MANAMA: His Majesty King Hamad yesterday extended a lifeline to distressed people in the flood-hit Indian state of Kerala.

The worst floods in a century have killed more than 320 people and forced 223,000 into relief camps. An order in this regard was issued to his personal representative for charity work and youth affairs and RCO chairman Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The King urged officials to fast-track provision of aid to the needy. Sheikh Nasser ordered RCO secretary general Dr Mustafa Al Sayed to take urgent measures in co-ordination with the ministries of foreign affairs, defence, health as well as labour and social development.

Bahrain’s leadership also sent cables of condolences to Indian President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Expatriate associations in Bahrain have also joined in solidarity with the victims, cancelling all celebrations of Qum and Eid and launching efforts to collect relief funds. More than 200 calls, seeking help or pledging support, were received at a 24-hour help desk launched by the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam at its premises in Segaiya on Thursday.

Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha expressed gratitude to the King for the noble initiative.

The King pledged aid for Kerala flood victims.

**Rights Chief under fire**

**Mr Al Hussein**

MANAMA: Outgoing UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, has been accused of co-operating with the Bahraini opposition to tarnish the country’s image. It follows an interview on Iranian TV, in which a representative of the opposition said Mr Al Hussein had co-operated with activists, undermining Bahrain’s rights achievements in the process, according to a report by the GDN’s Arabic sister newspaper Akhbar Al Khaleej.

The newspaper said the head of the Bahrain Forum for Human Rights, Bajir Darwish, described a recent UN rights report criticising Bahrain’s government as a “gift” from Mr Al Hussein, who is stepping down from his post on August 31 after a four-year term. It added opposition elements also sought to politicise the trial of Nabeel Rajab by providing false statements.

The GDN reported on Thursday that Bahrain had rejected the findings of a UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which had criticised the detention of Mr Rajab.

He was found guilty of spreading false information on social media about the Saudi-led military action in Yemen and was jailed for five years by the High Criminal Court on February 21. He was already serving a two-year sentence for undermining security by disseminating false information during TV interviews.

The government told Reuters last week that “attempts to incite public disorder” were not the same as legitimate criticism.

**The Muharrak Governorate yesterday celebrated the Haya Baya festival on Busaiteen coast opposite Al Saya Island. Muharrak Governor Salman bin Hindi patronised the annual historical tradition marking Eid Al Adha.**

**Eid Al Adha holiday**

MANAMA: A four-day holiday was announced yesterday for the public sector in Bahrain marking Eid Al Adha, which will be celebrated on Tuesday. His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa issued a circular announcing the break, which includes Anfal Day tomorrow. All ministries, departments and public institutions will be closed until Thursday.

**300,000 visitors!**

MANAMA: More than 300,000 people have visited the Bahrain Summer Festival 2018 which concluded last night, according to a top official. The two-month-long event was held at the Cultural Hall and the Nahkool Tent, set up at the Bahrain Fort in Arad. The extravaganza was organised by the Bahrain Authority of Culture and Antiquities in celebration of Muharrak being named the capital of Islamic culture. The number of visitors for the 18th edition of the popular annual festival this year compared with 118,000 people who visited the month-long celebration in 2017.

**Housing project on track**

MANAMA: Work on hundreds of housing units at the Khalifa Town project is nearing completion. “The construction of more than 1,100 units has so far reached up to 95 per cent,” said Housing Ministry assistant secretary for housing projects Sami Abdulla Bouhaz’a. The project, expected to be completed by the year-end, will accommodate 46,000 people. The current phase is being constructed in two stages in the area between Royayd Askar and Bar Al Dur.

**Tributes to Kofi Annan**

GENERAL: Former UN chief and Nobel peace laureate Kofi Annan died yesterday at the age of 80, triggering a flood of tributes from around the world for the “diplomatic rock star”. The Ghanaian national was a career diplomat who projected quiet charm and was widely credited for raising the world body’s profile in global politics during his two terms as head of the UN from 1997 to 2006.

Current UN chief Antonio Guterres described his predecessor as “a guiding force for good”. “In many ways, Kofi Annan was the United Nations,” he said. “He rose through the ranks to lead the organisation into the new millennium with matchless dignity and determination.”

**Home visit:**

Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa today visited the premises of the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam in Segaiya to discuss plans for providing aid to the needy in Kerala.

The King urged officials to fast-track provision of aid to the needy. His Majesty assigned the Royal Charity Organisation to prepare and dispatch relief materials to affected Indians.

**IMS image of Sheikh Nasser:**

The chairman Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa chaired a board meeting of RCO to discuss plans for providing aid to the needy in Kerala.

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A FILIPINA housemaid, who claimed her genitals had been mutilated by her employer in Bahrain, is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, according to a report.

However, medical examinations on the woman at a top hospital in the Philippines found no wounds or scars to her external genitalia, the Philippines Embassy in Bahrain said yesterday.

But other signs of possible physical and other forms of abuse were observed, it said in a statement, adding that the domestic worker is being kept in the hospital for further examination and treatment.

The embassy reported last Tuesday that diplomats in Bahrain and the Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs had launched an investigation into allegations by the woman after she flew home earlier this month.

In a video that went viral on social media, the woman claimed she was not paid, fed poorly and made to sleep with animals during five years of abuse at the hands of the Bahraini employer.

“Upon receipt of information on the matter over social media that the Filipina housemaid was already enroute to the Philippines via Abu Dhabi, the embassy immediately co-ordinated with the Philippine Embassy in Abu Dhabi, UAE, and the relevant authorities in Manila to extend all the necessary assistance to the Filipina,” said the embassy statement.

“A representative of the Department of Foreign Affairs’ Office of the Under-Secretary for Migrant Workers’ Affairs (DFA-OMWMA) established contact with the worker immediately upon her arrival in Manila and subsequently brought her to a private hospital for medical examination.”

She was taken to the St Luke’s Medical Center in Quezon City to undergo a more comprehensive medical examination.

“The medical examinations showed that her external genitalia is normal with no evidence of wounds or scars.

“The attending physician (in Manila) likewise confirmed that her breasts are normal with no sign of any recent wound or scars on the said area.

“However, other signs of possible physical and other forms of abuse have been observed.

“A psychiatric specialist confirmed that the Filipina was suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), the cause and extent of which is still underdetermined at this point.”

The embassy also said its officials were informed that the housemaid was paid only BD90 since her arrival in Bahrain.

“The embassy notes that the required salary in the standard contract approved by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration for the deployment of housemaids to Bahrain, or to any other country, is $400 or BD150.

“It further said that it was in touch with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) and other relevant authorities over the case. LMRA chief executive Aunanah Al Abri praised the embassy “for factually and technically setting the record straight”.

“What we understand from the statement is that the domestic worker told a blatant and outrageous lie both on video as well as in initial statements in her home country,” he said.

“How can you land a officer in hospital over parking; this is shocking.

“How do I know that if I release you, you will not attack any other motorists over parking?”

“Whatever you have done is outrageous and your actions are dangerous to the community.

“Every time I park my car now I am careful because I don’t know if people will come and fight with me.”

The defendant was further remanded into custody for 15 pending investigations.
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Health alert over illegal abattoirs

By GHAZI AL-SHENAIFI

AN alert has been sounded over the unhygienic and unsafe slaughtering of animals ahead of Eid Al-Adha celebrations this week.

With the demand for meat spiking during the ‘Festival of Sacrifice’ many farms resort to butchering the live-stock themselves, or sell the animals to customers who take care of the slaughtering themselves, without any supervision or health inspections.

There are only two abattoirs accredited in Bahrain in Hamala and Sitra, with officials stressing the need to monitor the slaughterhouses to ensure the safety of meat for human consumption.

Buying meat from unlicensed abattoirs can lead to serious health risks, said a veterinarian.

“We conduct two tests, one while the animal is alive the other after it dies. These tests are important to determine if you’re going to get healthy meat or unhealthy meat which can have many terrible side-effects,” said Hamala Slaughterhouse veterinarian Dr Ahmed Al Zubair.

“Even if you don’t get sick you might not get the proper nutritional value if you go to an unlicensed place that doesn’t know how healthy the animal is.”

Licensed places have monitoring, medical and scientific inspections to make sure everything is healthy and safe, as opposed to the unlicensed places where you don’t know what you are getting.”

Hamala Slaughterhouse and Rashid Farms owner Abdulrahman Al Mutawa said his abattoir, which has been operating since 2012, has made the necessary arrangements to provide enough safe meat for everyone for Eid, which starts on Tuesday.

“With Eid coming up, as with every year we have prepared our stocks with all kinds of animals from various places,” he told the GDN.

“Every year we expect a demand of 700 heads of sheep and we work with other suppliers to supplement each other.

Licence

“We have a licensed slaughterhouse but the surrounding area needs improvements with things such as roads that need to be paved and lighting the roads.

“We are working in the food sector for the country so the authorities should pay more attention.

“There needs to be more monitoring and regulation of the market, especially when it comes to meat.

“There are supplies of meat going into the market with proper seals attesting to the fact that they have been inspected and checked for diseases.”

He also called on investors to consider opening new licensed abattoirs in order to help provide clean and quality meat to the people of Bahrain.

The GDN reported on August 8 that the Bahrain Livestock Company has reopened after two years, following a major renovation approved by the Agriculture and Veterinary Affairs Department.

The company’s slaughterhouse in Sitra has a veterinarian on site to oversee the operations and ensure everything is carried out to the highest standards.

The slaughterhouses in Hamala and Sitra are the only two abattoirs that are licensed by the Agriculture and Veterinary Affairs department that operates under the Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry.

The GDN reported last Monday that around 35,000 heads of cattle will be available during this year’s Eid Al-Adha.

Animal Health and Monitoring Department head Dr Ebrahim Yousif said that between last month and August 9,18,115 sheep and 718 heads of cattle have arrived in Bahrain – adding that more stock was expected in the coming days.

He said all import procedures and health control measures were followed in co-operation with relevant government agencies to ensure the meat was fit for human consumption.

The prices of live-stock range between BD70 and BD140 per head depending on the type, size and where the animals have come from.
Food waste sinful

DRIVING my childhood, I remember my late mother always telling me to never throw away food. Whatever you waste will be deducted from your life’s food, and whatever you save will add to the total,” she would say. Following her words and consider food waste a major sin.

Today the causes of food waste or loss are numerous and occur at the stages of producing, processing, retailing and consuming. Global food waste and loss amount to one-third which is good enough to feed the hungry and poor people of the world.

According to latest statistics, food waste increases to 600 tonnes per day. This is a sin. On one hand, people are dying from food shortages, and on the other people are wasting it without bothering.

I often feel very angry while eating at restaurants and food courts. People order meals in large quantities, eat a small portion and leave the rest. The poor cleaner dumps it. Just consider, this cleaner, who cannot afford to buy food even a once a month, has to clean as waste every day.

There should be some type of sin tax or fine on food wastes. Restaurants should pack the remaining food for customers or offer incentives to non-wasters. I request all citizens and residents of beautiful Bahrain to think about this. Before wasting food and water.

Aamir Shamim Khalid

What’s the point?

HERE is the good news: Last February, the International Criminal Court at The Hague opened an inquiry into alleged crimes against humanity committed by the late President of the Philippines, Benigno Aquino. After Aquino went on a mission to give assurance to the people of Aquino that the ICC was “all bullshit” and that the court was only backed by “white idiots”. He then announced that the Philippines was withdrawing from it.

Actually, he may not be able to do that unilaterally, because the Rome Treaty was ratified by the Senate of the Philippines and probably has to be abrogated by the same body. But Duterte does control the Senate and could do it eventually, if he cared about legality. He has still legal problems, because the Philippines was subject to the treaty when he ordered many of his murders. Even if the Senate did cancel the treaty, the country would have to answer for the acts of the soldiers. Dutele later warned that any UN investigator arriving in the country would be arrested. Having settled the matter to his own entire satisfaction, he then went back to killing people.

Today is the 8th Thul Hijjah, 1439, in the Islamic calendar.

Published letter is not necessarily the view of the Editor. Readers wishing to make a complaint to the GD should provide full details of the complaint and contact number.

Published at www.facebook.com/GulfDailyNews. These comments are also eligible for the ‘Star Letter’ prize. Comments are also eligible for the ‘Star Letter’ prize.
300,000 people attend two-month-long event

The Gulf must help Kerala...

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360 degrees
Gulf Daily News Sunday, 19th August 2018

We are just back from a hurried trip to Kochi in God’s Own Country – which looks more like God’s Own Jacuzzi right now. Although our trip was uneventful it was the uncertainty of what lay around the bend that was nerve-wracking. Would we face mudslides like some of our friends did when they tried to reach Kochi from another route? Or be marooned in flooded towns like a couple of others?

Oh my Kerala! Our hearts wept for the watery destruction sweeping the coastal state which has such a close historical and contemporary connection with the Gulf.

This is the state which had the closest relations with Arab mariners, welcoming Islam to the sub-continent even during the time of the Prophet Mohammed.

From the 20th century onwards, Kerala has sent the maximum number of workers and professionals to the region and the care and compassion of the nurses of Kerala have helped to heal millions around the world.

As we passed through little towns and suburbs, the Gulf connection was flaunted so proudly – we counted at least three Al Manama supermarkets in Alappuzha, and one convention hall named for the Bahrain capital along with “Arabian” coffee houses and businesses named for other Gulf states.

Kerala is struggling with the worst flood disaster in 124 years! The water has levelled the rich and famous and the ordinary and poor with equal ferocity. The menacing quiet surge of the rivers we crossed were scary enough – just imagine the roar and rolling of a river in spate, entering towns, swallowing homes and landmarks.

The fact that this crisis comes during the most anticipated festivals of Onam and Eid is a commercial disaster too, for the state. Millions of rupees which would be spent on new household goods, dresses and other festive purchases have been checked by the focus on surviving the floods. Agricultural exports which contribute hugely to the state exchequer has been dealt a stunning blow.

In Bahrain and the rest of the Gulf, many clubs organise festivities for Onam that inevitably stretch over week-ends. There are lavish feasts and colourful entertainment – one of the largest is said to host over 5,000 people for its Onam feast. I do believe that this year we must look at other ways to mark this festival. Let’s see how we in the Gulf must stand foremost in helping the people of Kerala who form such a strong link between India and the GCC. Just as these expats from Kerala gave off their time and muscle to develop the Gulf, it is now the turn of the Gulf states to step up and support Kerala.

How, you ask? Besides the donations to government and NGO relief funds on a personal basis, we can offer our professional support.

Now may not be the right time to go dashing off to the flood-hit towns of your choice. It is better to send the help we can offer through the CSR. What Kerala needs is expertise in the fields of medicine and water and sanitation, agriculture, and civil engineering.

Bahrain companies, which have benefited so much from the expatriates of Kerala can also support the rebuilding of Kerala – think of lending your professional teams for the work and give them leave with pay for the CSR – it’s a small but huge-ly significant way to strengthen the bond between this awesome state and Bahrain.
Quick ACROSS
3 Card game (5), 8 Merchandise (5), 10 Eerie (5), 11 Boy's name (3), 12 Girl's name (5), 13 Shortage (7), 15 Cause the ruin of (2,3), 18 Decompose (3), 19 Tranquil (6), 21 Subtitle (7), 22 Ballet skirt (4), 23 Obscure (7), 26 Perspires (6), 29 Excess flesh (3), 32 Conceal (4), 33 Seizure (3)

Cryptic ACROSS
3 The woman for many a man (5) 
8 She's a nut! (5) 
10 Finding the illuminations intoxicating? (3,2) 
11 Get a hundred advanced by deceit (3) 
12 Running tracks? (5) 
13 Dear me, shaken by the idealist's rousing start! (7) 
15 Gave one's playmates a hand (5) 
18 Container of cabbages? (3) 
19 A fairly normal district (6) 
21 Loose and fluttering – free as a bird? (7) 
22 Where to find some Irish heiresses (4) 
23 Behind, due to a rare mix-up! (4) 
24 Was worth making me tired (6) 
26 Three good contests (6) 
29 Adversary of an RAF officer at a loose end (3) 
31 A biblical character made her do wrong (5) 
32 This vessel can possibly be in wood (7) 
34 Copy the figures (5) 
35 Great little flier, maybe (3) 
36 To overreact seemed not quite nice to dad (5) 
37 Not above breaking an elbow (5) 
38 Was able to make a good rhyme (5) 

DOWN
1 Lustrous greyish wild crane (5) 
2 Suitable for holding (7) 
3 Sound way to use a balance (5) 
4 How can a door be this? (4) 
5 It's a long time for one to dally foolishly (13,3) 
6 His meanness upsets me sir (5) 
7 Targeted speculators? (5) 
8 Toot tooth toothpick (5) 
9 She's like Joe, but not very intoxicating? (3,2) 
10 Finding the illuminations (5) 
11 Get a hundred advanced by deceit (5) 
12 Sumptuously entertains a chap pronouncedly (3) 
13 She's a blossom (3) 
14 She's like Joe, but not very intoxicating? (3,2) 
15 Meant to get me to help out (5) 
16 Thighbone (5) 
17 Certainly not the Ocean of Storms! (7) 
18 Container of cabbages? (3) 
19 A fairly normal district (6) 
20 Contort (5) 
21 Group of witches (5) 
22 Where to find some Irish heiresses (7) 
23 Go in for unoriginality? (2-5) 
24 Was worth making me tired (7) 
25 Sound way to use a balance (5) 
26, Biro 28, Sit Apathy 22, Lather 23, Almost 25, Broadly 26, Berry 27, Ted-i-Dus 30, Fleet 31, Stilt 

DOWN:

YESTERDAY’S CRYPTOGRAPH SOLUTION
ACROSS:
1, Da-Vi’s 6, Suite 9, Serio-us 10, Amow 11, Perms 12, C-hips 13, Rival-ry, 15, Mud 17, Oder 18, Cr-ease 19, Smart 20, D-ants 22, Def-t 24, Ops. 25, Sol-idly 26, C-rank 27, Devil 28, B-err-y 29, Ted-i-Dus 30, Fleet 31, Stilt 

DOWN:

Today’s Target
How many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here? In making a word, each letter may be used once only, each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nineteen-letter word. No plurals or verb forms ending in “-s” words with initial capitals and no words with a hyphen or apostrophe permitted. The first word of a phrase is allowed (e.g. inkjet in inkjet printer)

Today’s Target
Good 14; very good 21 (or more). Solutions tomorrow.

YESTERDAY’S SOLUTION
chit coot hunt hotch potato kith koto optic otic photic photo picot pitch pith potto thick tick tock took tool tooth TOTTICK topi topi topi topi topic
FLOODS in Kerala continue to cause agony to scores of residents in Bahrain who are desperately trying to get in touch with family members back home.

Torrential rains which gripped the south Indian state leading to heavy floods, reportedly the worst in 100 years, have claimed more than 325 lives since August 9 with 2,23,139 people taking shelter in over 1,500 relief camps.

The GDN reported on Thursday that expatriate associations in Bahrain representing more than 200,000 Keralites in the kingdom have joined in solidarity with the victims, cancelling all celebrations of Onam and Eid and launching efforts to collect relief funds.

**Calls**

More than 200 calls, seeking help or pledging support, were received at a 24-hour help desk launched by the Bahrain Kerala Samajam (BKS) at its premises in Seagaya on Thursday.

“The help desk has been very busy,” BKS acting president Dilesh Kumar told the GDN.

“We had 25 calls from people trying to locate their families including aged parents; we managed to locate eight of them.

“The rest are still missing or there is no feedback; in the past two days in many areas Internet and electricity have been disconnected.

“Among those stranded in their homes that are under water are two BKS members.

“My parents were last seen standing on the balcony of our house in Alappuzha,” said a resident.

“We were told that someone had rescued them, but we don’t know where they are.”

Similar concerns were echoed by a number of other residents.

“We spoke to our parents after almost 48 hours; they are safe but we don’t know what to do next,” said another resident.

Meanwhile, samajam volunteers in different areas in Kerala are co-ordinating relief efforts, while BKS officials in Bahrain are working round the clock to help residents and separate the aid the help desk is receiving.

The Kochi International Airport, submerged in water, has announced a shutdown until August 26.

The GDN reported on Thursday that Gulf Air had cancelled its flights to Kochi.

Mr Kumar said 1,000kg of aid including clothes and dry food will be despatched tomorrow.

“The most important items currently needed are blankets, bed sheets, baby diapers, sanitary napkins, undergarments, toothbrush, toothpaste, dry food, towels and soap.”

He said many people had pledged financial aid but since the samajam had no permission to collect funds, people are being advised to send their donations directly to the Kerala Chief Minister’s Disaster Relief Fund.

The overall damages caused in the state is estimated to be around 200 billion Indian rupees (BD1,080,793,458).

Kerala has 41 rivers flowing through the Arabian Sea, and flood gates of 80 of its dams which have been opened.

A total of 38 helicopters and 20 aircraft are involved in airlifting emergency supplies to flood-hit areas.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi flew over the worst-hit areas yesterday and met state officials to discuss the crisis.

The state’s health disaster response wing has said it is planning for the risk of water-borne diseases when the flooding recedes.

The Indian Meteorological Department has forecast heavy to very heavy rains in the state in the next 24 hours, but it has withdrawn a red alert issued for the state.

Three of the 14 districts – Pathanamthitta, Idukki and Ernakulam – are on orange alert, while the remaining are on yellow and green alerts, hinting at likely rainfall at some places.

**Vow**

Meanwhile, informed sources told the GDN that Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha yesterday discussed the situation with community leaders and heads of registered associations from Kerala in Bahrain.

He reportedly took stock of the situation and pledged all support in the relief support drive.

A meeting was also held at the Indian Club in Manama to discuss relief efforts for Kerala. The BKS help desk numbers are 39440530, 39855197 and 39398598.

raj@gdn.com.bh
1) **The Equalizer 2** (15+) (Action/ Crime/ Thriller)
Starring: Denzel Washington, Pedro Pascal and Ashton Sanders
Shows at 11am, 3.30pm, 6pm, 10.15pm and 12.30am.

2) **The Meg** (PG 15) (Action/ Horror/ Thriller)
Starring: Jason Statham, Ruby Rose and Bingbing Li
Shows at 11.15am, 12.30pm, 1.45pm, 3pm, 4.15pm, 5.30pm, 6.45pm, 8pm, 9.15pm, 10.30pm and 11.45pm.

3) **Mission Impossible: Fallout** (PG 15) (Action/ Thriller)
Starring: John Abraham, Manoj Bajpayee and Aisha Sharma
Shows at 11.15am, 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8pm and 11.15pm.

4) **Ploey: You Never Fly Alone** (PG)
Starring: Jim Gaffigan, Zendaya and Ving Rhames
Shows at 3.45pm, 7pm and 9.45pm.

5) **Crazy Rich Asians** (15+) (Romance/ Comedy)
Starring: Constance Wu, Henry Golding and Gemma Chan
Shows at 10.45am, 12.45pm, 2pm, 4.15pm and 6.30pm.

6) **Gold** (PG 13) (Crime/ Thriller)
Starring: Ewan McGregor, Hayley Atwell and Bronte Carmichael
Shows at 11.45am, 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm and 8.45pm.

7) **Satyameva Jayate** (PG 15) (Hindi/ Action/ Thriller)
Starring: John Abraham, Mouni Roy and Akshay Kumar
Shows at 11.45am, 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm and 11.15pm.

**NEW RECOMMENDATION**

1) **Al Abla Tamtam** (PG 13) (Arabic/ Animation/ Adventure/ Comedy)
Starring: Ahmed Helmy, Aquino Samuel and Mohamed Al-Rawi
Shows at 11.30am, 4pm and 8.30pm.

2) **The Equalizer-2** (15+) (Action/ Crime/ Thriller)
Starring: Denzel Washington, Pedro Pascal and Ashton Sanders
Shows at 11am, 3.40pm, 6pm, 9.10pm and 11.30pm.

3) **Crazy Rich Asians** (15+) (Romance/ Comedy)
Starring: Constance Wu, Henry Golding and Gemma Chan
Shows at 10.30am, 1.30pm, 4pm and 7.30pm.

4) **The Meg 2** (15+) (Action/ Adventure/ Thriller)
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Starring: John Abraham, Manoj Bajpayee and Aisha Sharma
Shows at 11.15am, 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8pm and 11.15pm.

**SPECIAL SCREENING**

1) **Crazy Rich Asians** (15+) (Romance/ Comedy)
Starring: Constance Wu, Henry Golding and Gemma Chan
Show at 8pm.

2) **Gold** (PG 13) (Crime/ Thriller)
Starring: Ewan McGregor, Hayley Atwell and Bronte Carmichael
Shows at 11.45am, 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm and 8.45pm.

**ALL THE CINEMAS**

1) **The Equalizer 2** (15+) (Action/ Crime/ Thriller)
Starring: Denzel Washington, Pedro Pascal and Ashton Sanders
Shows at 11.15am, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm, 11.15pm and midnight.

2) **Gold** (PG 13) (Crime/ Thriller)
Starring: Ewan McGregor, Hayley Atwell and Bronte Carmichael
Shows at 11.45am, 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm and 8.45pm.

3) **Crazy Rich Asians** (15+) (Romance/ Comedy)
Starring: Constance Wu, Henry Golding and Gemma Chan
Show at 8pm.
Popular cartoon characters to unite on stage

There will be three performances of the show daily, at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre, Sanabis at 11am, 3.30pm and 7pm. The one-and-a-half-hour shows are a collaborative effort of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority, Live National Middle East and Turner’s Cartoon Network.

During the show, the audience will meet scientist Kelvin Gizmo, who takes them on a journey into the world of Cartoon Network under the threat of a mean robot called Zarr. They will travel through the Land of Ooo, the City of Townsville and Elmore while meeting their famous inhabitants.

TICKETS are selling out fast for the Middle East premiere of Cartoon Network Live! Heroes Unite set to take place over the Eid Al Adha holidays. The show, which runs over four days from Thursday to August 26, brings together characters like Ben10, the Powerpuff Girls, The Amazing World of Gumball and Adventure Time.

JAW-DROPPING acrobatic tricks and thrilling performances are in store for visitors at City Centre Bahrain during Eid Al Adha.

Face Team, a multiple world record-holding Hungarian acrobatic troupe, will perform in Bahrain for the first time starting on Tuesday until Saturday.

The 15-member team is famous for its thrilling sports-related shows full of energy and plenty of mesmerising slam dunks, high-flying acrobatic tricks combined with precise team-work presented through a choreographed entertainment programme.

Face Team’s longest spinning slam dunk put them in the Guinness World Records, along with five world records in total, while reaching the final of Britain’s Got Talent in 2012.

The engaging five-day performance will also be accompanied by a daily ‘Happy Eid Alya’ reward for 10 lucky shoppers, who can enter a draw for BD50 worth of gift cards for every BD50 spent between today and Saturday.

The performances will be held three times a day at the mall’s central galleria at 5pm, 6.30pm, and 9pm.

$50,000 bank raffle bonanza

ABDULLA Ahmed was declared the winner of a grand prize of $50,000 in Kuwait Finance House – Bahrain’s Libshara monthly draw.

Other winners in the draw for July included Salwa Jasim and Ibaa Al Kaabi who won $10,000 each while Saman Ismail and Fatima Jaffar won $5,000 each. Eighty other winners also received various other cash prizes.

For every BD50 saved in a Libshara savings investment account for 30 days prior to the end of the month, clients are entitled to enter the monthly cash draws.

While an investment for 90 days is equal to one chance at entering the grand prizes raffle draws, 180 days gives two chances and 360 days three.

Probe into worker’s suicide

AN investigation has been launched after a worker reportedly committed suicide yesterday. According to sources, Indian national Joseph Kati, aged 28, used a piece of cloth to hang himself from the ceiling in a labour accommodation warehouse in Durrat Al Bahrain. The incident was reported to the police at 8.28am yesterday. No further details were available.

Car damaged

A CAR was badly damaged following a collision after a driver skirted a red light on Awal Avenue in Juffair yesterday. According to sources, a young Bahraini man was driving along the avenue when another vehicle whose driver had jumped a red light crashed into him, and drove off. No one was injured but one of the vehicles was badly damaged.

Vaccinations

HEALTH authorities have vaccinated up to 60,000 people in the first half of the year as part of efforts to fight against serious diseases.

The programme covered 42,781 sheep, 9,660 goats and 6,532 cows. A national programme was launched to register and barcode cows, sheep and goats across Bahrain to make them easily traceable. The electronically-read-able barcodes feature key information about the animal, including the country of origin, the location of the farm in Bahrain and health conditions.

Help for pilgrims

BAHRAIN’S consulate in Jeddah will work round the clock to provide all services to Haj pilgrims, Consul General Ibrahim Mohammed Al Muharbieh called on pilgrims to adhere to regulations issued by the Saudi authorities, which aim to ensure their safety. Pilgrims coming through land ports should check their vehicle’s readiness and pack everything they may need during their drive, and adhere to laws to avoid any violation that could hinder or prevent them from accessing the holy site. Pilgrims without a Haj permit will not be allowed entry to the one, he said.

Visas clamp

THE General Directorate of Immigration and Passports has stopped issuing work visas for Bangladeshis without providing reasons or announcing this on social media, according to business owners and owners of recruitment agencies. They expressed support for the decision, describing the move as a step in the right direction to achieve development and protect public interests. They also advised authorities to hire cheaper labour, reports our sister paper Akhbar Al Khalij.
Imran Khan sworn in as Pakistan premier

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s new Prime Minister Imran Khan was sworn in at a ceremony in Islamabad yesterday, ushering in a new political era as the World Cup cricket hero officially took the reins of power in the nuclear-armed country.

The ceremony at the President’s House in the capital marks the end of decades of rotating leadership between the ousted Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), punctuated by periods of army rule.

A tearful Khan smiled as he stumbled over some of the words of the oath administered to him by President Mamnoon Hussain during the ceremony.

He swore to “bear true faith and allegiance to Pakistan”, and to “discharge my duties and perform my functions honestly, to the best of my ability... and always in the interest of the sovereignty, integrity, defence, security, welfare and prosperity of Pakistan”.

The 65-year-old former cricketer, who captained Pakistan to World Cup victory in 1992, had won a confidence vote in the National Assembly the previous day.

In parliament on Friday he came out fighting with a divisive speech in which he vowed to hold corrupt officials accountable.

The July 25 election that brought his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party to power was branded “Pakistan’s dirtiest”, with accusations throughout the campaign that the military was trying to tilt the playing field in Khan’s favour.

The army and Khan have denied claims from the PPP of “denial of justice” and “vote rigging.”

British Prime Minister Theresa May was among the first world leaders to telephone and congratulate his new counterpart.

“They agreed to work together to build on the good relations in a wider range of areas, including security co-operation, anti-corruption, and bilateral trade,” a statement issued by British Prime Minister’s office said.

The first secretary general from sub-Saharan Africa, Annan led the United Nations through the divisive years of the Iraq war and was later accused of corruption in the oil-for-food scandal, one of the most trying times of his tenure.

“It is with immense sadness that the Annan family and the Kofi Annan Foundation announce that Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations and Nobel Peace Laureate, passed away peacefully on Saturday after a short illness,” the foundation said in a statement.

“His wife Nane and their children Ama, Kojo and Nina were by his side during his last days.”

Current UN chief Antonio Guterres described his predecessor as “a guiding force for good”.

“In many ways, Kofi Annan was the United Nations,” he said.

“He rose through the ranks to lead the organisation into the new millennium with matchless dignity and determination.”

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein said Annan was “a friend to thousands and a leader of millions”.

“Kofi was humanity’s best example, the epitome, of human decency and grace.”

The UN said it would fly flags at half mast at all of its locations around the world through Tuesday.

And Ghana’s President Nana Akuffo-Addo announced a week of mourning for “one of our greatest contemporaries”.

In 2001, as the world was reeling from the September 11 attacks in the US, Annan was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize jointly with the world body “for their work for a better organised and more peaceful world”.

Another Nobel laureate, retired South African archbishop Desmond Tutu, described Annan as “an outstanding human being who represented our continent and the world with enormous graciousness, integrity and distinction”.

Russian President Vladimir Putin hailed his “wisdom and courage”, while German Chancellor Angela Merkel celebrated the “exceptional statesman in the service of the global community”.

US ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley said Annan “worked tirelessly to unite us and never stopped fighting for the dignity of every person”.

Former US president Barack Obama said Annan “embodied the mission of the United Nations like few others”.

Born in Kumasi, the capital city of Ghana’s Ashanti region, Annan devoted four decades of his life to the UN and was the first chief to rise from within the organisation’s ranks.

In 1993, he took over as peacekeeping chief – a position he held through two of the UN’s darkest chapters: the Rwandan genocide and the Biafran war.

His tenure as UN chief was tarnished by a 2005 investigation of Annan and his son over the oil-for-food scandal, seen by some as payback for his comments that the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq was “illegal”.

An inquiry cleared Annan of any serious wrongdoing, but found ethical and management lapses linked to his son Kojo’s ties with a Swiss firm that won lucrative contracts in the oil-for-food scheme.

Annan later admitted the scandal had sorely tested his mettle not only as secretary general, but as a father.

Despite the lows, he left the post as one of the most popular UN leaders ever, and was considered a “diplomatic rock star” in international diplomatic circles.

After ending his second term as UN chief, he kept up his diplomatic work, taking high-profile medial missions in Kenya and in Syria, and more recently leading an advisory commission in Myanmar on the crisis in Rakhine state.

A guiding force for good

GENEVA: Former UN chief and Nobel peace laureate Kofi Annan died yesterday at the age of 80, triggering a flood of tributes from around the world for the “diplomatic rock star”.

The Ghanaian national was a career diplomat who projected quiet charisma and was widely credited for raising the world body’s profile in global politics during his two terms as head of the UN from 1997 to 2006.

The first secretary general from sub-Saharan Africa, Annan led the United Nations through the divisive years of the Iraq war and was later accused of corruption in the oil-for-food scandal, one of the most trying times of his tenure.

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at prices on hi-tech Nissan Patrol models

and the LE Titanium, priced at BD122.995.

Both the LE T2 V8 and LE Tita-
nium give customers the option of paying in 2019 and benefitting from free insurance and registration, a service package of two years or 40,000km and five years unlimited mileage warranty.

Labelled ‘The Hero of All Ter-

rain in Life’, the Patrol line-up is

renowned for its ability to conquer any path, whether on city streets, desert roads or sand dunes. Variable Valve Event and Lift (VVEL) and Direct Injection Gaso-

line (DIG) technologies help to im-

prove the line-up’s efficiency, power

and torque with lower emissions.

The Patrol’s bold exterior was in-

spired by a fresh and modern design

approach, and its spacious interior

allows for ample legroom and ex-

pansive luggage space in the rear.

With its unique combination of

power, luxury and versatility, the

Nissan Patrol is a legacy designed for

adventures of any kind.

For more information about Nis-

san, visit en.nissanbahrain.com.

Gulf Tech plans ‘Pearl of

the World’ skyscraper

Gulf Tech Inter-

national has announced

plans to build a path-breaking

skyscraper that will be the first

of its kind in the world.

The Pearl of the World will

reach a height of 2,200 metres

and have 350 floors and a shop-

ping mall that will

reach seven

layers below the

sea.

It will incor-

porate a five-star

hotel.

The project –

to be located on a

manmade island

near Seef –

is expected to be

completed within

seven years and

will have many

investors covering

the Indian community and ex-

patriates, as well as Bahrainis.

The shopping mall will have

an opening in the middle to

allow for ships to pass through

and will require a folding floor

that will be reserved for sight-

seeing with special features that

will be disclosed later.

Nasa Antigravity will be the

main attraction in the shopping

mall – the first of its kind in the

world. People can experience

sitting in a rocket and landing

on the moon’s surface through

virtual reality.

Interested people will be able

to visit the skyscraper via a ferry

with each trip costing BD1.500

and will cover two floors with

tables and light snacks.

The skyscraper will highlight

Bahrain’s commitment to the

pearl diving industry through

the most advanced scuba diving

in the region.

“We need an investment

of BD7.5 billion for Pearl of

the World, to establish it as a

premier destination for people at

the forefront of skyscraper inno-

vation,” said Gulf Tech general

manager Irfan Karamat Ali.

“This is a new

market in which we are creating a

pathway to

grow Bahrain’s economy and

create good paying, quality jobs

in the industries of the future.”

Those interested in investing

call 34035425 or send an e-mail
to gulftech2019@gmail.com.

Gulf Tech International is

located on the 22nd floor of the

West Tower at Bahrain Financial

Harbour.

University of Bahrain redefining higher education

H ead of Academic Affairs at

Bahrain’s newest university, the

British University of Bahrain, pro-

fessor Siti Noraini said the uni-

versity is redefining higher edu-

cation in Bahrain and the region.

The College of Engineering and the

Built Environment reflects the importance

of the construction sector in Bahrain and

includes Civil Engineering, Quantity

Surveying, Construction Project Manage-

ment, and Property and Real Estate.

The College of Information and Com-

munications Technology offers Software

Engineering and Computer Networks

and mirrors the key role of the IT sector

in Bahrain’s future economic growth.

The College of Business has pro-

grammes in Marketing, Accounting

and Management and supports Bahrain’s role

as a financial and business hub.

BUB is housed in a brand new, state-

of-the-art campus in Saar, adjacent to

one of the kingdom’s newest and most

exciting malls and residential develop-

ments.

The campus has been designed to

maximise the use of IT in learning and

teaching and to facilitate the kind of

active, student-focused learning which

is core to BUB and Salfor’s philosophy.

A range of scholarships are available

for students wishing to apply to BUB,

including a 30 per cent scholarship for

transfer students throughout the duration

of their degree.

For more information, e-mail info@

bub.bh, call 17130303, WhatsApp

38030031 or visit website www.bub.bh.

its success for AMAISB students

WARC is a festival for youth that showcases their

talent and skills in designing and building robots.

AMAISB director Marietta S Sicat was delight-

ed with the achievements of these students and

expressed the school’s commitment to continuously

provide enrolled students an avenue to participate

in local, regional and international competitions.

Students taking part in World Adolescent Robotics Competition 2018 (WARC). Right, Elyas Zuhair Al Qasim with his medals
Erdogan challenges ‘games’ on economy

ANKARA: A day after two major ratings agencies downgraded Turkey closer to junk status amid a currency crisis, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he would challenge those playing “games” on the economy.

Both Moody’s and Standard & Poor’s ratings agencies cut Turkey’s sovereign credit ratings deeper into “junk” territory late on Friday.

Standard & Poor’s cited extreme lira volatility and forecast a recession next year. The rating agency downgraded the rating by one notch to B+ from BB- and kept Turkey’s outlook at stable in a move which came a day after the lira lost some 40 per cent of its value against the dollar this year.

“The tighter financial conditions and weaker exchange rate, associated with high and rising external financing risks, are likely to fuel inflation further and undermine growth, and the risk of a balance of payments crisis continues to rise,” Moody’s said.

Today some people are trying to threaten us through the economy, through interest rates, foreign exchange, investment and inflation,” Erdogan told the congress of his ruling AK Party.

“We are telling them: We’ve seen your games, and we are challenging you.”

The lira has plunged as investors fret about Erdogan’s influence over monetary policy. Heavy selling in recent weeks has spread to other emerging market currencies and global stocks and deepened concerns about the economy, particularly Turkey’s dependence on energy imports and whether foreign-currency debt poses a risk to banks.

On Friday, Turkey’s battered lira weakened 3pc after a Turkish court rejected an American pastor’s appeal for release, drawing a stiff rebuke from President Donald Trump, who said the US would not take the detention "sitting down.

The case of Andrew Brunson has become a flashpoint between Washington and Ankara and accelerated a widening currency crisis.

“We did not and will not surrender to those who act like a mob,” Erdogan said, in a reference to the US.

Push to set up banking arbitration

MANAMA: Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB) held a meeting with the Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry to review its project to establish a banking arbitration, which will help accelerate banking procedures, strengthen Bahrain’s position as a developed financial centre in the region, and attract foreign investment in the financial and banking sectors.

A statement from BAB said both parties agreed to develop a preliminary vision of what could be called a court or a banking arbitration authority that aims to resolve disputes arising from financial and banking transactions in Bahrain quickly and efficiently, taking into account privacy policies of financial and banking issues and the required expertise to speed up decisions and implement its provisions.

They also decided to request expert enrolment at the training institute of the ministry. However, BAB suggested providing a list of banking experts that are experienced in the field.

The meeting also discussed collaboration between BAB, the Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry, and the Industry and Commerce and Tourism Ministry to implement “Bankruptcy Laws Awareness Campaign” to inform and provide the banking sector with latest updates regarding the Bankruptcy Law that was issued last May.

Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry Under-Secretary for justice affairs Wael Bualli, Under-Secretary for court and notari-isation Mohammed Bucheeri, court affairs director Nayer Alghari, who is also a BAB client executive Waheed Al Qssim were among those present at the meeting.

US tech giants to fight India’s data localisation plans

NEW DELHI: US technology giants plan to intensify lobbying efforts against stringent Indian data localisation requirements, which they say will undermine their growth ambitions in India, sources said.

US trade groups, representing companies such as Amazon, American Express and Microsoft, have opposed India’s push to store data locally.

That push comes amid rising global efforts to protect user data but is one that could hit planned investments by the firms in the Indian market, where the companies currently have limited data storage.

The issue could further undermine already strained economic relations between India and the US.

Technology executives and trade groups have discussed approaching Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s office to appraise him of their worries.

Separately, the industry is considering pushing the issue as a trade concern, including at the India-US talks in September in New Delhi, sources familiar with the matter said.

Though a final decision hasn’t been made, the deliberations come while the US and India are locked in a dispute over US tariff increases and on the Indian policy of capping prices of medical devices, which hurts American pharmaceutical companies.

“This issue is important enough to be discussed at the India-US trade level,” said Amba Ram, a global public policy adviser at the Internet company Mozilla.

“Data localisation is not just a business concern, it potentially makes government surveillance easier, which is a worry.”

Stricter localisation norms would help India get easier access to data when conducting investigations, but critics say it could lead to increased government demands for data access. Technology firms worry the mandate would hurt their planned investments by raising costs related to setting up new local data centres.

Greater use of digital platforms in India for shopping or social networking having made it a lucrative market for technology companies, but a rising number of data breaches have pushed New Delhi to develop strong data protection rules.

Shamika Ravi, a member of Modi’s economic advisory council, said data localisation was a global phenomenon and India wasn’t an outlier. “It’s in the long-term strategic and economic interest,” said Ravi, who is also a research director at Brookings India.

The main government committee on data privacy last month proposed a draft law, recommending restrictions on data flows and proposing that all “critical personal data” should be processed only within the country. It would be left to the government to define what qualifies as such data.
The Airbus A320neo upon its arrival at the terminal

Mr Kucko, fifth from left, and Captain Alalawi, seventh from left, during the event along with VIPs and officials

Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry chairman Sameer Nass received at Beit Al Tijjar

The euro zone bailout programme finally over

**ATHENS:** The euro zone is set to pass an important milestone tomorrow, formally ending the bailout of Greece. It is the final country to be receiving emergency loans in the wake of Europe’s financial crisis.

The last payment has been made and the Greek government will have to finance its spending through taxes or by borrowing in the financial markets, though it will be decades before it is all repaid. Five countries received bailout loans – Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Cyprus – and at the most intense points of the crisis there were genuine doubts about whether the eurozone would survive, or at the very least whether some countries would drop out.

It has been a long haul for the eurozone – it has been eight years since the first bailout for Greece was agreed. This was a case of government spending running far ahead of what it could raise in taxes, and after a change of government in Athens it was revealed that the deficit was even larger than initially reported.

The origins of the crises were different in other countries. In Spain and France it was a construction and property market boom that was financed by banks which then suffered heavy losses when the booms ended. In Portugal it was more a case of weak economic growth that undermined government tax revenue. That same problem has afflicted Italy, a country which didn’t get a bailout but was a recurrent cause of anxiety that if it needed one its debts were so large that the eurozone couldn’t afford to come to the rescue.

Although the roots of the crises varied, there were similarities in the consequences, in particular a poisonous interaction between stressed government finances and stressed banks.

A country’s banks held much of its government debt, so if there were a default it would impose losses on them. Stricken banks would cut off credit to the economy and hit tax revenue and they would lead to extra spending on bailouts.

The euro zone responded by creating bailout agencies which borrow money in the financial markets to lend to countries in difficulty.

The bailouts were controversial. They involved tough steps to reduce government borrowing – spending cuts and tax increases. Strictly speaking that wasn’t part of Spain’s bailout agreement, which was exclusively about the banks, but the Madrid government was already working on its own finances.

BANGKOK: Thailand’s King Maha Vajiralongkorn is now the largest shareholder in the country’s biggest industrial conglomerate, Siam Cement Group, data from the Stock Exchange of Thailand, published on its website yesterday showed.

It shows the king as having a 33.3 per cent share, making him the biggest shareholder in the construction and industrial supplies firm. The monarch’s holdings in the company have a value of nearly $5.45 billion.

It follows an announcement in June from the Crown Property Bureau which said assets previously registered to the bureau would now be held “in the name of His Majesty”, the latest shake-up of royal affairs under the king who has ruled since 2016, following the death of his father, King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The June announcement saw King Vajiralongkorn, 66, take full, personal ownership of the bureau’s assets.

The exact size of the bureau is not made public, but Forbes magazine valued its holdings in real estate and other investments at more than $30 billion in 2012, making the king the richest monarch in the world.

The king has overseen a major shake-up of royal affairs since taking the throne.

By REEM AL DAAYI

in the market.

The aircraft is also equipped with LEAP-1A engines from CFM International along with large wing tip devices known as Sharklets, which combined deliver 15 per cent fuel burn reduction per seat.

The aircraft is also eco-friendly producing 5,000 tonnes less CO2 emission per year per aircraft along with nearly 50pc reduction in the noise footprint when compared to the previous generation aircraft.

“A peak travel period is upon us and I feel glad to receive interaction as break as people travel for holiday,” said Gulf Air deputy CEO Captain Waleed Alalawi.

Earlier this year, Gulf Air received three Boeing 787-900 Dreamliner aircraft as it continues its major fleet development project which aims to see a total of 39 new aircraft by the end of 2023 - 10 Boeing 787-900 Dreamliners, 12 Airbus A320neo and 17 Airbus A321neo aircraft.

According to an official statement, Gulf Air’s network will serve 49 cities in 26 in 2018.

**MANAMA:** Gulf Air’s first Airbus A320neo aircraft received a water cannon salute as it taxied to the terminal at Bahrain International Airport (BIA) yesterday.

The aircraft, delivered from the manufacturer’s factory in Toulouse, France, will fly on a number of regional routes within the Gulf Air network.

The aircraft is the first of 12 A320neo aircraft ordered during the 2016 Bahrain International Airshow and makes Gulf Air the first national carrier to fly the A320neo in the Middle East and Africa region.

“History is repeating itself, as we were the first in the region to receive the A320 aircraft in 1992,” said Gulf Air chief executive Keesomir Kucko.

“We have a strong network in the region with multiple daily flights to 10 regional cities and the addition of the A320neo into our fleet will strengthen our position in the market.”

Gulf Air’s A320neo, which stands for new engine option, is the most advanced version of the A320 aircraft in 1992,” said Mr Kucko, fifth from left, and Captain Alalawi, seventh from left, during the event along with VIPs and officials.

Gulf Air’s A320neo, its arrival at the terminal

Kresimir Kucko.

A320 aircraft in 1992,” said Mr Kucko, fifth from left, and Captain Alalawi, seventh from left, during the event along with VIPs and officials.

Gulf Air unveils A320neo

I’m glad to see you’ve cleared everything off your desk.
CARACAS: Uncertainty reigned in Venezuela yesterday after President Nicolas Maduro unveiled a major economic reform plan aimed at halting the spiralling hyperinflation that has thrown the oil-rich, cash-poor South American country into chaos.

Outstanding gains in Facebook, Amazon, Netflix and Alphabet have underpinned much of the US stock market’s rally in recent years, along with the broader tech sector, but the group is widely viewed as overvalued and buying valuations remain expensive.

Backed up by strong earnings growth and investor confidence in Silicon Valley’s innovation track record, the S&P 500 technology index is up 16pc in the past two years and are down by near-10pc year to date.

The S&P 500 in recent days has struggled just short of its January record high and is up 16pc year to date.

Even after recovering from a steep sell-off in February, the S&P 500 is trading at a relative-inexpensive 16.5 times expected earnings, compared with 18.6 times earnings in January, according to Thomson Reuters data. The S&P 500 technology index is trading at 38.7 times earnings, with a high-point of 39.6 in late January.

The FANG stocks, plus Apple and Chinese stocks Baofeng, Aihaba and Tencent, in August were the most crowded trade on Wall Street for the seventh straight month, according to a survey of fund managers by Bank of America.

In crowded trades, most in-vestors share the same opinion, increasing the potential for a volatile sell-off if sentiment changes.

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Sydney: Winger Waisake Naholo scored a double as New Zealand recovered from a slow start to overrun Australia 38-13 yesterday and extend the Wallabies’ Bledisloe Cup jinx in Sydney.

The world champions scored six tries to one in the first half, which also doubles as the Rugby Championship opener, for their third win at ANZ Stadium in as many years.

New Zealand’s coach Steve Hansen defended the result as they ran rampant after being 6-0 down until Aaron Smith’s opening try in the 18th minute.

“That was a bloody tough Test match, credit to the Wallabies for what they came up with,” he said.

Australia’s makeshift pack struggled at the set piece, turning over the ball at the base and conceding penalties at scrum-time.

The result was all-too familiar for Wallabies coach Michael Cheika, who said his side needed to stick to their game plan in the face of another All Blacks onslaught.

“When it goes against us like that we need to keep going... we defended excellently in the first half and we needed to keep doing that,” he said.

Sweating

Australia missed 40 tackles to New Zealand’s 11 and only hit the mark in five of their 12 lineouts, giving the All Blacks possession.

“It’s really disappointing to get down the other end and throw the ball away,” captain Michael Hooper said.

The Wallabies are sweating on Folau’s fitness for Auckland after he limped off in the 65th minute.

All Black centre Ryan Crotty was knocked cold in a clash of heads with teammate Jack Goodhue and winger Rico Ioane is expected to miss the Auckland match with a strained hamstring.

As expected, Australia unleashed their potent backline early, desperate to put on a show for the crowd of 66,000 Sydney-siders.

Naholo was fortunate not to be sinbinned for a lifting tackle on Israel Folau and the New Zealanders committed uncharacteristic handling errors under pressure from Australia’s rushed defence.

They held on to prevent the Wallabies crossing the line in the first half, restring them to penalties for Reece Hodge and Bernard Foley.

The All Blacks did not seriously threaten until the half hour mark, when winger Dane Haylett-Petty denied Naholo with a try-saving tackle on the line.

Namibia book World Cup slot

WINHOEK: Veteran fullback Chrisyan Botha scored two tries as Namibiar sailor a sixth successive qualification for the Rugby World Cup with a 53-28 victory over Kenya at the Hage Geingob Rugby Stadium yesterday.

The Southern African side, coached by former Wales international Phil Davies, will play in Pool B at the global finals in Japan next year alongside world champions New Zealand, South Africa and Italy, with the winner of the Repachage competition to complete the group.

The clash in Windhoek was a straight shoot-out for top spot in the Rugby Africa Gold Cup and automatic World Cup qualification. Namibia eased to a full haul of 25 points and top spot, with Kenya losing for the first time in the competition.

Namibia were overwhelming favourites to win given their prowess on attack and the ability of their forwards to get front-foot ball all through the competition in which they averaged 70 points per game.
Bahraini athletes face a tough task against a strong field of competitors at the Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang. The Bahrain delegation’s Chef de Mission Bader Nasser was given the honour of carrying the Kingdom’s flag during the parade of nations.

He was accompanied by several of the national team’s athletes and officials. They were all dressed in traditional thobes and they each waved mini-flags as they made their way to their post at Gelora Bung Karno Main Stadium.

Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Assistant General Secretary and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) General Secretary Abdulrahman Alaskar was at the venue attending last night’s inauguration. He was joined by several other delegation and BOC officials.

Action in the various sports competitions resume today after yesterday’s break to make way for last night’s ceremony.

Out of the entire Bahrain delegation, only one athlete will be in action: Adam Batirov in Men’s Wrestling.

Batirov will be going for gold in the Men’s Freestyle 74kg category in the Asian Games.

Meanwhile, members of Bahrain’s bowling national team have arrived in the city of Palembang and will today begin their final preparations for the start of their campaign, which is scheduled to be on Wednesday.

Bahrain’s team includes six bowlers, including Yusuf Falah, Abdulla Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Omar Al Awadhi, Akeel Al Moosa and Ahmed Abdulla Al Aalgoud.

They are coached by Haitham Almansoori.

Email: sport@gdn.com.bh
Coileman pips Prescod for 100m title

BIRMINGHAM: American Chris
tain Coleman held off fast-fin
ishing local favourite Reece
Prescod to take the Birmingham
Diamond League 100 metres title
by one thousandth of a second.

In a stacked field Coleman blazed
out of the blocks and looked away
and clear after 60 metres but Prescod
unwound his long limbs to close the
gap. TV replays appeared to show
that the Briton had done enough but he needed
one more metre.

Coleman, feeling his way back after
an injury-restricted year, won in 9.94
seconds. Prescod was given the same
time – a lifetime best – but missed out
and got another PB and on my home track.

In the women’s 200m it was Shaeann
Miller-Uibo, Olympic champion over
400m and Commonwealth champion
over 200m, who played party pooper
by overhauling Dina Asher-Smith in the
200m. Home favourite Asher-Smith, fresh
from winning a hat-trick of golds at the
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400m Olympic champion Miller-Uibo,
who won in 22.15. Asher-Smith took
second in 22.31 with National
champion 3000m Steeplechase winner
Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands
finding no sign of the back trouble
she suffered a hairline fracture of his
right shoulder injury. The Bills announced he sus-
tained a right shoulder injury. The Bills announced he sus-
curred a three-strikeout effort. Sipp (2-
ners for the third time this season, scat-
ting three hits in six innings while
allowed three runs short of a hundred but had the satisfaction
of leading a batting revival on the first day of the
third Test against England at Trent Bridge yesterday.

At stumps India were 307 for six after losing the
first wicket. A day of fluctuating fortunes ended when James Anderson, En-
gland’s all-time leading Test wicket-taker, struck with the new ball
against the Astros.

NEW YORK: Baker Mayfield had another
solid outing on Friday night, but it was fellow
rookie AJ McCarron who stole the show as the Buf-

doing his word, while show-
ing no sign of the back trouble
that hampered him at Lord’s as he
did in Bath and雷根 treated an en-
grossed crowd to a traditional top-
order Test partnership.

It was a fitting way for India
to honour Ajit Wadekar, whose
death was announced on Wednesday, as were the
black armbands they wore in
memory of the first India cap-
tain to enjoy a Test series vic-

Hassan (22) was bowled. And on the stroke
of lunch, Cheteshwar Pujara
hooked Woakes, man-of-the-match
after scoring a maiden
Test century in England’s in-
nings and 159-run win in the
second Test at Lord’s last week
after replacing Stokes, straight
to Rashid at long leg.

But Kohli, who on Friday had
urged India “to stand up” was as
good as his word, while show-
ing no sign of the back trouble
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Hassan said. “I have to talk to my coach
to see what’s next in my pro-
gress because I could run the
7500m at the finals or maybe
the 5000m,” Hassan said.

But until his catch to dismiss
India 1st innings

V Kohli c Stokes b Rashid 97
C Pujara c Rashid b Woakes 14
S Dhawan c Buttler b Woakes 35
R Pant not out 22
H Pandya c Buttler b Anderson 18

Bowling:
Anderson 22-8-52-1;
Woakes 307

RBI double in the ninth to force ex-
tinguishing local favourite Reece
Prescod to take the Birmingham
Diamond League 100 metres title
by one thousandth of a second.

In a stacked field Coleman blazed
out of the blocks and looked away
and clear after 60 metres but Prescod
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NEW YORK: Matt Olson
powered off left-hander Tony
Sipp leading off the bottom of
the 10th inning Friday night,
completing a comeback that deliv-
ered the Oakland Athletics a 4-3 win
over the Houston Astros in the open-
er of a three-game series between
the top two teams in the American
League West in Oakland, Calif.

Nick Martini lashed a game-tying
RBI double in the ninth to force ex-
tra innings for the A’s (73-49), who
moved within one game of the first-
place Astros (74-48).

Olson belted Sipp’s sixth pitch
well over the fence in right field for
his 23rd home run of the season and
Oakland’s eighth walk-off win of the
year. A’s closer Blake Treinen (6-2),
who worked the top of the 10th in a
five-game series between the two National League
Central rivals.

The win was the ninth in the past 10
games for the Cardinals and allowed
them to move to within a half-game of
the Brewers in the NL wild-card race.

Flaherty (7-6) dominated the Brew-
ers for the third time this season, scat-
ting three hits in six innings while
striking out seven and walking three.

New York Post

Allen shines in
Buffalo victory

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who worked the top of the 10th in a
tie game, was credited with the win
after a three-strikeout effort. Sipp (2-
1) took the loss.

Rookie Jack Flaherty continued
his mastery over Milwaukee as host
St. Louis claimed a 5-2 win in the
opener of a key three-game series
between the two National League
Central rivals.

The win was the ninth in the past 10
games for the Cardinals and allowed
them to move to within a half-game of
the Brewers in the NL wild-card race.

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striking out seven and walking three.

Collated results – Page 20 (World Resulta)
Juventus stars in Chelsea victory

Juventus win on Ronaldo’s Serie A debut

LONDON: Chelsea recovered from the shock of blowing a two-goal lead against Arsenal as Marcos Alonso’s late strike sealed a 2-1 win, while Harry Kane ended his August hoodoo in Tottenham’s 3-1 victory over Fulham yesterday.

Maurizio Sarri’s side raced into a 2-0 lead in the London derby before Arsenal drew level as a thrilling first half at Stamford Bridge. Pedro swept home with a cool finish in the ninth minute after woeful Arsenal defending and Alvaro Morata crashed in the second 11 minutes later.

Although Arsenal were rocky at the back, they were dangerous going forward and Henriik Mikkahytan got one back with a low strike after 37th minute. Alex Iwobi nabbed Arsenal’s equaliser with a clinical effort in the 44th minute.

But Chelsea bounced back from that blow, dominating the second half before Spanish defender Alonso finished off substitute Eden Hazard’s pass in the 81st minute. Chelsea’s second successive win under new boss Sarri lifted them to the top of the Premier League.

Tomori were defeated 2-1 at Goodison Park, while Leicester saw off Wolves 2-0 despite a red card for Jamie Ward. And Cardiff and Newcastle were both first to score against Arsenal and Liverpool at Wembley.

Level

Lucas Moura curled home his first Premier League goal to give Spurs the lead, but Aleksandar Mitrovic deservedly headed Fulham level early in the second half. Tottenham may still be suffering a World Cup hangover with the majority of their stars enjoying barely a week of pre-season training after their efforts in Russia.

But it was two of England’s World Cup heroes who produced the goods as Kieran Trippier curled home a wonderful free-kick before Kane finally ended his wait to score in the opening month of the season at the 15th attempt in the Premier League.

In contrast to Spurs, West Ham ploughed nearly £100 million in the transfer market to back new manager Maurizio Sarri and Richarlison scoring his third goal in two games.

Mourinho’s side raced into a two-goal lead in the Welsh capital in a missed opportunity for David Moyes. But Chelsea bounced back from that blow, dominating the second half before Spanish defender Alonso finished off substitute Eden Hazard’s pass in the 81st minute. Chelsea’s second successive victory under new boss Maurizio Sarri lifted them to the top of the Premier League with a 100 percent record, while Arsenal remain without a point under new manager Unai Emery after back-to-back losses.

Bournemouth also have maximum points from their opening two games as Eddie Howe’s side came from behind to win 2-1 at West Ham. Everton’s £50-million signing a two-goal lead against Arsenal as Marcos Alonso’s late strike sealed a 2-1 win.

Mauricio Pochettino’s men have yet to find momentum at Goodison with the winner as Southampton took a 2-1 win over Everton in the 44th minute.

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Federer edges out Wawrinka

CINCINNATI: Roger Federer continued his mastery over Stan Wawrinka, but not before getting a fright en route to a 6-7(2) 7-6(6) 6-2 quarter-final victory at the Cincinnati Masters on Friday.

Federer upped his career record against his Swiss compatriot to 21-3.

A match that started with a low key atmosphere developed into a cracking affair when Federer took the second set tiebreak as lightning re-verbated near the stadium.

Play was finally halted two points into the third set. Federer was in a different class once the match resumed after a short delay.

While Federer narrowly avoided an early exit, another high seed was sent packing, as number four Juan Martin del Potro fell to diminutive Belgian David Goffin 7-6(5) 7-6(4).

Goffin closed out a tight match with a backhand winner down the baseline.

His reward is a evening match against 13th seeded Keys.

The 41-year-old, who has three career victories and managed to do it again on Friday, staved off match points in her two previous matches and managed to do it again on Friday.

Her semi-final opponent Sabalenka had almost half the field returned to the Brickyard Crossing Golf Course to complete the round that was halted for four hours by heavy rain on Thursday.

Wawrinka beat Marton Mayer had a chance to use his big serve to wriggle out of trouble in the final regular event of the season fell at three-under 137.

The top 125 on the season-long points list advance to the four-event FedExCup play-offs that start next week. Sergio Garcia, ranked 137th, kept alive his playoff hopes by shooting a 65 that left him equal fourth on nine-under.

The Spaniard did not sound overly fussed as to whether he qualified for next week or not.

"If I have a great weekend, then it will be great," he said.

"If I don't have a great week-end, it will still be great because I'll get to rest."
South Africa rally past Argentina

DURBAN: Wingers Aphiwe Dyantyi and Makazole Mapimpi scored two tries each as South Africa rallied in the second half to beat Argentina 34-21 in their Rugby Championship opener yesterday after another slow start. The Springboks out-scored the Pumas by six tries to three but again made heavy work of their victory before finishing strongly.

Lukhanyo Am and Faal de Klerk claimed South Africa’s other tries while Nicolas Sanchez, Pablo Matera and Matias Moroni crossed the line for Argentina.

The Boks continued a trend set in the first two matches of their three-test series against England in June when they went behind early and were forced to come back to win.

“We didn’t start as well as we made a lot of mistakes which was disappointing because we’ve been working hard on our discipline over the last weeks,” South Africa captain Siya Kolisi said.

New Zealand beat Australia – Page 19

Wimbledon: Novak Djokovic beat Marin Cilic 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 yesterday to keep his dream of winning the Cincinnati Masters alive.

The Serb will be playing in his sixth final here against either seven-time champion Roger Federer or Belgian David Goffin who were to meet at the time of going to press early this morning.

The match which went for two and a half hours, with the end in doubt until Wimbledons champion Djokovic secured a break for 5-3 with a passing shot and finished off the win a game later.

The former world number one Djokovic who has never broken through here is aiming to lift the trophy at the only one of the Masters 1000 series events that he has never won.

In women’s action yesterday, a determined Kiki Bertens rallied past Czech Petra Kvitova 3-6 6-2 6-2 to move into the final.

Kvitova to claim her seventh consecutive win over a top-10 opponent and second victory over Kvitova in nine days. She also beat the Czech in last week’s Rogers Cup third round.

Bertens will face the winner of the second semi-final between world number one Simona Halep and Aryna Sabalenka for the title today.

“It was a really tough one, but I’m so happy to be in the finals here,” Bertens said.

Bertens, world number 17, lost the last five games of the first set but took the second in which there were seven breaks of serve. The Dutch number one did not face a break point in the final set and dropped just three points on serve.

Kvitova had 48 unforced errors in the match, including eight double faults, and lost serve seven times in her third marathon three-setter in the Cincinnati sun.

Mbaumbe brace seals PSG victory

PARIS: World Cup winner Kylian Mbappe scored a brace as champions Paris St Germain completed a second-half comeback to secure a 3-1 win over En Avant Guingamp in Ligue 1 yesterday.

The Parisian club had taken an early lead through Thomas Meunier to a youthful PSG side which was bossed as the visitors looked to make it two wins in as many league matches.

PSG got off to a poor start, with Guingamp holding their own in front of a vociferous home crowd and forcing an impressive save from goalkeeper Guillam Buffon to deny Thomas Trumun in the 14th minute.

Five minutes later, Guingamp winger Marcus Coco capitalised on PSG right-back Colin Dagbi’s error and played in either Nolan Ross, who slotted past Buffon to give the hosts a shock lead.

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Fifa ban looms on Nigeria

DURBAN: Nigeria have less than 48 hours to sort out the running of their football federation if they want to avoid the possibility of being banned by Fifa from international soccer, including exclusion from next month’s African Nations Cup qualifiers.

Soccer’s governing body issued the country with a final warning due to alleged state interference in the running of the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF).

Fifa’s recognised leadership were told they must resolve the row between the NFF and a rival faction which has taken control.

Fifa does not accept third party interference in its member federations and said the NFF must be led by its elected president, voted in 2014. If that does not happen, Fifa said it would suspend Nigeria.

Saudi football chief quits

RIYADH: Saudi Football Federation chief Adel al-Farsi resigned yesterday, expressing his intention to run for the presidency of the Asian Football Confederation.

“I presented to Saudi sports authority chief Turki al-Shihab... my resignation from my position as of today,” Farsi told a Saudi sports broadcaster. “I will begin preparing... for elections of the Asian Football Confederation, which will be held next year,” Farsi’s deputy Nawaf Al Timry has been named the Saudi Federation’s interim chief until fresh elections are held.

Muehlberger wins stage

BRUSSELS: Gregor Muehlberger won the sixth penultimate stage of the BinckBank Tour yesterday in Sittard-Geloon in the Netherlands.

Kazakhstan’s Alexandr Murashov (Bahrain-Merida) kept the race lead ahead of Australian Michael Matthews (Sunweb). It was Muehlberger’s first stage victory in a World Tour event.