

Charlize Theron's mother influenced her to act

Actress Charlize Theron's mother influenced her to pursue acting after her career as a ballerina did not work out the way she had planned.

P14

We can't deal terrorists like other criminals

THE DAILY tribune

There's no happily ever after: Taylor Swift

Indian Army's Yeti 'footprint' cause online storm

King orders Ramadan gift to families
Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has ordered the disbursement of Ramadan clothing grant to Royal Charity Organisation (RCO)-sponsored families.

On this occasion, HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Chairman of the Supreme Council of Youth and Sports expressed sincere gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty, the Honorary President of the Royal Charity Organisation for his patronage and continuous keenness to share with the RCO-sponsored families the blessings of the holy month of Ramadan, and for His Majesty's standing directives to provide permanently decent living to them.

Interference in Bahrain's affairs rapped
Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's Cabinet yesterday reiterated the Saudi rejection of any form of interference in the internal affairs of Bahrain and any attempt to prejudice its sovereignty, security and stability.

The Cabinet, during its session, chaired by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud said that it was looking forward to strong relations between Bahrain and Iraq based on mutual respect and contributing to achieving security and stability in the region.



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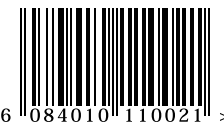
Property development projects discussed

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'I want to go home alive, not in coffin'

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Appeals Court rejects robber's plea for alternative punishment



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Timeless bonhomie

Historical ties with France in focus as His Majesty holds talk with President Macron

Both leaders hailed the meetings between Bahraini and French businessmen, which yielded many agreements and commercial contracts.

HM the King affirmed that Bahrain has always been a model in progress, reform, openness, tolerance, coexistence and pluralism.

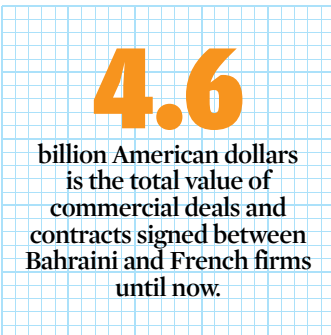
Paris

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and French President Emmanuel Macron affirmed appreciation of growing strategic relations between Bahrain and France and common keenness on further bolstering them.

They stressed that those relations are based on mutual respect, trust, co-operation, common interests and a common history, politically, economically, commercially and culturally.

This came during a meeting at the Élysée Palace yesterday between HM the King and the French President.

HM the King voiced solidarity



of the Kingdom with France after the horrible fire, which engulfed the historical tower at Notre-Dame cathedral, in Paris.

His Majesty also expressed regret over losing the religious symbol and historical landmark, describing it as a major loss for all humanity.

HM the King thanked the French President for the invitation, praising France's glorious history and rich human and civilisational heritage. The King also lauded strong ties binding the two friendly countries and peoples, pointing out their common characteristics and shared noble values of creativity, tolerance and coexistence.

Both leaders reviewed progress of bilateral work, which underlines keenness to further boost relations through the signing of many memoranda of understanding and agreements in various fields.

They hailed the meetings between Bahraini and French

businessmen, which yielded many agreements and commercial contracts worth more than \$2 billion, thus bringing the overall value of current and previous contracts to \$4.6 billion.

They recalled with pride the presence of many French traders in Bahrain in the past, pointing out the French jeweller Jacques Cartier who visited Bahrain early last century and showed a great interest in the Kingdom's pearl industry.

HM the King underscored the major role played by French archaeologists who have contributed for more than four decades to uncovering the biggest part of Bahrain's archaeological monuments and their old history.

Both leaders reviewed regional issues and the future of peace in the Middle East, pointing out common visions that despite all hardships, peace is imminent. They also emphasised the need for concerted efforts to handle current challenges and dangers.

Discussions also showed an agreement on the importance of sustainable stability in the Arabian Gulf which requires the Gulf countries and their allies a firm action against terrorism and all forms of interference in countries' affairs. Both leaders also stressed the need to respect the countries' independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity in order to serve interna-



His Majesty being received by President Macron at Élysée Palace.

tional peace and security.

HM the King affirmed that Bahrain has always been a model in progress, reform, openness, tolerance, coexistence and pluralism.

The King underscored the kingdom's unwavering commitment to working with its part-

ners, including France, to promote tolerance and rapprochement between all peoples.

His Majesty also expressed the kingdom's resolve to continue the path of development and achievements to achieve the aspirations of the Bahraini people.

DEALS GALORE

Bahrain, France sign co-operation agreements

Paris

Bahrain and France yesterday signed a string of co-operation agreements and memoranda of understanding.

The deals were sealed on the sidelines of the visit of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to Paris at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron.

An agreement was reached between the Government of the Kingdom and the Government of the French Republic on training of Bahraini specialist doctors in France.

The deal was signed by Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid



Mr Al Romaihi signs the MoU with Mr Vallet.

bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa and his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian.

An MoU between Higher Education Council in the Kingdom and the Ministry for Higher Ed-

ucation, Research, and Innovation in the French Republic for co-operation in the field of

higher education was signed by Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi and French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian.

Dr Al Nuaimi and Mr Le Drian signed another MoU for extending co-operation in the different fields of education.

A third MoU between the Ministry of Information in the Kingdom and the Institut National de l'Audiovisuel (INA) in the French Republic was signed by Information Affairs Minister Ali bin Mohammed Al Romaihi with INA President director-general Laurent Vallet.

The Education Ministry and AixMarseille University of France also inked a deal for co-operation.



French President Emmanuel Macron presented pictures showing historic trade relations between Bahrain and France to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday. His Majesty along with the accompanying delegation also held talks with Macron and senior French ministers and government officials on extending co-operation in many areas.



His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received members of the royal family and officials yesterday and reviewed with them topics related to Bahrain. HRH the Premier stressed that Bahrainis were deeply patriotic and stood firmly and steadfastly with their leaders. People in rejecting any interference in the internal homeland should give lessons to those who wish to influence national unity and social fabric that their attempts are marked to end in failure before they begin. Such positions are deep-rooted in history and have been bright landmarks that reflected the outstanding nature of Bahrainis, HRH the Premier added. The impressive popular rejection of any form of interference in the domestic affairs of the Kingdom is a great lesson that attempts to impact Bahrain's national unity and social fabric would be doomed, HRH the Premier said.



His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received Shura Council members and stressed that co-operation should drive the parliamentary-government partnership that serves national interests. Convergent views should be the prevailing feature of the complementary relationship between the executive and legislative branches, he said, stressing that when the various issues are subject to the national interest without exaggeration, agreement will ensue. The process of national action at the current stage needs mutual support in order to preserve the achievements of the country and its people. "The spirit of co-operation between the executive and legislative branches is important and necessary and we must build upon it in order to achieve the development and progress we aspire to achieve," HRH the Premier said.



On behalf of Deputy King His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Educational Charitable Trust, yesterday attended the 2019 Crown Prince Volleyball Cup's final between Al Muharraq Club and Al Ahli Club, at Isa Sports City. During the awarding ceremony, HH Shaikh Isa highlighted HM the King and HRH the Crown Prince's support to the Kingdom's sports sector, which has boosted Bahrain's competitiveness on the regional and global stages. HH Shaikh Isa also highlighted the wide-ranging efforts of HM the King's Representative for Charity Works and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa; and the First Deputy of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and Chairman of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, in advancing Bahrain's sports sector. Al Ahli Club won the match.

Property development projects discussed

● The meeting focused on ways of attracting investments, developing the real estate sector, carrying out property and investment projects, stressing the importance of marketing and economic investments.

Manama

Survey and Land Registration Bureau (SLRB) President Shaikh Salman bin Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa received Bahrain Property De-

velopment Association (BaPDA) Chairman Aref Ahmed Hijris and other members.

He hailed the vital role of Bahrain Property Development Association (BaPDA) and members in promoting the real estate sector and contributing to speeding-up projects.

He underlined positive outlook of the property sector in Bahrain despite current global economic situation, stressing the importance of recent laws and regulations to spur more growth in the future and achieve the aspirations of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

He revealed that the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) is mulling plans to launch a data bank, which would serve inves-

tors and property developers.

He commented the role of the private sector in revitalising the national economy and taking part in the programmes of the Government, chaired by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, to develop non-oil economy.

He paid tribute to His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier for his follow-up of the real estate sector.

The meeting focused on ways of attracting investments, developing the real estate sector, carrying out property and investment projects, stressing the importance of marketing and economic investments.

Premier's directives to double social allowances praised

Manama

Labour and Social Development Minister, Jameel Humaidan, has lauded His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa's directives to double the assistance allowance for social insurance beneficiaries, and people with disabilities during the holy month of Ramadan.

The directives, given by HRH Premier while chairing this week's regular weekly Cabinet session, aim to alleviate the living burdens on low-income Bahraini families, as part of the government's constant keenness to ensure social insurance and decent living for the citizens.

The minister said that HRH



Mr Humaidan

Premier's kind gesture affirms his constant interest in improving the citizens' standards of living and direct follow-up on their daily conditions.

Mr Humaidan added that, in line with the Premier's directives, the doubled allowances will be credited to all the beneficiaries' bank accounts on May 15, noting that an amount of BD 3,203 will be granted to about 16,949 eligible social insurance beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, about 11,666 citizens with disabilities will receive BD 200 instead of BD 100.

The minister extended deepest thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH the Prime Minister and the Deputy King, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, for their unwavering interest in ensuring decent living for all the citizens, especially low-income ones.

‘I want to go home alive, not in coffin’

Stranded Indian national Nalarajan, 80, seeking help to fly home

TDT | Manama
Pradeep Puravankara

An 80-year-old expatriate stranded in the Kingdom after being allegedly trapped in court cases by loan sharks is pleading with social workers and community mem-

bers to help him fly back home. Nalarajan, who hails from the Indian state of Kerala, was once a thriving businessman in the Kingdom. He owned a bakery in West Eker, which had a flourishing business. “About a decade ago, I suffered losses in my business and had to

borrow money from some people here to overcome those losses. They charged heavy interest on me, which eventually I failed to pay off,” the octogenarian, who suffers from various age-related health issues, told Tribune. Sources said Nalarajan owes nearly BD40,000 to different lenders. “I lost nearly BD200,000 in my business. Now I am surviving on BD30 grant provided to me by the Indian Embassy. As of now, a group of generous individuals is taking care of Nalarajan at their place of stay. “I have only one dream now, to go home alive. I am really worried about breathing my last here without seeing my wife and children.” A few months ago, Nalarajan suffered a stroke and underwent treatment at Salmaniya Medical Complex. He also suffers from diabetes, hypertension



A group of generous individuals is taking care of Nalarajan at their place of stay.



I have only one dream now, to go home alive. I am really worried about breathing my last here without seeing my wife and children.

NALARAJAN



Mr Sulaiman with his mother after rejoining with family.



A medical certificate issued at SMC regarding Nalarajan's health status.

and impaired vision. Last week, Tribune published a report on Sulaiman Kunju, a stranded expatriate, who was living on the terrace of a building in Manama for the last four months. Sulaiman flew home after Bahrain Immigration authorities, Indian Embassy and social workers stepped in and offered adequate help following the publishing of the report.

Young artists paint ‘journey to peace’

TDT | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

Young artists from across the world poured in their support to those who face hardships caused by civil wars and other conflicts as they donated their artworks to be showcased at an exhibition held in the Kingdom.

‘Youth in Art for Peace’ exhibition organised by the International Peace Institute (IPI), MENA, along with Saudi artist Wedad Al Bakr, displayed artworks of students from Bahrain as well as Saudi Arabia, Palestine, India, Ireland, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Through her acrylic painting ‘Ummah’, Majd Sattam Algosaibi of Ibn Khuldoon School aims to set a discussion on the community's role in fostering inclusivity, tolerance and understanding.

She told Tribune that she wants to convey the message that no one is superior to other and all are equal in this world, irrespective of race, gender or nationality.

Trauma suffered by children living in war and conflict zones was highlighted by Hamza Rahma of the same school through her painting ‘Pure Youth’.

While Ibn Khuldoon School student Juman Al Ghalayini depicted “unachieved peace across the world” through her work ‘Salam’, Ahmed Dadabhai of Riffa Views International School, highlighted Islamic symbols showing the religion as a force of calmness and light.



Ahmed Dadabhai's work ‘Crescent’.



Hana Aysha Noor with her artwork ‘Tribute to Nelson Mandela’.

Speaking to Tribune, IPI director Nejib Friji, said: “The exhibition highlighted the efforts of youth in the development of sustainable peace, as well as celebrate the talent and creativity of local artists.”

Artist Wedad Al Bakr said the diversity of youth, who took part in the exhibition serves a testimony to the unifying power of art.

“I urge young artists to build bridges and cultural connections in advocating for peace.”

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Appeals Court rejects robber's plea for alternative punishment

Convict made off after robbing BD4,000 from an exchange in Isa Town

● Tribune reported last February that the man was sentenced by the First High Criminal Court to ten years of imprisonment for robbing an exchange.

● During the interrogation, the man confessed to committing the crime.

TDI | Manama

The High Criminal Court of Appeals yesterday rejected a request submitted by a Bahraini man, who was found guilty of robbing an exchange house, to replace the 10-year imprisonment verdict issued against him earlier this year with one of the recently introduced alternative punishments.

The court said that there were no reasons to respond to the defendant's request.



A screenshot of the video showing the convict making off after committing the robbery.

The alternative punishments include several procedures to be taken against defendants instead of imprisonment, such as house arrests, community work, enrolment in training and rehabilitation programmes, electronic

surveillance that includes monitoring of social media accounts and emails, compensating the damages caused as a result of the crime and more.

Tribune reported last February that the man was sentenced by

the First High Criminal Court to ten years of imprisonment for stealing BD4,000 from an exchange house here before escaping to Kuwait.

The 29-year-old was apprehended as a result of co-ordina-

The defendant broke into the shop, assaulted the staff using a wooden plank and made off after robbing BD4,000 in cash.

PROSECUTORS

tion between the Bahraini and Kuwaiti security authorities and was soon brought back to Bahrain.

He has 36 felonies in his criminal record, which included drugs abuse, assault and robbery, according to prosecutors.

According to court files, the incident occurred at the Isa Town branch of the National Finance and Exchange Company on June 4, 2018.

"The defendant broke into the shop, assaulted the staff using a wooden plank and made off after robbing BD4,000 in cash," the prosecutors said.

During the interrogation, the man confessed to commit-

ting the crime, claiming that he was experiencing psychological pressures as he was planning to undergo treatment for drug addiction.

The defendant said he imitated a scene he saw in a movie he watched by removing the number plates of the vehicle, covering his face using a mask, monitoring the shop before it opens and taking the employees by surprise as soon as they open the shutters of the shop.

However, investigations resulted in the identification of the vehicle he used, his sister's car, and subsequently locating his house.

But the man had booked a flight and escaped to Kuwait before the police could reach his house. He claimed he was seeking medical assistance to end his addiction in Kuwait.

On June 10, 2018, the Public Prosecution accused the defendant of stealing the cash from the exchange house, assaulting the employee with a wooden plank and causing the injuries mentioned in the coroner's report.

Lecture focuses on eating habits during Ramadan

TDI | Manama

The Arabian Gulf University (AGU) yesterday hosted a lecture by nutritionist Layla Shehabi on eating habits during Ramadan.

In the lecture, which was titled "The Basics of Safe Nutrition in Ramadan", Ms Shehabi highlighted wrong information on eating and nutrition posted on social media networks by fashionistas, leading to health complications.

In her speech, Ms Shehabi explained the sources of basic and secondary food which is necessary to complete and balance meals, in accordance with the need of the different body types, mentioning proteins, carbohydrates and fats that are useful as essential sources of vitamins and secondary sources of minerals.

"Before you start a diet plan, you need to set up a plan that includes taking medications (if you have any chronic illness), periodically test blood pressure,

blood sugar and cholesterol levels, and consult your dietician for follow-up.

"You also need to exercise at least three times a week and follow a balanced diet," she said.

The nutritionist advised: "Don't deprive yourself from any type of food in Ramadhan. Eat and enjoy all types of food during the Holy Month, but with moderation. Don't overly exhaust yourself by exercising during your fasting period; the information stating that exercising is more useful during fasting is a myth."

Ms Shehabi also mentioned some of the symptoms experienced during the first days of fasting, such as headaches, drowsiness and laziness, stating that such symptoms are caused by the lack of daily habits such as regularly drinking tea or coffee, smoking or changes to the biological clock, in addition to unusual sleeping habits during the Holy Month.



Ms Shehabi delivers the lecture.

Thai woman sentenced for bid smuggle drugs

TDI | Manama

A Thai woman, who attempted to smuggle BD30,000 worth of narcotics into the Kingdom by hiding it in containers of baby-powder and cosmetics, was sentenced yesterday by the First Criminal Court to five years of imprisonment, in addition to paying a fine of BD3,000.

The convict will be permanently deported after she completes her jail time.

The 24-year-old was arrested at Bahrain International Circuit, upon her arrival from Bangkok on December 17, 2018.

She hid 162 grammes of methamphetamine in baby powder cans and vaseline jars packed inside her luggage.

During the interrogation, the defendant confessed to smuggling the drugs into

30,000
Bahraini dinars worth narcotics were seized by the customs officials at the airport.

the Kingdom, claiming that it was handed over by her female boss, who's apparently based in Thailand, and runs a drugs racket.

The defendant also claimed that her boss told her to smuggle the substance into Bahrain and to wait for further instructions on the person who will receive it from her here.

The woman was referred to the court after she was accused by the Public Prosecution on December 17 last year of trafficking, possessing and consuming drugs.

Drunken driver who stabbed cops jailed

TDI | Manama

A drunken driver who resisted arrest and stabbed two cops in the process, will spend the next seven years behind bars, as announced yesterday by the First High Criminal Court.

The Bahraini remained in custody during the past few months pending further investigations that included undergoing a mental health examination, which proved that he was fit and responsible for his action.

The details of the case showed that the 37-year-old defendant was involved in a traffic accident under the influence of alcohol in the Capital Governorate.

A police patrol arrived at the scene and asked the man to enter their vehicle so they could take him to the police station where his statement would be recorded.

However, the man didn't resist arrest at first and co-operated with the policemen until they started driving towards the police station.

Then, the man, who sat in the backseat of the patrol vehicle, took out a knife that was concealed in his clothes and took the cops by surprise, stabbing one of them in the neck and the other in the arm.

The defendant's sudden attack caused the cop behind the wheel to lose control over the vehicle and crash it into the safety rail on the side of the road.

The policeman got out of the car and tried to control the defendant, who was in a state of hysteria.

The man stabbed the policeman twice in the back this time, leaving him bleeding on the floor.

According to the coroner's report, the first victim's wounds were serious injuries that were close to the main veins near the neck and could've cost him his life if there was no urgent medical intervention.

Bahrain to host ARCO meetings next year

TDI | Manama

Bahrain will host meetings of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organisation (ARCO) next year, Dr Fawzi Amin the General Secretary of Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) has said.

The BRCS has already started preparing for this meeting, which is expected to be attended by the secretaries and heads of National Societies and members, representatives of the International

Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, members of international organisations and observers from humanitarian agencies, it is learnt.

This announcement came at the 44th session of the ARCO which was recently hosted by the Kuwaiti Red Crescent under the slogan "Our Principles gather us".

The BRCS discussed humanitarian issues in countries that are experiencing crises in order to provide the humanitarian assistance to the refugees in Pales-



Dr Amin

tine, Somalia, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Comoros and Sudan.

Furthermore, Dr Amin pointed out that members of ARCO announced, "Kuwait Deceleration" where they launched a humanitarian year entitled "Tolerance" to continue until next session in Bahrain.

He also said that members of ARCO called on raising the values of human tolerance and to adopt programmes that promote the tolerance spirit, which leads to coexistence and social stability.

world

US reports gunfire near Haiti embassy
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

The US embassy in Haiti reported gunfire on Monday near its diplomatic compound but said the incident was quickly over.

In a travel alert, the US State Department said gunfire had come from the “rear entrance to the embassy” in Port-au-Prince and that staff had taken shelter inside.

“If you are traveling to the embassy, find a safe area to shelter,” it wrote on Twitter.

Some two hours later, the State Department said the situation has been “resolved” with the order to take shelter lifted. Officials did not immediately have further details.

Peru bans electric scooters from sidewalks
Lima, Peru

Peru banned motorized scooters from sidewalks and pedestrian areas from Monday after a woman in Lima broke both her arms in a collision with one.

The new law from the transport ministry limits such motorized scooters to “cycle paths and the right lane in roads” reserved for the slowest moving vehicles.

Authorities also imposed a speed limit of 20 kilometers per hour (12.4 mph) for the scooters, which are capable of reaching 25 km/h.

Kabul on lockdown



An Afghan policeman stops passengers at a checkpoint in the city in Kabul

AFP | Kabul, Afghanistan

Afghanistan’s usually bustling capital Kabul slowed to a crawl yesterday amid massive security for a high-stakes peace summit that has previously been a target for insurgent attacks.

Police flooded the city and authorities blocked off key roads around the west Kabul venue of the so-called “loya jirga” -- where some 3,000 tribal elders, religious figures, and politicians from across Afghanistan are gathering over four days to discuss possible conditions for a peace deal with the Taliban.

Taliban suicide bombers armed with rockets and guns attacked a 2010 peace jirga at the same venue, and in 2011, two rockets were fired into Kabul during a two-day jirga.

Despite such past attacks, Kabul residents are infuriated with the scale of the lockdown, which has already been blamed for at least one death and has paralysed businesses in what would ordinarily be a busy week before Ramadan begins.

Local media reported that a newborn baby died when the father, who was trying to take the infant to a hospital, was blocked by security forces.

“The little baby should not have died,” Afghanistan’s chief executive Abdullah Abdullah said.

“We are actually here to serve the same people who die because of the roadblocks.”

Adding to the slowdown, authorities have declared a week-long public holiday in Kabul.

“Yesterday, I could only take two passengers from one part

of the city to the other. It took me three hours to complete a 15-minute ride,” Nasrullah, a taxi driver who gave only his first name, told AFP.

Shopkeeper Taj Mohammad said poor people had been hit particularly hard.

“It is good to provide security for the participants, but that should not cost people’s businesses,” Mohammad said.

Siam Pasarly, an economics expert, estimated the holidays were costing the business community \$1 million a day.

“Afghanistan is a developing country and its economic engine should be running all day,” he said. “A week-long shutdown is like a poison to the economy.”

‘Waste of time’

The loya jirga -- literally “grand assembly” in Pashto --

is being held as the US and Taliban are discussing a possible foreign troop withdrawal from Afghanistan in exchange for a permanent ceasefire and various Taliban pledges.

The jirga is seen as an attempt by the Afghan government to influence the peace talks which so far have cut out President Ashraf Ghani, whom the Taliban view as a US stooge.

But some prominent Afghans, presidential hopefuls, and government officials including Abdullah have boycotted the assembly.

Ahmad Khan, another taxi driver, bemoaned the meeting as a “waste of time”.

“Holding this jirga is an economic blow for poor labour like us, who come out in the morning for a morsel of food, and how can we provide food

Netanyahu sworn into Israel’s new parliament after election victory

Netanyahu

Jerusalem, Undefined

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was sworn into Israel’s new parliament yesterday following his victory in April 9 elections and will seek to form a governing coalition in the days ahead.

Netanyahu was among the 120 members of the Knesset, or parliament, sworn in during an official ceremony.

Netanyahu’s Likud won 35 seats in the election, the same as his main opponents from the centrist Blue and White alliance, led by ex-military chief Benny Gantz.

Support from smaller right-wing parties allied to Likud led to a majority of 65 parliament members supporting Netanyahu to continue on as premier.

But Netanyahu also faces the prospect of becoming the first sitting prime minister to be indicted.

The attorney general has announced he intends to indict him for bribery, fraud and breach of trust pending a hearing.

He is not required to resign if indicted, only if convicted with all appeals exhausted.

Indian Army’s Yeti ‘footprint’ cause online storm

New Delhi, India

Pictures of a “Yeti footprint” the Indian Army posted on social media triggered a barrage of jokes yesterday.

“For the first time, an #IndianArmy Mountaineering Expedition Team has sited Mysterious Footprints of mythical beast ‘Yeti’,” an apparently serious -- though misspelled -- tweet on the army’s official account said yesterday, alongside three images of prints in the snow.

It added the “elusive snowman has only been sighted at Makalu-Barun National Park in the past”, referring to footprints reported by British explorer Eric Shipton in 1951 on the west side of Mount Everest.

According to folklore, the abominable snowman lives in the Himalayas but no proof of the enormous creature has ever been produced.

Social media users were quick to jump on the Indian military for its tweet.

“With all due respect, institutions such as yours should be more responsible and careful before going ahead and declaring the sighting of any footprints as ‘Yeti’s!’”, said Kushal Prajapati.

“There’s been lots of research

done on Bigfoot/Yeti (including sighting/footprints) with none proving its existence,” he added.

“Seriously disappointing to see Army propagating such foolish myths into reality. Expected better from you guys,” said another comment.

Several Twitter observers asked why there was only one footprint when the beast would probably have had two feet.

Others, were more forgiving, though still tongue-in-cheek.

“Congratulations, we are always proud of you. salutes to the #IndianArmy Mountaineering Expedition Team,” wrote Tarun Vijay, a leader of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

But Vijay said the snowman should not be referred to as “a beast”.

The army said the footprints measured 32 inches by 15 inches (81 centimetres by 38) and were spotted by a team on April 9 close to the Makalu Base Camp, an isolated area on the Nepal-China frontier.

An army official told AFP that pictures were released to “excite a bit of a scientific temper”.

“We will share whatever we get with the domain experts to analyse. We will be contacting



Several Twitter observers asked why there was only one footprint when the beast would probably have had two feet

the team on the satphone in the evening for more details about it. The idea is to find out more, to look for an answer,” the official told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The yeti is traditionally described as an ape-like creature, taller than a human, that lives in the Himalayas, Siberia, and parts of Central and East Asia.

Most scientists have written the creature off as a centuries-old myth originating in Tibet.

Forensic results of previous samples have proved to be from prehistoric bears.



Large footprints are seen in the snow, sighted by the Indian Army, near the Makalu Base Camp in the North-Eastern Himalayas.

Ukraine says radiation safe after nuclear plant fire
Kiev, Ukraine

Ukrainian officials said yesterday that radiation levels remained safe after a fire broke out at a nuclear power plant, leading to the shutdown of one of the reactors.

The fire, which was extinguished within an hour, began late Monday at the Rivne nuclear power station in western Ukraine, around 300 kilometres (190 miles) from Kiev.

It erupted in an electrical transformer, triggering the reactor protection system and “the third reactor was turned off,” Ilona Zayets, a spokeswoman for the state nuclear agency Energoatom, said yesterday.

“Radiation levels have not risen,” she said, adding that no one was hurt as a result of the incident.

The level of seriousness of the incident on the international scale for emergencies at nuclear stations is zero, the nuclear agency said in a statement.

Venezuela says 'attempted coup' under way



Members of the Bolivarian National Guard supporting Venezuelan opposition leader and self-proclaimed acting president Juan Guaidó take position in front of La Carlota base in Caracas

● **The government said it was “deactivating” an attempted coup by a small group of “treacherous” soldiers**

● **The government said it was “deactivating” an attempted coup by a small group of “treacherous” soldiers**

AFP | Caracas, Venezuela

Venezuelan opposition leader and self-proclaimed acting president Juan Guaidó said on Tuesday that troops had joined his campaign to oust President Nicolas Maduro as the government vowed to put down what it called an attempted coup.

Hundreds of people, many waving Venezuelan flags, flocked onto a highway near a Caracas military base, and police responded with tear-gas as some of the demonstrators broke away to throw rocks at security forces.

The government said it was “deactivating” an attempted coup by a small group of “treacherous” soldiers.

“We are currently facing and deactivating a small group of treacherous military personnel who took positions in the Altamira distributor road (in Caracas) to promote a coup d’etat,” Communications Minister Jorge Rodríguez said on Twitter.

“We call on the people to remain on maximum alert to -- with our glorious National Bolivarian Armed Forces -- defeat the attempted coup and preserve peace,” he said.

The US, meanwhile, threw its full support behind Guaidó, with the White House calling on the military to protect the people and support the country’s “legitimate institutions,” including the opposition-controlled National Assembly.

“The US Government fully supports the Venezuelan people in their quest for freedom and democracy. Democracy cannot be defeated,” US Secretary

of State Mike Pompeo said on Twitter.

In a video recorded at Caracas’ La Carlota military air base and posted on social media, the US-backed Guaidó said troops had heeded months of urging to join his campaign to oust Maduro.

“Today brave soldiers, brave patriots, brave men supporting the constitution have answered our call,” he said.

Television images showed soldiers and Guaidó supporters on a road outside the base milling around without urgency.

Hundreds of people gradually joined the group on a highway overpass near the base, many waving Venezuelan flags.

President Ivan Duque of neighboring Colombia -- home

to more than a million refugees from Maduro’s regime -- called on Twitter for “soldiers and the people of Venezuela to place themselves on the right side of history, rejecting dictatorship and Maduro’s usurpation.”

Colombia also said it was calling an emergency meeting of the Lima Group -- a grouping of major Latin American nations plus Canada focused on Venezuela.

Internet observatory NetBlocks reported in a Twitter message that “multiple internet services” were restricted in Venezuela following Guaidó’s appeal.

Tuesday’s call comes ahead of plans to hold a massive Mayday protest in Caracas that Guaidó

has termed “the biggest march in Venezuela’s history.”

‘Definitive phase’

In his video, Guaidó appeared alongside high-profile opposition politician Leopoldo López who had been put under house arrest by Maduro’s regime but who announced he had been “freed” by soldiers supporting Guaidó.

López posted a picture on Twitter with men in uniform, and said it was taken at the La Carlota military base in eastern Caracas.

“Venezuela: the definitive phase to end the usurpation, Operation Liberty, has begun,” read the message.

Venezuela’s Defense Minister



Bolivarian National Guard loyal to Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro run under a cloud of tear gas after being repelled by guards supporting Venezuelan opposition leader and self-proclaimed acting president Juan Guaidó upon arriving to disperse demonstrators, in front of La Carlota military base in Caracas



Venezuelans take cover during clashes with security forces in Caracas



Venezuelan opposition leader and self-proclaimed acting president Juan Guaidó gestures during a rally

US ‘fully supports’ quest for freedom

Washington, United States

The United States yesterday threw its full weight behind Venezuela’s self-proclaimed acting president Juan Guaidó, as the opposition leader said troops had joined his campaign to oust President Nicolas Maduro.

“Today interim President Juan Guaidó announced start of Operacion Libertad,” or “Operation Freedom,” tweeted Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, as Maduro’s government vowed to put down what it called an attempted coup.

“The US Government fully supports the Venezuelan people in their quest for freedom and democracy. Democracy cannot be defeated,” Pompeo wrote.

Earlier, the White House urged Venezuela’s armed forces to stand by the country’s “legitimate institutions.”

“@vladimirpadrino: The FANB must protect the Constitution and the Venezuelan people,” tweeted National Security Advisor John Bolton, addressing the country’s Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino López.

“It should stand by the National Assembly and the legiti-



”

The US Government fully supports the Venezuelan people in their quest for freedom and democracy. Democracy cannot be defeated

MIKE POMPEO

imate institutions against the usurpation of democracy. The United States stands with the

people of Venezuela.”

President Donald Trump’s administration has been waging a mounting pressure campaign to oust Maduro and install Guaidó, who is recognized as acting president by more than 50 countries, including most in Latin America.

Re-elected in a vote widely condemned for irregularities, Maduro presides over a crumbling economy, with inflation forecast to hit a mind-boggling 10 million percent this year and millions of Venezuelans having fled due to shortages of basic goods.

He has so far survived three months of US-led pressure, including efforts to deprive him of Venezuela’s financial lifeline of oil sales, and still enjoys critical backing from Russia and China.

Guaidó has vowed that protests on Wednesday for the May 1 workers’ holiday will be the biggest in Venezuela’s history, heightening fears that the crisis will turn violent.

The State Department in a travel alert advised US citizens in Venezuela to take shelter in the coming days if they cannot leave the country.

Vladimir Padrino López asserted on Twitter that the situation in military barracks and bases in the country was “normal.”

Tensions in Venezuela have been ratcheted up to a critical level this year, after Guaidó, who is head of the opposition-ruled National Assembly, announced January 23 that he was the acting president under the constitution. He said Maduro had been fraudulently re-elected last year.

The United States and major Latin American powers including Brazil, Peru and Chile swiftly backed Guaidó, followed later by EU nations.

But Maduro, who since taking over from his late mentor Hugo Chavez in 2013 has presided over a catastrophic economic implosion, has been able to count on support from Russia and China, Venezuela’s two biggest creditors.

Although US President Donald Trump has repeatedly said “all options” are on the table regarding Venezuela -- including, implicitly, military action -- there has been no noticeable US military mobilization.

Instead, Washington has upped the economic pressure, through sanctions aimed at Maduro’s regime and by cutting sales of Venezuelan oil -- the South American country’s main revenue earner.

It also warned against any attempt to arrest Guaidó, who has

been left free to roam Venezuela and hold rallies.

Maduro and his government have repeatedly accused the United States of trying to foment a coup, and blame the economic devastation in the country on the tightening US sanctions. In Madrid, the government warned against bloodshed.

Spanish government spokeswoman Isabel Celaa said Madrid backed a “peaceful” outcome in Venezuela, and wanted to see “democratic elections” take place there.

Britain, among the powers that recognize Guaidó as interim president, called for a “peaceful resolution” to the crisis.

“Venezuelan people deserve a better future, they have suffered enough and the Maduro regime must end,” a spokesman for Prime Minister Theresa May said.

Maduro’s leftist allies Cuba and Bolivia condemned Guaidó.

Cuba’s President Miguel Díaz-Canel slammed Guaidó for creating “anxiety and terror” in Caracas. “We reject this coup movement that aims to fill the country with violence.”

Bolivia’s Evo Morales said Guaidó was “ beholden to foreign interests.”

He added that he was sure that “the brave Bolivarian Revolution led by brother Nicolas Maduro will beat this new attack by the empire (the US)”.

End of an era as Japan's emperor abdicates



Japan's Emperor Akihito (L), Empress Michiko (2nd L) and other members of the royal families attend the abdication ceremony at the Matsu-no-Ma state room in the Imperial Palace in Tokyo

AFP | Tokyo, Japan

Emperor Akihito of Japan formally stepped down yesterday, the first abdication for 200 years in the world's oldest monarchy, as his son Naruhito prepared to take the Chrysanthemum Throne and usher in a new imperial era.

In the "Room of Pine" in Tokyo's Imperial Palace, the popular 85-year-old performed the abdication ritual in the presence of the imperial regalia -- an ancient sword and sacred jewel.

Dressed in a Western-style morning coat, Akihito stood on a small stage before an invited audience and members of the royal family and offered his "deepest heartfelt gratitude to the people of Japan."

He said he would "pray for the peace and happiness of all the people in Japan and around the world."

Empress Michiko stood by his side in a white and silver gown and the outgoing emperor paused briefly after exiting the stage, to help his wife of 60 years down the steps.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe praised the royal couple, saying they had offered "courage and

hope" to the Japanese people, particularly in times of suffering.

"His Majesty has fulfilled his responsibility as the symbol of Japan," Abe said.

Despite near-constant rain in Tokyo, several hundred well-wishers congregated outside the Palace during the historic ceremony attended by around 300 people.

"I feel overwhelmed emotionally," said a tearful Yayoi Iwasaki, a 50-year-old bank employee, standing outside the palace.

"In the past, enthronements followed the death of emperors and people weren't sure whether they should be happy and celebrating, but with this transition, I am sure that we can celebrate while welcoming the new era," she said.

High security

Akihito will technically remain emperor until the stroke of midnight when Naruhito takes over and the new era of "Reiwa" -- meaning "beautiful harmony" -- begins, lasting for as long as he reigns.

Earlier Tuesday, draped in ornate golden-brown robes and wearing a towering black hat, Akihito reported his abdication to his ancestors and Shinto gods

at several sanctuaries in the palace.

On Wednesday, the 59-year-old Naruhito will inherit the imperial regalia in a 10-minute ceremony that is off-limits to female royals, even his wife Masako. He will shortly afterwards make his first address to the nation as its 126th emperor.

Crowds were expected to gather to count down to the new era outside the palace and at the scramble crossing in Tokyo's lively Shibuya district, although the drizzle threatened to dampen some of the enthusiasm.

Security has been beefed up with extra police patrols on the streets, sniffer dogs scouring the palace grounds and even divers inspecting the moat.

A more public enthronement ceremony will take place on October 22, during which Naruhito will parade through the streets of the capital and be congratulated by other world leaders and royalty.

President Donald Trump sent congratulations, offering "heartfelt appreciation" to the outgoing imperial couple and stressing the "close relationship" between the US and Japan.

He will become the first foreign leader to meet the new emperor on a trip in May.

'Felt close to him'

Born in 1933 as Japan was em-

barking on a militaristic sweep across Asia in the name of his father Hirohito, the 11-year-old Akihito listened in tears as his nation's defeat in World War II was announced in an unprecedented radio address.

He has broken new ground in the sensitive role, expressing regret over Japan's wartime actions and gradually modernising the royal family and bringing it closer to the people.

Akihito and Michiko, whom he met at a tennis tournament in 1959, touched hearts in Japan and around the world when they knelt before survivors of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami and listened to stories of terrible suffering.



Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito (R) and his wife Crown Princess Masako (C)

"It is true the emperor is seen to be like a god, but at the same time, you felt that you were close to him," Rikia Iwasaki, a 13-year-old schoolboy, told AFP outside the Imperial Palace.

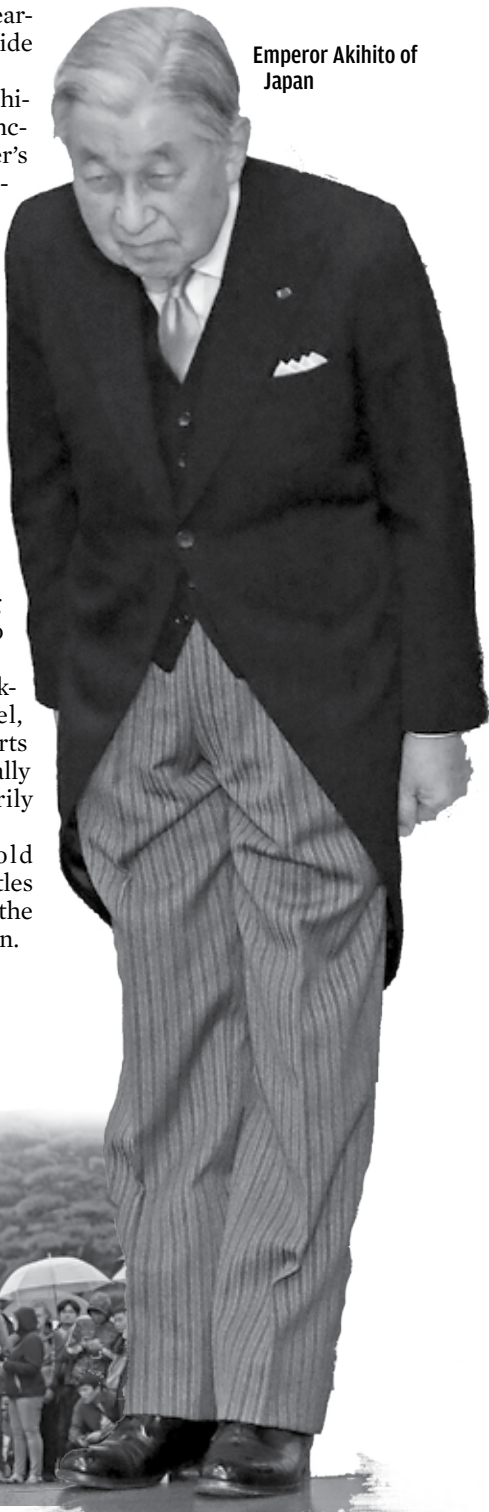
The Oxford-educated Naruhito now faces the delicate balancing act of continuing his father's popular legacy while upholding the traditions of the Chrysanthemum Throne that stretch back centuries.

He has called for "new royal duties" to fit modern times and has criticised the sometimes stifling lifestyle imposed on royals, especially as his wife Masako has struggled to adapt to palace life.

The abdication has resulted in a 10-day holiday in Japan, although polls show many famously hard-working Japanese were opposed to such a long break.

They have nonetheless taken the opportunity to travel, with bullet trains and airports overflowing and Tokyo's usually packed commuter trains eerily empty at rush hour.

Entrepreneurs have sold everything from "Reiwa" bottles of sake to \$10 cans of air from the "Heisei" era of Akihito's reign.



Emperor Akihito of Japan



People gather outside the Imperial Palace, where the abdication ceremony for Japan's Emperor Akihito is taking place

Trump sues banks in bid to block Congress subpoenas

New York, United States

US President Donald Trump, along with his family and businesses, yesterday sued Deutsche Bank and Capital One in an attempt to stop them from complying with Congressional subpoenas issued as part of a probe into foreign political influence.

The subpoenas -- which the Trumps described in their suit as "intrusive and overbroad" -- were issued to several banks by the Democratic-majority House's intelligence and financial services committees, which are looking into the president's finances as part of a larger probe into election meddling by Russia.

The lawsuit is the latest step in Trump's fightback against the Democrats, and alleges that the subpoenas have "no legitimate or lawful purpose."

"The subpoenas were issued to harass President Donald J. Trump, to rummage through every aspect of his personal finances, his businesses, and the private information of the President and his family, and to ferret about for any material that might be used to cause him political damage," said the suit, filed

The subpoenas were issued to harass President Donald J. Trump, to rummage through every aspect of his personal finances, his businesses, and the private information of the President and his family, and to ferret about for any material that might be used

THE SUIT FILED WITH THE US FEDERAL COURT

with the US federal court in the Southern District of New York.

"No grounds exist to establish any purpose other than a political one."

The suit accuses Congress of stepping beyond its law-making mandate into law enforcement, and says the subpoenas violate the financial privacy rights of Trump and his family.

Deutsche Bank was one of the



US President Donald Trump makes a statement for the press while meeting with members of the 2019 NCAA Division I champions from Baylor University's women's basketball team in Washington, DC.

few major Western financial institutions to continue to lend to Trump's real estate empire after several of its casinos went bankrupt in the 1990s, resulting in claims by creditors valued at \$330 million in present-day dollars.

"We remain committed to providing appropriate information to all authorized investigations and will abide by a court order regarding such investigations," the German bank said in a statement.

But the Trumps want to block

any such disclosures, and have requested in their latest lawsuit "a permanent injunction prohibiting Deutsche Bank and Capital One from disclosing, revealing, delivering, or producing the requested information, or otherwise complying with the

subpoenas."

Their filing also argues that Congress is seeking information about "events that occurred while President Trump was a private citizen, years before he was even a candidate for public office."

Following the money

The suit comes weeks after the release of a heavily redacted version of the Mueller report, which concluded an almost two-year investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election.

The president described it as a "complete exoneration."

But Democrats believe the investigation has revealed serious wrongdoing by Trump and have not yet decided on whether they want to push for impeachment.

The Congressional subpoenas to the banks were announced days ahead of the release of the Mueller report, and House member Adam Schiff described the one sent to Deutsche Bank as "friendly."

Explaining why the banks were subpoenaed, Maxine Waters, chair of the House Financial Services Committee, said the body was investigating "the potential use of the US financial system for illicit purposes."

We can't deal terrorists like other criminals

*Would-be terrorists are
motivated by ideology,
psychology and opportunity*

MAITHA SABAH

For a word that strikes such fear in the heart, no one seems quite able to define exactly what terrorism is, let alone how to deal with it. The word has its roots in the bloody reign of terror wielded by Maximilien Robespierre in late 18th century France and describes the fear imposed by his Jacobin regime. It was several more years before the word terrorism made its way into the Oxford English Dictionary as “the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims” but it has had many different interpretations since then. Even the UN has not been able to come up with a satisfactory definition of terrorism, despite decades of trying to do so.

To better understand how to counter terrorism with deradicalisation and rehabilitation, therefore, one must understand the difference between other kinds of criminals and terrorists. A criminal uses fear on his or her victim to achieve an end goal; a terrorist aims to spread fear far beyond those affected as a means of propaganda, to engender support and to recruit new members. The repercussions of terrorism are often far greater, which means we cannot simply deal with terrorists as we do other criminals.

Criminology contains clear definitions of criminal acts, together with a suitable punish-



Mohammed Ahmed from Birmingham in the UK is serving more than 15 years in prison after joining Al Nusra Front in Syria in 2012

ment for each. However, this is not the case when it comes to terrorism, which has evolved over time as terrorists develop new tactics. In Bruce Hoffman's book *Defining Terrorism*, the author – a senior fellow for counterterrorism and homeland security at the Council on Foreign Relations think tank – clearly demonstrates the way terrorist strategies, motives, interest and methods change over time, mak-

ing it difficult to narrow down a singular definition of terrorism or a sole route into it.

We can see three reasons why individuals become radicalised or involved in political violence: ideology, opportunity and psychology. Opportunity-related reasons are hard to separate from ideological and psychological ones. The ideological reasoning suggests terrorists are rational actors who engage in political vi-

olence for social reasons, a sense of belonging or money, among others. The psychological trigger implies individuals with personal or political grievances view violent groups as an opportunity to express their frustrations.

John Horgan, a psychologist and academic professor who has studied the psychology behind terrorism, states that most strategies for counterterrorism depend on assumptions related to

American competitiveness and the glob



AHMED ALMADHOOB

In an interconnected world within the information age, it is almost impossible to stop any innovative idea from rising around the globe. Wherever you block it, there will be other way for it. In his “The Open Society and Its Enemies”, one of the Modern Library Board's 100 best non-fiction books of the 20th century, the well-known philosopher Karl Popper defends the necessity of dynamic civil life in front of static systems of law or religion which function like a closed mind.

Present-day knowledge economy is based on openness, and the information technology (IT) sector plays a central role in the coming global transformation. For example, in the United States (US), which is considered as the world's largest or second largest economy, all of the 10 heaviest equity securities in NASDAQ-100 list are IT-only companies excluding PepsiCo.

In that context, in order to continue leading global markets they have to maintain a healthy business ecosystem that secures high competitiveness rankings. We never move forward if we destroy the great liberal principles of the founding fathers, so you should have some foundations to build upon and develop progres-

sively. Senator Bernie Sanders, the longest-serving independent congressman in US history, says: “Capitalism does a number of things very well: it helps create an entrepreneurial spirit; it gets people motivated to come up with new ideas, and that is a good thing.”

As an active member of Google Developers Group in Manama, I have received an invitation from Google to attend their annual international conference on the 7th of May 2019, which will be held at the heart of the Silicon Valley. After getting my invitation, I went to the web to learn more about the area. It is a famous global economic center for technology and innovation, which covers all San Jose–Sunnyvale–Santa Clara metropolitan area in US state of California.

According to the Brookings Institution, this area has the world third highest gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, after Zurich and Oslo in the EU. The term “Silicon” refers to the main material used in electronic microchip manufacturing. The Silicon Valley is located in a multicultural metropolitan area with many demographic features such as their unique diversity including large Chinese and Indian communities, so it is a transparent elastic society like its Silicon substance.

Again, we live within an information age where you cannot stop knowledge sharing around the globe. Nowadays, we have many new valleys such as “Sil-



icon Roundabout” area in East London. Furthermore, the French “Staten F” in Paris is currently considered as the world's largest tech incubator, while Germany has more than 2,500 startups around its “Silicon Allee” neighborhood in Berlin. I think the EU countries will gain much greater influence in near future, especially because they protect their “four freedoms” to guarantee the free movement of labour, capital, goods and services.

The Indian subcontinent has its own story in Bangalore, the

so-called Silicon Valley of India. Russian Federation also has its milestones in that field. However, the biggest competitor to the Silicon Valley currently in my opinion is the People's Republic of China. First of all, the Chinese population is the largest internationally. Moreover, they have the world's highest GDP based on purchasing power parity according to International Monetary Fund estimates, so we can consider it as the world's largest economy. In Beijing municipality, Zhongguancun is a high-tech area, which

often referred to as China's Silicon Valley with over 12,000 companies including global names like Lenovo who purchased the American IBM's PC division with \$1.75 billion in 2005.

Heading south to Guangdong province near Hong Kong we will find Shenzhen city, another China's Silicon Valley described by The Economist magazine as “a hotbed of innovation” and it is a home to IT giants such as Huawei Technologies who has its Middle East headquarters in Bahrain. Recently, the Chinese technology

*Amazon's
decision to
set up data
centre in the
Kingdom
will boost
the country's
knowledge
economy*

1993

Dingiri Banda Wijetunga became president of Sri Lanka automatically after killing of **R Premadasa** in LTTE bomb explosion



1994

Three-time Formula One world champion **Ayrton Senna** is killed in an accident whilst leading the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola.

1995

Croatian War of Independence: Croatian forces launch Operation Flash.

1999

The body of British climber **George Mallory** is found on Mount Everest, 75 years after his disappearance in 1924.



The ideological reasoning suggests terrorists are rational actors who engage in political violence for social reasons, a sense of belonging or money, among others.



According to Mr Braddock and Mr Horgan, a terrorist ideology is a set of beliefs that convinces members and guides their actions. Education means, as Mr Horgan states, not simply “an attempt to help an individual reinterpret hadith”, for example. That is “far less important than understanding the meaning of their involvement, the factors that mobilised them into action in the first place, and what led to their disengagement”.

On psychology, detainees might experience or witness violence in a different way from most people. But it is important to create a safe space for subjects to express their emotions. At the Institute for Multicultural Development in the Netherlands, where youth programmes have been created to prevent radicalisation and recruitment into terrorist groups, participants are encouraged to express grievances with no restriction or fear of retribution. The

programme focuses mainly on neighbourhoods in Dutch society with high levels of unemployment and a mixed population, which could be fertile breeding ground for recruitment.

Then there is opportunity. After detainees are released from prison, they might feel rejected by society. This can increase their sense of alienation and lead to them getting involved in terrorist activities again after their release as they search for identity and acceptance, and aim to boost their self-esteem and sense of belonging. Prison terms should be followed by reintegration programmes to ensure an effective transition back into civic life, with opportunities to obtain housing and a steady income.

Efforts to deradicalise and rehabilitate terrorists after detention should focus on using the very mechanisms used to recruit them in the first place. Targeting a person's state of mind and emotions to counter radicalisation as well as offering opportunities to reintegrate into society are effective tools. It is critical to assess each person individually, as well as examine their route into radicalisation. Taking those three main elements – ideology, psychology and opportunity – into consideration should help develop much better deradicalisation techniques but just as terrorist recruitment mechanisms evolve, we should be constantly alert to an ever-changing threat.

(Maitha Sabah is a presenter for Sky News Arabia.)

Global knowledge economy



We have to deal with reality and learn lessons from different circumstances. Every country has its own regulations and legal procedures, so we must accept it.



in our little island at the middle of the Middle East to make it a global high-tech portal for MENA region. To satisfy my curiosity in global economy and culture, I have studied an elementary course in Chinese language by Confucius Institute at the University of Bahrain. The centre was opened after a visit by His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa to China, so they provide Bahrain with a good foundation for cultural understanding with opportunities for studying and doing business also.

A friend of mine, who visited China through an educational programme sponsored by Huawei Technologies, said it was an amazing trip, the society is open-minded and all procedures are smooth and straightforward without any doubts or xenophobia issues there. He visited the Great Wall of China, which was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, but Chinese people understand it cur-

rently as a historical landmark and they no longer maintain any real walls to isolate themselves from other countries.

Comparing that journey to my experience after a long process to get a US visa, I have completed an additional paper called “DS-5535” around six weeks ago. According to NAFSA website, the new form has been announced in 2017 by the administration of Mr. President Donald Trump to collect extensive information such as: travel history during the last fifteen years; social media platforms and identifiers used during the last five years; and phone numbers and email addresses used during the last five years. I have found an article from the New York Times newspaper titled: “Who Needs a Border Wall When You Have DS-5535?”. The author had been waiting more than 13 months to get a visa for his fiancée. For different reasons, there are several similar stories on the Internet by business travellers from many countries around the world.

We have to deal with reality and learn lessons from different circumstances. Every country has its own regulations and legal procedures, so we must accept it. I hope all global powers keep their fair and open values to continue playing leading roles and to gain bigger economic relations with our country and every country, especially the US as a strategic ally to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

(Ahmed Almadhoob is an information technologist based in Manama. He can be reached at i@madhoob.com.)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



If President Trump designates the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist org, it will be the biggest hit to the global Islamist movement. MB has the most organized network of institutions, politicians & banks. This will shake their empire. Do it. Asap.

@Imamofpeace

02



On designating Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist group, @Press-Sec says: “The President has consulted with his national security team and leaders in the region who share his concern, and this designation is working its way through the internal process.”

@W7VOA

03



If the Democrats don't give us the votes to change our weak, ineffective and dangerous Immigration Laws, we must fight hard for these votes in the 2020 Election!

@realDonaldTrump

04



Our military alliance accomplished a great deal in destroying the caliphate, but ISIS is evolving into a global threat without a territory. We must deal with this new danger strategically and combat not only the fighters, but the ideology.

@SenAngusKing

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

Wide Angle

The importance of Indian elections 2019



JOEL INDRUPATI

Only after 23 May will the world know if India's Prime Minister Modi will continue in that position.

Some say, his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will definitely win again. Some say it won't.

But we must wait till May 23 to know the people's verdict. And the verdict is not going to come easy.

After all, India is like no other country. It is large. It is complex. And it is unpredictable.

It is an amazing amalgamation of cultures and sub-cultures, religions and sects, languages and dialects. And its eclectic populace range in diversity, from mountain tribes to desert clans, from rural poor to the urban elite, from experienced old to restless youth.

The sheer numbers can stagger us. The complexity is such that these elections, to the lower house of the Parliament, are being held in 7 phases, over 40 days!

On Monday, 29 April, Phase-4 got completed. Three more phases are yet to go.

If I say there are 900 million registered voters, in all, it may not mean much. But, what if I say that it is equal to the entire populations of USA, UK, and the European Union, put together?

If I say that 11 million government employees are overseeing the elections, it may not mean much. But what if I say that it is like all the population of Cuba? Or Greece? Or Tunisia?

Just the number - of election officials - is more than that of the populations of countries like Portugal, Sweden, Jordan, UAE or Ireland, individually.

These 900 million voters are selecting from over 8,000 candidates, who belong to 2,293 regional and national parties, for 543 seats (Out of the full 545 seats, 2 are nominated seats).

No other country in the world has elections of this astounding scale and magnitude, like India. While China is a bit larger, in population size, it has no electoral process of



this type.

Okay. These are the numbers. But what is at stake, politically?

In 2014, BJP had swept the polls with a massive mandate while the earlier coalition government led by the Indian National Congress (INC) party was defeated.

Congress was then mired in corruption charges and was being criticised for its party's dynastic leadership. Its two-term Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, a soft-spoken but a path-breaking economist who had liberalised India's economy, was criticised for not taking bold decisions.

He was accused of being glaringly silent while taking directions from his then party Chief Sonia Gandhi.

BJP, with 268 seats out of 545 seats, now has a 51.5 per cent control on the legislature. If it increases its control to 66 per cent, in these elections, it can even alter the constitution.

Many BJP leaders had in fact openly touted they would win, and take away the word 'secular' from it.

BJP, which draws on the ideology of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a right-wing, conservative Hindu nationalist non-political party - did very little to alleviate the fears of Muslims, Christians and some other minorities, who believe that the secular fabric of India must be preserved.

Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the Congress Party and the main challenger to Modi, has been running a fierce campaign - despite being ridiculed for his many mistakes, in numbers, and despite being accused of even having British citizenship under another name.

He says BJP has been corrupt in its defence deals, incompetent in tackling unemployment, deviant in manipulating independent institutions, and arrogant in suppressing the truth in the media, when the truth was against it.

Many other parties have joined hands with Congress vowing to not let Modi win. But, will they succeed? Will it be BJP again, or a coalition?

That is a question we can answer, only on May 23.

business

Vodafone identified Huawei security flaw decade ago

London, United Kingdom

British telecoms group Vodafone tackled a security flaw with Huawei technology a decade ago, it was revealed yesterday amid widespread concerns over the Chinese giant developing 5G networks abroad.

Bloomberg reported that Vodafone, Europe's biggest mobile phone company, identified hidden so-called backdoors in software that could have handed Huawei unauthorized access to the carrier's fixed-line network in Italy used to connect to the internet.

The financial news wire cited Vodafone's security briefing documents from 2009 and 2011.

Vodafone told Bloomberg



that the issues were resolved, while responding to the report, Huawei said in a statement:

"We were made aware of historical vulnerabilities in 2011 and 2012 and they were addressed at the time. Software vulnerabilities are an industry-wide challenge."

Huawei added that it has "a well established public notification and patching process, and when a vulnerability is identified we work closely with our partners to take the appropriate corrective action".

Italy emerges from recession

Milan, Italy

Italy's economy returned to growth in the first quarter after two quarters of contraction, giving the populist government a boost ahead of European elections.

Gross domestic product expanded by 0.2 per cent in the three months to March, having dropped by 0.1pc in the final two quarters of 2018, the Istat statistics office reported on Tuesday.

The return to slender growth was heralded by surprisingly positive industrial output figures in January and February after four months of contraction.

Year-on-year GDP growth was 0.1pc, Istat said, buoyed by all sectors, including agriculture, industry and services.

Last year's technical recession had put pressure on the populist government in the



Representative picture

eurozone's third largest economy, which took power in June on the back of big-spending electoral promises.

Italy is Europe's second largest manufacturer and was the only European Union member in recession, although growth in export powerhouse Germany also halted in late 2018.

The Italian economy suffered a harsh recession in 2012-13 and has managed only slow growth since then. Overall growth for full-year 2018 was just 0.8pc.

BP quarterly profits leap

London, United Kingdom

British energy giant BP said yesterday that first-quarter net profits jumped by almost a fifth, as rising production and lower costs eclipsed the impact of weaker oil and gas prices.

Profit after tax rallied 19 per cent to \$2.9 billion (2.6 billion euros) in the three months to the end of March, BP said in a results statement. That compared with \$2.5bn during the same period last year.

Energy production rose about 2.4pc to 3.8 million barrels of oil equivalent per day.

Output was lifted by last year's vast purchase of US shale oil and gas operations from mining titan BHP, as well as new projects in Egypt, Trinidad and Tobago and the Gulf of Mexico.

However, underlying replacement cost profit -- a widely-watched measure which excludes fluctuations in the value of crude oil inventories -- slid eight percent to



Chief executive Bob Dudley

\$2.4 billion, although slightly above analysts' forecasts.

In the first quarter, BP paid another \$600 million for costs arising from the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill catastrophe, but that was sharply lower than the \$1.6 billion spent a year earlier.

Despite the weak market conditions, chief executive Bob Dudley said BP had enjoyed "solid" performances in both its downstream operations -- which comprises refining, marketing and distribution -- and upstream activities that cover exploration and production.

Alba reports Q1 results



Alba officials during a board meeting

TDT | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) yesterday said its top-line and bottom-line were impacted by lower LME price and historically higher Alumina prices in the first quarter of 2019.

In addition, the Board of Directors approved the Executive Management changes as part of its ongoing succession plan: Tim Murray, the current Alba CEO, will step-down on 31 July 2019 to relocate to the United States and Ali Al Baqali, the current Deputy CEO, will be appointed as acting CEO effective 01 August 2019. As part of this transition, Murray will continue with the Company as an advisor to the Alba's Board Chairman.

Commenting on Alba's financial performance in Q1 2019, Alba's Chief Executive Officer

I would like to thank Tim for his many years of service in Alba. Over the past 7 years as Alba's CEO, Tim transformed the Company's Safety culture. He also played an instrumental role in the success of Line 6 Expansion Project which started ahead of schedule in December 2018. We wish Tim all the best as he returns to his family.

SHAikh DAJI BIN SALMAN BIN DAJI AL KHALIFA
CHAIRMAN OF ALBA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tim Murray stated: "Despite the bearish market sentiment and lower LME prices, Alba continues to outperform its industry peers."

"We are also targeting to complete the ramp-up of Line 6 in the 3rd quarter of 2019 which will provide a significant boost to our bottom-line."

LME price was down by 14 per cent Year-over-Year (US\$ 1,859/t in Q1 2019 versus US\$ 2,159/t in Q1 2018) and historically higher Alumina prices respectively [21pc of LME price in Q1 2019 versus 18pc of LME price in Q1 2018].

Q1 net loss was BD15.8 million (US\$42m) compared to a Net Profit of BD 33.9m (US\$90m) for the first quarter of 2018, down by 147pc YoY.

The company posted a gross profit of BD0.850m (US\$2.3m) versus a Gross Profit of BD 40m (US\$ 106.3m) for the first

quarter of 2018, down by 98pc YoY.

With regards to total sales/revenues, Alba generated BD203.5m (US\$541.3m) in Q1 2019 versus BD221.3m (US\$588.5m) in Q1 2018, a drop of 8pc YoY. Loss per share was 11 fils versus earning per share of 24fils in Q1 2018.

Total shareholders' equity as at 31 March 2019 stood at BD1,057.8m (US\$2,813.3m), down by 1pc YoY, versus BD1,073.5m (US\$2,855m) as at December 31, 2018.

Alba's total assets as at 31 March 2019 stood at BD2,259.9m (US\$6,010.3m) versus BD2,208.7m (US\$5,874.3m) as at 31 December 2018, up by 2pc YoY. Total shareholders' equity as at 31 March 2019 stood at BD1,057.8m (US\$2,813.3m), down by 1pc YoY, versus BD1,073.5m (US\$2,855m) as at December 31, 2018.

BCCI congratulates workers on Labour Day

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) yesterday congratulated workers on the occasion of International Workers' Day, which falls on May 1

each year.

BCCI hailed workers as the true capital of the country and encouraged them to exert even more efforts in the nation's development in the prosperous era of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

NEC Payments, Apiso partner for virtual payment solution

TDT | Manama

NEC Payments has entered into a long-term marketing and distribution partnership with technology company Apiso to promote the growth of the virtual payments solution on the Mastercard global payment network.

The partnership will be launched at the Arabian Travel Market event in Dubai from 28th April to 1st May 2019.

The partnership will enable NEC Payments to significantly

scale its operations across Europe, Middle East and Africa region, and will provide Apiso with access to NEC Payments' unique product offering in the Middle East.

Andrew Sims, CEO, NEC Payments said, "Working with Apiso is a significant step in the company's international growth plan that will enable the company to broaden its reach and further develop its ecosystem of partners across Europe, Middle East and Africa".

Radio Bahrain joins Mumtalakat Group

TDT | Manama

Radio Bahrain English Channel (96.5 FM) announced joining Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat) Group through its recently established Radio Bahrain Company.

A wholly owned subsidiary of Mumtalakat, Radio Bahrain Company has been granted operating and broadcasting rights of Radio Bahrain English Station for 10 years. The current Bahraini technical and media staff of the radio station have joined the Radio Bahrain Company.

Commenting, Mahmood H. Alkooheji, CEO of Mumtalakat said, "We aim to transform Radio Bahrain into a leading competitive media channel, and will support the training and development of the cur-



Mahmood H. Alkooheji, CEO of Mumtalakat

rent staff. For us, Radio Bahrain will grow by attracting promising local young talent and expertise while investing in upgrading the available infrastructure in line with international standards."

The English-speaking Radio Bahrain Channel (96.5 FM) was established in 1977 with a focus on the expatriate community in Bahrain at the time. Plans are underway to enhance and activate the channel's digital presence, Mumtalakat said in a statement.

Bahrain delegation visits Station F and Ecole 42

TDT | Paris, France

Bahraini business delegation accompanying His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, on his official visit to France, made stops at Station F, the startup campus in Paris, and Ecole 42, an innovative programming college.

During the visit to Station F, the delegation was treated to a detailed overview of the campus and the benefits it offers to promising entrepreneurs.

Established in 2017, Station F is the world's largest startup campus. Spanning an area of 34,000 square metres, the campus features more than 3,000 startup desks, eight event spaces, 31 training programmes, and soon-to-be-completed three-tower living space for entrepreneurs.

The delegation's visit to Ecole 42 focused on the college's world-renowned educational model.

The visit allowed the Bah-



In pictures, Bahraini business delegation accompanying His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on his official visit to France

raini business delegation to explore unique ways of educating an innovation-focused generation.

Ecole 42, launched in 2016, constitutes a case study of a pioneering non-profit educational institution that offers tuition-free learning. It has earned the respect of a number of influential people in the technology space, including innovators

from Silicon Valley, such as Evan Spiegel, co-founder of Snapchat, and Jack Dorsey, co-founder of Twitter.



During the official visit to France, 12 agreements and memoranda of understandings were signed.

BTEA participates in Arabian Travel Market 2019

TDT | Manama

Bahrain and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) is participating in the 26th edition of the Arabian Travel Market 2019, being held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Bahrain's delegation is headed by the Chief Executive Officer of BTEA, Shaikh Khaled bin Humood AlKhalifa and includes officials from BTEA and the Kingdom's national carrier, Gulf Air in addition to representatives from leading hotels, tour operators and travel agencies. The exhibition which began on 28 April concludes today.

The Arabian Travel Market is considered the region's premier tourism event as it provides a unique platform consisting of a series of seminars and discussions that aim to address various aspects of the travel industry. This year's edition features 500 exhibitors, with an estimate of more than 20,000 visitors expected over the course of four consecutive days.

"BTEA continues to participate in various tourism exhibitions in order to promote Bahrain as a leading tourist destination in the region, thus increasing



In pictures, Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority's participation at the Arabian Travel Market

the number of visitors coming into the Kingdom as well as developing the tourism sector as a whole. This enables progress by opening discussions the latest developments in the travel and tourism sector with the leaders in this field," said the CEO of BTEA, Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa.



Standard Chartered plans \$1 bn buyback as Q1 profits rise

Hong Kong, China

Standard Chartered announced a share buyback of up to \$1 billion on Tuesday as the bank reported a jump in first quarter pre-tax profits.

The lender's first buyback in nearly two decades comes a fortnight after it reached a \$1.1 billion settlement for processing transactions that violated US sanctions on Iran and flouted anti-money laundering requirements.

The London-based lender's first quarter pre-tax profits rose 10 percent to \$1.38 billion, it said, sending shares surging six percent in Hong Kong.

"Our first-quarter profit supports our belief that we will generate full-year returns of at least 10 per cent by 2021," chief executive Bill Winters said in a statement.

Winters said the company will aim at growing its customer base across Hong Kong, Africa and India.



Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) team members during a Diligent Employee awards ceremony held on the occasion of the Bahrain Free Labour Unions Federation Labour Day celebration. The ceremony, held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, was presided over by the Minister of Labour and Social Development, Jameel Humaidan. The BAC employees who were honoured are: Khaled Abdulla Ahmed, Anwar Abu Baker, Mohamed Ali Ali, Jasim Saaedan, Saleh Salman Ali, Jasim Mohamed Alshaqayan, Ali Hasan AlAjmi, Husain Isa Husain, Abduali Habib Khamis, Khalil Ebrahim Jasim, Ali Hasan Rajab, Faisal Ebrahim Ali, Hasan Ebrahim Mallala, Salman Hasan AlAradi, Layla Mohamed Khunji, Nader Jaafar Ghuloom, Moosa Haider Dadi, Khalifa Jasim Zaid, Ahmed Ismaeel Altarabi, Fatema Mahdi Bushehri, Mohamed Isa AlAnsari, Mohamed Jamal Alalaiwat, Deena Abdullatif Alqaoood, Sawsan Ali-Akbar Bushehri, Mohamed Hasan Abdulrahman, Yaser Mohamed Haji, Husain Abdulkarim Ali, Ahmed Mohamed Alabbasi, Raed Khalid Aljawder, and Anwaar Ameer Arab.



Shaikh Khaled bin Humood AlKhalifa, the CEO of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority with Ahmed bin Aqeel AlKhateeb, Chairman of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage, on the sidelines of the 26th edition of the Arabian Travel Market 2019 held in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates from 28 April to 1 May 2019. During the meeting, Shaikh Khaled bin Humood AlKhalifa stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation and strengthening bilateral relations between the two institutions across all fields

Dubai ruler announces futuristic urban projects



United Arab Emirates Vice President and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum (L) arrives to attend a welcoming banquet for the Belt and Road Forum hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping (C) and his wife Peng Liyuan (R) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China

Projects approved include a bridge with a garden, bicycle lanes and walkways suspended 60 metres (65 yards) over a creek

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Dubai announced a series of futuristic urban projects yesterday, including a 15-kilometre (nine mile) cable car system above the emirate's main road.

The projects -- approved by Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum -- also include a bridge with a garden, bicycle lanes and walkways suspended 60 metres (65 yards) over a creek, state news agency WAM said.

The 380-metre long Sky Garden, with an area of 3,422 square metres, will be "a new tourist destination", said WAM.

The "Skypods" project -- consisting of cable cars above Sheikh Zayed Road -- will include 21 stations and will move up to 8,400 people an hour in

each direction, according to WAM.

There is also a five-year plan to develop roads in the emirate, WAM reported.

The news agency said Careem -- recently acquired by global ride-hailing giant Uber for \$3.1 billion (2.8 billion euros) -- will provide 3,500 bicycles at 350 stations across the emirate, in cooperation with the Roads and Transport Authority.

The total cost of the new projects -- and the completion timeframes -- were not disclosed.

In 2018, the Expo 2020 host welcomed nearly 16 million tourists.



The emirate of Dubai has a population of approximately three million, most of whom are expatriates

Cement makers lift Saudi

First Abu Dhabi Bank skids on quarterly results

Most of 14 listed Saudi cement companies rise

Gulf International Services gains on results

El Sewedy Electric lifted by subsidiary's contract

Reuters

The Abu Dhabi stock market fell sharply yesterday, dragged down by First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB), while the Saudi index was lifted by its cement producers.

Abu Dhabi's index dropped 1.4 per cent as First Abu Dhabi, the UAE's largest bank, shed 2.4pc after reporting first-quarter results. The lender posted a rise in first-quarter profit but customer deposits and net interest margins fell while expenses rose.

"Overall numbers were in line, though it would have been good to see a beat, as the stock trades at rich valuations," said Vrajesh Bhandari, senior portfolio manager at Al Mal Capital said. Bhandari said a 7pc decline in net interest income was not expected.

"In general, we see this as an excuse for investors to cut mar-



Traders on the floor of Saudi Stock market (Courtesy of Amazons)

Closing Bell

SAUDI ▲e 0.3 pc » 9,304 pts

ABU DHABI ▼ 1.4 pc » 5,258 pts

DUBAI ▲ 0.3 pc » 2,767 pts

QATAR ▲ 0.2 pc » 10,377 pts

EGYPT ▲ 1 pc » 14,920 pts

BAHRAIN ▼ 0.2 pc » 1,434 pts

OMAN ▲ 0.3 pc » 3,946 pts

KUWAIT ▼ 0.1 pc » 6,047 pts

ket exposure before Ramadan," Bhandari added.

Saudi Arabia's index rose 0.3pc, with Gulf General Cooperative Insurance jumping 7.1pc to end as the top gainer after the company's board proposed a

capital increase of 300 million riyals (\$80 million) through a rights issue.

There were gains for 12 of 14 cement producers after Yamama Cement posted strong first-quarter results, driven by an increase in sales volumes and prices. Yamama Cement was up by 5.6pc.

"We have had a positive view on the cement sector based on expectations of a rise in cement demand as construction picks up, especially in mega projects," Riyadh Capital's Muhammad Faisal Potrik said, adding that he expects cement demand to rise in the second half.

Dubai's index added 0.3pc to snap a five-day losing streak,

partly lifted by a 2.1pc gain in real estate company Emaar Properties and its Emaar

Development business, which gained 0.5pc.

Qatar's blue-chip index edged up by 0.2pc, helped by Gulf International Services and Industries Qatar.

The Egyptian index rose 1pc, partly supported by largest lender Commercial International Bank (COMI) gaining 3.1pc to touch its highest in nearly a year.

El Sewedy Electric increased 1.2pc after a subsidiary signed a 445 million Egyptian pound (\$25.9 million) contract to build a substation and transmission line.

Samsung Electronics 1Q net profit slumps 56.9 per cent

Seoul, South Korea

Samsung Electronics, the world's biggest smartphone and memory chip maker, reported a slump in first-quarter net profits yesterday, in the face of

a weakening chip market.

Net profits in the January-March period were 5.04 trillion won (\$4.3 billion) -- the lowest since the third quarter of 2016 -- it said, down 56.9 per cent year-on-year.

The firm is the flagship subsidiary of the giant Samsung Group, by far the biggest of the family-controlled conglomerates that dominate business in the world's 11th largest economy, and it is crucial

to South Korea's economic health.

It has enjoyed record profits in recent years despite a series of setbacks, including a humiliating recall and the jailing of its de facto chief.

Young entrepreneurs competition ends on a high note

TDI | Manama

The 11th edition of Young Entrepreneurs Competition, held at the Wyndham Grand Manama, successfully concluded yesterday, under the patronage of Her Highness Shaikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, Chairperson of INJAZ Bahrain.

The two-day event witnessed student entrepreneurs from around the Kingdom competing for the coveted "University Company of the Year" and "High School Company of the Year" titles. Competitions were also held for "High School Product of the Year 2019", "University Product of the Year 2019", "High School Company for best Social Impact 2019" and "University Company for Best Social Impact 2019" awards.

This year's edition of YEC included 28 teams from 19 secondary schools and nine universities.

"MagTag" from Ibn Khuldoon National School won the "High School Company of the Year 2019" and "AL FAZAA" from Applied Science University won "University Company of the Year 2019".



Winners and officials during a group photo opportunity during the 11th edition of Young Entrepreneurs Competition, held at the Wyndham Grand Manama

"Macrocreativity" from Hamad Town Secondary Girls School won the "High School Product of the Year 2019", and "BTAG" from Al Ahlia University-Business Collage was presented with "University Product of the Year 2019 award".

As "Bahrain Cup Holder" from Al Iman Private Schools-Boys

won the "High School Company for Best Social Impact 2019" and finally "CAN COMPANY" from University of Bahrain won the "University Company for Best Social Impact 2019".

The winning teams received the awards from Abdulhakeem Al Khayyat, INJAZ Bahrain Board Member, Hana Sarwani, Execu-

tive Director of INJAZ Bahrain and Latifa Isa Al Bunoodha, Assistant Undersecretary for General and Technical Education at the Ministry of Education

Commenting, Abdulhakeem Al Khayyat, INJAZ Bahrain Board Member stated: "The continued success of the Company programme is attributed to the ded-

ication of the talented students, the support of the esteemed board members and volunteers, and finally to the exceptional leadership of Her Highness Shaikha Hessa Bint Khalifa Al Khalifa."

Dr Ebrahim Mohammed Janahi Chief Executive of Labour Fund "Tamkeen" praised the

partnership with Injaz Bahrain as one of the leading initiatives to support a wider range of Bahraini youth in their Secondary and University year.

More than 200,000 students from across the Kingdom have benefitted from INJAZ flagship programmes over the past 14 years.

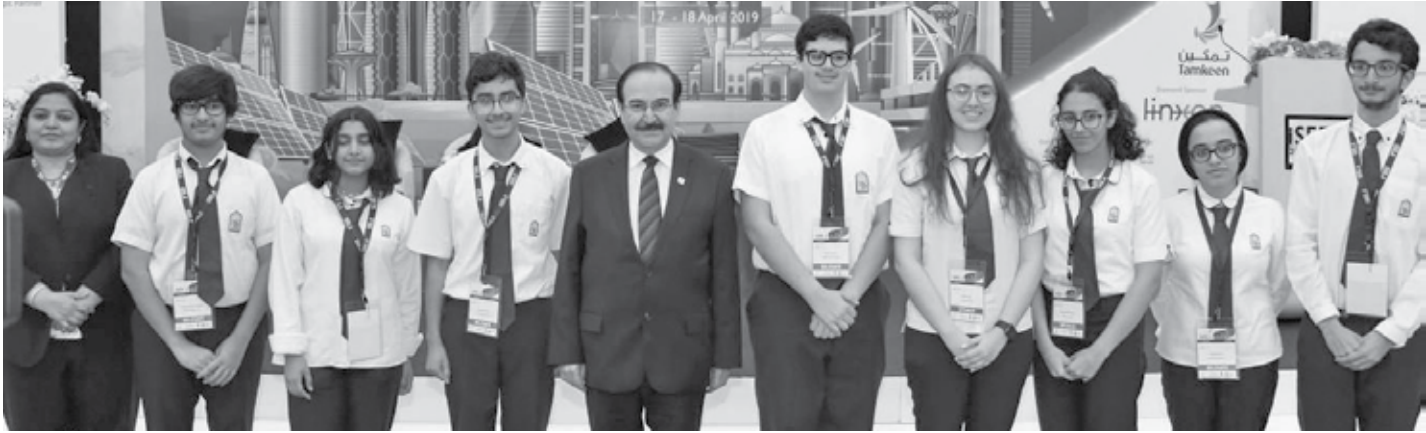
CAMPUS

campus

EWA Minister aims to promote sustainable energy

TDT | Manama

Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr. Abdulhussain Mirza said he is keen to promote the use of clean and green energy for a sustainable future for future generations. He was speaking as he received a group of students from the Bahrain Bayan School during the two-day International Sustainable Energy Forum last week. He said Bahrain had ensured the implementation of national action plans for sustainable energy and energy efficiency, which was a platform through which the national vision and global goals of sustainable development met with clean energy plans to promote the principle of partnership. Dr. Mirza said he is keen for school and university students



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr. Abdulhussain Mirza with the students

to take part in such forums as much as possible in recognition of the role of young people played in establishing a clean energy culture and because they are the foundation of the future that will shape Bahrain's plans. The students from the Bayan Bahrain School spoke about their projects through their curricula in the fields of generating clean energy from the sun and wind. The school won the Sheikh Zayed Prize for Future Energy last year, in competition with many international schools that were competing for the prestigious award.

The forum was held under the patronage of Dr. Mirza, in collaboration with the Centre for Sustainable Energy and in cooperation with the Bahrain Society of Engineers and the United Nations Development Programme. OVER 500 experts from within and outside Bahrain, including school and university students, attended. More than 25 companies and institutions presented latest technologies in field of clean energy, improving energy efficiency and rationalizing consumption at an exhibition held on sidelines of the event.

BKS calls for entries to children's fest

TDT | Manama

BKS has announced that the last date to submit entries to the Devji-BKS Balakalotsavam-19, the biggest literary and cultural festival for children in Bahrain, has been extended to May 4. For the team events, registration could be done till May 20. A registration desk for Balakalotsavam-19 is open daily from 7:30pm to 9:30pm at Samajam office block. Students of any school in Bahrain, aged between 5 and 18, could participate in the competitions. This year the individual events are open to children from any State of India and the Children from any nationality could participate in all team events. For more details and application form please visit www.bksbahrain.com.



Students of commerce stream of New Millennium School-DPS during a visit to the Al Eslah Society to donate 20 boxes of grocery items for the needy families as part of a charity drive. The students interacted with the Bahraini families and enhanced their understanding of the Bahraini culture as well as imbibed the true essence of Ramadan



Students and staff of Bahrain Indian School (BIS)-Bhavans during the Foundation Day celebration. The event was organised by the school to celebrate its five years of existence in the Kingdom. The occasion recollected the memories in these five years through a short movie followed by a cultural program by students and teachers. Students were awarded for their academic excellence for the last academic year as well as for 100 per cent attendance

Bahrain School hosts Night of the Arts

TDT | Manama

Bahrain School celebrated Annual Night of the Arts on Wednesday to celebrate the wealth of artistic, musical and dramatic talents of the students at Bahrain School. The programme was organized by Fine Arts department of the school and included a display of students' artwork, including the work of IB students and students

in grades Kindergarten to Grade 12. The Drama department featured a video of clips from their wonderful performances throughout the year. The Music department presented two performances based on the theme "Music Around the World", with elementary school students singing a variety of songs and the high school band performing songs from around the world.

The bands performed music representing such countries as Japan, India, Scotland, Puerto Rico, Australia and Argentina to name but a few. The concert culminated in a combined band performance of music of Brazilian Carnival that had the audience dancing out the door. The evening concluded with student recognition and awards and was attended by a very large number of students, parents and teachers.



Students of Bahrain School during a performance

Al Iman School students visit Al Jawhara Centre



Al Iman School students during their visit to Al Jawhara Centre

TDT | Manama

Students from Al Iman Boys' School visited Princess Al Jawhara Al Ibrahim Centre for Molecular Medicine, Genetics and Inherited Disorders (ACMID) in the Arabian Gulf University (AGU). The students toured the centre and were briefed about its sections and diagnosis, research and academic activities. Molecular Genetics Assistant Professor at ACMID Dr. Ghada Al

Khafaji introduced the visiting students to the main medical, research and social activities of the centre. On the occasion, she said that, "the establishment of ACMID comes as a result of AGU's vision to establish a centre of excellence on the levels of research, medicine and diagnosis, making it a leading regional and international institution. The centre offers its services in the fields of molecular medicine and genetic diseases, especially as the region suffers from high

rates of genetic diseases." The idea was welcomed by Princess Al-Jawhara Al-Ibrahim, who donated for the establishment of the centre as His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa donated the land on which the project was built. The centre frequently receives school students to introduce them to the different medical programmes available at the College of Medicine and Medical Sciences at the university.



Robert Pattinson

Robert Pattinson won't devalue love

Los Angeles

Actor Robert Pattinson, who is rumoured to be dating model Suki Waterhouse, does not like speaking about his personal life because he does not want to “devalue” it. Asked about Waterhouse, Pattinson told the Sunday Times’ Style magazine: “Do I have to (talk about her)? If you let people in, it devalues what love is. If a stranger on the street asked you about your relationship, you would think it extremely rude. If you put up a wall, it ends up better. “I can’t understand how someone can walk down the street holding hands, and it’s the same as when I do it and a hundred people are taking your photograph. The line between

when you are performing and when you are not will eventually get washed away and you’ll go completely mad.” While his relationships with actress Kristen Stewart and FKA Twigs didn’t end well, he doesn’t believe high-profile romances are doomed, reported femalefirst.co.uk. “They were pretty long relationships, not like three months.” The “High Life” actor is close friends with Katy Perry and is impressed by the fact that fame hasn’t changed her. He said: “She’s exactly the same. That’s difficult to do.”

Suki Waterhouse

There’s no happily ever after: Taylor Swift

Los Angeles

Singer Taylor Swift feels there is no “happily ever after” in life, and says it is important to focus on the good days. “I think when we talk about being happy or loving yourself those are all things that we feel sometimes and maybe this song is a glimpse of that moment when we do feel like that,” Swift said on a TV show, reported femalefirst.co.uk. “When we’re having the best day, the sun is shining, it’s going to be an okay day, everything’s going to be good, I’m alright with myself. But I think one thing to always keep tabs on is the fact that we have to know that there is no ‘happily ever after’ where we’re just happy forever,” she added. Swift believes that finding your self-worth will always be a process. She said she took time off in the past to battle the moments she has felt low or exhausted.

Taylor Swift



Charlize Theron’s mother influenced her to act

Los Angeles

Actress Charlize Theron’s mother influenced her to pursue acting after her career as a ballerina did not work out the way she had planned. “I was a ballerina from the time I was four years old and I thought that’s what I’d always do. I left South Africa at 16 and studied abroad and supported myself by modelling. I ended up in New York and soon realised that my career was over and my knees had said goodbye to me and I’d never thought of a plan B,” Theron told Notebook magazine when asked if she always wanted to be an actress. The 43-year-old star says it was her mother Gerda, who told her to try her hand at acting, after



Charlize Theron

noticing how her daughter was struggling to make a name for herself in the ballet world, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Giacomo Gianniotti gets married



Nicole Gustafson and Giacomo Gianniotti

“Grey’s Anatomy” actor Giacomo Gianniotti has tied the knot with his fiancée Nicole Gustafson. The couple exchanged wedding vows on Sunday in Italy, reported People magazine. Gianniotti, 29, and Gustafson chose Villa Poggi near Castel Gandolfo as the venue of their wedding. The Italian-Canadian actor, who stars as Dr Andrew DeLuca on “Grey’s Anatomy”, proposed to his now-wife over Thanksgiving Weekend in 2017.



Lily Collins

Lily Collins reveals she met Ted Bundy’s ‘gracious’ girlfriend

Los Angeles

Lily Collins revealed she met Ted Bundy’s girlfriend Elizabeth Kloepfer to get into character for Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile movie. In the movie based on the chilling true story of Bundy’s crimes, the actress transformed into the warm-hearted girlfriend Liz who is unaware of her boyfriend Ted’s murder spree during the 1970s in the US. The Love, Rosie star, 30, explained it was ‘helpful’ to have the opportunity to meet the ‘gracious’ woman she plays during her appearance on Tuesday’s This Morning. She told Holly Willoughby and Philip Schofield: ‘I went and met the woman that I play. It was really helpful. She was so gracious, giving me material to look at and speaking to me.’

Los Angeles

Claire Foy and Matt Smith are reuniting for London’s The Old Vic Theatre after playing British royals Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip on the hit Netflix series, “The Crown”. According to London Theatre’s official website, the two actors who shot to fame with the royal period drama will star in environmental play “Lungs”, penned by playwright Duncan Macmillan. It is a two-character play that follows a couple named M and W, as they reflect upon what it means to give birth in today’s society, with questions of carbon footprints and political dilemmas asked.

Claire Foy, Matt Smith reteam for environmental play ‘Lungs’

“Lungs” will be the Old Vic debut of both Foy and Smith. The theatre announced its upcoming year of stage acts with Matthew Warchus’ Season 5 Tuesday. Warchus will direct “Lungs”. Dates are yet to be announced, but it is expected that the production would play for “an extremely limited run”. “Harry Potter” star Daniel Radcliffe will return to stage with Samuel Beckett’s double bill “Endgame and Rough For Theatre II” from January 27, 2020. It will also feature “The Good Wife” star Alan Cummings.



Matt Smith and Claire Foy

De Niro introduced me to DiCaprio: Scorsese

Los Angeles

Acclaimed filmmaker Martin Scorsese revealed that he was introduced to Leonardo DiCaprio by Robert De Niro after the actors worked together on “The Boy’s Life” in 1993. At the Tribeca Film Festival, Scorsese said: “(He told me) ‘There’s this kid, Leo DiCaprio. He’s really good. You’ve gotta work with him sometime.’” The filmmaker first acted on the advice with 2002’s “Gangs of New York”, and then worked with DiCaprio on “The Aviator”, “The Departed”, “Shutter Island” and 2015 short film “The Audition”, which also featured De Niro, reported femalefirst.co.uk.

Kylie Jenner removes Jordyn Woods Twitter header photo

Los Angeles

Kylie Jenner is making a change — and it has to do with her former best friend Jordyn Woods. In honor of her new “Kybrow” launch for Kylie Cosmetics, Jenner swapped her Twitter header photo on Monday to feature a close-up of her enviable eyebrows. In doing so, she removed the old promo picture of Jenner, 21, and Woods, 21, from their own makeup collaboration for the brand. The old shot was noticeably present when Woods’ cheating scandal with Khloé Kardashian’s now-ex Tristan Thompson went public more than two months ago. A source previously told PEOPLE that Jenner has had limited contact with

Woods in the months since the scandal. “Kylie has had a rough few weeks,” said the source. “She is still upset about the Jordyn situation, although she seems to be doing much better.”



Jordyn Woods and Kylie Jenner

sports

De Roon, Pasalic fire Atalanta into fourth

AFP | Milan, Italy

Midfielders Marten de Roon and Mario Pasalic scored late as Atalanta beat Udinese 2-0 to surge back into the top four in Serie A on Monday.

The side from Bergamo move ahead of Roma into the final Champions League spot days after booking their ticket to the Coppa Italia final on May 15 against Lazio.

The battle for elite European football next season remains tight with six teams in the running to join Juventus and Napoli in the competition next season.

Atalanta with 59 points from 34 games move one point ahead of Roma who drop to fifth with four games left of the campaign.

"We're experiencing something remarkable, the lads are doing incredible things," said coach Gian Piero Gasperini as his team target a place in top-tier European football for the first time.

"It's in our hands now."

Inter Milan, on 62 points, are just three points ahead of Atalanta, with Roma a point behind followed by Torino and AC Milan both on 56 with Lazio still in the running in seventh on 55.

"Roma have only one point



Marten De Roon of Atalanta BC in action

then less than us, but the others are all there too," continued Gasperini.

"There are twelve points and all have to win at least three games to make sure they play it, then if we win four, it's mathematical.

"We can all do the tables, we are all inside and no one is left

out.

"This is the extraordinary thing about this championship and it makes everything even more fascinating."

Free-flowing Atalanta were contained by northern rivals Udinese for much of the match before Netherlands international De Roon opened the scoring

from the penalty spot after 81 minutes after Sandro brought down Andrea Masiello in the box.

Croatia playmaker Pasalic added a second four minutes later for his third goal in five matches.

"We knew it would be difficult, Udinese are superior to



The battle for elite European football next season remains tight with six teams in the running to join Juventus and Napoli in the competition next season

their current ranking," said Gasperini of the north-eastern side who are just four points above the drop zone.

Atalanta play Lazio in Serie A next Sunday in the Stadio Olimpico, ten days before returning to Rome again for the Coppa Italia final.

Their final three games will be against Genoa, champions Juventus and Sassuolo.

Sassuolo moved up to tenth on Monday with a 1-0 win over Fiorentina.

Domenico Berardi scored the only goal after 37 minutes to extend Fiorentina's winless run to ten games, as the Tuscany side drop to 12th.

BDS Bassali excel in ETS League

TDT | Manama

BDS Bassali defeated Pak Arab Zalmi by 47 runs in the Div A ETS League organized by Cricket Bahrain Association.

Batting first BDS Bassali posted 205 runs. Asif Siddiqui top scored with 63 runs. He was well supported by Junaid Aziz who made 56 runs. In reply Zalmi could only manage 158 runs. Ahsan Khan top scored with 55 runs. Junaid Aziz claimed 5 wickets for BDS Bassali.

BCC defeated Awan Bassali by 96 runs in another fixture. Batting first BCC posted 185 runs. Wasif Iqbal top scored with 43 runs. Mohd Khurram claimed 3 wickets for Bassali. In reply Bassali could only manage 89 runs. Anasim Khan claimed 3 wickets for BCC

Wimbledon prize money rises 11.8 pc

Reuters | London

Wimbledon prize money will total 38 million pounds (\$49 million) for this year's championships, a rise of 11.8 percent, the All England Club announced.

The men's and women's singles champions will receive 2.35 million pounds each — 100,000 more than in 2018.

NMS, ISB advance into semi finals

● **Anantha Krishnan hits the first century of the tournament**

TDT | Manama

Indian School vice captain Ananthakrishnan hit the first century of his career and the first in the CBA - ALBA under 14 Cricket tournament as his team defeated Ibn Al Hytham Islamic School.

Batted first the Indian School scored a huge total of 180 for 5 wickets. The highlight of the innings were an unbeaten 115 runs in just 69 balls by Ananthakrishnan. In reply Ibn Al Hytham was bowled out for 50 runs. Ishan Lakshmi-kant was the most successful bowler who took 4 wickets for 6 runs. Nachiket and Aryan Pande claimed 2 wickets each.

New Millennium School captain Aryan Koul has scored the fastest Half century (66 in 29 balls against Bangladesh school. Batted first New Millennium School piled up 174 for 6 wickets. Aryan Koul top scored with 65 and Tejas Prabhurajan played a very useful innings with 44 runs.

Saifat Ahmed was the most successful bowler who took 3 wickets for 35 runs. In reply



Ananthakrishnan

Bangladesh School was all out for 59 runs. Sashank Shukla was the main wicket taker who claimed 4 wickets for 9 runs and Rujul Shyam gave a good support with 2 wickets for 16 runs.

New Millennium School and Indian School from Group - A and Colts Bahrain and Combined School from group - B have entered the semi finals of the CBA - ALBA under 14 School cricket tournament on Saturday at Alba Ground.

New Millennium was unbeatable in the league matches and has entered semi finals with full 8 points. The Indian School has placed second in the group and

entered the Semi finals with 6 points.

New Millennium School beat Indian School by 6 wickets in the last league match.

The highlight of the match was a superb batting performance of Aryan Koul who scored a quick fire 40 in just 24 balls and an unbeaten 32 by the opener Tejas Prabhurajan. (The Indian School -119 for 8 wickets. Aryan Pande -22. New Millennium -120 for 4 wickets. Aryan Koul -40, Tejas Prabhurajan 34 not out.).

In Group-B, Colts Bahrain beat Pakistan Urdu School by 4 wickets in their last league match to enter the semi finals. (Pakistan Urdu School - 75 all out. Taha Khan top scored with 16 runs. Colts Bahrain -76 for 6 wickets. Ayan Khan 36 not out. Elton Joseph (3 wickets for 15 runs) and Deon Shaji 2 wickets for 13 runs.

The Combined School beat Pakistan Urdu School by 41 runs in their last league match to enter the semi finals. Combined School has scored 150 for 3 wickets. Opener Aryan Soni (51) has scored a superb half Century and made 103 runs for the first wicket with Arnav Nair, who scored an unbeaten 31 runs.

The semi finals will be played today and finals will be played on Saturday.

Australia's Warner sees run-packed World Cup

AFP | Hyderabad, India

Australia batsman David Warner yesterday predicted a high-scoring World Cup in the uncertain English conditions.

Warner headed off to the Australian camp after ending his Indian Premier League with a 56-ball 81 to help Sunrisers Hyderabad thrash Kings XI Punjab by 45 runs on Monday.

His knock, laced with seven fours and two sixes, capped off a successful return to top-level competitive cricket from a ball-tampering scandal.

The 32-year-old left the IPL on top of the batting rankings with 692 runs from 12 innings, including eight fifties and a century.

Warner predicted the World Cup, where Australia are defending champions, will be more IPL style high-octane cricket.

"This World Cup, you'll see some high scores," Warner said.

"For the batter, hopefully the ball isn't swinging too much."

"We are playing in England, they are a fantastic team. We are the reigning champions and for us it is going out there backing our abilities and being at



This World Cup, you'll see some high. We are playing in England, they are a fantastic team. We are the reigning champions and for us it is going out there backing our abilities and being at our best

DAVID WARNER

our best."

Warner and former Australian captain Steve Smith served 12-month bans for cheating in a Cape Town Test in March last year along with teammate Cameron Bancroft, who missed nine months.

Warner and Smith both performed well in the IPL to boost their confidence ahead of joining Australia's World Cup training camp in Brisbane on Thursday.

Smith was made Rajasthan Royals captain midway into the league despite not being eligible to lead the national side.



Sunrisers Hyderabad cricketer David Warner gestures as he walks back to the pavilion during the 2019 Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 cricket match between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kings XI Punjab

Warner said the break away from cricket had given him time to reflect on his game.

"I have had time off to work harder at my game. I put the bat down for 16-18 weeks and tried to be the best man I can be, the best husband I can be and that's worked for me."

Warner is keen to build on his IPL success when Australia start the World Cup against Afghanistan on June 1 in Bristol.

Alfa knew of front wing problem: Kimi

Kimi Raikkonen was disqualified from qualifying results in Baku and had to start from pit lane

Autosport | Baku

Kimi Raikkonen says the Alfa Romeo Formula 1 team became aware of a front wing issue in China, but wasn't able to manufacture a replacement for the Baku race.

Raikkonen was excluded from Azerbaijan GP qualifying and consigned to a pitlane start after the front wing on his Alfa failed a deflection test, which also forced the team to make a change to the specification of the flap adjuster hook on the front wing.

Speaking to media after the Baku race, Raikkonen revealed Alfa Romeo had already encountered a problem with his front wing in China - where he finished ninth - but couldn't produce a new unit in time for the next grand prix.

"Obviously we didn't plan to start in the pitlane, but that's how it turned out to be," Raikkonen said.

"Honestly I don't know what's happened. There came a message this morning and suddenly



Alfa Romeo's Finnish driver Kimi Raikkonen steers his car during a practice session ahead of Azerbaijan GP

it [the front wing] isn't legal. "Last race the issue that I had in the end of the race, we broke

a stay [bracket] on the front wing and we lost the downforce, so probably it's a similar thing that

is going on.

"Unfortunately we knew the issue after last race but we didn't

“Obviously we didn't plan to start in the pitlane, but that's how it turned out to be. Honestly I don't know what's happened. There came a message this morning and suddenly it [the front wing] isn't legal

KIMI RAIKKONEN

have time to produce a new one.

"This is what you get, for sure it doesn't make us faster but this is what it is. Hopefully then it's fair for everybody after."

Despite having to start from the pitlane, Raikkonen recovered to 10th place at the chequered flag, bagging his fourth consecutive points finish with Alfa Romeo since switching

from Ferrari for this season.

"We got one point, so better than nothing, but [it] was difficult, just not enough grip really," Raikkonen said.

"I don't think we really made the tyres work really well, to get the grip out of them. We did what we could."

The Finn benefitted from the call to ditch the soft tyres just six laps into the race, with the early stop allowing him to get ahead of a number of his midfield rivals.

"The soft were okay," he added.

"We only did few laps, but then obviously when everybody was behind each other [in traffic] we were driving so slow that it's better to stop and jump ahead of them.

"I think we did the right thing and I just tried to get the tyres working.

"We had to save the brakes quite a bit.

"I think one point is the best that we could do today, so we'll take it.

"I think next race [Spanish GP] should be easier for us."

Bale '100 percent' committed to Real claims agent

AFP | London

Gareth Bale is still "100 per cent" committed to Real Madrid despite speculation over his future, the Wales star's agent insisted on Monday.

Former Tottenham winger Bale has been linked with a return to the Premier League after a difficult season with the troubled Spanish club.

The 29-year-old has had to endure claims that he doesn't have a strong relationship with his team-mates, while Real have suffered a woeful campaign on the pitch.

Bale played the full 90 minutes when Real suffered a shock 1-0 defeat against lowly Rayo Vallecano on Sunday, but Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane later questioned whether he was fully focused.

Bale's agent Jonathan Barnett has responded to Zidane's comments by telling BBC Sport Wales: "Gareth is 100 per cent committed to Real Madrid."

Referring to his past assertion that Bale wanted to spend the rest of his career with Madrid, Barnett added: "Nothing has changed."

Frustrated at a lack of starting opportunities for Real towards the end of last season, Bale had actually hinted he might consider leaving when he spoke to the media immediately after scoring twice in last year's Champions League final win against Liverpool.

Bale's Madrid contract runs until 2022, but the return of

Zidane, with whom he reportedly has a difficult relationship, has revived talk of a potential move.

Despite winning four Champions League trophies and one La Liga title in Spain, Bale has come under-fire for his inconsistent performances and injury problems from Real fans.

Zidane, who is back after quitting at the end of last season, recently warned Real stars who are unhappy with their playing time should "go else-



Gareth Bale

Bale's Madrid contract runs until 2022, but the return of Zidane, with whom he reportedly has a difficult relationship, has revived talk of a potential move

where and get more minutes". Manchester United and Tottenham are among the clubs said to be interested if Wales international Bale wants to leave the Bernabeu.



Solskjaer must show authority by dropping De Gea - Wright

Reuters | London

Manchester United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer must show he is not afraid to make big decisions and drop error-prone goalkeeper David de Gea for the final two games of the Premier League season, former England striker Ian Wright has said.

De Gea has made a number of uncharacteristic mistakes in recent games, including one that allowed Chelsea to equalise in Sunday's 1-1 draw that dented sixth-placed United's chances of finishing in the top four.

Solskjaer backed De Gea to shake off his poor form in their final two games against Huddersfield Town and Cardiff City but Wright believes the Norwegian has to take a different approach.

"If he (Solskjaer) really wants to stamp his mark and let people know he isn't afraid to make decisions, he should take him out," Wright said on BBC Radio 5 Live.

"If the manager explains everything and tells him face to face why he's leaving him out and giving him a break, that's man-management and that's what Solskjaer has to do."

De Gea's contract was due to expire this year before

David de Gea

United activated a one-year extension but that has not stopped media reports from linking him with a move

away from Old Trafford.

Wright said an early end to De Gea's season would help the struggling Spaniard sort out his future at the club, while back-up Sergio Romero fills in.

"He (De Gea) needs to go on holiday and sort his contract out," Wright added. "Sometimes you have to take someone out the firing line. He's one of the best goalkeepers in the world and he needs a break.

"There's a lot going on and he's under a lot of pressure. When you look at how United are playing at the moment, putting him in that situation is putting him under more pressure."



Dortmund's Reus banned for two matches, Wolf for three

Reuters | Berlin

Borussia Dortmund's fading Bundesliga title hopes suffered another setback on Monday when captain Marco Reus was banned for two matches and Marius Wolf for three following their red cards in Saturday's 4-2 home defeat by Schalke 04.

Reus was sent off on the hour with

a straight red card for a studs-up challenge on Suat Serdar and Wolf followed five minutes later for a foul on the same player.

Marco Reus

Wolf's ban means his season is over as Dortmund have three matches to play while Reus will only be available for their final match at Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Reus has scored 16 goals and provided eight assists this season, making his absence a significant blow.

Dortmund coach Lucien Favre gave up the title challenge after the defeat although his side are only two points behind Bayern Munich after they drew 1-1 at Nuremberg on Sunday.

