

UK puts brake on \$15.7bn Sky deal

London
Rupert Murdoch's \$15.7 billion takeover of Sky is not in the public interest and should be blocked unless a way is found to prevent the media tycoon from influencing the network's news output, Britain's regulator said. The ruling complicates a separate plan by Walt Disney to buy Sky. Disney had hoped Murdoch would own 100pc of the broadcaster by the time it completed its takeover.



JPMorgan in \$20bn investment plan

Washington
JPMorgan Chase & Co unveiled a \$20 billion investment plan on Tuesday to increase wages, hire more, open new branches and expand its business as it takes advantage of sweeping changes to the U.S. tax law and improved regulatory environment. As part of the five year plan, the largest U.S. bank by assets will increase wages for 22,000 employees by an average of 10 percent.

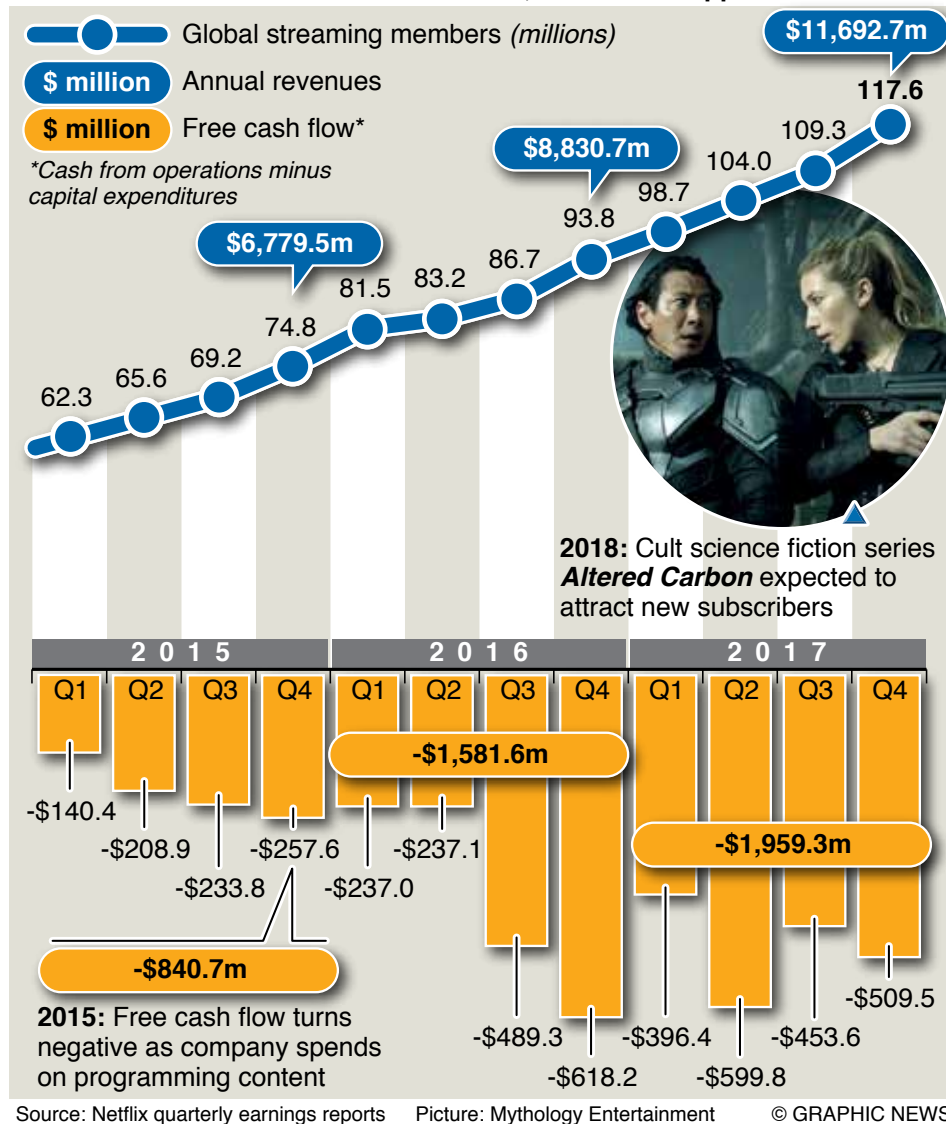


The United States will not recognise North Korea as a nuclear weapon state. If the North wishes to return and be in the good graces of the international community, it knows what it has to do, it has to take steps toward denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula."

-Robert Wood
 U.S. disarmament ambassador

Netflix valuation hits \$100bn

Netflix reported 8.3 million new subscribers in the past three months, sending the streaming giant's value to over \$100 billion for the first time. Netflix made \$11.7 billion in 2017, but losses topped \$1.9bn



Renewable Energy policy in focus at S.U.N forum

Manama
 Bahrain's Net Metering Policy will be detailed at the Solar Utilities Network (S.U.N) forum on 7th February at Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre.

The Bahrain Unit for Sustainable Energy (SEU) a joint initiative of the UNDP and the Ministry of Electricity and Water, will detail Bahrain's strategy for energy efficiency and sustainability through net-metering.

The SEU presentations by Dr. Khalid Burashid, (SEU Senior Technical Advisor) and Alexander Al Samahiji, (SEU's Solar Expert) will outline the billing mechanism that credits solar energy system owners for the electricity they add to the national grid, known as net metering.

The S.U.N Event will also cover topics on, Renewable Energy Technology, Renewable Energy - Challenges and Opportunities, Job Creation and Skilling for the Challenges of Solar and Renewable Energy.

Keynote speakers at the event include; Toufic Hawat, PhD Chief Technology Advisor/BD-Regional Manager MENA Region HUAWEI Smart Solar and Dr. Praveen Saxena, CEO Green Jobs Council, India and .

"The S.U.N Event is in line with promoting the ground-breaking work of the Kingdom of Bahrain to achieve its renewable energy goals and vision. The Solar Utilities Network is an initiative supported by Bahrain Solar Association to promote a network of expertise and provide a platform for knowledge exchange for those in the solar and renewable energy sectors," says Jubran Abdulrahman, Managing Director of HCE.

S.U.N takes place alongside the Gulf Industrial Fair at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Center.



A "VAT Law and Accounting Workshop" was held recently at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Manama. Guest of Honour of the event, organised by Phil-Bahrain Business Council (PBBC) in cooperation with the Relax for Events Management, was Philippine Ambassador to Bahrain, Alfonso A. Ver. Discussions focused on VAT system and its application in countries around the globe to improve the delivery goods and services. The activity was spearheaded by PBBC President, Nestor S. Ballano and other officials. Resource speakers were PBBC Vice President, Lyn Le. Altarejos and Virgilio Altares, CPA. Ambassador Ver handed over Certificates of Appreciation to resource speakers, which was followed by an open forum.