

Ma: Octavia Spencer kills it in creepy exploitation thriller

Ma is a 2019 American psychological horror film directed by Tate Taylor, who co-wrote the screenplay with Scotty Landes. | **P13**

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Italy celebrates Republic Day

THE DAILY tribune



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China raises tariffs on US goods


ahli united bank
Ramadan
Prayer Timings
Day 28
Fajr 03:13 AM
Dhuhr 11:36 AM
Asr 03:02 PM
Maghrib 06:26 PM
Isha 07:56 PM
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Eid al-Fitr: BIA advises travellers to arrive early at airport

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) advises passengers travelling during Eid's holiday to arrive at the airport 3 hours prior to their departure time.

Airport authorities expect increased passenger traffic during the upcoming Eid al-Fitr and due to the closure of the road from the Airport roundabout to the Passenger Terminal Building Roundabout.

Bahrain to host BDFEX Forum

TDI | Manama

Bahrain will hold the first Business Development Forum and Fair in the healthcare sector (BDFEX) on October 23 and 24, 2019, under the patronage of Lieutenant General Doctor Sheikh Mohamed Bin Abdullah, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health.

The International Business Consultancy and Development Company (PRO-ACT), and United Gulf Industrial Consortia (UGICON) will organise the event.

Moon sighting panel to convene

TDI | Manama

The Moon Sighting Panel in Bahrain will meet tomorrow evening at the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs to sight the moon for Shawal, marking the advent of Eid Al Fitr.

The panel urged Muslims across the country to participate in the moon sighting efforts and report their testimonies.

Makkah summits back Saudi, support Palestine

His Majesty offers full-fledged support to Saudi Arabia, arrives back in Bahrain

TDI | Bahrain/Makkah

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday returned to Bahrain from Saudi Arabia after leading the Kingdom's delegation to the GCC and Arab emergency summits and the 14th Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Summit held in Makkah.

HM, the King was received on arrival at the Sakhr Airbase by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.

During the 14th Islamic Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), held at Al-Safa Palace, HM the King reaffirmed Bahrain's full-fledged support to Saudi Arabia in all its efforts to safeguard the region saying "reaching a just and comprehensive solution" to the Palestinian cause is at the forefront of all such issues.

The summit held under the chairmanship of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud "confirms Saudi Arabia's political and spiritual leadership of the Islamic world," HM the King said adding that the current regional circumstances require the adoption of a practical formula for decisive and immediate solutions.

HM King expressed hope that OIC would play an effective role to enable brotherly Palestinian people to achieve their "legitimate right to set up a fully sovereign independent state on



HM King participates in the opening of the OIC summit

the borders of June 4, 1976, and with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative, the two-state solution and the relevant international references."

"We hope that our summit will lead to long-term initiatives supporting the international community in protecting the flow of oil supplies and navigation," HM the King said.

Separately, His Majesty King Hamad attended a suhoor banquet hosted by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King

Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud in honour of the participants in the 14th Islamic Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The summit of the 57-member state body denounced the controversial US move to transfer its embassy to Jerusalem and recognise Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights and threw its support behind Palestinians.

Saudi King Salman told leaders of the IOC countries gathered at the summit: "The Palestinian cause is the cornerstone

of the works of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and is the focus of our attention until the brotherly Palestinian people get all their legitimate rights.

"We reaffirm our unequivocal rejection of any measures that would prejudice the historical and legal status of Quds (Jerusalem)."

The OIC also backed Saudi Arabia over escalating tensions with Iran, as King Salman warned that "terrorist" attacks in the Gulf region could imperil global energy supplies.

"We confirm that terrorist actions not only target the kingdom and the Gulf region but also target the safety of navigation and world oil supplies," the king told OIC member states.

In a tweet just before the start of the summit, the king vowed to confront "aggressive threats and subversive activities".

"Undermining the security of the kingdom effectively undermines the security of the Arab and Islamic world," said OIC Secretary-General Yousef bin Ahmed al-Othaimeen, voicing solidarity that was shared by other members.



HM the King was received on arrival at the Sakhr Airbase by HRH Crown Prince

BUILDING FUTURE

192 building permits issued for investment

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's construction sector recorded encouraging growth in the first quarter of 2019, thanks to impressive economic growth.

"The strength of the economic indicators in the first quarter acted as an incentive for the Ministry to continue implementing strategic investment projects," said the Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Essam Khalaf.

A total of 2,576 building permits were issued in the first quarter, an increase of 4.2pc from the year-earlier quarter.

The Municipal One Stop Shop issued 192 building permits with an estimated value of around BD179 million and



Essam Khalaf (file)

across an estimated 652,000 sq metres of land.

Key projects include the expansion of the Bahrain International Airport and the second phase of Al-Dur Water and Power Project.

"The increase in building permits is indicative of a robust, resilient and investment-friendly

economy," said the Minister highlighting the vital role of the Benayat system in accelerating permit issuance.

Within a short period, 88 building permits have been issued using the Benayat system, with an average processing time of three working days and not exceeding the five-working days.

Of those permits, 76pc are classified as residential projects, while the remaining 24pc are predominantly made up of investment and special projects.

Benayat, the Minister said, not only helped to issue building permits more efficiently but also provided the ability to monitor, manage and evaluate building permit services effectively.

Sudan recalls ambassador to Qatar

Khartoum, Sudan

Sudan's ambassador to Qatar has returned to Khartoum for consultations, the foreign ministry said yesterday, with the envoy set to fly back to Doha soon. The diplomat was summoned "to Khartoum for consultations and...will leave to Doha in the coming hours" to resume his work, Sudan's ministry said.

Earlier in the day, a spokesperson for Qatar's foreign ministry denied claims on social media the ambassador had been recalled.



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Serving special Iftar treat for road users

Special needs youngster Syed Mohammed takes part in Iftar campaign

● Distributes 40,000 iftar packets

TDI | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Syed Mohammed a special needs youngster illuminated this year's Iftar distribution campaign organised by Fazat Shabaab which distributed 40,000 packets.

The 21-year-old, Fazat Shabaab spokesperson said, was part of their campaign in Salma-bad. "He did a great job."

"He was an energetic presence for the team," the spokesperson said.

Fazat Shabaab, organised the campaign in collaboration with Ramadanaman, Ministry of Interior and Bahrain scooter club.

Food packages were distributed to motorists at traffic signals during the Maghrib azaan time.

"We covered Muharraq, Sal-mabad, Um al Hassam, Riffa and Hamad town," said Fazat Shabaab spokesperson.

When asked about the cam-paign, the spokesperson said reducing accidents during Ram-adan was one of the aims.

"Many try to rush home dur-ing Maghrib to break their fast on time, resulting in speeding.

"We want to put an end to this, hence chose to distribute Iftar



In pictures, Syed Mohammed a special needs youngster with other participants during an Iftar distribution campaign organised by Fazat Shabaab



meals at signals," he said.

Northern Governor Ali bin Al Shaikh Abdulhussain Al Asfoor, in a statement yesterday, said hundreds of Iftar packets were distributed by volunteers in the last ten days.

Volunteers included staff from the governorate as well as partic-ipants from the private sector.





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His Royal Highness the Prime Minister
Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa

His Royal Highness
Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander
and First Deputy Premier
Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa

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the Kingdom of Bahrain
on the occasion of

Eid Al Fitr



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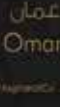
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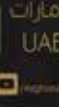
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Home Delivery

big story



During a group photo opportunity



P Unnikrishnan, Mohammed Dadabhai, Indian Ambassador, Alok Kumar Sinha, Nath Venkitachalam and Juzer Rupawala



Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha speaks to Dimassi and the Indian community members about the importance of the environment day

Cycling for a great cause

”



It is important to educate the younger population about the importance of using renewal energy, not only for their knowledge but also to create an example for their friends and family members

ALOK KUMAR SINHA
INDIAN AMBASSADOR

”



It was a great gathering. I would like to congratulate the ambassador. It was great to see so many people participating in this event. Bahrainis were also there. The ambassador and the embassy have done a very good job

MOHAMMED DADABHAI
PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN

”



We are honoured to kick off this campaign with the Indian community led by the Indian ambassador. The community blessed us last year by leading the beat plastic pollution campaign. Today they have yet again proved that they are ready to go for the environment

SAMI DIMASSI
DIRECTOR WEST ASIA OFFICE, UN ENVIRONMENT

”



This is a great initiative by the Indian Embassy. What better way to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi than by doing something for the environment. Hats off to the Indian embassy and the community that has taken part in this

JUZER RUPAWALA
LULU GROUP REGIONAL DIRECTOR

TDT | Manama

Participants came out in large numbers yesterday for a cycling event organised by the Indian Embassy here to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The event, under the theme ‘promoting awareness about air pollution’, was held from Bahrain Fort to Indian Embassy. The celebrations also coincided

with the World Environment Day celebrated every year on the 5th of June. It is the United Nation’s principal vehicle for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of our environment. First held in 1974, it has been a flagship campaign for raising awareness on emerging environmental issues. “It is important to educate the younger population about the importance of using renewal energy, not only for their knowl-

edge but also to create an example for their friends and family members,” Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha told *Tribune* on the sidelines of the event. “We want to encourage the use of renewable more and more for household use,” the envoy said stressing the importance of environment day and the use of renewable energy. The embassy also held an If-taar reception for guests at its premises in Seef.



The New Millennium School, DPS Bahrain held an Achievement Award and Scholar Badge Ceremony on Saturday to felicitate the meritorious students from Grades I to XII, who have excelled in scholastic terrains. Chief Guest Padmashri Dr Ravi Pillai appreciated the efforts of outstanding students and teachers. Geetha Pillai, Managing Director, Principal, Arun Kuumar Sharma and other dignitaries and parents were present. 1342 students were awarded on the occasion.

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Duraz attack: Court reduces sentences for 109 prisoners

TDT | Manama

More than 100 men, charged with attacking police officers in Duraz, have had their jail terms reduced by the High Appeals court. A total of 146 suspects were tried in the case with the court handing them sentences ranging from six months to 10 years imprisonment.

Eighty-two of the 109 appellants saw their one-year jail terms reduced by half to six-month, while the remaining got their 10-year jail terms reduced to seven years.

The court rejected the appeals of others involved in the case.

Court files say the suspects attacked police officers during an illegal demonstration organised in front of Shia cleric Isa Qassim's house.

Weapons, as well as grenades, were seized from suspects during demonstrations, which continued for almost a year.

“One of the suspects guided

Eighty-two of the 109 appellants saw their one-year jail terms reduced by half to six-month, while the remaining got their 10-year jail terms reduced to seven years.

us to a cache of weapons, grenades and firebombs,” a police officer told the court. “The weapons were for attacking police officers.”

It's worth noting that rocks, bricks, metal rods, and firebombs, were used to attack police officers.

According to testimony filed, a police officer told the court that the protestors attacked them while restoring order in Duraz which witnessed an almost a year-long gathering outside the house of Qassim.

Duraz operations resulted in killing five demonstrators and injuring 31 police officers.

Abductor's jail term reduced on appeal



The boy was taken to a remote area of Busaiteen beach in Muharraq Governorate and assaulted physically

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court reduced, from three years to one-year imprisonment, the sentence imposed on a man convicted in absentia of kidnapping a teenager. The court also suspended the sentence for three years.

The High Appeals Court reduced the sentence following an appeal by one of the three men implicated in the crime. All involved received the same jail terms.

The High Appeals Court reduced the sentence following an appeal by one of the three men implicated in the crime.

According to court files, the trio organised the abduction as the boy failed to pay back a BD50 he owed them.

During interrogation, the 15-year-old victim revealed that he failed to pay back the amount on time.

Things, however, went wrong when the men asked the boy to come to a local cafeteria to discuss the debt.

“They told me to wait at a local cafeteria. So, I went there along with a friend.”

“However, they forcefully dragged me into their car and drove to a remote area of Busaiteen beach in Muharraq Governorate and assaulted me physically,” he told prosecutors.

A military officer also reportedly helped the trio in committing the crime. Court referred him to a Military court for further action.

Dispute over rental bond: Court revokes hefty fine

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Civil Court of Appeal dismissed a verdict asking a tenant to pay over BD100, 000 to a commercial centre in the Kingdom.

The tenant was previously ordered to pay a total of BD115, 500 to the company for failing to honour the rental agreement signed.

The dispute was over a three-by-three square metres space rented in one of the

malls in the Kingdom for two years and 9 months.

The latest verdict came based on evidence that the tenant was not occupying the space during the period mentioned. “Accepting the evidence, the court rejected the case,” said Defence attorney May Al Jowaiser.

The court ordered to revoke the previously announced verdict and ordered the mall to pay the court fees.

Man stabbed to death in brawl



The victim lying on the ground while on lookers surround him

TDT | Manama

Mohammed Zafran

A man has been stabbed to death in Galali during an alleged brawl between two men.

The victim died in hospital after the attack apparently using a sharp object.

The Ministry of Interior confirmed the arrest of the other man involved in the brawl.

“A quarrel between two in

Galali resulted in one of the men stabbing the other with a sharp object,” the interior ministry statement said. Police transferred the injured to the hospital. The investigation is ongoing.

A video purportedly showing a victim lying on the ground was circulated on social media yesterday.

The video shows a group of people surrounding the man, some of them trying to help him.

The video also shows an ambulance arriving and the man being taken to hospital.

Source told Tribune that the victim was in a critical state with several stab wounds and brutal pain.

“The other man was extremely agitated,” a source from the area said.

The source said the ambulance arrived at the scene soon after calling.

Separately, the ministry confirmed two deaths in two incidents yesterday. Both of the victims were Bahrainis, a 30-year-old and an 82-year-old.

Bahraini man,82, died while driving his vehicle in Janabiya, causing a minor accident.

On the second incident, the ministry said: “Bahraini, 30, died after he was hit by a vehicle while walking on Al Jazaer beach road.”

Drug dealers gets 10 years in jail

TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court awarded an Asian national a jail term of 10 years and a fine of BD3,000 for peddling drugs and staying illegally in the Kingdom.

Two others involved, an Asian by nationality and a Bahraini man, were given one-year imprisonment each and a fine of BD1,000.

The Anti-Narcotics Department in Interior Ministry arrested the suspects.

The incidents leading to their arrest occurred when a Bahraini man fell unconscious inside a shop in Central Manama and was informed about it to the police.

The incidents leading to their arrest occurred when a Bahraini man fell unconscious inside a shop in Central Manama and was informed about it to the police.

Police were tipped-off regarding the incident by one of the shop owners in the mall.

A detailed medical examination proved drug abuse as the reason for the man falling unconscious.

His confession led to the arrest of the two others. When asked, the man, during interrogation, confessed that he got it

from an Asian man.

Bahraini man's blood and urine tests showed traces of heroin.

Investigators found that the Asian men are selling heroin in Manama and its suburbs regularly.

The department ambushed the drug dealers, after setting a deal with both the men to buy BD20 worth of heroin.

Police arrested the suspects red-handed while delivering two rolls of heroin near a residential building in Gudaibiya.

The suspects during interrogation confessed that they were selling drugs in different areas of the Capital.

Both men confessed that they

worked for a third suspect and sold heroin for him in different parts of Manama. A medical examination proved traces of morphine in their blood and urine samples.

The Bahraini man told the interrogators that he is a resident of Manama and had been abusing different types of drugs for the past 14 years.

He also confessed to buying drugs from different Asian drug dealers.

On January 29, 2019, the Public Prosecution accused them of drugs abuse, heroin and morphine. Public Prosecution accused one of the Asian men of selling drugs, and the other of staying illegally in the Kingdom.



“Ame Gujarati” a group of Indian family and friends donated 5 kg rice bags in GCC labour camp Askar on Friday.



WORLD

Masked group targets US embassy with arson attack



The entrance of the US embassy in Tegucigalpa burns after being set on fire by demonstrators of the education and health sectors protesting against government reforms

Tegucigalpa

Masked protesters set fire to the gate of the US embassy in Honduras on Friday during massive demonstrations against public sector reforms in the country. Thousands of doctors, teachers and students had taken to the streets to demand the government abandon plans to privatize the health and education sectors. Firefighters came to extinguish the blaze, which destroyed the diplomatic mis-

sion's gate without damaging the main embassy building. The US embassy issued a statement after the attack urging Hondurans to refrain from "acts of violence." Police spokesman Jair Meza told local media that one of the suspects, a 23-year-old man, had been arrested. Relatives of the suspect later went with a crowd to the police headquarters where they shouted demands for his freedom. Demonstrators blamed "government infiltrators" for the damage to the embassy.



Fire at the entrance of the US embassy in Tegucigalpa

Saudi prince impersonator gets long stay behind bars

- Posing as Khalid Bin Al-Saud, he lived in a condo on Miami's posh Fisher Island
- He was accompanied by bodyguards carrying fake diplomatic papers
- A real estate developer saw Gignac happily eating ham, bacon and other pork products

Miami

A Florida man who posed as a Saudi royal for three decades and cheated people out of \$8 million will spend 18 years in prison for fraud, authorities said Friday. Anthony Gignac, 48, constructed a personal world of luxury from his regal scam involving fake diplomatic credentials and a coterie of bodyguards. Posing as Khalid Bin Al-Saud, he lived in a condo on Miami's posh Fisher Island, drove a Ferrari with a forged diplomatic license plate and eagerly courted investors and gift-givers. He was accompanied by bodyguards carrying fake diplomatic papers and demanded to be treated according to royal protocol, which he used to justify demands for gifts from potential investors. Dozens of people deposited money into his bank accounts, thinking Gignac, whose apartment bore a sign on its door reading "Sultan", would invest it. Instead, he spent it on everything from designer clothes to yachts to private jet rides. Gignac moved to Miami in



Anthony Gignac in photos in Michigan in 1991 and in Miami-Dade in 1995



Fisher Island (bottom) in Miami was the home of convicted swindler Anthony Gignac who duped investors by posing as Saudi Prince Khalid Bin Al-Saud

2017 but Prince Khalid emerged long before then. Born in Colombia, Gignac was adopted by a family in Michigan at age seven, with his alter-ego first emerging ten years later when he was 17 years old. Since then, Gignac has been arrested and convicted several times for fraud, but that wasn't enough to stop Prince Khalid. Amazingly, his years as a

fraudster started to collapse like a house of cards around him when a real estate developer saw Gignac happily eating ham, bacon and other pork products that would normally be off-limits for a devout Muslim prince, according to the Miami Herald. In November 2017, he was arrested and charged with 18 counts, including electronic fraud and aggravated identity theft. "Over the course of the last three decades, Anthony Gignac has portrayed himself as a Saudi Prince in order to manipulate, victimize, and scam countless investors from around the world," US Attorney Ariana Fajardo Orshan said in a statement. "As the leader of a sophisticated, multi-person, international fraud scheme, Gignac used his fake persona... to sell false hope," she said. "Dozens of unsuspecting investors were stripped of their investments, losing more than \$8 million." Judge Cecilia Altonaga handed down the hefty sentence, saying Gignac's life of luxury crime had been "really extraordinary."

Illinois nears pot legalization

Chicago, United States

The US state of Illinois on Friday moved closer to legalizing marijuana for recreational use -- the first case in which US state lawmakers led the change. In a bipartisan vote of 66-47, the lower House in the state capital Springfield approved the measure which, once signed by the governor, would make Illinois the first US state to start a recreational pot industry via the legislature rather than through initiatives approved by voters. "This will have a transformational impact on our state, creating opportunity in the communities that need it most and giving so many a second chance," Governor J.B. Pritzker said in his statement. Pritzker, a Democrat, cam-



At the moment, ten US states plus Washington DC allow recreational marijuana use: Alaska, California, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, Washington state, Michigan, Vermont, Massachusetts and Maine.

aigned on marijuana legalization and was due to sign the legislation that would take effect January 1. Illinois residents age 21 and older would be allowed to legally possess 30 grams of cannabis, 5 grams of cannabis concentrate or 500 milligrams of THC contained in a cannabis-infused product. Non-residents are allowed to carry 15 grams of cannabis under the bill. It would also create a licensed growing and dispensary system, and would direct Pritzker to pardon people with past low-level marijuana convictions. There are concerns legalization could increase the number of minors using pot, and the number of people driving while under the influence.

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Blast at Russian explosives plant injures 38

● The blast took place at the “Kristall” factory in Dzerzhinsk

● Thirty eight people are injured, four of them are in a serious condition

● Nobody was killed in the blast

Moscow, Russia

At least 38 people were injured in a blast at a major explosives plant in central Russia on Saturday, local news agencies reported, citing emergency services.

The blast took place at the “Kristall” factory in Dzerzhinsk about 400 kilometres (250 miles) east of Moscow, in the Nizhny Novgorod region.



Local news agencies said the blast at an explosives plant in the town of Dzerzhinsk, Russia injured at least two people. PHOTO: TWITTER/ANDYVERMAUT

Earlier reports said 19 people were injured in the accident and two were missing.

“Thirty eight people are injured, four of them are in a serious condition,” a spokesman for local emergency services told the TASS news agency.

He said 25 are in a state of “medium” severity while nine others had “light” injuries.

Nobody was killed in the blast, the source told TASS.

Earlier health ministry officials told news agencies that the wounded had “shrapnel wounds of mild and moderate severity” and that they were receiving medical assistance.

The deputy governor of the Nizhny Novgorod region, Dmitry Krasnov, told Russian state television that “two people are missing.”

Russia’s Investigative Committee said it had opened an investigation into potential violations of industrial safety at

the plant.

Local emergency services told news agencies that more than 300 people and 50 technical vehicles were taking part in cleaning the plant following the explosion.

Representatives of Kristall told Interfax that five people were working in the area where the explosion occurred and were safely evacuated.

There was no information yet on where the injured were at the time of the blast.

Local fire fighters told agencies they had no information about any more people still inside the plant.

“There was a technical explosion in one of the workshops, followed by a fire of around 100 square meters,” a spokesman of the local emergency ministry told news agencies.

Images on social media showed a large cloud of smoke after the explosion.

Rescuers search for eight climbers on Indian peak



Representative picture

New Delhi, India

Scores of emergency workers were battling bad weather Saturday to locate eight climbers missing on India’s second highest mountain, an official said.

Four Britons, two Americans, an Australian and an Indian were set to climb the 7,826-metre (25,643-foot) Nanda Devi East peak -- near the border with China -- and return to the base camp last weekend.

But the group, led by British climber Martin Moran, who has successfully climbed the world’s 23rd highest peak several times in the past, failed to report back to the Munsiyari base camp after starting the ascent on May 13.

“We have activated resources to trace the climbers after they failed to return to the base camp, but bad weather is hindering the operation,” Vijay Kumar Jogdande, a magistrate in Pithoragarh district -- where the peak is located -- told AFP.

A porter stationed at the base camp in the northern Himalayan state of Uttarakhand said the climbers failed to return on May 26, prompting the search.

Jogdande said heavy rains and snowfall in the region had lasted a week and hampered aerial surveillance.

Teams are trekking to the base camp to trace the missing climbers and there was little information about their plans, he added.

Fire in Bosnian migrant shelter injures 32

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

A fire in a shelter for migrants in northwest Bosnia on Saturday left 32 people hurt either from burns or injuries after they jumped from windows to escape the flames, authorities said.

The blaze broke out after dawn in the privately-run facility in the town of Velika Kladusa, said Ale Siljdedic, spokesman for the Bihac regional interior ministry.

“The fire has been put out, 32 migrants have been injured,” some of them after

jumping from the second floor, Siljdedic told AFP, adding the blaze was “doubtless” due to an electrical fault.

One person was taken to hospital, regional International Migration Organization coordinator Vladimir Mitkovski told FTV television.

Around 500 migrants were in the shelter at the time, Siljdedic said. It was the second blaze in recent weeks to hit a place where migrants were staying in Bosnia. Three weeks ago, three migrants died when a candle they were using set fire to the abandoned building they were in.

Taliban indicates no ceasefire anytime soon



Forces with Afghanistan’s National Directorate of Security (NDS) escort an alleged militant as Taliban and Islamic State (IS) fighters are presented to the media in Jalalabad

Kabul, Afghanistan

The Taliban are unlikely to call a ceasefire any time soon, the group’s leader indicated Saturday, though he said the “doors of dialogue” with the US remain open.

The rare message from Haibatullah Akhundzada comes after a sixth round of US-led talks ended last month in Qatar with little sign of progress and amid continued bloodshed across Afghanistan.

“The doors of dialogue and negotiations have been kept open and at this very moment, the (Taliban) negotiation team... is engaged in negotiations with the American side,” Akhundzada said in a message ahead of the upcoming festival of Eid, which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani had proposed a nationwide ceasefire at the start of

Ramadan early last month, but the Taliban rejected the offer.

Last year, the Taliban observed a three-day ceasefire over Eid and many Afghans -- exhausted by decades of war and violence -- had pinned their hopes on another truce this year.

But Akhundzada said: “No one should expect us to pour cold water on the heated battlefronts of jihad or forget our 40-year sacrifices before reaching our objectives.”

In a sign of Afghans’ frustration with their country’s seemingly unending conflict, a group of protestors have restarted a peace march that last year saw them walking across Afghanistan and into the capital Kabul.

Bismillah Watandost, a spokesman for the People’s Peace Movement, told AFP on Saturday that about 30 people had started the walk late Thursday, heading from Lashkar Gah

to Musa Qala in Helmand province, a Taliban stronghold.

“We will be marching 150 kilometres (93 miles). Some of our friends have blisters on their feet from wearing old shoes,” Watandost said.

“This is our first peace march during the holy month of Ramadan, all of us are fasting.”

He said the group aims to express to the Taliban the pain and suffering of Afghans.

“Even if we are intimidated with death threats, we won’t care about it,” Watandost said.

On Friday, former president Hamid Karzai mistakenly declared the Taliban had announced a new ceasefire after hearing an old message the insurgents had put out last year.

Karzai’s announcement unleashed a brief spell of confusion across the country, with media outlets firing off tweets and breaking news reports announcing the alleged truce.

Police search for motive in US shooting that killed 12

Virginia Beach, United States

Police in Virginia searched Saturday for a motive as to why a public utilities engineer shot indiscriminately at his workplace colleagues, turning a municipal building into a war zone as he killed at least 12 people and wounded four.

Authorities named the gunman in Friday’s attack as DeWayne Craddock, described in news reports as being 40 years of age, and said that in order to focus attention on the victims of the latest spasm of America’s gun violence epidemic, they would not pronounce his name again.

Craddock, killed in a fierce gun battle with police, was a current employee of the public works department of Virginia Beach and had worked there about 15 years, police chief James Cervera told a news conference.

Cervera declined to say if Craddock had been disciplined recently or otherwise had red flags in his personnel record. The Wall Street Journal reported that he had recently been fired.

“We are doing an in-depth investigation pre-incident as well as (of) the incident,” Cervera said.

City Manager Dave Hansen began the news conference by showing slides with photos of the 12 fatalities -- seven men and five women -- as he read their names out, one by one. All but one victim worked for the city, which is about a four-hour drive southeast of Washington on the Atlantic.

Police responding to emergency calls from the municipal center, a campus of 30 red brick colonial-style buildings, engaged the shooter in a matter of minutes, Cervera said.

US warns China on behaviour towards its neighbours



An aerial image, from a Philippine airforce plane, of Subi Reef in the South China Sea and claimed by China.

Singapore, Singapore

The United States warned China yesterday against threatening its neighbours' sovereignty and said Washington is investing in new military technology to defend its Asian allies.

Washington and Beijing have been vying for influence in the region, which hosts potential flashpoints such as the South China Sea, the Korean Peninsula and the Taiwan Strait.

Ties between the two powers are once again taking centre stage at the weekend Singapore conference known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, which gathers defence ministers and top military officials from around the world.

While the forum is purely on security, the discussions are being held against a backdrop of Sino-US trade tensions and high-tech rivalry.

"China can and should have a cooperative relationship with the rest of the region ... But behaviour that erodes other nations' sovereignty and sows distrust of China's intentions must end," acting US Secretary

of Defense Patrick Shanahan told the forum.

"Until it does, we stand against a myopic, narrow, and parochial vision of the future, and we stand for the free and open order that has benefitted us all, including China."

No 'fait accompli'

Washington has been pushing back against Beijing's aggressive militarisation of the South China Sea, where China has staked "indisputable" ownership over almost the whole area and rejects partial claims by Taiwan, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Beijing is also regularly angered by US and other warships transiting through the Taiwan Strait, which it considers part of its territorial waters.

A French warship entered the Strait in April, prompting a warning from China's navy.

On Saturday, French minister of the armed forces Florence Parly said her country's forces will not be forced from the region.

"We will continue to sail more than twice a year in the

South China Sea. There will be objections, there will be dubious maneuvers at sea. But we will not be intimidated into accepting any fait accompli," she told the forum.

For the first time since 2011, China has sent its defence minister, General Wei Fenghe, to the Singapore gathering. Wei is scheduled to speak Sunday, when he is expected to respond to Shanahan's remarks.

The Sino-US rivalry has placed many Asian countries in a bind as they have deep military ties with Washington but enjoy strong trade relations with Beijing.

"The uncertain relationship between the US and China will remain as an explicit factor in shaping the stability of the Asia-Pacific region particularly that of Southeast Asian countries," Malaysian Defence Minister Mohamad Sabu told the conference Saturday.

"If anything happens in the South China Sea, the world also will suffer. We have to increase our defence diplomacy. We love America, we also love China."

Briton gets 25-year term over Frenchwoman's murder in Ireland

Paris, France

A British man on trial in Paris in absentia over the 1996 killing of a French woman in Ireland was handed a 25-year prison sentence on Friday by judges, who issued a new arrest warrant in a bid to put him in jail.

Ian Bailey, a 62-year-old former freelance journalist, has always denied killing Sophie Toscan du Plantier, the wife of a prominent French film producer, at her holiday home in County Cork in southwest Ireland.

But Bailey refused to appear at the French trial that opened Monday, and Dublin has rejected two previous requests to extradite him, citing insufficient evidence.

In its ruling, the court said there was "sufficient evidence" to justify the conviction despite Bailey's "constant denials".



Ian Bailey

Toscan du Plantier's 38-year-old son, Pierre-Louis Baudrey-Vignaud, fell back into his seat upon hearing the verdict, while her 92-year-old father, Georges Bouniol, wiped his eyes with a white handkerchief.

"After 22 years of waiting, 22 years of suffering, 22 years of questions, the judges have convicted Ian Bailey who killed my mother," Baudrey-Vignaud told reporters afterwards.

"It's a victory for the family, for the truth," he added. He was 15 years old when his mother was murdered.

Injuries to her hands showed

that Toscan du Plantier had fought to defend herself, and a large rock and a bloodstained concrete block were found near her body.

Bailey, who lived near her house, was found with scratches afterwards which he attributed to a Christmas tree and cutting up a turkey for dinner.

A lawyer for Bailey in Ireland described the verdict as a "miscarriage of justice", criticising the French for having shown "total disrespect to the Irish justice system".

"He is innocent of the crime... Our public prosecutor has long since decided that this is the case," Frank Buttmer told AFP.

He added that he hoped the Irish courts would be "consistent with their previous decisions" not to extradite Bailey, who now sells pizzas in the village of Schull where the murder took place.

India bakes as mercury nears 50 Celsius

● **Water and health warnings have been issued with temperatures hovering around 47 Celsius across many western, northern and southern states, with no letup in sight for at least two more days.**

New Delhi, India

Temperatures pushed towards 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit) across much of India yesterday as an unrelenting heatwave triggered warnings of water shortages and left locals fearing for their livelihoods.

The western, desert state of Rajasthan recorded 49.6 Celsius on Friday -- India's hottest day of the year so far, the weather department said.

Water and health warnings have been issued with temperatures hovering around 47 Celsius across many western, northern and southern states, with no letup in sight for at least two more days.

In the capital, New Delhi, the Indian Meteorological Department issued a red alert extreme weather warning as temperatures hit 47 Celsius. It said residents should not go out during the hottest hours of the day.

Several cities have reported fears of water shortages as lakes and rivers start to dry up.

In the western state of Maharashtra, farmers struggled to find water for thirsty animals and crops.

"We have to source water tankers from nearby villages as water reserves, lakes and

rivers have dried up," said Rajesh Chandrakant, a resident of Beed, one of the worst-hit districts.

"Farmers only get water every three days for their livestock."

Raghunath Tonde, a farmer with a family of seven, said the area has suffered worsening shortages for five years.

"There is no drinking water available for days on end and we get one tanker every three days for the entire village," Tonde said.

"We are scared for our lives and livelihood," he added.

The Hindustan Times newspaper said many Beed residents had stopped washing and cleaning clothes due to the water shortage.

More than 40 percent of India faces drought this year, experts from Gandhinagar city's Indian Institute of Technology, warned last month.

The annual Monsoon -- which normally brings much needed rain to South Asia -- is running a week behind schedule and is only expected to hit India's southern tip on June 6, the weather department said.

And private forecaster Skymet has said there will be less rain than average this year.

The Indian peninsula has seen a drastic change in rainfall patterns over the past decade, marked by frequent droughts, floods and sudden storms.



Indian residents queue with plastic recipients to get drinking water from a distribution tanker in the outskirts of Chennai



In the cultural sphere, cooperation is growing and it could not be otherwise, as Italy and Bahrain are fully aware that people-to-people contacts are drivers of mutual understanding

Italy cele

On the 2nd of June, Italy celebrates its National Day, remembering the birth of the Italian Republic in 1946, when the Italian people decided through a referendum that Italy should become a Republic based on democracy, reconciliation and rule of law. The National Day is an occasion to thank those who made it possible for Italy to start a new era of peace and development after the dark years of World War II.

The celebration of the Italian National Day in Manama gives me the pleasure to recall that the Kingdom of Bahrain is an important friend and partner of Italy. Indeed, over the last 12 months, our close relations have continued to flourish. The Bahraini Embassy in Rome will soon become operational, while high-level visits of Italian officials to Manama have reinvigorated our political dialogue. Italy and Bahrain also enjoy strong economic ties: in 2018, bilateral trade grew by 52%, reaching the record figure of 550 million Euros, with a great leap forward of the Bahraini exports to Italy, which increased by 156%. Major Italian companies are taking part to the most important industrial projects in Bahrain, such as the modernization of the BAPCO refinery, and a new partnership has just been sealed for pursuing oil exploration and possible production. These positive developments encourage both sides to press the accelerator on economic cooperation. The untapped potential is still huge, considering the complementarity of the two economies and the fact that Italy remains the second largest manufacturing country in Europe and the 7th in the world, as well as the third largest economy in the Eurozone.

In the cultural sphere, cooperation is growing and it could not be otherwise, as Italy and Bahrain are fully aware that people-to-people contacts are drivers of mutual understanding. It is worth recalling, in particular, the beautiful cultural and artistic exhibitions recently organized in Florence and in Turin by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, as well as the warm welcome Italian musicians, artists and researchers have received in Manama over the last years.

Another milestone in this domain was the launch of the first ever course of Italian language at a Bahraini University, hosted by the Royal University for Women. Moreover, 2018 also witnessed the meaningful

Before the Arabian Gulf countries issued their own national currencies the main currency was the Indian rupees

The rich history of



MOHAMED A. HAKEEM AL ARADI

The Indian rupee has a long history dated back to near the sixth century BCE during which one of the very first coinage struck in history; it was the Silver Rupee with the symbols of a wheel and an elephant. Moreover, the Rupee came from the Sanskrit word Rupya which meant wrought silver or a coin of silver.

The usage of the silver coinage differed from one era to another in terms of the weight, shape, or even symbols. The Indian Civilization did not stop there as the Bank of Hindustan issued India's first ever paper money in 1770, followed by Bank of Bengal in 1784.

India is the 5th largest trade partner with the Kingdom of Bahrain. However, the relationship between India and Bahrain goes back to the Delmon age during which history indicates trade between those two Civilizations. This business trade increased throughout history until the modern era.

During the early 1920s the circulation of Paper money with the portrait of King George the 5th was widely used in Bahrain besides

the well-known silver coin strike with King George's portrait. The Indian Rupee has several main circles of issuance like Madras, Calcutta, Karachi, Lahore and Bombay print. Furthermore, the business trade of India and Kingdom of Bahrain differed from tea to Indian spices, gold, furniture to exporting the Bahraini pearls.

One historical mark that the Indian Rupee also documented was the separation of Pakistan on the 15th of August 1947 from Hindustan (India). Back then the Pakistani government did not have their own currencies which led them to use the British India currency (with King George 6th portrait) and struck an overprint with the phrase 'Government of Pakistan' – these currencies are considered scarce and they reflect a historical event in the Indian Rupee rich era.

The usage of the British India rupee remained until the era of King George the 6th after which the Issue of the Republic of India was used in the 50s to 60s and early 1970s.

In the Modern Age the Arabian Gulf region used different silver currencies including the Austrian coin (Queen Theresa) and the Indian Rupees from British India then the Government of India.

In addition, before the Arabian Gulf countries issued their own national currencies the main currency was the Indian rupees and as a matter of fact we call the 100 fils Rupia or Rupee. Due to the heavy usage of the Indian rupee this word became part of our Bahraini Slang



Indo-Pakistan Rupee



An old One Rupee note

Language which we use daily for exchange whether we are in a store or any other shop.

There are some issues made by the Arabian Gulf (called the unified prefix of Z) this was issued by the Government of India. It was made especially for the Arabian Gulf, the issue was made of one hundred rupees (orange color) and one hundred rupees (blue color) and one hundred rupees. These were the denominations used for the Gulf Region usage during the 1960s and early 1970s.

1997

In Denver, Timothy McVeigh is convicted on 15 counts of murder and conspiracy for his role in the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P.

2003

Europe launches its first voyage to another planet, Mars. The European Space Agency's Mars Express probe launches from the Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan.

2012

Former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is sentenced to life imprisonment for his role in the killing of demonstrators during the 2011 Egyptian revolution.



2014

Telangana officially becomes the 29th state of India, formed from ten districts of north-western Andhra Pradesh.

brates Republic Day



Domenico Bellato

inauguration of the King Hamad Chair for Inter-Faith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence at the La Sapienza University in Rome. Bahrain is actively involved in the celebration of the Italian city of Matera as 2019 European Capital of Culture, through a rich program of initiative entitled "From Manama to Matera". The Italian community in Bahrain, which found here a second home, continued to grow in 2018 and to contribute with its dedication and talents to the prosperity of the country they live in.

Looking at the international level, Italy reaffirms today the values that inspired its constitution, which is 71 years old. First of all, the refusal of war to solve international disputes and the promotion of dialogue as an instrument to build respect and coexistence. Italy is doing its part to support dialogue, with its commitment to UN-led peace efforts; the international missions of peace Italy takes part to; cultural and scientific cooperation; the pioneering actions of our enterprises abroad; and the development cooperation programs. All these activities turn our country into a staunch advocate of dialogue, including in the Middle East and North Africa region, an area full of great challenges but also of major opportunities, with a unique

Italy will also continue to do its part to fight against terrorism and transnational crime through international cooperation and a holistic approach, where security responses are coupled with educational and socio-economic initiatives and the respect of human rights

political, geostrategic and economic relevance for Italy.

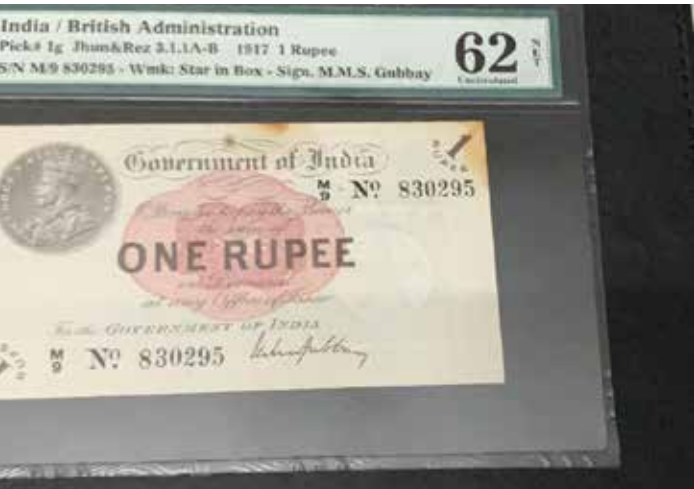
Italy will also continue to do its part to fight against terrorism and transnational crime through international cooperation and a holistic approach, where security responses are coupled with educational and socio-economic initiatives and the respect of human rights. Countering climate change and promoting effective multilateralism will also stay high on our international agenda in the months to come.

Another pillar of Italy's agenda is the strengthening of the effectiveness of the European Union as a driver of peace, stability and progress, for European citizens and for the people of its neighboring regions. Notwithstanding the challenges it faces, the EU remains the strongest possible expression of the conviction of the people of Europe that regional integration is the only way forward, and is therefore there to stay and grow. Against this backdrop, Italy and Bahrain enjoy commonality of views on main international dossiers, rooted on the importance both countries attach to the principles of cooperation and dialogue.

To sum up, all conditions are met to further enhance the bilateral relations between Italy and Bahrain, under the leadership of the President of the Italian Republic and of His Majesty, King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. Our countries are not only bound by warm and friendly ties in all areas, but also by common interests and goals, with peace and stability for the whole region being our foremost aspiration.

(Domenico Bellato, Ambassador of Italy to the Kingdom of Bahrain)

of Indian Rupee



The relationship between India and Bahrain goes back to the Delmon age during which history indicates trade between those two civilizations. This business trade increased throughout history until the modern era

They were two denominations of 10 rupees (blue color) and a hundred rupees (red color) with the prefix of HA used by the Indian pilgrims in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the Haj season. This reflects the heavy usage of the Indian rupee not just in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Later on the Government of Pakistan also made its own Haj notes that were also used in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Every banknote reflects a story or a historical era and the Indian rupee reflected many stories and many different eras since the 6th century until today. It had a huge impact in the economy of the region and took a part of the Bahraini Culture, history, and even language until this day.



Haj banknote with with the prefix of HA

Furthermore, there were specialized Indian Bank notes for the pilgrimage (HAJ notes).



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



The Congress Party may have just 52 Lok Sabha members, but we will work together like a pride of brave hearted lions to protect our Constitution & Institutions & to fearlessly do our duty as the leading Opposition party. The BJP will have no walkover in Parliament.

@RahulGandhi

02



I'm honored to be the first U.S. Secretary of State to visit Bern in over 20 years. The U.S. and Switzerland share a like-minded approach to economic freedom and trade, and benefit from cooperation on anti-money laundering efforts, counterterrorism, and cybersecurity.

@SecPompeo

03



I have indication that the Chinese are also going to get tough unless we handle this cleverly and now. The US action was known as far back as December 2018 but MEA and NSA especially latter which had hegemony on US and China matters, had been relaxed perhaps because of Model Code

@Swamy39

04



Heartbroken for the victims and their families of the Virginia Beach shooting and grateful for the first responders on the scene. This senseless act of violence should not be normal. Too many communities have been shattered by gun violence — we cannot continue to stand idly by.

@KamalaHarris

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

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Facing down terrorist bullies



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

The Muslim world is coming to the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan which is always characterized by peace and introspection. Alas, alongside the prayers we are also facing an escalation of threats from rogue elements who have been working to destabilize the unity of our region. This has resulted in the unprecedented call for not one but three almost-simultaneous summits: the OIC, the Arab League Summit and the GCC Summit in the Holy City of Mecca, attended by all the decision-makers of the Islamic world.

The world has changed in the past decade so that wars are no longer full-blown military operations but hit-and-run high-tech sorties which require just a shadowy handful of disaffected militants. The drone attack which damaged a part of Saudi Arabia's oil wells is one such example. No country, however advanced its technology, can be in all the places at the same time. This is why co-operation, co-ordination and leadership is so vital in countering the terrorist wave.

His Majesty King Hamad rightly called for a firm stance against the actions which negatively affect our regional security. His

The world has changed in the past decade so that wars are no longer full-blown military operations but hit-and-run high-tech sorties which require just a shadowy handful of disaffected militants

Majesty pointed out that terrorism has become a major threat not only to security and stability in the region but also globally in view of their persistent violations of international treaties.

Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt have borne the brunt of the terrorist actions and the signal has been sent now that this blatant disruption of the peace and prosperity of the region shall not be tolerated.

The three summits running almost parallel have sent out the message that our leaders are preparing new strategies to handle the new ways in which war crimes are perpetrated these days.

The leaders of the Islamic, Arab and GCC countries share similar political and spiritual values that lays the foundation for firm action against detractors. We can see that they are harnessing the psychological power of this shared heritage to forge a new front against the terrorists. His Majesty King Hamad led a determined delegation to the summits to lend Bahrain's voice to this welcome move to protect our collective future. As always the Kingdom punches above its weight in the regional and global theatre and we thank the vision and wisdom of His Majesty for this.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

business

US move ‘unfortunate’

India says will continue to build strong ties with the US

Reuters | New Delhi

The Indian government said yesterday it will continue to seek to build strong economic ties with the United States despite a decision by US President Donald Trump to end preferential trade treatment for India from June 5.

In a relatively tame response to the announcement from Washington on Friday, the Indian government said it was “unfortunate” that its attempts to resolve significant US requests had not been accepted.

Indian officials had previously raised the prospect of higher import duties on more than 20 US goods if Trump dropped India from the programme but there was no mention of that in the response.

“India, like the US and other nations shall always uphold its national interest in these matters,” the Indian government said in a statement issued through India’s trade ministry.

The privileges come under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which had been allowing preferential duty-free imports of up to \$5.6 billion a year into the US from the South Asian nation. India is the biggest beneficiary of the GSP programme.

The Indian government said



Piyush Goyal, India’s new commerce and industry minister

that India viewed the issue as part of its ongoing economic relationship with the US and “will continue to build on our strong ties with the US, both economic and people-to-people.”

It added: “We are confident that the two nations will continue to work together intensively for further growing these ties in a mutually beneficial manner.”

An earlier version of the state-

ment had used the words “it is hoped” rather than “we are confident” but was subsequently withdrawn and replaced.

New Minister

The United States had put on hold a decision to withdraw the GSP benefits to India until May 23, the day the results of the country’s 39-day general election that began April 11 were

announced. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi only took the oath office on Thursday and on Friday named Piyush Goyal his new commerce and industry minister - the official who will handle trade matters.

New Delhi was making efforts to avoid withdrawal of the GSP benefits over the past few months, a senior government official said, adding that the U.S. move was sudden and without communication.

Washington has been particularly irritated by India’s tightening of regulations that have undermined major US companies but favoured domestic entities in the past year. In particular, tighter e-commerce rules that came in earlier this year hurt Amazon.com and Walmart, which last year bought Indian online retailer Flipkart for \$16 billion.

Trump, who had first announced his intention to take away the privileges in early March, said in a statement on Friday that New Delhi “has not assured the United States that India will provide equitable and reasonable access to its markets”. Twenty-four members of the US Congress sent the administration a letter on May 3 urging it not to terminate India’s access to the GSP.

Ebdaa Bank disburses 198 “Ramadan loans”



CEO of Ebdaa Bank- Bahrain Dr Khaled Al Ghazzawi

TDT | Manama

Ebdaa Bank for microfinance- Bahrain said it disbursed 198 loans with a total amount of BD 136 thousand during Ramadan.

Since the beginning of May, the bank disbursed 318 loans worth 309 thousand dinars as part of Ramadan offers, which will continue until 6 June 2019.

CEO of Ebdaa Bank- Bahrain Dr Khaled Al Ghazzawi stressed that Ramadan loan is designed to help low-income citizens of micro-entrepreneurs to develop their projects and invest in the active commercial movement in Rama-

dan every year.

Dr Al-Ghazzawi said: “198 ‘Ramadan loan’ was disbursed in less than a month.” This loan is the same as the rest of the Ebdaa bank loans, which do not require guarantees and offered within a few hours, with a flexible repayment period of up to 20 months.

He pointed out that the seasonal loan granted to licensed or unlicensed home projects and commercial projects during periods of events such as holidays, the holy month of Ramadan and back to school. The loan varies from 100 to 1,000 Bahraini Dinars and is repayable within a period of up to 20 months.

ExxonMobil staff to return to work in Iraq: ministry

Baghdad, Iraq

Foreign employees of US energy major ExxonMobil will return to work near Iraq’s border with Iran today, the oil ministry said, two weeks after being evacuated over tensions between Washington and Tehran.

“ExxonMobil accepted that the 83 employees evacuated will resume their posts from Sunday,” spokesman Assem Jihad said.

He said Iraqi authorities, which had slammed the decision to pull out the workers from the West Qurna oil field as



Representative picture (Courtesy of Middle East Eye)

political, have taken “the necessary security measures for their return”.

ExxonMobil pulled out its

expatriate employees from the southern oil field after the US ordered non-essential personnel to quit its diplomatic missions

in the country on May 15.

Washington cited an “imminent” threat from Tehran-linked armed groups in Iraq as tensions fuelled by US President Donald Trump’s decision to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal spiked.

It came 10 days after the Pentagon deployed an aircraft carrier task force and B-52 bombers to the Gulf to fend off an unspecified alleged plot by Tehran to attack US forces or allies.

Oil ministry spokesman Jihad insisted that the absence of the foreign workers had not affected production as the bulk of the workforce is Iraqi.

US pulls tax exemption from Pakistani diplomats

Washington, United States

The United States said Friday that it had suspended tax exemption privileges enjoyed by Pakistani diplomats due to parallel disputes with Islamabad in the latest dust-up between the countries.

Under the 1961 Vienna Convention, diplomats around the world do not pay taxes in countries where they are posted, with embassy staffers in Washington routinely flashing State Department-issued exemption cards when dining out or shopping.

The State Department said it withdrew tax exemptions for Pakistani diplomats and their dependents as of May 15, citing pending tax issues faced by US diplomats in Pakistan.

“The issue is the subject of ongoing bilateral discussions, and we hope to be able to resolve the issue and restore the tax privileges,” a State Department spokesman said.

The Pakistani embassy said that 22 officials enjoyed the tax exemption. In a statement, it also said that discussions were underway “on the basis of the principle of reciprocity.”

BBK backs 100th years celebration of Bahrain’s Banking sector

TDT | Manama

BBK announced its backing to the 100th anniversary of Bahrain’s Banking sector as a platinum sponsor.

The event will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa on 11 December 2019, Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB) announced.

The Bahraini Banks’ reception will be organised in Washington, DC to coincide with the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) scheduled from 18-20 October 2019.



BBK’s CEO gives the donation to BAB’s CEO

“BBK’s support to both celebrations, in Bahrain and at the IMF, is part of the bank’s responsible role towards the Kingdom of Bahrain and its positioning as the leading banking hub of the region,” BBK’s CE Reyadh Sater said.

For his part, CEO of BAB Dr Waheed Al Qassim extended his thanks and appreciation to BBK support.

Banking, which occupies the second position in the sectors that contribute to the GDP, after oil, contributed more than 16pc of the Kingdom’s GDP, achieving annual growth of about 10pc.

You may eat your plate

Zambrow, Poland

Polish inventor and entrepreneur Jerzy Wysocki catches a brown plate -- still warm -- as it drops out of a machine and he begins to eat the crunchy, fibrous tableware.

"A beef chop will always be more delicious on this wheat bran plate than on plastic," says Wysocki with a big grin at the Biotrem factory in Zambrow in northeast Poland.

Taking a bite, the plate does not have much of a flavour. It calls to mind dry cereal flakes or maybe what you would imagine cardboard to taste like.

But Wysocki says what matters is the tableware is biodegradable.

The sexagenarian invented the plate some 15 years ago, and today Biotrem makes around 15 million of them a year.

That figure could soon skyrocket thanks to a decision by the European Union to ban plastic plates and cutlery starting in 2021.

A son and grandson of millers, Wysocki got the idea for the tableware when he was looking to use up the leftovers of flour production, which take up a lot of space.

But he says he is also driven by the desire to help a good cause, "because the amount of rubbish that pollutes oceans is huge and frightening."

"To make the plates, we only use wheat bran, which we compress at a precise pressure point and temperature, using a machine made specifically for that purpose," he explains.

Eco-conscious clients

Biotrem CEO Malgorzata Then acknowledges, of course, that at 15 euro cents (17 US cents) a pop or 20 percent more for exports, wheat bran plates are more expensive than their plastic counterparts.

But "the current price of plas-



Biotrem makes about 15 million of the wheat bran plates annually

tic doesn't factor in the environmental cost, that of recycling and marine pollution," she adds.

At first, the company targeted clients who were environmentally inclined as well as restaurants and hotels that wanted to offer something original.

"Now, with the measures taken by the EU, even clients who are uninformed about the environment are forced to take an interest in biodegradable products," Then said.

Biotrem distributes the plates in Europe, Asia, North America and Australia. The client Down Under had asked that they check whether earthworms would like the taste -- they do.

"These aren't huge amounts, but they're enough for us to be

optimistic about the future," Wysocki says.

The rosy outlook is backed by the prospect of greater output leading to a drop in the price. Also, it should be possible to harness the same technology to make plates out of corn, barley, oats, cassava and even algae.

"With cassava, the first tests turned out really well and we already have a small group of interested clients," Wysocki adds.

Biotrem is hoping to expand its offer to edible boxes for takeaway meals and catering. The research is already at a fairly advanced stage: the only thing left to do is to make the boxes more resistant to liquid and heat.

Biodegradable cutlery

You do not have to eat the plate or its packaging to be a friend of the environment. In favourable weather conditions, with a little humidity, wheat bran products decompose after a month, or even after two weeks if there is rain.

The Biotrem crew are not the only ones in Poland stepping up to the front line of the war on plastic.

Researchers in the chemistry department of the Gdansk University of Technology have developed a way to make biodegradable cutlery out of potato starch.

The forks, spoons and knives are even safe for sea creatures to eat.

"We are the only ones so far to have tested the biodegradability of our products on living aquatic organisms and it looks like this cutlery is safe for the environment," professor Helena Janik told AFP.

According to Robert Bajko, who sells the university's innovations to entrepreneurs, the cutlery does not require any complex technology or a huge investment.

Anyone in the plastic industry can get started "overnight," he enthuses.

Taking a bite, the plate does not have much of a flavour. It calls to mind dry cereal flakes or maybe what you would imagine cardboard to taste like. But Wysocki says what matters is the tableware is biodegradable



Researcher Maciej Sienkiewicz works at the chemistry department of the Gdansk University of Technology that produces biodegradable cutlery out of potato starch



Horses standing on a meadow near Warsaw eat wheat bran plates



Biotrem's clients like this vegan restaurant in Warsaw are environmentally inclined



Biotrem is hoping to expand its offer to edible boxes for takeaway meals and catering.

Polish inventor and entrepreneur Jerzy Wysocki holds a wheat bran plate he invented 15 years ago at the Biotrem factory

China raises tariffs on US goods

● **Beijing's move hits \$60 billion worth of US goods with tariffs ranging from five to 25 per cent**

● **The countries have exchanged tariffs on \$360 billion in two-way trade so far**

Beijing

China yesterday increased tariffs on billions worth of US goods as it prepares to unveil a blacklist of “unreliable” foreign companies that analysts say aims to punish US and foreign firms cutting off supplies to telecoms giant Huawei.

Beijing's move hits \$60 billion worth of US goods with new punitive tariffs ranging from five to 25 percent, and comes in retaliation for Washington raising punitive tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods to 25 percent.

Washington and Beijing resumed their trade battle last month when trade talks in the US ended without a deal, with American negotiators accusing Chinese negotiators of reneging on previous commitments.

The countries have exchanged tariffs on \$360 billion in two-way trade so far.

The tit-for-tat tariff war has been upstaged in recent weeks by Washington's move to blacklist Chinese tech giant Huawei over national security concerns, threatening the firm's global ambitions.



A worker in a factory which makes aerosol cans for export to Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Egypt, India and other countries, in Dongyang, in China's eastern Zhejiang province.

The US Commerce Department placed Huawei on an “entity list” on grounds of national security on May 16, a move that curbs its access to US-made components it needs for its equipment. A 90-day reprieve was later issued.

Hitting back, China's commerce ministry said Friday it would release its own list of “unreliable entities” that break their commercial contracts and stop supplying Chinese firms.

“For China's countermeasures, what we say, we do,” said anchor Kang Hui on Chinese state-broadcaster CCTV's prime-time news show that aired across multiple Chinese stations Friday.

“Talk and our door is open. Fight, and we'll fight to the end,” said Kang.

China's commerce ministry said it would roll out the detailed measures against companies on the list shortly, noting foreign firms that break contracts, cut off supplies or take other discriminatory measures against Chinese firms would be included.

“Obviously it's mostly aimed at Huawei suppliers, Intel, Qualcomm, ARM ... if anything it's probably aimed at non-US companies, so European, South Korean and Japanese companies that may be trying to decide how strictly to apply the US ruling,”

said Andrew Polk, an economist at Trivium China.

China wants to make it a much more difficult choice to cut off supplies to Huawei, he added.

“It's potentially putting companies in a situation where they are forced to choose between the US and China and that could definitely backfire on them,” said Polk.

China's state-owned tabloid the Global Times said the new list would “work as deterrent forming a protective barrier around Chinese companies”.

“China is ready to wage a protracted economic and trade war with the United States,” the nationalist paper said in an ed-

itorial.

Former Chinese officials warned Friday that the trade war could last decades.

“It is quite clear now that this is no longer a trade dispute and will extend much more broadly to punitive economic measures that each side can inflict upon each other,” said Christopher Balding, a China expert at the Fulbright University Vietnam, adding it was reasonable to expect further escalation by each side.

“It is quite possible there will be significant collateral damage here,” Balding said.

Speaking at a defence and security conference in Singapore on Saturday, the acting US defense secretary said Huawei was “too close” to Beijing, creating “too much risk”.

“The integration of civilian

businesses with the military is too close. China has national policies and laws where data is required to be shared,” Patrick Shanahan told the forum.

- Tariff hike -

US President Donald Trump more than doubled punitive tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods to 25 percent last month, and launched the process to hit nearly all remaining imports from the Asian giant.

China responded by increasing tariffs five percent to 25pc on 5,410 American products Saturday, worth \$60 billion in trade.

The list includes beauty products, sports equipment, musical instruments, wine, condoms, diamonds, wood, fabric and toys.

Washington's tariffs appear to have already had an impact on Chinese manufacturing activity, which contracted more than expected last month.

While Trump insists China will pay billions in duties, experts note that US consumers and importers bear the brunt of tariffs on products coming into the United States.

“The United States remains an important export market for China, but its importance is declining,” said Wang Shouwen, who was on China's negotiating team, according to official news agency Xinhua.

He emphasised the trade war's effect on China's economy would be “controllable”.

“If the US wants to force the Chinese to make concessions by engaging in unilateralism and putting on extreme pressure, this is impossible,” said Wang, according to Xinhua.



It is quite clear now that this is no longer a trade dispute and will extend much more broadly to punitive economic measures that each side can inflict upon each other

CHRISTOPHER BALDING
A CHINA EXPERT AT THE FULBRIGHT UNIVERSITY VIETNAM

Boris Johnson would make ‘excellent’ British PM: Trump

London

US President Donald Trump has said British former foreign minister Boris Johnson would make an “excellent” prime minister to replace Theresa May.

Trump was speaking ahead of the start of a state visit to Britain on Monday, during which he will meet May.

She is set to resign on June 7 over her failure to deliver a deal to bring Britain out of the European Union.

Asked by the British tabloid newspaper The Sun for his opinion on the 12 candidates to replace her, Trump said, “I think Boris would do a very good job. I think he would be excellent.”

“I have always liked him. I don't know that he is going to be chosen, but I think he is a very good guy, a very talented person.”

He added that several candidates in the Conservative leadership race had asked for his support, without revealing who.

A key Leave campaigner in the Brexit referendum, Johnson has said he is prepared to take Britain out of the European Union, “deal or no deal”.

In the interview, Trump also repeated his criticism of how May has handled Brexit nego-



Former foreign minister Boris Johnson is one of 12 candidates to replace Theresa May

tiations, saying Britain had allowed the EU to “have all the cards”.

“It is very hard to play well when one side has all the advantage,” he said. “I had mentioned to Theresa that you have got to build up your ammunition.”

May concluded a divorce agreement with the EU in No-

vember but her deal was rejected three times by the British parliament, forcing her to seek a delay in leaving the bloc, now scheduled for October 31.

‘Nasty’ Meghan

Commenting on Britain's domestic politics and opinion on ruling-party leadership

choices at a sensitive time would normally be an unusual move for a US president -- but not for Trump, a former reality-TV star who often speaks his mind.

It could however add to tensions during Trump's three-day visit to Britain.

Trump is to be received in Buckingham Palace on Monday by Queen Elizabeth II.

He will then have a discussion with Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne who is known for speaking out against global warming -- an issue Trump is dismissive of. The president has decided to pull the US out of the Paris climate change agreement that seeks to curb carbon emissions.

A meeting with Meghan, the former US actress who married Charles's second son Prince Harry, is not on the agenda for Trump, whom she criticised during his 2016 campaign to be America's leader.

“What can I say? I didn't know that she was nasty,” Trump said of Meghan, though he also said he was “sure she will do excellently” as a princess.

As for protests that are expected to dog Trump's state visit, the president insisted “I think I am really -- I hope -- I am really loved in the UK”.

US preparing antitrust probe of Google: report

San Francisco

The US Department of Justice is preparing an antitrust investigation of Internet titan Google, the Wall Street Journal reported on Friday.

The Journal cited unnamed sources close to the matter as saying the department would look into Google practices related to web search and other businesses.

Justice department officials share antitrust oversight with the Federal Trade Commission, which conducted a wide-ranging investigation of its own into Alphabet-owned Google that ended in 2013 with no action taken.

Google did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

A new investigation would

come as backlash grows against major tech companies that dominate key segments of the online economy.

Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren has argued that big firms such as Facebook, Google and Apple should be broken up through antitrust enforcement.

Alphabet's profit in the first three months of this year sagged under the weight of a hefty antitrust fine in the European Union.

Alphabet said profit in the first-quarter fell 29 percent to \$6.7 billion on revenue that climbed 17 percent to \$36.3 billion.

The earnings took a hit from a European Commission fine that amounted to \$1.7 billion at the end of March, according to the quarterly update.



Google faces pressure around the world from regulators, notably in Europe amid multiple investigations over alleged abuse of its dominance in internet search, advertising and its mobile system

show

OASIS JUFFAIR

- 1-MA (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR) NEW

ⓈOCTAVIA SPENCER, MISSI PYLE, DIANA SILVERS

DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

DAILY AT (VIP): 2.00 + 7.00 + 12.00 MN
- 2-NGK (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW

ⓈSURIYA, SAI PALLAVI, RAKUL PREET, JAGAPATHI BABU

FROM THURSDAY 30TH 10.30 PM ONWARDS

DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM
- 3-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)

ⓈWILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD

DAILY AT:12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM

DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 11.45 AM + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 PM

DAILY AT (3D): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM

DAILY AT (VIP): 11.15 AM + 4.15 + 9.15 PM

- 4-DE DE PYAAR DE (15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA)

ⓈAJAY DEVGN, TABU, RAKUL PREET SINGH

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM

- 5-ISHQ (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)

ⓈSHANE NIGAM, ANN SHEETAL

DAILY AT: 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN

- 6-UYARE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)

ⓈPARVATHY THIRUVOTH, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS

DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

- 7-ORU YAMANDAN PREMA KATHA (PG-15) (MALAY-ALAM)

ⓈDULQUER SALMAN, SOUBIN SAHIR, SAMYUKTHA MENON

DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM

CITYCENTRE

- 1-MA (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR) NEW

ⓈOCTAVIA SPENCER, MISSI PYLE, DIANA SILVERS

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN

DAILY AT (VIP I): 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM
- 2-RED JOAN (15+) (DRAMA/THRILLER/BIOGRAPHY) NEW

ⓈJUDI DENCH, SOPHIE COOKSON, STEPHEN CAMPBELL MOORE

DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM

- 3-NGK (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW

ⓈSURIYA, SAI PALLAVI, RAKUL PREET, JAGAPATHI BABU

FROM THURSDAY 30TH 10.30 PM ONWARDS

DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

- 4-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)

ⓈWILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD

DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.30 + 4.15 + 7.00 + 9.45 + 12.30 MN

DAILY AT (ATMOS): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM

DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 10.15 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN

DAILY AT (3D): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM



DAILY AT (VIP II): 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM

- 5-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)

ⓈBRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN

DAILY AT: 12.00 + 12.30 + 1.00 + 3.30 + 4.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 7.30 + 8.00 + 10.30 + 11.00 + 11.30 PM

DAILY AT (3D): 12.00 + 3.30 + 7.00 + 10.30 PM

- 6-BRIGHTBURN (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR)

ⓈELIZABETH BANKS, DAVID DENMAN, JACKSON A. DUNN

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 + 12.30 MN

- 7-LONG SHOT (15+) (COMEDY/ROMANTIC)

ⓈCHARLIZE THERON, SETH ROGEN, JUNE DIANE RAPHAEL

DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

- 8-ESCAPE ROOM (PG-15) (THRILLER)

ⓈTAYLOR RUSSELL, LOGAN MILLER, DEBORAH ANN WOLL

DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM

- 9-UGLYDOLLS (PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)

ⓈEMMA ROBERTS, KELLY CLARKSON, GABRIEL IGLESIAS

DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 PM

- 10-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA)

ⓈLIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN

DAILY AT: 11.30 + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN

- 11-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)

ⓈCOLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO

DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM

- 12-WONDER PARK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

ⓈBRIANNA DENSKI, JENNIER GARNER, KEN HUDSON CAMPBELL

DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN

- 13-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)

ⓈZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL

DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM

SEEF (II)

- 1-RED JOAN (15+) (DRAMA/THRILLER/BIOGRAPHY) NEW

ⓈJUDI DENCH, SOPHIE COOKSON, STEPHEN CAMPBELL MOORE

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN

- 2-CAPT'N SHARKY (G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE) NEW

ⓈNORMAN ENDRES, JULE HERMANN, ANTON PETZOLD

DAILY AT: 12.00 + 1.45 + 3.30 + 5.15 PM

- 3-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)

ⓈWILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD

DAILY AT: 12.00 + 1.00 + 2.45 + 3.45 + 5.30 + 6.30 + 8.15 + 9.15 + 11.00 + 12.00 MN

DAILY AT (3D): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

- 4-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)

ⓈBRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN

DAILY AT: 12.30 + 4.00 + 7.30 + 11.00 PM

- 5-DE DE PYAAR DE (15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA)

ⓈAJAY DEVGN, TABU, RAKUL PREET SINGH

DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

- 6-BRIGHTBURN (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR)

ⓈELIZABETH BANKS, DAVID DENMAN, JACKSON A. DUNN

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 2.30 + 6.30 + 10.30 PM

- 7-LONG SHOT (15+) (COMEDY/ROMANTIC)

ⓈCHARLIZE THERON, SETH ROGEN, JUNE DIANE RAPHAEL

DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 4.15 + 9.15 PM

- 8-ESCAPE ROOM (PG-15) (THRILLER)

ⓈTAYLOR RUSSELL, LOGAN MILLER, DEBORAH ANN WOLL

DAILY AT: 12.30 + 4.30 + 8.30 + 12.30 MN

- 9-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA)

ⓈLIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN

DAILY AT: 1.45 + 6.45 + 11.45 PM

- 10-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)

ⓈCOLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO

DAILY AT: 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

- 11-WONDER PARK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

ⓈBRIANNA DENSKI, JENNIER GARNER, KEN HUDSON CAMPBELL

DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 PM

- 12-GOODLAND (PG-15) (THRILLER/CRIME/DRAMA)

ⓈMATT WEISS, CINNAMON SCHULTZ, SARA CAROLYNN KENNEDY

DAILY AT: 6.45 + 8.30 + 10.15 + 12.00 MN

SEEF (I)

- 1-MA (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR) NEW

ⓈOCTAVIA SPENCER, MISSI PYLE, DIANA SILVERS

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN

- 2-NGK (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW

ⓈSURIYA, SAI PALLAVI, RAKUL PREET, JAGAPATHI BABU

FROM THURSDAY 30TH 10.30 PM ONWARDS

DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 12.00 + 2.30 + 3.00 + 5.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 + 12.00 MN

- 3-DEVI 2 (PG-13) (TAMIL) NEW

ⓈPRABHU DEVA, TAMANNAAH, NENDITA SWETHA

FROM THURSDAY 30TH 8.00 PM ONWARDS

DAILY AT: 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM

- 4-UYARE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)

ⓈPARVATHY THIRUVOTH, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS

DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM



- 5-SITA (PG-15) (TELUGU)

ⓈKAJAL AGGARWAL, BELLAMKONDA SRINIVAS, SONU SOOD

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 3.45 + 9.00 PM

- 6-CHANDIGARH AMRITSAR CHANDIGARH (PG-13) (PUNJABI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC)

ⓈSARGUN MEHTA, GIPPY GREWAL

DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.45 + 12.00 MN

SAAR

- 1-MA (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR) NEW

ⓈOCTAVIA SPENCER, MISSI PYLE, DIANA SILVERS

DAILY AT: 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN

- 2-RED JOAN (15+) (DRAMA/THRILLER/BIOGRAPHY) NEW

ⓈJUDI DENCH, SOPHIE COOKSON, STEPHEN CAMPBELL MOORE

DAILY AT: 9.00 + 11.15 PM

- 3-NGK (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW

ⓈSURIYA, SAI PALLAVI, RAKUL PREET, JAGAPATHI BABU

FROM THURSDAY 30TH 10.30 PM ONWARDS

DAILY AT: 8.00 + 11.00 PM

- 4-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)

ⓈWILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD

DAILY AT: 8.30 + 11.00 PM

AL HAMRA

- 1-NGK (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW

ⓈSURIYA, SAI PALLAVI, RAKUL PREET, JAGAPATHI BABU

FROM THURSDAY 30TH 10.30 PM ONWARDS

DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 + (12.00 MN THURS/ FRI)

WADI AL SAIL

- 1-MA (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR) NEW

ⓈOCTAVIA SPENCER, MISSI PYLE, DIANA SILVERS

DAILY AT: 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN

- 2-RED JOAN (15+) (DRAMA/THRILLER/BIOGRAPHY) NEW

ⓈJUDI DENCH, SOPHIE COOKSON, STEPHEN CAMPBELL MOORE

DAILY AT: 9.30 + 11.45 PM

- 3-NGK (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW

ⓈSURIYA, SAI PALLAVI, RAKUL PREET, JAGAPATHI BABU

FROM THURSDAY 30TH 10.30 PM ONWARDS

DAILY AT: 8.00 + 11.00 PM

- 4-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)

ⓈWILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD

DAILY AT: 8.45 + 9.15 + 11.30 + 12.00 MN

DAILY AT (3D): 8.15 + 11.00 PM

- 5-UGLYDOLLS (PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)

ⓈEMMA ROBERTS, KELLY CLARKSON, GABRIEL IGLESIAS

DAILY AT: 7.30 PM

MOVIE REVIEW

Ma: Octavia Spencer kills it in creepy exploitation thriller

Ma is a 2019 American psychological horror film directed by Tate Taylor, who co-wrote the screenplay with Scotty Landes. It stars Octavia Spencer, Juliette Lewis, Diana Silvers, Luke Evans, McKaley Miller, Missi Pyle, Corey Fogelmanis, Marjay Ross, Gianni Paolo, and Dante Brown, and follows a group of teenagers who befriend a lonely middle-aged woman who allows them to party in her basement, only to have strange things begin to happen. The film is produced by Jason Blum, through his Blumhouse Productions company, as well as Taylor and John Norris. Ma was released in the United States on May 31, 2019, by Universal Pictures. It received mixed reviews from critics, who praised Spencer's performance but said the film didn't take full advantage of its premise. Trashy movies aren't good for you, but sometimes they burn with an unexpected honesty that feels more earned than the stuff we're supposed to prefer. Such is the case with Ma, a scuzzy and brutal revenge thriller set in some hard-luck, blue-collar

town (never named) filled with uneasy stares and kids making dumb choices. It's an unusually potent atmosphere for a quickie Blumhouse horror project; you can't say this one is elevated by the presence of Octavia Spencer—it's more that she allows herself to descend to the crazy-eyed pleasures of being monstrous. She plays Sue Ann, a never-not-suspicious local who buys the teens cases of booze and lets them party in her basement. There are ulterior reasons for her friendliness. You know exactly what they are from the start (the coy '80s-set flashbacks to Sue Ann's own high-school trauma are extraneous). Call it a welcome surprise that Tate Taylor, the director of Spencer's brassy turn in The Help as well as the underrated James Brown biopic Get on Up, seems to be harboring an inner Wes Craven. When Ma breaks bad, it breaks bad hard, with some real wince-inducing moments of bodily harm. The film's bland young hero, Maggie (Diana Silvers), doesn't seem to have a chance in Sue Ann's abattoir, but



Octavia Spencer as Sue Ann in 'Ma'

Taylor distracts us with juicier details on the periphery, like Maggie's mother, a divorced cocktail waitress (Juliette Lewis, exuding abandonment). There's an undertone of rage to Ma, a stink. It's a film in which co-workers snipe at each other and strangers call each other bitch. You won-

der why Sue Ann ever wanted to belong to this community in the first place, and that's Ma's one subtle idea: In her America, getting even is a coping strategy. On review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 61% based on 126 reviews, with an average rating of 5.75/10. The

site's critical consensus reads, "Octavia Spencer's performance overpowers many of Ma's flaws, but uneven pacing and a labored story keep this thriller from fully realizing its unhinged potential." On Metacritic, which assigns a normalized rating to reviews, the film has a weighted average score of 53 out of 100, based

on 34 critics, indicating "mixed or average reviews". Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of "B—" on an A+ to F scale. Benjamin Lee of The Guardian gave the film 3 out of 5 stars, describing it as "a nasty yet surprisingly empathetic slab of exploitation with more than just carnage on its mind." Leah Greenblatt of Entertainment Weekly gave the film a grade of B, writing, "Even as the story descends into full bloody camp at its crescendo, Spencer holds the more ludicrous plot threads together." Owen Gleiberman of Variety wrote, "Spencer, a chameleon of an actress, does mood swings in Ma that leave us entertainingly off guard." Jude Dry of IndieWire gave the film a grade of C, stating that "it takes an amusing premise, reduces it to its most basic parts, then weighs it down with silly scare tactics." John DeFore of The Hollywood Reporter wrote, "It quickly spins its shaky premise off into an unconvincing study of emotional need and an even harder-to-believe revenge thriller."



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Al Hawaj's annual Ghabga



Guests and officials during the annual Ghabga organised by Al Hawaj. The 27th year of this social gathering was highlighted by exciting giveaways in a raffle draw. Held every year, the Ghabga brings together the management of Al Hawaj with guests who interact and socialise in the welcoming ambience. The event was attended by the famous singer Mohammed Abdou as a special guest along with Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and a number of diplomats, ambassadors, dignitaries, media members, celebrities and VIP guests

Ramadan cooking

Kulfi



Ingredients

- Milk
- Cardamoms
- Sugar
- Blanched almonds

1. Boil 2 liter milk in a heavy pot.
2. As soon as the milk begins to rise, turn the heat down to allow the milk to simmer vigorously without over boiling.
3. Add 10 cardamoms.
4. The milk has to reduce to about a third of its original amount. Stir frequently.
5. Whenever a film forms on top of the milk, just stir it in.
6. Discard the cardamom pods and add 5 tbs sugar and 10 blanched and chopped almonds.
7. Stir and simmer gently for 2 to 3 minutes.
8. Pour the reduced milk into a bowl and cool completely.
9. Stir in some chopped unsalted pistachios and stir in.
10. Cover and place in the freezer.
11. Stir the ice cream every 15 minutes or so to break up the crystals.
12. When it becomes difficult to stir, divide the ice cream into 6 small cups or yoghurt pots. Cover and freeze.
13. Unmould to serve.

NBB hosts Ghabga for fundraising

TDT | Manama

National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) continued its Ramadan giving drive in support of children with cancer, this time in partnership with the Dreams Society, who works to help enrich the lives of children with cancer by helping them realise their greatest dreams.

The Bank's Annual Staff Ghabga focused this year on the collaboration between NBB and the Dreams Society, which saw the dreams of two children with cancer -- Jaffar and Maria come true. Kicking off the Ghabga, NBB employees watched a video that was unveiled for the first time showcasing the adventures of Jaffar, who realised his dream of becoming a fireman, and Maria of becoming a doctor for a day.

Their heartwarming journeys, made possible with the support of the Ministry of Interior (Civil Defence) and the Ministry of Health, were captured in the video, which also saw appearances from three celebrities/actors, making the experience even more exciting. These included Ali Al Gurair (actor), Khalil Al Rumaithi (actor) and Ahmed Sharif (Social Media Influencer).

The video, which has quickly become one of the most watched in Bahrain during 2019, can be accessed by visiting NBBOnline social media accounts. Details can also be found on the video on how to give and help make the dreams of other children with cancer come true.

Another highlight of the Ghabga was a surprise from NBB, helping the children fulfill two other dreams. Jaffar and Maria

and their parents were called on stage and presented with gifts – for Jaffar a dream safari and Maria a dream trip to Disneyland.

The Ghabga also saw NBB employees raise further funds on the night for the Dreams Society, which will be used to make the dreams of other children come true in the months ahead.

Dana Buheji, Chief Human

Resource Officer at NBB, said, "There is no better way to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan than by making the dreams of children come true. NBB and its staff have been touched by the incredible work that Dreams Society is doing and grateful for the opportunity to get involved in helping to grant these children with opportunities to live their dreams. We are very proud of our staff and their desire to give and contribute and of the genuine community spirit they've exhibited. As we work to get closer to those we serve, we are especially mindful of the needs of children and their families particularly those experiencing hardships. We're extremely pleased to have helped shine some much needed light into their lives and to encourage others to support their plight through awareness building and the raising of funds."



The Indian School

P.O.Box 558, Kingdom of Bahrain

SEALED QUOTATIONS ARE INVITED

Tender documents are invited from qualified contractors for The Indian School canteen contract for Isa Town Campus & Riffa Campus.

The document is available in The Indian School website www.indianschool.bh.

Sealed documents addressed to Hon. Secretary should be deposited in the tender box, kept in the EC room, Admin block, Isa Town Campus on or before 14th June 2019, 12 noon.

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Members of Sikh community of Bahrain "Sach sunaisi sach ki Bela" during Iftar packet distribution at Umm Al Hassam yesterday

SPORTS

sports

Falah clinches back-to-back titles in The Godfathers Tournament

TDT | Manama

Bahrain national team star Yusef Falah was crowned overall champion of the 2019 edition of The Godfathers Tournament, which came to a thrilling close Friday night at Funland Centre.

Falah clinched back-to-back titles after defeating fellow-Bahraini Isa Khalid and American AJ Edwards in the final.

All three earned the right to face off in the championship-decider after winning their respective groups. They then played one game, with the highest scorer emerging as the tournament victor.

Falah made the most of the opportunity and lived up to his tag as favourite, posting a 247 score, while Khalid had a 222 outing and Edwards a 198.

Following the final, the winners were presented their respective trophies and prize money in a ceremony attended by Funland owner and managing director Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa and Funland general



Champion Falah, right, with Rasti during the awards presentation ceremony at Funland

manager Adel Rasti.

Rasti later expressed his sincere appreciation to Shaikh Mohammed for supporting the event and attending the awards presentation. He also congratulated Falah and the other leading bowlers on their success in competition, and he thanked all those who participated for the excellent turnout throughout the qualifiers.

The Godfathers Tournament was held in memory of the late Murtadha Qudrat Rasti and the late Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa.

A total of BD4,400 in prize money was distributed amongst top 18 overall and other achievers.

Djokovic cruises into last 16

● No. 1 Osaka's 16-match winning streak at Slams ends in Paris

● Zverev, Wawrinka, Tsitsipas advance into last 16 at sweltering Roland Garros

AFP | Paris

World number one Novak Djokovic eased into the last 16 at Roland Garros yesterday to step up his bid to hold all four Grand Slam titles simultaneously for the second time.

The Serbian saw off unseeded Italian Salvatore Caruso 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 to set up a fourth-round tie with either Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff or Croatian 13th seed Borna Coric.

"Finally, I think I found my best form in the second set," said Djokovic, who is yet to drop a set in the tournament after straightforward wins over Hubert Hurkacz and Swiss lucky loser Henri Laaksonen.

"It's good, I'm very motivat-



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Italy's Salvatore Caruso

ed here at Roland Garros, the most beautiful tournament in the world."

It is the 10th successive year the top seed has reached the second week -- and 13th in total -- as he looks for a second French Open title after sealing his first 'Djoko' Slam in Paris in 2016.

Djokovic was never in any real trouble against world number 147 Caruso on Court Philippe Chatrier, breaking serve five times in the match and saving all of the five break points he faced.

The 32-year-old finished with eight aces and 25 winners

against an outclassed opponent.

Osaka crashes out

Top women's seed Naomi Osaka's hopes of winning a third successive Grand Slam ended when she was knocked out in the third round by unheralded Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic.

Japanese top seed Osaka, the reigning US and Australian Open champion, crashed to a 6-4, 6-2 defeat to the 42nd-ranked Czech.

Osaka was undone by a shocking 38 unforced errors as she finally ran out of luck in Paris

having had to come back from a set down in her first two matches.

"It's amazing, I can't believe it, I am so happy now," said Siniakova, who was the women's doubles champion in Paris in 2018 alongside Barbora Krejickova.

"I played my best tennis and I hope it continues."

Osaka dropped the first set for the third successive match at the tournament, squandering seven break points in all.

Alexander Zverev advanced after beating 30th seed Dusan Lajovic in yet another five-set match. He'll face Fabio Fognini next, the No. 9 seed who got the better of No. 18 Robert Bautista Agut to clinch a 7-6 (5), 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 victory.

Stanislas Wawrinka and Stefanos Tsitsipas were also back in action yesterday and completed wins over respective third-round opponents Grigor Dimitrov and Filip Krajinovic to progress in Paris.

Simona Halep also returned to Court Philippe-Chatrier and dominated 27th seed Lesia Tsurenko 6-2, 6-1 to notch a valuable victory in her title-defence run at Roland Garros



Simon Martin (The ambassador of UK to Bahrain), Domenico Bellato (The ambassador of Italy to Bahrain), Justin Siberell (The ambassador of USA to Bahrain), Cecile Longe (The ambassador of France to Bahrain) and Amin Al Sharqawi (UNDP) Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative of the United Nations during the Ambassadors Day tennis tournament at Bahrain Tennis Club. Khamis Al Muqla (President of BTC), Ali Fakro Honorary President of BTC, Kamal Khonji (BTC Member), Jassim Bu Allay (BTC Member), Ramadan Mahmoud (BTC Member), Jojo Coach of BTC, Hanna Coach of BTC were present



Pakistan Club's Board members and chief guests with the winners of Ramadan Cricket Tournament during the award ceremony. Murad Ali Wazir (CWO Pakistan Embassy) was the Chief guest and Saleem Elyas (President, Bahrain Cricket Association) was the Guest of Honour. Prominent Business community and cricket lovers attended the event

Former Sevilla star Reyes killed in car crash

AFP | Madrid

Former Arsenal, Real Madrid and Spain star Jose Antonio Reyes has been killed in a car crash, his hometown club Sevilla said yesterday. He was 35.

Reyes, who shot to fame at Sevilla before a switch to Arse-



Jose Antonio Reyes

nal, followed by spells at Real and Atletico Madrid, was on the books with second-tier Spanish club Extremadura.

"We couldn't be confirming worse news. Beloved Sevilla star Jose Antonio Reyes has died in a traffic collision. Rest in peace," Sevilla, said on Twitter.

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Matt Henry

Kiwis thrash Sri Lanka

Henry shines as New Zealand coast to opening Cricket World Cup win over Sri Lanka

● **Matt Henry and Lockie Ferguson tear up Sri Lanka**

AFP | Cardiff

New Zealand made a flying start to their World Cup campaign as paceman Matt Henry struck three times in a 10-wicket trashing of woeful Sri Lanka yesterday.

Henry returned figures of 3-29 and combined with fellow paceman Lockie

Ferguson, who also took three wickets, to bowl out Sri Lanka for just 136 in 29.2 overs in Cardiff.

Martin Guptill and Colin Munro then hit unbeaten half-centuries to make short work of their modest target.

The Kiwis cruised home in 16.1 overs to register their third win in a World Cup game by 10 wickets. The right-left batting combination of Guptill, who hit 73, and Munro, who scored 58, had little trouble in smashing the Sri Lankan bowlers to all parts of the ground.

Guptill hammered eight fours and two sixes including one hit that sailed out of the ground.

But it was Henry's spell of seven straight overs that opened the

gates for New Zealand's domination against the 1996 champions.

"It's a great start for us. You want a balanced attack going into any surface. It is important that you have that to have aggressive options for different occasions," New Zealand captain Kane Williamson said.

"The two at the top played beautifully. It was nice for those guys to play a few shots. It was a good all-round performance."

Sri Lanka skipper Dimuth Karunaratne added: "It was a good toss to win. In the morning it was seaming and swinging. They had that advantage and they have good bowlers to do that, so they took their chance.

"The batters aren't low on confidence. We batted well in some practice games and we work really hard. We need to think about the game."

Incisive pace

Henry stood out in the absence of senior paceman Tim Southee, who missed the game due to a calf injury, with his incisive pace and swing.

He struck with the second delivery of the game to send Lahiru Thirimanne trudging back to the pavilion after the left-handed opener had hit a boundary from the first ball.

Thirimanne was initially ruled not out by the on-field umpire, but the Kiwis successfully reviewed the lbw call in their favour after replays suggested the ball pitched on line and would have hit the batsman's leg stump.

The left-handed Karunaratne, who has returned to the one-day side after a gap of four years, then put on 42 runs for the second wicket with Kusal Perera.

But Williamson kept Henry on for the bowler's fifth over and the decision paid off as he got Perera for 29 and Kusal Mendis without scoring on successive deliveries.

Dhananjaya de Silva played the hat-trick ball with a glorious off drive, but soon fell to the pace of Lockie Ferguson after being trapped lbw.

Karunaratne fought on to register his third ODI fifty in 81 balls before he ran out of partners after Lasith Malinga was bowled by Ferguson for one.

Karunaratne's unbeaten 52 made him only the second opener in World Cup history to carry his bat through a completed innings.

The feat had previously been achieved by West Indies' Ridley Jacobs, who made an unbeaten 49 against Australia in 1999.

Today's matches

Bangladesh vs South Africa
(12:30 pm)



ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP
ENGLAND & WALES 2019

Sri Lanka	
Lahiru Thirimanne lbw b Henry	4
Dimuth Karunaratne not out	52
Kusal Perera c De Grandhomme b Henry	29
Kusal Mendis c Guptill b Henry	0
Dhananjaya de Silva lbw b Ferguson	4
A Mathews c Latham b De Grandhomme	0
Jeevan Mendis c Neesham b Ferguson	1
Thisara Perera c Boult b Santner	27
Isuru Udana c Henry b Neesham	0
Suranga Lakmal c Santner b Boult	7
Lasith Malinga b Ferguson	1
Extras (lb1, nb2, w8)	11
Total (all out, 29.2 overs)	136
New Zealand	
M.Guptill not out	73
C.Munro not out	58
Extras (lb3, nb1, w2)	6
Total (no wickets, 16.1 overs)	137

Australia's Warner stars in Afghan World Cup romp

● **David Warner and Aaron Finch score half-centuries**

AFP | Bristol

David Warner hit an unbeaten half-century on his official return to international cricket yesterday as Australia romped to victory by seven wickets in their World Cup opener against Afghanistan.

The five-time champions bowled Afghanistan out for

207 in 38.2 overs on a warm day in Bristol and then made steady progress, reaching their target with more than 15 overs to spare, with Warner 89 not out.

The match was the first official Australian appearance in any format for Warner and former captain Steve Smith since the end of their year-long bans for ball-tampering.

The crowd booed the pair and two fans watched the game from a balcony dressed as sandpaper after the scandal last year in which Australia hatched a plot to use the material to alter the condition of the ball.

'Nerves getting back'

"It's good to be back and it's a good win for us," said man-of-the-match Warner at the presentation ceremony.

"There were nerves getting back into the camp and getting back into the full intensity of training, but to come out and bowl the way we did helped us set the tone with the bat.

"It's a positive victory and now we move onto the West Indies...There's a great buzz about this team at this moment."

Left-handed Warner opened the batting with captain Aaron Finch in the evening sunshine but it was the skipper who set the tone, reaching his fifty off 40 balls with three sixes.

Warner, not at his belligerent best, had a narrow escape when he was on 19, scrambling back after chopping a delivery and losing sight of the ball as wicket-keeper Mohammad Shahzad whipped off the bails.

The breakthrough finally came in the 17th over when Finch mistimed a slower ball from Afghan skipper Gulbadin Naib and holed out to Mujeeb Ur Rahman at deep cover, smashing his bat into his pads in frustration.



David Warner plays a shot

Bangladesh vs South Africa

Shakib Al Hasan



Bangladesh: Mashrafe Mortaza (capt), Abu Jayed, Liton Das (wk), Mahmudullah, Mehidy Hasan, Mohammad Mithun (wk), Mohammad Saifuddin, Mosaddek Hossain, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Mustafizur Rahman, Rubel Hossain, Sabbir Rahman, Shakib Al Hasan, Soumya Sarkar, Tamim Iqbal

Facts

South Africa have claimed three consecutive victories over the Tigers, who had won the previous two encounters.

The two nations have faced off three times in the World Cup; South Africa winning their most recent game in the 2011 showpiece by a huge margin of 206 runs.

- Tamim Iqbal has scored 223 runs in two previous ODI appearances at The Oval, registering scores of 128 and 95.

Faf du Plessis



South Africa: Faf du Plessis (c), Aiden Markram, Quinton de Kock (wk), Hashim Amla, Rassie van der Dussen, David Miller, Chris Morris, Andile Phehlukwayo, JP Duminy, Dwaine Pretorius, Dale Steyn, Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Imran Tahir, Tabraiz Shamsi

Pitch Report

The match is going to be played at the Kennington Oval, London. The weather in London on match day is expected to be a bit cloudy but the chance of rain falling is very low. The pitch at the Oval was bouncy but did not have the pace that it usually does. The groundsman would have had a couple of days in between matches to fix that and we could see an even better batting surface in this match.

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