440).

US successfully tests anti-ICBM system: statement

Washington, United States

The US military said it had successfully tested an anti-intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) system, with a target launched from the Marshall Islands shot down by two interceptors based in California.

To protect against the

threat from ICBMs, the US has developed the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system, which is designed to fire an interceptor missile into space and use kinetic energy to destroy target. This was the first successful test involving a salvo of interceptor missiles, the military said in a statement.

Georgia court rules to extradite British speedboat killer

Tbilisi, Georgia

A Georgian court yesterday ruled to extradite a British man who killed his date in a speedboat crash in London and gave himself up in the ex-Soviet republic after fleeing his country.

Jack Shepherd, 31, "consented to the prosecutor's demand for his extradition and will most likely be sent to Britain next week," his lawyer Tariel Kakabadze said.

Shepherd was convicted of manslaughter last year for the death of Charlotte Brown, a 24-year-old woman he took on a champagne-fuelled first date on his speedboat in the

River Thames in 2015. The boat flipped over after Shepherd handed Brown the controls and she was recovered unconscious and later died in hospital.

Shepherd, a web designer, was rescued after being found clinging to the upturned hull.

He vanished before his trial last summer and was convicted of manslaughter by gross negligence and sentenced to six years in prison in his absence. An international warrant was issued for his arrest.

In January, he turned himself in to police in the Georgian capital Tbilisi and has since then remained in custody, awaiting an extradition trial.

الشركة المتحدة للتأمين ش.م.ب (مقفل) United Insurance company B.S.C (closed)		
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018		
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER	2018	2017
	BHD	BHD
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property Plant and equipment	222,245	203,773
Investment property	538,357	538,357
Available for sale investments	9,751,897	8,159,413
	10,512,499	8,901,543
Current assets		
Reinsurance contract receivables	1,092,817	797,309
Other receivables and prepayments	388,766	307,871
Statutory deposit	75,000	75,000
Mudharaba deposit	1,400,000	600,000
Cash and Bank Balances	13,219,471	15,984,056
	16,176,054	17,764,236
Total assets	26,688,553	26,665,779
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Capital and reserves		
Share capital	5,000,000	5,000,000
Statutory reserve	2,500,000	2,500,000
Investment Fair value reserve	1,437,780	1,480,654
Retained earnings	4,405,917	5,317,976
	13,343,697	14,298,630
Current liabilities		
Insurance liabilities	11,619,331	11,033,253
Other liabilities and provisions	1,725,525	1,333,896
	13,344,856	12,367,149
Total equity and liabilities	26,688,553	26,665,779
These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 20 February 2019		
Soliman Al Humayyd Chairman	Sameer Ebrahim Al-Wazzan Vice Chairman	

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER	2018	2017
	BHD	BHD
Income		
Gross premiums written	9,091,573	8,684,431
Insurance premiums ceded	(318,205)	(324,363)
Net insurance premiums written	8,773,368	8,360,068
Change in unearned premiums	(57,290)	(45,141)
Other Insurance Income	526,997	500,625
Total income from insurance operations	9,243,075	8,815,552
Expenses from insurance operations		
Gross claims paid	(3,549,035)	(3,275,308)
Claims recovered from reinsurers	25,277	60,283
Net claims paid	(3,523,758)	(3,215,025)
Change in provision for outstanding Claims, net of reinsurance	(244,392)	(751,715)
Commissions paid	(216,682)	(210,686)
Motor compensation fund contribution	(63,759)	(58,673)
Staff costs	(1,652,438)	(1,528,470)
General and Administrative expenses	(717,928)	(434,885)
Depreciation	(44,347)	(37,083)
Total expenses from insurance operations	(6,463,304)	(6,236,537)
Net income from insurance operations	2,779,771	2,579,015
Investment income	1,076,140	793,394
Impairment Loss on available-for-sale investment	(67,708)	(130,281)
Directors' remuneration	(200,000)	(200,000)
Charity expense	(40,000)	(40,000)
Other income	39,738	78,554
NET PROFIT FOR THE YEAR	3,587,941	3,080,682
Earnings per Share - Basic	718 Fils	616 Fils
Statement of Comprehensive Income		
Net Profit for the Year	3,587,941	3,080,682
Other Comprehensive Income		
Net (Loss)/gain on revaluation of available for sale investments	(42,874)	198,264
Total comprehensive income for the year	3,545,067	3,278,946
These financial statements have been audited by BDO.		

An election not quite as it seems

The one in Thailand on March 24 will be less a vote of confidence in the military than a test for the monarchy



DAVID STRECKFUSS

On a recent afternoon, the horse tracks of a small northeastern town had the looks of an impromptu music concert for mostly older women, with large crowds packed around a makeshift stage near what seemed to be an unused racing lane. By my count, some 15,000 locals, many of them farmers with weathered skin, had gathered there for a rally of the Pheu Thai party, which calls for better health care, a higher minimum wage and subsidised agriculture prices. An heir to populist parties led by two former prime ministers who were deposed — Thaksin Shinawatra and his sister Yingluck — Pheu Thai is said to be the front-runner in the March 24 general election, the first since the military coup of 2014.

These residents of Khon Kaen — many of them disadvantaged people from rural areas, like other so-called red shirts — had come to cheer on Sudarat Keyuraphan, Pheu Thai's leading candidate for prime minister. Some 77 parties are running in the election, including Palang Pracharat, a proxy for the military, which has nominated Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, the former general who led the 2014 coup, as its candidate for prime minister.

Sudarat struggled to make it to

the racetrack: Too many cheering supporters blocked her way. When she finally got onstage, she seemed bowed down by the many orange flower leis they had placed around her neck. "Are you happier now than you were five years ago?" she asked. "Do you want to sell your agricultural produce on Mars?" — a reference to Prayuth's comment once, amid a global glut in rubber, that Thai farmers may have to sell theirs on that planet.

But the crowd didn't want to hear just about politics, and Sudarat knew that. "You can hug me! You can kiss me!" she said playfully. "But please don't pinch me! I'm bruised from all the pinching!"

A few days earlier, on the other side of town, a group of academics, business owners and aging democracy activists had met with Piyabutr Saengkanokkul, a young leader of the Future Forward Party, to discuss the fledgling party's long-term strategy in the region. Future Forward — created only a year ago by the 38-year-old billionaire Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit — is popular among young, tech-savvy voters and progressives who want to break with old-school politics and players (including the Shinawatras). The party also wants to keep the military out of politics for good and reverse decades of centralisation by giving more power and more money to local authorities.

The Northeast represents about one-third of the country's population of more than 68 million, and for nearly two decades the way the Northeast has voted,



Campaign posters lining a street in Bangkok.

Thailand has too. That outcome seems less certain this year — largely, the government's opponents say, because it has rigged the system in its favour.

In a recent survey of voters in the Northeast by the E-Saan Poll project at Khon Kaen University, two-thirds of respondents said they were likely to vote for Pheu Thai or Future Forward in Sunday's election. But according to a study by the Nation media group early this month, pro-democracy parties looked like they would fall short of securing a majority of seats in the 500-member House of Representatives (and that was before one of those parties was dissolved).

The great unknown of this election is what role Thailand's relatively new king, Maha Vajiralongkorn, might play, if only symbolically.

I have met leaders of all the main pro-democracy parties in

The anatomy of white



ASNE SEIERSTAD

Before he allegedly killed 50 Muslims praying at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, on March 15, Brenton Tarrant, a 28-year-old Australian, reportedly posted a 74-page manifesto titled "The Great Replacement" online. In his tract, Tarrant wrote that he had only one true inspiration: the Norwegian political terrorist, Anders Breivik, who killed 77 people in 2011.

I always thought that Breivik was at his most dangerous before we got to know who he was, when all we had was the photoshopped photographs he had posted online, the ones where he looked tall and well-built, blond and Aryan, posing with his gun.

Breivik wanted fame. He wanted his 1,500-page cut-and-paste manifesto to be read widely, and he wanted a stage — his trial in Oslo. He called the bomb he set off outside the prime minister's office in Oslo, and the massacre he carried out on the island of Utøya, his "book launch." He told the Norwegian court he had estimated how many people he needed to kill to be read. He had figured a dozen, but ended up killing 77.

Eight years after the massacre in Norway, the Norwegian political terrorist continues to be read by his desired audience: On far right forums on the internet the term "going Breivik" means a full commitment to the cause.

While researching Breivik, which included sending him questions by letters and receiving answers from him in prison, I found a life full of shame, failures, abuse and rejections. A boy who never got the attention or care a child deserves; a rejected, uncool teenager; a man who in his late 20s moved in with his mother and mostly played video games. Isolated and angry, but with newfound friends on the dark web, he decided how he would be seen, heard, recognised and feared. He plotted his attack with an audience in mind.

After my book about Breivik was published, I was often asked: Why do you publish his words and methods? I believed he was more dangerous as a symbol and less of an inspiration when seen with all his human failings. After his arrest he complained about lukewarm coffee and a lack of skin moisturiser in prison and whined that he did not have PlayStation 4.

But his fellow travellers and followers ignored the critical texts produced by journalists and went directly to his manifesto, which continues resonating with new audiences. Christopher Hasson,



50 Muslims were killed by Brenton Tarrant in New Zealand.

a lieutenant in the United States Coast Guard and a self-described white nationalist who wanted to trigger a race war, was inspired by the Norwegian.

Tarrant's tract is a lighter version of Breivik's manifesto, filled with references to memes and internet in-jokes, but similar in content, structure and tone. Both published their texts on the web right before their attacks. While

the Norwegian, who had planned to stream his attack on YouTube failed to do so, the authorities say Tarrant broadcast his terrorist act live on his Facebook page.

The two men mix rage with self-pity. They see themselves as victims and use terms like "invasion," "mass immigration" and "white genocide" to describe what they regard as the destruction of Europe and the white

race. Both the Australian and the Norwegian barely mention their own homelands and focus on Europe and the United States. Tarrant sees the white population of Australia and New Zealand as Europeans.

He writes how he decided on his "final push" after visiting France in 2017, where he saw how the European French had been "replaced" by "nonwhites." Thu

Anders Breivik, the Norwegian terrorist and Brenton Tarrant, who killed 50 worshippers in New Zealand, display similar traits

1922

Japanese aircraft carrier **Hōshō** becomes the first purpose built aircraft carrier to be commissioned in the world.

1927

Kern and Hammerstein's musical play *Show Boat*, considered to be the first true American musical play, opens at the Ziegfeld Theatre on Broadway.

1929

Soviet General Secretary **Joseph Stalin** orders the "liquidation of the kulaks as a class".



1932

Radio City Music Hall, "**Showplace of the Nation**", opens in New York City.



constitution also reserves major, overriding powers for unelected, military-controlled bodies – for example, the one tasked with overseeing a vast 20-year development plan.

And at least until a new government is formed, the Constitution can be superseded altogether – thanks to a document that predates it. Section 44 of the 2014 interim constitution essentially allows the head of the junta – today, Prayuth – to do anything he deems necessary for the sake of not only national security, but also the monarchy, national economics or "public unity and harmony," among other things.

But Prayuth, or other generals, would be resorting to such strong-arm tactics at their own risk, for opposition to their regime is deepening and becoming more sophisticated.

Many Thais live at the country's periphery, geographic and otherwise, and the periphery still wants democracy. The March 24 election is unlikely to bring anything like that, but the campaign has shown that pro-democracy parties continue to make strides, strengthening their popular appeal and refining their platforms.

The great unknown of this election is what role Thailand's relatively new king, Maha Vajiralongkorn, might play, if only symbolically. (The Thai royal family is, avowedly, above politics.) Since coming to power in late 2016, King Vajiralongkorn has surprised some observers with his assertiveness, especially toward the military.

The Constitution does allow a majority of the lower house to hold a no-confidence vote on the prime minister – meaning that Prayuth, even if selected for the post, might not be certain to keep it for long. On the other hand, the

Last month, another member of the royal family also defied expectations. The king's older sister, Ubolratana Rajakanya Sirivadhana Varnavadi, announced her intention to run for prime minister – and on the ticket of the decidedly grassroots, northeast-centered Thai Raksa Chart, another party thought to be aligned with Thaksin.

Her candidacy lasted only a few hours, before the king – and later, the election commission – dismissed it. (Although Ubolratana renounced her title as princess years ago, her foray into politics was deemed to be "inappropriate.") Then, the military-dominated constitutional court disbanded Thai Raksa Chart, disqualifying its members from running in the March 24 election.

The party's dissolution was a setback for Thai democrats, of course. But looking past the twists and turns and apparent tensions exposed by this episode, it also seemed to suggest within the royal family a growing sympathy for a tranche of Thai society well beyond its traditional base, the generally moneyed and powerful, Bangkok-based hyper-monarchists known as yellow shirts.

To put the point differently: Thailand's election on March 24 may not be quite what it seems. More than a vote of confidence in the military, it may be a test of the monarchy's willingness to listen to the majority.

(David Streckfuss, a historian, is the author of "Truth on Trial in Thailand: Defamation, Treason and Lèse-Majesté".)

27 years, he wrote, like Nelson Mandela, after serving "for the same crime."

While parts of Breivik's manifesto can be read as a manual for an act of terror, it is a call to action. Tarrant echoes that call, writing, "Whilst you wait for a signal, your people wait for you." Both described themselves as fascists and used metaphors of war to justify the murders.

Are we complicit in spreading the ideas of these fascists by writing about them? The answer is no. Radicalisation happens first and foremost on the internet, where violent extremists meet and incite each other, and where they should be tracked down and monitored.

We can't allow ourselves to be ignorant. To fight terrorism, we need to research how individuals become terrorists. We need to analyse and expose fascist thoughts and violence.

People like Breivik and Tarrant spread myths and conspiracies dressed up as facts. They use guns to be read. Their thoughts thrive in the darkness, tailored to an underground community. We need to expose the ideas and the lives of these white supremacists. Only then can we dissect them properly.

(Asne Seierstad is the author of "One of Us: The Story of Anders Breivik and the Massacre in Norway".)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Heading to the Senate floor to join my Democratic colleagues in lifting up the voices of people in my home state of Washington and around the nation who want Republicans to listen to the science and work with us to address the immediate threat of climate change.

@PattyMurray

02



Speech has impact. We need more empirical data to precisely tailor 'reasonable' restrictions on dangerous speech. May speech and acts rooted in generosity and affection flourish.

@karunanundy

03



Returning to Delhi after a sojourn in the Himalayas. India is a land of contrasts, from the world's highest mountains to the world's largest cities in a days drive.

@davidfrawleyed

04



Our goal is to pass Medicare for All and make health care a right. Today our job is to defend the Affordable Care Act from relentless attacks by the Trump administration.

@BernieSanders

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

Wide Angle

The growing menace of hidden cameras



JOEL INDRUPATI

We rave about the joys that new technology brings to us. But, are we neglecting the horrors it could also unleash on us?

We say that smart gadgets are a boon. But are we blind to the truth that they have also become our bane, robbing us of our privacy and security?

Take this latest news, for example.

A Hong Kong tourist has been arrested in Australia, on Monday 25 March, on charges of using a hidden camera to record a woman showering.

The 36 year old tourist allegedly concealed a spy camera, in a stick of a deodorant. He left it in the bathroom of a hostel in Bondi Beach, Sydney, New South Wales.

A 27 year French woman, who had to share the bathroom, found it, took the photographs of the deodorant-with camera, and informed the police.

When the police searched the man, they found numerous hard drives with videos of women, apparently, taken by secret cameras.

Now, this news has caught the world's attention because it comes in the wake of another, more horrifying story, from less than 10 days ago.

In South Korea, 1,600 unsuspecting hotel guests have been filmed – actually, live-streamed – from 42 hotel rooms, in 30 budget hotels, across 10 cities of the country.

It was found that tiny cameras with one-millimetre lenses were hidden in hair dryer holders, satellite boxes and closed electrical sockets. And videos were being shown on a website that charged some viewers for a monthly subscription.

Two men were caught. But, anyone could surmise, they were a part of a very wide spy-cam ring, profiting from the voyeuristic network.

A shocking 6,500 cases of this type were reported in 2017, in South Korea alone. This is according to a BBC report, "South Korean women protest in Seoul over hidden sex cameras" (BBC News, 7 Jul 2018).

In UK, some 18 months ago, a young woman Gina Martin caught two men filming her at a music concert, with phone-cameras under her skirt, and complained to police. But the culprits could not be punished.

She realised there was no law in England and Wales, really, to arrest men who commit such crimes.

But, thanks to Gina Martin's stubborn and determined political campaign, with more and more women joining in, and giving their own experiences, the UK Parliament had to take it up, seriously.

Finally, in February 2019, just one month ago, UK passed the Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019 which comes into force from 12 April 2019. It also made amendments to Sexual Offences Act 2003.

With UK's new law, 'upskirting' is now a criminal offence, and perpetrators could face two years in prison and be placed on the sex offenders register.

There are other such news-stories of couples finding hidden cameras in hotel rooms in US, in a cruise-ship room on the Caribbean, and even in an Airbnb flat in Toronto.

Not only in South Korea, Australia, UK, USA, Canada or the Caribbean, but across the world, hidden cameras, which can be easily bought online, have become a big menace. They are violating the privacy of individuals, and threatening the general wellbeing of the society.

Data protection laws of many countries demand that even the CCTV footage from public places must comply with specific laws related their recording, storage, retrieval, access, and deletion. The main aim is to protect individuals' privacy.

It is therefore a shame that many countries do not have effective laws to protect women from being secretly filmed, to meet the desires of some depraved minds.

Preaching moral values may be largely in the gamut of religious organisations, but making effective laws, to constrain technology from running amok, is one of governments' main responsibilities.

Data protection laws of many countries demand that even the CCTV footage from public places must comply with specific laws related their recording, storage, retrieval, access, and deletion.

terror

the title of his manifesto: "The Great Replacement."

Like the Norwegian, Tarrant is obsessed with birthrates and describes Europe as growing weaker and older. The Norwegian terrorist wanted to establish state-run birth clinics where blond, blue-eyed mothers would give birth to a dozen children each. Tarrant wants to restore what he calls "traditional family values."

Even though Tarrant's manifesto is tailored to his dark web audience, sometimes with coded language, he tries to create a background of normalcy by quoting poems by Rudyard Kipling and referring to more mainstream right-wing figures. Likewise, Breivik frequently quoted people like Thomas Jefferson, as if he were the rightful heir to well-established ideas.

Their main agenda is the same: to crush Muslim immigration. Tarrant wants to "deport those invaders already living on our soil." Breivik suggested that every Muslim should be given the opportunity to convert to Christianity and take a Christian name. Those who do not obey should be deported or executed. All examples of Islamic art should be destroyed including all mosques; languages like Arabic, Persian, Urdu and Somali would be banned.

One of the mosques targeted in New Zealand is built on the

Both men wrote about sacrificing themselves to a greater cause and envisioned that they would be released from prison by their followers after a "conservative revolution".

site where a church once stood. While the Christchurch gunman aimed straight at his targets, Breivik wanted to kill the so-called traitors, the members of the liberal elite and ruling Labour Party who had let Muslims into the country.

Both men wrote about sacrificing themselves to a greater cause and envisioned that they would be released from prison by their followers after a "conservative revolution" swept through the world.

Breivik was diagnosed with a narcissistic personality disorder by court psychiatrists; Tarrant displays similar traits. He wrote in his manifesto that he not only expects to be released but hopes to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He should be free after

business

BCFC AGM okays 45pc cash dividend



BCFC board members, officials during an Annual General Meeting held yesterday

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company's (BCFC) Annual General Meeting (AGM) approved a cash dividend of 45 fils and bonus share issuance at the rate of one share for every 4 shares held.

The bonus share issuance will be equivalent to 25 per cent of the issued and paid-up share capital of the Group (2017: Cash dividends 50pc).

The shareholders also held an Extraordinary General Meeting to approve the increase in the issued and paid-up capital as a result of the distribution of the bonus shares, and to amend the Memorandum and Articles of Association to reflect the capital increase after obtaining necessary regulatory approvals.

The company's net profit was BD22.9 million for 2018 which is 11pc higher than BD 20.7m achieved in 2017. Earnings per share was 142 Fils (2017: 129 Fils).

For the fourth quarter, net profit was BD 6.8m compared to BD 6.3m profit in the year-earlier quarter. Earnings per share was 42 Fils (2017: 40 Fils).

Abdulrahman Fakhro, the Chairman of the Board said, "The results demonstrate the resilience and strength of a well-diversified business model, successful execution of 2016-2018 Strategic Plan initiatives and strong synergies amongst all the subsidiary companies of the Group." Dr Adel Hubail, Chief Executive Of-

ficer, stated that the Company shall continue to refine its services and innovate new products to accommodate new age customers lifestyle needs.

For the fourth quarter of 2018, the Group has achieved a total net interest income of BD 6.7m, 8pc ahead of the same period last year (2017: BD 6.2m).

The company has successfully issued a USD 53m syndicated loans. The new loan was raised to replace maturing BD 20m bond facility.

Zayani Motors, Carrefour launch raffle contest

TDT | Manama

Zayani Motors, the exclusive distributor of MG in the Kingdom, and Carrefour operated in Bahrain by Majid Al Futtaim, yesterday launched a promotional campaign.

Held from 27 March 2019 to 30 April 2019, across all 12 of Carrefour's branches, the raffle will offer five lucky winners a chance to own two MG ZS, MG's compact SUVs, and three of their latest sedans; the MG 360. All members of Carrefour's MyCLUB loyalty programme are eligible for the draw and will receive one raffle for every BD10 they spend in store.

General Manager of Zayani Motors Mohammed Zaki said: "It is also an opportunity to promote the amazing features and specifications of our latest models."

Jerome Akel, Country Manager of Carrefour Bahrain said:



"We are pleased to be working with Zayani Motors as we look for new and exciting ways to thank our customers for their continued support."

Participating Carrefour locations include City Centre Bah-

rain, Bahrain Mall, Enma Mall, Seef Mall (Arad), Riffa Village Mall, Wadi Al Sail Mall, Saar Mall, Exhibition Road, Carrefour Muharra, Carrefour Manama, Carrefour Isa town and Juffair Oasis Mall.

Thyrocare lab gets CAP accreditation

TDT | Manama

Thyrocare Gulf Laboratories, Bahrain, celebrated its new milestone of receiving a CAP & ISO 15189 Accreditation at an event held at The Gulf Hotel on Monday.

The event was held under the Patronage of Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health.

With this achievement, Thyrocare Gulf Laboratories said has become the first and only medical laboratory in Bahrain to receive both CAP & ISO 15189 accreditation.

Dr Velumani, Chairman of Thyrocare, in a statement, said, "Global certification will enhance our quality standards further."

The CAP accreditation process includes a stringent examination of the laboratory's records and quality control of



Dr Velumani, Chairman of Thyrocare addressing the guests

procedures for the preceding two years. CAP inspectors also examine laboratory staff qualifications, equipment, facilities, safety program and record, and overall management.

BCCI meeting on shopping centers

TDT | Manama

The Commercial Markets Committee of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) headed by Abdulhakeem Al Shemeri is holding a round-table meeting today, at 10:30 a.m. in Al Majlis Hall of Bait Al Tijjar.

Top officials from shopping centres in Bahrain will deliberate about the challenges facing the sector and means of overcoming them.

CBB issues directives on Robo-advice

TDT | Manama

The Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) yesterday issued Directives on "Digital Financial Advice" (also known as "Robo-advice") following the industry consultation process.

The new rules, Khalid Hamad, Executive Director of Banking Supervision, said, will enable specialized Fintech firms planning to offer digital financial advice obtain a license to offer such services to investors.

In addition, banks and investment firms will now be able to introduce such services with approvals from the CBB.

"The new rules focus on providing safeguards and controls governing the use of algorithms or AI which are embedded in the software programs used in the digital advisory tools," said Hamad.

Uber to buy ME rival Careem for \$3.1 bn

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Global ride-hailing service Uber will acquire its Middle East rival Careem for \$3.1 billion, the two companies announced.

"Careem and Uber are joining forces. We have reached an agreement in which Uber will acquire Careem for \$3.1 billion," a joint statement said.

Under the deal, Careem will become a wholly owned subsidiary of Uber but will continue operating independently.

Uber will pay \$1.4 billion in cash and the remaining \$1.7 billion in convertible notes, the statement said.

"Uber will acquire all of Careem's mobility, delivery, and payments businesses across the greater Middle East region, ranging from Morocco to Pakistan, with major markets including Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates," the statement said.



The Bahrain Chapter of ICAI was adjudged the Best Overseas Chapter 2018 (First runner-up) by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. This is the third year in a row that BCICAI has bagged this award. Commenting on the award, BCICAI Chairperson Sridhar said: "This award is a recognition of the phenomenal efforts undertaken by the current and past executive committees in promoting the profession and brand CA as well as learning and skill up-gradation opportunities provided for its members". Sridhar thanked Immediate Past Chairperson CA Uday Shanbhag, the Executive committee, members and all the stakeholders for their overwhelming support.

Ithmaar Holding to get US\$300 million capital injection

TDT | Manama

Ithmaar Holding is to get a capital injection of up to US\$300 million from a major shareholder during the second half of 2019, said a top Ithmaar Holding official.

Without disclosing any names, Abdullah Ebrahim Al-Qassimi, an Independent board member, said discussions are ongoing to recapitalize Ithmaar Holding including restructuring its existing share capital by setting off the accumulated losses against the share capital.

"The capital plans are being reviewed and will be announced in due course, following necessary shareholder and regulatory approvals," said Al-Qassimi told shareholders during the Annual General Meeting held yesterday.

Two major shareholders of Ithmaar holding's, according to reports, are Islamic banks Dar Al Maal Al Islami Trust and Islamic Investment Company of the Gulf



Ithmaar Holding officials during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held yesterday

which hold 26 per cent and 19pc stakes, respectively.

Trading continues

Al-Qassimi further clarified that trading of Ithmaar Holding shares continues on both the Bahrain Bourse and Dubai Financial Market, but was recently suspended on Boursa Kuwait.

The suspension, Al-Qassimi said, was in accordance with Article 9.8.2 of the Kuwait Stock Exchange's rules relating to companies whose accumulated

losses exceed 75 per cent of the share capital.

He reconfirmed that the accumulated losses, as of 31 December 2018, represent mainly impairment provisions resulting from non-core investments and due to FAS 30 impact. The shareholder equity as of 31 December 2018 stood at US\$116m.

US\$10.06m net profit

Announcing that the Group's efforts to significantly transform its operations are paying off, Al-Qassimi said Ithmaar

Holding reported a total net profit of US\$10.06 million for the year ended 31 December 2018, compared to a net loss of US\$72.40m for 2017, with net loss attributable to shareholders of US\$24m compared to a net loss of US\$84.7m for 2017.

The improvement, according to him, on behalf of the Chairman, Prince Amr Al Faisal, was in a large part, a result of the persistent efforts over the past two years.

Net income before provision for impairment and overseas

taxation for the year increased to US\$43.42m, a 96.8pc increase from the US\$22.10m reported for the same period last year.

Operating income for the year increased to US\$259.82m, a 12.7pc increase from the US\$230.56m reported for 2017.

"These achievements, which are made all the more significant by the challenging market conditions that continue to prevail both in our region and beyond, are only part of the ongoing success story," said Ithmaar Holding Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed

Abdul Rahim.

Ithmaar Bank reported improved financial performance in 2018, with net profit for the year increasing to US\$37.5m, a more than 127pc increase over the net profit of US\$16.5m reported in 2017.

"This significant improvement is clear testimony to the fact that the Bank's renewed focus on its core retail banking business is paying off. Meanwhile, Ithmaar Bank's flagship retail banking subsidiary in Pakistan, Faysal Bank Limited, maintained its growth momentum in 2018 and the Bank's footprint now extends to 455 branches in more than 100 cities across Pakistan, after having added 50 branches during the year," Ahmed Abdul Rahim said.

Looking ahead, Rahim said the bank will continue to invest heavily in its infrastructure to provide better products and services, and further enhance its' customers banking experience.

Bahraini chef gets Gulf Hotels' CEO award

TDT | Manama

Gulf Hotels Group's CEO Award for 2018 was presented to the Gulf Hotel's Bahraini Chef, Tala Bashmi, who leads the Hotel's Fusions Restaurant, at a recently held staff party.

The Gulf Hotel Group's CEO Award was launched last year by the Group's Chief Executive Officer, Garfield Jones, as recognition of an outstanding contribution by an employee.

Chef Tala began her career as one of The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa's management trainees and attended a leading Swiss culinary school.



Gulf Hotel Group Chief Executive Officer Garfield Jones with Chef Tala Bashmi during the award ceremony

Commenting on the selection of Tala, Jones said that since completing her training programme, Tala had developed her own unique style of Bahrain fusion cuisine, appeared as a guest chef in a number of renowned restaurants in Bahrain and Dubai and taken over the reins of Fusions Restaurant significantly increasing revenues and the reputation of the outlet and the Hotel.

Chef Tala commented "The Gulf Hotel has been supporting and pushing me to always strive for greatness. Not only that, but they had the blind faith to allow me to take over Fusions with my own vision".

BBBF, Bahrain Business Women Society sign deal to enhance ties

Holds Women's Day, Bahraini and British Mother's Day celebrations



Ahlam Yousif Janahi and Khalid Al Zayani with BBS and BBBF Executive Committee members

TDT | Manama

Bahrain British Business Forum's (BBBF) and Bahrain Business Women Society announced signing a Memorandum of Understanding facilitating future collaborations between the two organisations.

Ahlam Yousif Janahi, Bahrain Business Women Society President, and Khalid Al Zayani OBE, BBBF Chairman, signed the agreement in the presence of Bahrain Busi-

ness Women Society and BBBF Executive Committee members.

The deal was signed during a networking lunch held at the Capital Club to celebrate International Women's Day, and Bahraini and British Mother's Days. The event hosted by BBBF's 'Women in Business' Special Interest Group was held in partnership with Euro Motors Jaguar Land Rover. Ramzy Fayeze, second Vice Chairman of the Shura Council, attended as

the guest speaker.

Paula Boast, BBBF Deputy Chair, said: "The Bahrain Business Women Society shares many synergies with us and we are delighted to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with them, paving the way forward for more future engagement."

The event was attended by more than 80 BBBF and Bahrain Business Women Society members and their guests. During the lunch, a raffle was held.

Invita upgrades PCI-DSS standard

TDT | Manama

Bahrain-based Invita, an ISO and PCI-DSS certified regional provider of Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) services, said it has upgraded its PCI-DSS compliance certification from v3.2 to v3.2.1.

Invita said it was the first Third Party BPO in Bahrain to receive the PCI-DSS Certification in 2017.

PCI-DSS stands for Payment Card Industry - Data Security Standards, developed by the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council, consisting of best practices for handling Customer Credit & Debit Card transactions.

Talking about the company's initiative, Invita CEO Rahul Bhalla said, "We are proud that we have upgraded our PCI DSS



During Invita's PCI-DSS standard certification ceremony

certification as this exemplifies Invita's commitment to its clients and our keenness towards customer data protection".

SISA Information Security Worldwide's CEO and Founder, Dharshan Shanthamurthy stated, "We appreciate Invita's

commitment towards 'security and not just compliance' audit philosophy of SISA and the measures taken by Invita to secure and protect the valuable customer data is commendable which also adds a step toward their vision".

Waqf fund hosts Shari'ah scholar session

TDT | Manama

The Waqf Fund, a Bahrain-based special fund to support Islamic finance training, education and research, hosted its twelfth Shari'ah Scholar session with Shaikh Esam Ishaq, a leading Shari'ah scholar. Shaikh Esam's pres-

entation focused on ways for Islamic banks to hedge foreign exchange risk. This was followed by an interactive session.

On the swap of financing facilities in foreign currencies other than US Dollar, Shaikh Esam stated that there should be a third party monitoring the swap transaction and acting

as the match-maker between banks. Another suggestion was to hedge foreign currencies for overnight transactions either by establishing a fund on Mudaraba basis or an exchange rate protection scheme based on Takaful along the lines of Shari'ah compliant deposit protection schemes.

EU presents plan for safe 5G

Strasbourg, France

The European Commission yesterday presented its plan to ensure the secure introduction of 5G telecoms networks, with suspicions hanging over Chinese giant Huawei.

The United States has accused the firm of posing a security risk to western networks, because of its alleged ties to Chinese intelligence.

But some European countries are in negotiations with Huawei to deploy its advanced technology to power the faster wireless networks of the future.

The Commission did not call on European countries to follow the example of the US, Australia or Japan in banning deals with the firm, but it will



Andrus Ansip, vice president of the commission

determine the extent of the risk and encourage EU members to share information.

Andrus Ansip, vice president of the commission in charge of the digital single market, said: "5G technology will transform our economy and society and open massive opportunities for people and businesses.

"But we cannot accept this

happening without full security built in. It is therefore essential that 5G infrastructures in the EU are resilient and fully secure from technical or legal back doors."

The plan, unveiled at a news conference at the EU parliament in Strasbourg, calls for member states to report back on any security threats to their national network infrastructure by June 30.

After that, the European Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) will be given to October 1 to produce a report evaluating the risks at a European level.

Then member states will debate what if any measures to take, with a decision before the end of the year.

UK parliament sidelines PM

● The motion creates parliamentary time for MPs to come up with their own proposals

● The unprecedented measure passed by a 329-302 margin

● EU leaders pushed back Brexit day to April 12 after meeting May in Brussels last week

AFP | London, United Kingdom



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May making a statement in the House of Commons in London

Britain's parliament sought a new Brexit approach yesterday after seizing the initiative from Prime Minister Theresa May in a historic vote taken to stave off a looming "no-deal" divorce.

Lawmakers exasperated by Britain's failed efforts to split from the European Union after three years of debates and negotiations voted Monday to give themselves a broader say on what happens next.

The motion creates parliamentary time for MPs to come up with their own proposals in place of the ill-loved deal May struck with Brussels at the end of last year.

The unprecedented measure passed by a 329-302 margin and saw three junior ministers quit the government to vote against the premier.

Richard Harrington said he resigned as business minister because May's course and the resulting impasse had left Britain with "a democratic deficit".

Junior foreign minister Alistair Burt said he quit to help the House of Commons "come to a conclusion for the country's sake".



Britain would leave the EU on May 22 if parliament passes May's original agreement

Starting over

The measure was backed primarily by europhiles who want to either reverse Brexit or preserve much closer economic ties with the remaining 27 EU states.

They represent the views of roughly half the voters in a deeply divided that is still coming to terms with the outcome of the 2016 Brexit vote.

No one is entirely sure how parliament will approach its new role in the week the 46-year partnership was scheduled to have ended.

EU leaders pushed back Brexit day to April 12 after meeting May in Brussels last week and deciding that Britain still did not know what it wanted to do.

The proposed agenda submitted to parliament Tuesday would see MPs first pick through an array of choices on Wednesday.

"We may then change the system for next week as we are trying to narrow it down," co-sponsor Hilary Benn told BBC radio.

The biggest worry for May is a mooted plan for parliament in the following days to take an even firmer grip of the Brexit agenda by passing legislation that forces the government's hand.

Parliament's initial votes will be non-binding instructions that only carry political weight.

May has already signalled that she might ignore them if they

contradict her Conservative party's 2017 election platform.

It included a vow to take Britain out of the EU customs union and single market -- the two vast organisations that open borders and regulate trade across most of the European continent.

But Burt said he resigned precisely because he felt that the "government should adopt any feasible outcome as its own in order to progress matters".

Parliament is now effectively re-considering how to go about Brexit all over again.

Everything is back on the table and May's deal -- twice resoundingly rejected by lawmakers this year -- is just one of a half-dozen or so approaches that may be up for debate.

May herself admitted "with great regret" Monday that there was "still not sufficient support in the House to bring back the deal for a third meaningful vote". Her efforts to bring on-side anti-EU rebels in her own party have been fruitless despite months of talks.

Uber-Careem deal boosts Saudi

● Al Tayar hits 11-month high after Careem deal

● Oman's index has worst one-day fall since 2016

● Dubai's real estate stocks all slide

● Tihama Advertising adds after capital increase proposal

Reuters

Saudi shares rose yesterday boosted by a 10 per cent surge in travel operator Al Tayar Group, a shareholder in ride hailing app Careem which Uber has agreed to buy.

Tayar said it was expecting to make a gross profit of 1.78 billion riyals (\$474.64 million) from the transaction, supporting a 0.1pc gain in the Saudi index.

Dubai's index fell 0.7pc, weighed down by declines across its real estate stocks. Dubai's largest listed-developer Emaar Properties lost 2.1pc and its unit Emaar Malls dropped 1.7pc.

Union Properties slid 0.8pc after surging to its biggest intraday gain in nearly two years on Monday. Dubai Financial Market said that a direct deal worth 60 million dirhams (\$16.34 million) was implemented on 155.5 million shares of Union Properties. DFM edged up 0.1pc.

In Saudi Arabia, Tihama Advertising gained 0.4pc after proposing a capital increase to raise 100 million riyals through

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 0.1pc to 8,679 pts
ABU DHABI	▲ 0.2pc to 5,127 pts
DUBAI	▼ 0.7pc to 2,615 pts
QATAR	▼ 0.1pc to 9,935 pts
EGYPT	▼ 0.2pc to 14,637 pts
KUWAIT	▼ 0.7pc to 5,900 pts
OMAN	▼ 1.9pc to 4,049 pts
BAHRAIN	▼ 0.6pc to 1,408 pts

a rights issue.

The Egyptian blue-chip index dipped 0.2pc, pulled down by financial and consumer stocks.

Egypt's largest lender Commercial International Bank slipped 0.8pc and Qalaa Holdings was down 2.2pc.

Qatar's index slipped 0.1pc, led by a 1.6pc decline in Qatar National Bank, the largest bank by assets in the Middle East and Africa, and a 0.9pc drop in Qatar Islamic Bank. The latter completed an international bond issuance of \$750 million sukuk last week.

Lender Masraf Al Rayan was down 0.6pc. It has hired banks before a potential sale of U.S. dollar-denominated sukuk, or Islamic bonds, Reuters reported.

The Abu Dhabi index added 0.2pc with Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank and Union National Bank both gaining 1.3pc.

Al Hilal Bank has slashed about 160 jobs ahead of a three-way merger with Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank and Union National Bank, Reuters had reported, citing sources.

Oman's index fell 1.9pc to its worst day in a little over three years, weighed down by its biggest stocks.

National Bank of Oman plunged 9.3pc and Bank Muscat declined 9.1pc.

Al Hawaj opens shopping bazaar

TDT | Manama

Al Hawaj Shopping Bazaar has announced exciting offers to spice up shopping experience this March.

The Bazaar which runs from March 26-30 at Hall 2B of Bahrain International Exhibition Centre (BIEC) opens doors from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm and resumes from 4 pm to 10 pm.

Shoppers can feast on a wide array of brands in perfumes, cosmetics, watches, skincare, leather bags, luggage items, gift sets, electronics, home appliances, and accessories, at amazing discounts.

This collection of exhibits is next to a wide range of world-famous brands:

Swarovski, Samsung TCL, Samsonite and American Tourister, Guess and GC.

Buy your mom a special Swarovski jewellery this Mother's Day season. Other captivating items are offered for a various range of customers.

Samsung is participating in this bazaar with a large collection of home electronics with attractive offers and discounts.

Visit the BIEC for the Al Hawaj Shopping Bazaar. Entry is free. For more information, call 16160000.



Pentagon authorizes \$1 billion for Trump's border wall



Acting Pentagon chief Patrick Shanahan

Washington, United States

Acting Pentagon chief Patrick Shanahan has authorized \$1 billion to build part of the wall sought by Donald Trump along the US-Mexico border, the first funds designated for the project under the president's emergency declaration.

The Department of Homeland Security asked the Pentagon to build 57 miles (92 kilometers) of 18-foot (5.5-meter) fencing, construct and improve roads, and install lighting to support Trump's emergency declaration.

Shanahan "authorized the

commander of the US Army Corps of Engineers to begin planning and executing up to \$1 billion in support to the Department of Homeland Security and Customs and Border Patrol," a Pentagon statement issued late Monday read.

The acting defense secretary cited a federal law that he said gives the Pentagon broad authority to build infrastructure "across international boundaries of the United States in support of counter-narcotic activities of federal law enforcement agencies."

The statement was released a day before Shanahan was due to testify in Congress to present and defend the Pentagon's draft budget.

The White House has laid out an ambitious 2020 budget proposal which contains \$8.6 billion in new wall funding, above the \$5.7 billion Trump sought for this year.

Frustrated by Congress's refusal to provide the budget he wanted, Trump declared a national emergency last month.

The White House has signaled it will seek to repurpose some \$6 billion from military funds, without specifying which Pentagon programs would be slashed.

CAMPUS

NMS celebrates kindergarten graduation

TDT | Manama

The New Millennium School, DPS Bahrain, organised an event to celebrate the Graduation Ceremony of Kindergarten students, on 19th March.

The function started with the traditional lighting of the lamp by Geetha Pillai, Managing Director, Knowledge Management Group followed by a fest of cultural bonanza based on the theme 'Friendship Beyond Boundaries- India- Bahrain.'

The students were very excited to receive their passing out certificates and medals from Pre-Primary to Grade-1, in their blue gowns and caps.

Super achievers of the session



Kindergarten students of The New Millennium School with their certificates during the Graduation Ceremony

2018-19 were applauded and felicitated for their commendable academic performance and 100 per cent attendance in the year. The parents of the students were present to witness the ceremony.

The chief guest Geetha Pillai in her speech, applauded the

parents' efforts, perseverance, motivation and support that contributed to the successful completion of their child's pre-school.

She appreciated the hard work put in by the mother teachers of the Kindergarten section, who deliver key learn-

ings for children through innovative and fun-filled techniques.

Principal, Arun Kumar Sharma in his speech congratulated all the students and also highlighted the importance of the collaboration between the parent & School in overall development of child's personality.



Mohammed Marouf gives a tutorial on vital life-saving techniques at AMA International University-Bahrain (AMAIUB) as part of the Heartsaver awareness month celebration. Invited medical team from Education Plus conducted an integral lecture-training on vital life-saving techniques, which were participated in by faculty members, staff and students of the University



Teachers of the Indian School Bahrain (ISB) during a medical camp for teachers at its campus in Isa Town. The free health checkup and medical awareness camp was jointly organized by the Indian School Staff Club and the Health, Safety, Security and Environment (HSSE) Department of the school. The programme which was based on UNESCO strategy Education for Good Health and Well-being was inaugurated by ISB Chairman Prince S Natarajan in the presence of Secretary Saji Antony, EC Members and school Principal



New Generation Private School (NGPS) students during International Water Day celebration. Liam Bellamy, Principal of NGPS addressed the children and school staff on how to save water.

BSB excel at World School Games



BSB students during the World School Games in Dubai

TDT | Manama

The Senior Students of the British School of Bahrain (BSB) performed exceptionally well at the World School Games 2019 hosted in Dubai (28th February - 2nd March).

The team consisted of nine boys and nine girls from Years 7 and 8 who had gone through a rigorous selection process and training regime.

BSB students competed in football, athletics and swimming over three days with a variety of other International schools.

Highlights include Eva McAuliffe winning a bronze medal for 1200m in athletics. The swimming competition was held at Hamdan Sports Complex, with a bronze medal for girls' breast stroke won by Lucy Hassett and a further bronze medal won by the girls' freestyle relay team which consisted of Alexandria Baillie, Ella Stenson, Dafni Themistocleous and Eva McAuliffe.

Overall the team finished in 12th position and illustrated outstanding attitude, sportsmanship and ability.

Al Noor celebrates Mother's Day

TDT | Manama

Al Noor International School celebrated the mother's day at the multi-purpose hall on Thursday.

Present on the occasion were the School Director, Dr. Muhammad Mashood and the school Principal Amin Mohamed Ahmed Heliwa. Also present were the members of the school QA department, Head Teachers and Coordinators of the various sections.

The event included various speeches about the importance of Mother's Day along with a number of inspiring programmes.

Amin Mohamed Ahmed Heliwa delivered a speech on the importance of a mother's role



Al Noor International School students and staff during Mother's Day celebration

values in the family and society. At the end of the celebra-

tion the gifts were distributed to students so that they would

present them to their mothers when they reach home with an

indication of marking their love and respect.

CLASSIFIEDS

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celebs



Mandy Moore

Mandy Moore gets Hollywood Walk of Fame star

Los Angeles

Singer-actress Mandy Moore has been honoured with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Moore received the star in the company of her "A Walk to Remember" co-star Shane West, reported dailymail.co.uk.

Excited to be a part of Hollywood Walk of Fame, Moore said: "It is a tremendous honour to join the ranks of talents whose stars and legacy line Hollywood boulevard. As a lit-

tle girl from Orlando, Florida, who got her start singing the National Anthem, I'm not sure I ever would have dreamed this big.

"I never thought anything like this would ever come to light and yet here we are and it's deeply humbling."

West congratulated Moore with an emotional speech at the gala.

He said: "Mandy, you are an absolute gem, your smile is absolutely ridiculous -- seriously. It's ridiculous, and it lights

up the room when you walk in. Your energy is irresistible, and your heart is second to none. I couldn't be more proud of you, I couldn't be more happy for you. Love ya."

Later, Moore took to Twitter to share the photographs from the ceremony and captioned them: "Stars have always sort of been our thing. Thankful to West for his kind words on this very special day, one which I will never forget. It was a walk (of fame) to remember."



Alanis Morissette

Alanis Morissette expecting third child

Los Angeles

Singer Alanis Morissette and her husband Mario "Souleye" Treadway are set to welcome their third child together.

The 44-year-old singer, who is currently working on new music, shared the news on Instagram Monday, along side a black-and-white picture of herself from the side.

"So much newness..." she captioned the photo.

Morissette and Treadway, who tied the knot in May 2010, are already parents to a son and daughter.

They welcomed Ever Imre on Christmas Day 2010, while his little sister Onyx Solace was born in June 2016.



MJ's daughter Paris Jackson 'on the mend'

Los Angeles

Model Paris Jackson, daughter of late pop star Michael Jackson, is "on the mend" and looking forward to her 21st birthday in April after a medical scare.

On March 16, an ambulance was called to her home after an incident. There were initially reports that she had attempted suicide, but Paris quickly shut down those rumours on social media.

She called the rumours "lies". Paris was later seen with her boyfriend Gabriel Glenn. She was all smiles as they enjoyed KFC.

According to a source, the events of last week have seemingly been left in the past because she is "doing much better".

The source told online.com: "She is really on the mend and is listening to people who are giving her solid direction."

"She's been much more positive lately, so it's great to know she is doing a lot better."

She turns 21 on April 3.

"Everyone is hoping this is going to be a new day for Paris," the source said.

Paris Jackson

was filming the upcoming action film "Primal".

Prior to dating Koike, Cage was married to Alice Kim for ten years, but separated in 2016. Before that he briefly married Lisa Marie Presley in 2002 and Patricia Arquette in the late '90s.

'Avengers: Endgame' to be the longest Marvel movie at 182 minutes

Los Angeles

"Avengers: Endgame", with its 3 hours, 2 minutes runtime, is expected to break its predecessor's record as the longest Marvel film, which clocked in 149 minutes.

The news about the film's length was broken by theatre websites AMC and Fandango.

"3 hours, 2 minutes. #Aveng-

Nikki Bella announces retirement from WWE

Los Angeles

Nikki Bella

Actress-wrestler Nikki Bella has announced her retirement from the WWE.

On the show "Total Bellas", Bella announced her decision saying she wanted to explore some new arena in her life, reports foxnews.com.

"The (European) tour was good but I feel like I'm too old for the travel, the travel was really rough. I was like, 'Why am I doing this? I don't feel good.' The girls are doing amazing things over there. I really am ready to hang up the jersey, I can say it fully."

The 35-year-old now happily wants to put her WWE jersey away to focus on other things.

"It's making me realize I am ready to fold the jersey and put it away. I'm ready to put the kicks aside and I'm ready to take Nikki Bella into a different direction."

Bella made her WWE debut back in 2007, her SmackDown debut with her twin sister, Brie Bella was in 2008, and has won the Divas Championship twice.

Nicolas Cage to get married for fourth time

Los Angeles

Veteran actor Nicolas Cage is set to tie the knot with girlfriend Erika Koike.

According to court documents obtained by E! online, the 55-year-old actor has applied for a marriage license with Koike in Clark County, Nevada.

The pair first sparked romance rumours in Puerto Rico while he

was filming the upcoming action film "Primal".

Prior to dating Koike, Cage was married to Alice Kim for ten years, but separated in 2016. Before that he briefly married Lisa Marie Presley in 2002 and Patricia Arquette in the late '90s.



Nicolas Cage and Erika Koike

Ed Sheeran was bullied in school over his hair

Los Angeles



Singer Ed Sheeran says he was bullied a lot in school for his hair.

In an interview with DJ Nihal and rapper Dave, the "Shape of you" hit-maker spoke about racism and shared the incidents when he was bullied by his schoolmates over his ginger hair, reports dailymail.co.uk.

He said: "I hated primary school with a passion; I cried every day. I'm ginger, so I was instantly ripped into from the day I started school - ginger, had a stutter, and wore huge glasses... just a bit odd."

Michael Madsen released on bail after DUI arrest

Los Angeles



Actor Michael Madsen was reportedly arrested on suspicion of the misdemeanor - driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI) - after he crashed his SUV car into a pole.

The actor was arrested on Sunday night, reports pagesix.com.

The LA Times reported that the "Kill Bill" star was taken into custody on Sunday at 8:30 p.m. and released Monday at around 1 a.m. on bail set at \$15,000.

TMZ reported that the 61-year-old star had a blood-alcohol level of 0.1, while the legal limit is 0.08.

Michael B. Jordan to star in 'Methuselah' movie

Los Angeles



Actor Michael B. Jordan will produce and star in a "Methuselah" movie for Warner Bros., based on the Biblical story of a man who lived to be 969 years old.

Jordan will produce the film along with David Heyman and Jeffrey Clifford, reports variety.com.

Warner Bros. has been developing the project for many years with Will Smith and Tom Cruise interested in the project. Zach Dean wrote an early script after coming on to the project in 2014. The most recent draft was written by Tony Gilroy.

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SPORTS
sports

Mbappe leads France rout

Cristiano Ronaldo hobbled off in Portugal's disappointing draw with Serbia

● England hit five in consecutive qualifying matches as Ross Barkley scored twice

AFP | Paris

Mesmerising Kylian Mbappe led France's rout of Iceland in Euro 2020 qualifiers Monday, but Cristiano Ronaldo hobbled off in Portugal's disappointing draw with Serbia and racist abuse overshadowed five-star England in Montenegro.

Mbappe scored one and set up two more as the reigning world champions crushed Iceland 4-0 at the Stade de France to move top of Group H in Euro 2020 qualifying.

The result gives France, 4-1 winners over Moldova in their Euro opener, six points from their first two matches and puts them ahead of Turkey, who also won 4-0 on Monday, on goal difference.

Samuel Umititi, Olivier Giroud, Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann all scored as Iceland struggled to cope with a totally dominant France side.

Giroud's 35th France goal moved him into third on the all-time list of French scorers, the Chelsea striker now trailing only Michel Platini (41) and Thierry Henry (51).

In Group A, England, fresh from a 5-0 demolition of the Czech Republic in which Ra-



France's forward Kylian Mbappe runs with the ball

heem Sterling hit a hat-trick, were forced to come from behind in a 5-1 win over Montenegro.

But another impressive victory for the Three Lions was overshadowed by allegations of racist abuse in Podgorica.

Sterling celebrated the visitors' fifth goal by cupping his ears towards the home fans.

"Best way to silence the haters (and yeah I mean racists)," Sterling tweeted alongside a photo of his celebration.

England manager Gareth Southgate said he heard racist chants aimed at Danny Rose and promised to report the issue to UEFA.

"I definitely heard abuse at

Danny Rose when he got booked at the end of the game. There is no doubt in my mind it happened. We will make sure that is reported to UEFA because it's not acceptable," said Southgate. "We've got to make sure we support our players."

English comeback

Marko Vesovic stunned England early on, but after drawing on their two previous visits to Podgorica, England showed why their current crop are among the favourites to be European champions next year.

Michael Keane's header restored parity before Ross Barkley's double either side of half-time put the visitors in

command and Harry Kane and Sterling rounded off a comprehensive victory.

It was a different story in Lisbon as Fernando Santos' reigning European champions Portugal, held to a 0-0 draw at home by Ukraine in their Group B opener, notched up a second draw, 1-1 at home to Serbia.

If the result wasn't disappointing enough, captain Ronaldo hobbled off after 30 minutes with no word on whether the five-time Ballon d'Or winner would be fit for to play for his club Juventus in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final at Ajax on April 10.

Serbia's Ajax playmaker Dusan Tadic opened the scoring



Giroud scored his 35th France goal which moved him into third on the all-time list of French scorers

from the penalty spot.

Ronaldo was denied an equaliser two minutes later as his effort was very well saved Marko Dmitrovic.

The 156-time international then left the field after he pulled up chasing a ball on the left wing.

He received quick treatment from members of the medical team before returning to action but was replaced minutes later.

In his absence, Porto's Danilo Pereira netted a 42nd-minute equaliser, hammering a shot from outside the box into the top corner past a helpless Dmitrovic.

Elsewhere, Turkey made it two wins from two in Group H, like France, with a 4-0 victory at home over Moldova.

Two first-half goals in the space of three minutes thanks to Hasan Ali Kaldırım and Cenk Tosun did the damage at Eskisehir.

Shaikha Hayat for top women sports meeting

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) board member, chairwoman of the Women's Sport Committee and chairwoman of the Women's Committee at Union of Arab National Olympic Committees Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa will chair the International Conference of Arab Women's Sports starting today in Cairo.

The four-day conference is organised by the Egyptian Sports Association under the patronage of Prince Talal Bin Badr Saud Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, President of the Arabian Sports Council and Union of Arab National Olympic Committees.

The conference is witnessing an unprecedented demand for participation from across the Arab world, where a large number of researchers and academics are registered to submit research papers that discuss the many aspects of achievement in women's sports in the Arab world.

During the conference, a number of Egyptian senior officials and figures are trying to uncover the latest preparations for organizing the fifth edition of the course and the desired goals as well as reviewing the details of the competitions to motivate all Arab countries to participate in the largest Arab sporting events.

The conference will also discuss Egypt's key role in supporting and promoting women's sport as one of the most important countries in support of women's sport in the Arab world.

BOC plans to organize second Baby Games



Kids in action during previous year's Baby Games

TDI | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain is gearing up to host the Kingdom's second edition of the Baby Games next month, the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) announced yesterday.

The Second Bahrain Baby Games is organized by the BOC from April 13 to 16, with kindergartens from all around the nation expecting to engage in a number of sports activities.

This event will feature a variety of sports contest for children in an attempt to create an awareness among youngsters to practice sports exer-

cises, and promote the Olympic principles and values at a young age.

A preparatory committee, comprising representatives of the BOC projects directorate, the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) announced yesterday, had a number of coordination meetings with officials from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Solidarity to set up a comprehensive plan in preparation for the second edition of the games.

The organisers also approved a plan to perform field visits to a number of kindergartens in Bahrain to meet up with the children taking part in this five-day sports gathering.

Climax Zalmi edge BDS Bassali to excel in ETS league

TDI | Manama

Climax Zalmi defeated BDS Bassali by 4 wickets in the ETS Division A league organized by Cricket Bahrain Association. Batting first BDS Bassali posted 123 runs. Imran Javed top scored with 38 runs. Lalit Lal claimed 4 wickets for Climax Zalmi. In reply Climax Zalmi chased target for loss of 6 wickets. Mansoor Mohd top scored with 57 runs.

BCC defeated BCC A by 39 runs in another fixture. Batting first BCC posted 195 runs. Adnan Butt



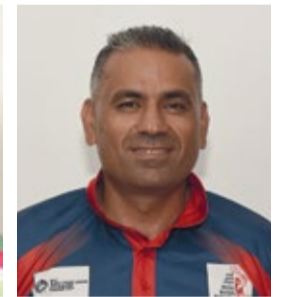
Ali Dawood



Lalit



Mansoor



Tahir Dar

top scored with 54 runs. Rashid Hussain claimed 3 wickets for BCC A. In reply BCC A could only manage 156 runs. Sarfraz Ali top scored with 79 runs. Ali Dawood

claimed 5 wickets for BCC Exelon Young Boys defeated Indian Blues by 36 runs in another fixture. Batting first Exelon Young Boys posted 200

runs. Tahir Dar top scored with 85 runs. In reply Indian Blues could only manage 164 runs. Tahir Darr claimed 4 wickets to cap off allround performance.

Sterling calls for stadium bans as racist abuse overshadows England

AFP | Podgorica, Montenegro

Raheem Sterling believes UEFA should punish alleged racist chanting aimed at England players in Monday's 5-1 win over Montenegro in Podgorica with a stadium closure.

Manchester City's Sterling celebrated the visitors' fifth goal by cupping his ears towards the home fans on a night when another impressive performance to start Euro 2020 qualifying by the Three Lions was overshadowed.



England's forward Raheem Sterling celebrates after scoring the fifth goals of his team

"I just want to show them you need more than that to upset us and stop us," Sterling told Sky Sports.

"It's 2019 now, I keep saying it. It's a shame to see this going on and we can only bring awareness to the situation.

"It's now time for the people in charge to put a real stamp on it because you can fine someone, but what is that going to do?"

"You've got to make it a bit harder, punish fans that can't come to games. Do something that's going to make them think twice. If their team can't play with fans, it's going to be difficult."

Sterling also tweeted a photo of his celebration with the message: "Best way to silence the haters (and yeah I mean racists)."

Man City to return to China after Beijing debacle

AFP | Shanghai, China

Manchester City will return to China this year for the first time since their ill-fated visit of 2016, when a game with cross-town rivals United was called off at the last minute.

The first overseas Manchester derby was cancelled just hours before kick-off because of an unplayable surface at Beijing's "Bird's Nest" stadium following heavy rain.

Pep Guardiola's City will hope there is no repeat when they compete in the 2019 Premier League Asia Trophy, which will be held in Nanjing on July 17 and nearby Shanghai on July 20.

The other teams will be Newcastle United, West Ham United and Chinese-owned Wolverhampton Wanderers, the Premier League said yesterday.

Each side will play two games in the mini tournament, which is likely to be testing for the players with peak temperatures over 30 degrees Celsius (86F) and the possibility of torrential rain.

The Asia Trophy was similarly dogged by pitch problems -- again after rain -- when it was held in Hong Kong in 2013.

Then-Sunderland manager Paolo Di Canio labelled the muddy surface "a killer pitch" and Tottenham Hotspur's Jan Vertonghen suffered an ankle injury on the waterlogged surface.

A glut of European football clubs look set to visit China in pre-season, with Barcelona and Tottenham Hotspur also committed to coming.

Halep swats Venus in Miami

● **Simona Halep got the better of Venus Williams once again as the Romanian made light work of the 38-year-old American to book a place in the quarter-finals**

● **Hsieh Su-Wei who continued her excellent form with a 6-3, 6-7 (0/7), 6-2 win over Caroline Wozniacki**

AFP | Miami, United States

Simona Halep got the better of Venus Williams once again as the Romanian made light work of the 38-year-old American to book a place in the Miami Open quarter-finals with a 6-3 6-3 triumph.

Halep, the highest seed left following Naomi Osaka's exit on Saturday, has now won her last four meetings with Williams, their previous encounter before clashing at Hard Rock Stadium coming earlier this year at the Australian Open.

The world number three and number two seed for the tournament triumphed in straight sets



Simona Halep of Romania plays a point against Venus Williams

in Melbourne and it was more of the same in Miami as the world number 43 was overpowered by Halep.

At the culmination of the first set, Williams had won just 52% of points on her first serve and hit only four winners to Halep's 20 - the Romanian finished with 30 compared to 13 from Williams and won 75% on her own first serve.

"I'm really happy with my game and the numbers back that up," said a delighted Halep on

court afterwards.

"She never gives up, she fights for every ball so I tried to keep her close to the baseline."

Williams' serve deserted her in a first set which saw the reigning French Open champion establish an early 3-0 lead and although the American responded with her own break soon after, she was unable to back it up.

Halep's best performance in South Florida came in 2015

when she was runner-up to Serena Williams, and with China's Wang Yafan or Wang Qiang waiting in the last eight, the 27-year-old will fancy her chances of another run to Saturday's final.

Hsieh Su-Wei, meanwhile, continued her excellent form with a 6-3, 6-7 (0/7) 6-2 win over Caroline Wozniacki and will play Anett Kontaveit after Canada's Bianca Andreescu retired with a shoulder injury in the second set.

Federer to play Madrid Masters on clay return

AFP | Madrid

Roger Federer will play on clay before this year's French Open after being confirmed on the entry list for the Madrid Masters, which starts on May 3, on Tuesday.

The 37-year-old last played the tournament, where he is a three-time champion, in 2015, when he also made his most recent appearance at Roland Garros.

Federer has skipped the clay-court season for the last two years to focus on being ready for the grass courts of Wimbledon, but announced after the Australian Open that he would return to the red dirt in 2019.

Froome crashes in Catalonia

AFP | Madrid

Chris Froome's hopes of winning the Tour of Catalonia are almost certainly over after the Briton suffered a crash during yesterday's second stage, which was won by Australian Michael Matthews.

With less than 40 kilometres to go, four-time Tour de France champion Froome fell along with Bora-Hansgrohe pair Andres Schillinger and Jay McCarthy before finishing more than 13 minutes behind Matthews of Team Sunweb.

Froome, who is racing for the first time since his season debut in January, was left with a nasty gash down the top of his right leg.

Race fans to meet F1 stars in autograph session at BIC



Racegoers during autograph session at BIC (file photo)

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit will be giving motorsport fans a chance to get up close and personal with their favourite Formula 1 drivers at this weekend's Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2019.

As part of the weekend's events, "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" will be hosting an Autograph Session on Race Day Sunday right before the start of the 57-lap sprint.

The Autograph Session will take place in the Formula 1 Village vending area next to the Main Stage.

It will be held from 2pm to 4pm, and fans are advised to line up as early as possible so as not to miss out on a dream

chance to meet their favourite stars.

Lucky fans will be able to take pictures with the drivers and share a moment or two.

All those with tickets to this year's Bahrain Grand Prix will be able to attend Sunday's Autograph Session.



The Autograph Session will take place in the Formula 1 Village vending area next to the Main Stage

Federer wary of Medvedev after Miami victory

● **Roger Federer dispatched Filip Krajinovic in straight sets at the Miami Open**

AFP | Miami

Roger Federer admits he faces a real battle to land the 101st title of his career with the in-form Daniil Medvedev next up after Serbian Filip Krajinovic was dispatched 7-5 6-3 on Monday at the ATP and WTA Miami Open.

The Swiss superstar produced an excellent all-round performance despite being tested by the world number 103 who belied his lowly ranking by producing some excellent tennis during an exciting first set.

Federer, however, stylishly weathered the storm to seal the win - the 52nd of his career in Miami - and set up an intriguing last eight match with the highly-rated Medvedev.

The Russian, who is at a career high ranking of 15, saw off American Reilly Opelka 7-6 (7/5) 6-7 (5/7) 7-6 (7/0), and has won four ATP hard-court titles, including three since last August.

Federer beat him twice last year but is already a fan.

"He's clever how he plays the court because he can play it up and down, and he's unusual when he plays from back," said the Swiss, who hit 14 aces and won an impres-



Roger Federer of Switzerland celebrates plays a point against Filip Krajinovic of Serbia

sive 74% of points on his first serve.

"It's a bit of a different approach. Thankfully I played him last year twice in Basel and Shanghai and I'm very impressed about his progress. I must say the last year has been unbelievable for him."

Krajinovic struggled with injury last year as problems with his ankle, left foot and hand restricted him to just seven tournaments in the first seven months of 2018.

Yet some fierce hitting from the back of the court surprised the predictably pro-Federer crowd and a brilliant run and

It's a bit of a different approach. Thankfully I played him last year twice in Basel and Shanghai and I'm very impressed about his progress. I must say the last year has been unbelievable for Medvedev

ROGER FEDERER

flick over the net handed him an early break for 3-2.

Keeping the pressure on, however, was a different matter as Federer broke straight back before pocketing the opening set.

The second set wasn't as competitive, Federer easing home and finishing with 35 winners compared to the Serbian's 18.

Elsewhere, number 24 seed Grigor Dimitrov was beaten by world number 77 Jordan Thompson in straight sets ensuring the Australian will meet 2018 Wimbledon finalist Kevin Anderson who beat Portugal's Joao Sousa 6-4, 7-6 (8/6).