

Jessica Chastain says
'It: Chapter Two' has
bloodiest scene in
history

Actor Jessica Chastain has teased a scene from her upcoming movie "It: Chapter Two", saying that it will be the bloodiest sequence to be ever shot for a horror film. **P14**

China isn't having enough babies

THE DAILY tribune

Johnny Depp slaps \$50mn defamation suit against Amber Heard

Mission space capsule

Bernie Sanders launches presidential bid

Mr Sanders, a 77-year-old independent Senator for Vermont, lost the 2016 Democrat race to Hillary Clinton.

New York

US Senator Bernie Sanders has launched his bid to be president in 2020 with an attack on corporate greed and a promise to unleash a "political revolution".

Speaking in Brooklyn, New York he called Donald Trump the "most dangerous president" in recent US history.



Bernie Sanders

Mr Sanders, a 77-year-old independent Senator for Vermont, lost the 2016 Democrat race to Hillary Clinton.

He faces a much more crowded field this time but brings name recognition and a passionate support base.

More than 10 others are also running to be Democrat candidate, including Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, New Jersey Senator Cory Booker and the Mayor of San Antonio, Texas, Julian Castro.



02 Tamkeen names Mashroo3i Youth Business Award fifth edition winners

03 Bahrain urges EU to blacklist Hizbollah

04 Saudi Arabia to set a global benchmark in patient safety



His Majesty, Dubai ruler attend endurance race



His Majesty receives HH Shaikh Mohammed.



HH Shaikh Mohammed interacts with HH Shaikh Nasser upon arrival in the Kingdom.

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Dubai Ruler His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum attended the seventeenth edition of the international endurance race for His Majesty the King's Cup.

The Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF) organised the 160-kilo-

metre-long race, which is sponsored by the Gulf Finance House (GFH). Riders from the Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates took part.

His Majesty and His Highness Shaikh Mohammed were received by HM the King's Representative for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Council (SCYS) Chairman, Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) President and Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Fed-

eration Honorary Chairman HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, a number of BREEF board members.

HH Shaikh Nasser briefed His Majesty and HH Shaikh Mohammed about the race and the riders.

HM the King also met UAE Ambassador Shaikh Sultan bin Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, commending string bilateral relations binding the the Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates.

The sponsors of the race also greeted HM the King.

HM the King congratulated the winning riders on their impressive performance, stressing the importance of such events in enhance their readiness to compete in regional and international championships.

His Majesty expressed deepest thanks to HH Shaikh Mohammed for his visit, commending the participation of the Emirati riders, which reflects deep-rooted fraternal

relations binding the two fraternal countries and peoples.

HH Shaikh Mohammed also expressed deepest thanks to HM the King for the warm welcome and hospitality, commending the role and efforts exerted by HH Shaikh Nasser.

HH Shaikh Nasser then honoured Royal Team's Victorious rider Celestia Garcia, UAE M7 Stable rider Salem Al Kutbi and Victorious stable rider Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa.

Stop funding terror

Yemen's foreign minister urges Iran to stop supporting Houthi militia

Dubai

Yemen's Foreign Minister has called on Iran to abide by the principles of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) and to stop supporting the Houthi militia, who have been at war with the Yemeni government since 2014.

Khalid Al Yamani urged the Iranian regime to stop funding the militia and to stop providing the group with weapons, in his address to the 46th Ministerial Conference of the OIC in Abu Dhabi.



He said Iran must stop destabilising the region by supporting armed groups, and respect the

The legitimate government does not recognise Swedish agreement failure as it would bring us back to the battleground.

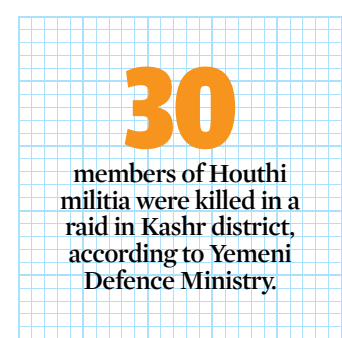
MR AL YAMANI

principles of international law.

Al Yamani said the Houthis were stalling the implementation of the

Stockholm agreement, and refused to withdraw from Hodeidah in order to open a humanitarian corridor. This has hindered the work of the United Nations, he stressed, who brokered the agreement between the warring sides in Sweden in December last year.

"The legitimate government does not recognise the attitude of failure to implement the agreements made in Sweden because failure will bring us back to the battleground in Hodeidah and will undermine the momentum created by the Stockholm agreement,



and the international support to resolve the Yemeni crisis will be lost," Al Yamani said.

RIISING NUMBER

Saudi issues over 4.33m Umrah visas

Riyadh

The number of Umrah visas issued this year by Saudi Arabia has reached more than 4.33 million.

According to data provided by the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, the total figure for approved visas stands at 4,338,959, of which 3,892,554 pilgrims have arrived in the Kingdom. There are 443,560 pilgrims still in the country, with 304,897 of them in Makkah and 138,663 in Madinah.

Most pilgrims — 3,464,929 — travelled to the Kingdom by air,

while 392,632 entered by land and 34,993 arrived by sea.



Vision 2030 aims to attract more than 30 million Umrah pilgrims and provide them with top-class services.

The largest number of pilgrims are from Pakistan (949,895), followed by Indonesia (633,253), India (408,495), Yemen (206,980), Egypt (204,327), Malaysia (200,873), Turkey (183,164), Algeria (138,092), and Bangladesh (99,629).

The weekly data also included 8,441 males and 1,738 females working within Umrah companies and institutions.

Developing Hajj and Umrah organisations and services in the Kingdom is among the top priorities of the Saudi government.

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Eight volunteers from the Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) took part in Lebanon “Youth and Health” workshop held in co-operation with the Lebanese Red Cross along with their counterparts from three Arab countries. The two-day workshop focused on training volunteers on critical humanitarian soft skills and preparing them to face most urgent challenges in a contemporary conflict environment and network their knowledge to other aid workers. Additionally, the workshop discussed different topics on good networking skills, ability to plan well, team working skills, key skills for volunteers so they can better navigate humanitarian situation, as well as medical skills to raise medical awareness across youth to enhance their awareness of health risks such as drugs or sexual diseases.



Bahrain Development Bank Group (BDB) organised an entertainment gathering in Al Salam Camp in Sakhr for its staff and their families. The event featured lots of fun activities, games, raffle draw and prizes for the lucky winners.



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The Bahrain Development Bank (BDB) has announced its participation at the Bahrain International Garden Show (BIGS), with a display showcasing various agricultural investment initiatives offered by the bank. The BDB highlighted various agricultural support schemes provided by the bank within the Kingdom that Bahraini and expats alike can take advantage of, such as the fully subsidised agricultural support schemes, which can reach up to BD15,000 in financing at zero per cent interest rate. The BDB stall at BIGS is also displaying local agricultural produce from the ‘Hoorat A’ali Farmer’s Market’ – a local partnership between the Bahrain Development Bank, Ministry of Municipalities and Urban Planning and Urban Planning and Agricultural Affairs (MUN) and Mubadara. The Farmer’s Market aims to establish an agricultural ecosystem that encourages and revitalises the growth of Bahraini crops, and at the same time empower Bahraini farmers.

Tamkeen names Mashroo3i Youth Business Award fifth edition winners



TELP team receives the award from Dr Janahi. Newton’s Apple Learning Centre came second. Team Doctoric receives the award.

● **This competition provides participants 18 years of age with a national platform that highlights their business ideas and helps guide, train and support young entrepreneurs to start their business venture.**

TDI | Manama

The Labour Fund “Tamkeen” announced the winning teams of the fifth edition of the Mashroo3i Youth Business Awards during the final awards ceremony, which was held at Gulf Hotel yesterday.

The final awards ceremony was attended by the Chief Executive Officer of Tamkeen, Dr Ebrahim Janahi, members of the judging panel, participating

teams, as well as a number of people from the startup community.

This competition provides participants 18 years of age with a national platform that highlights their business ideas and helps guide, train and support young entrepreneurs to start their business venture.

The 30 teams pitched their business ideas for the last time to the panel of judges who determined the winning teams which included (Telp)in first place, (Newton’s Apple Learning Centre) in second place, and (Doctoric) in third place.

The winners will receive a number of prizes including: cash awards, an international training opportunity for the first place winning team related to their business field, and a sponsored incubation facility for the duration of one year for all three place winners.

“I would like to express my pride and admiration for the creative business ideas I have witnessed by the youth during the public exhibition. The exhibition included a number of innovative projects that revealed the potential of the Bahraini youth, as these projects are able to compete at a global level, not just regionally or locally,” said Dr Janahi.

“This competition, which aims to spread the entrepreneurial culture among the youth, highlights our efforts to support young entrepreneurs by setting up such programs that contribute to showcasing their projects and innovation within different sectors” he added.

The public participated in casting their votes to the best projects during the exhibition, while the teams were being evaluated by the judging panel which consisted of: Mr Fareed Bader, Chairman and Managing Director of the Bader Group, Ms Dalal Al Qais, General Manager of Retail Banking at Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), Trey Goede, Head of Portfolio Management for Aramco Entrepreneurship Ventures (Wa’ed), Paul Lalley, Head of Product at Brinc Batelco IoT Hub.

The category-based awards were presented to the outstanding teams in certain aspects with the support of a number of private sector companies including: the FinTech Bay Award for E-Business of the Year, the ‘Bahrain Islamic Bank’ (BisB) Most Responsible Business of the Year/Community Innovation Award, the ‘Zain Bahrain’ Award for Entrepreneur of the Year, the ‘Brinc’ Marketing, Sales and Promotion Award, the Flat6Labs Innovation Award, the CH9 Business Model Award, the Startup Factory Award for Business Plan of the Year, the EO Bahrain People’s Choice Award, the Alwane Influential Entrepreneur Award, and the ProSky Award for Active Use of Social Media.

Bahrain urges EU to blacklist Hizbollah

Britain's parliament has voted to officially label Hizbollah as a "terrorist group"

● The US and others accuse the group of destabilising the region through its military intervention in Syria on the side of President Bashar Al Assad's government.

● The British ban comes as the United States is increasing its pressure on Hizbollah, placing several sets of sanctions on the group and its regional backer, Iran.

TDT | Manama

Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa yesterday called on the European Union to add Lebanese group Hizbollah to a list of terrorist organisations.

"Iran is exercising state terrorism," he said in an interview with the Dubai-based Sky News Arabia at the conclusion of a ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) in Abu Dhabi.

"Many OIC states, including Bahrain, have suffered from terrorism



Hizbollah is accused of carrying out many terror operations in the region.

backed by Iran, which supports terrorist organisation such as Hizbollah," he said.

The top Bahraini diplomat went on to call on the EU and other world countries "to classify Hizbollah as a terrorist group, following the British suit".

On Thursday, Britain's parlia-

ment voted to officially label Hizbollah as a "terrorist group".

As of next Monday, membership in - or support for - the group will be considered a criminal offence in the UK, carrying sentences of up to ten years in prison.

Both Hizbollah and Iran have denounced the British decision to

classify the Lebanese group as a terrorist organisation.

The British government's decision means being a member of, or inviting support for, Hizbollah will be a criminal offence, carrying a sentence of up to 10 years in prison.

Until now, the military wing of the Lebanon-based group has been

outlawed in Britain, but not its political arm.

The group maintains a formidable military force that rivals the Lebanese army. It is also a powerful political force that takes part in elections, has members in parliament and the government, and dominates the

”



Many OIC states, including Bahrain, have suffered from terrorism backed by Iran, which supports terrorist organisation such as Hizbollah.

SHAIKH KHALID

country's politics.

The US and others accuse the group of destabilising the region through its military intervention in Syria on the side of President Bashar Al Assad's government.

The British ban comes as the United States is increasing its pressure on Hizbollah, placing several sets of sanctions on the group and its regional backer, Iran.

Last week, the US ambassador to Lebanon described what she labelled as Hizbollah's "growing" role in the new Lebanese Cabinet as a threat to the country's stability.

Startup Bahrain Week begins today



One of the sessions held at the previous Startup Bahrain Week.

TDT | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

To be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and Chairman of the Economic Development Board (EDB), the Kingdom will host 'Startup Bahrain Week' today until March 8, 2019, in co-operation with Tamkeen as a strategic partner.

Startup Bahrain Week is a community-led initiative that brings together the region's most exciting start-up events and connects some of the brightest entrepreneurial minds, with more than 2,500 delegates from around the world expected to participate.

The week's activities will include five events, four competi-

tions and more than 30 speakers from Bahrain and the region.

Pakiza Abdulrahman, event manager, told Tribune, "The Startup Bahrain Week, is an annual festival that aims to bring together, investors, tech startups and top speakers from around the world along with startups from the region and join their experiences with the Bahrain community."

"The Startup Bahrain Week, this year, is much bigger than compared to the previous year in terms of the number of speakers, competitions, workshops and initiatives that are taking place at different venues across the Kingdom."

"The start-ups will speak of the workshops done by AWS, Tamkeen and Saviour Ventures all the way from Kuwait scouting for food tech concepts.

2,500
delegates from around the world are expected to participate in the Startup Bahrain Week.

"Moreover, this year we have the MENA challenge which is sponsored by AWS, where the team at unbound has been scouting for the best startups around to bring them to Bahrain and exhibit and pitch on stage for top prizes."

"This year we will have an investors lounge where angel investors, venture capitalists and family officers will network and will connect with start-ups.

"Moreover, the main highlight for this year will be the welcoming of 104 international start-ups to come together for a start-up ecosystem tour. Over 100 companies, which are at different stages will come to Bahrain, to explore the startup ecosystem to meet with EDB sector teams, Tamkeen, accelerators and regulators to find out why Bahrain is positioned for the best choice for their business in the region."

"Lastly, we have collaborated with various organisations to host workshops and provide hands-on training, where we have startups from around the world coming in to participate."

"The Department of Trade from the UK has brought in seven scale-ups to come and expand to Bahrain and be a part of the annual exposure," Ms Abdulrahman added.

Gravity sponsors its youngest athlete

TDT | Manama

Gravity Indoor Skydiving is sponsoring Talal Janahi, who is the youngest Bahraini Indoor Skydiving flyer.

This initiative was inspired by the huge success of Shaikha Fatima Ahmed Al Khalifa who embarked on a journey to become Bahrain's First Female indoor skydiving athlete, which enabled her to participate in several international competitions including the third FAI World Cup of Indoor Skydiving, Bahrain.

Nine-year-old Talal Janahi's indoor skydiving journey began within the first year Gravity's opening in 2016 where he experienced bodyflight for the first time.

He then started flying on a regular basis and now frequents Gravity on a weekly basis to train.

Talal was encouraged and still received a lot of support from his dad to undergo this unique experience, which is what developed his love for flying and enabled him to progress significantly throughout the years.

With the support of his family, Talal started to receive private coaching at Gravity and become one of the youngest Bahraini professional flyers.

Talal's attendance to the World Cup of Indoor Skydiving 2018, which took place at Gravity in October 2018 was a great source of inspiration for him to become an athlete and progress his flying skills.



Talal has been undergoing training for the past two years.

Talal Janahi is currently attending primary school, however, with the help of his dad he is able to prepare a schedule to balance his studies and flying. He is currently under an advanced training programme set by Gravity and prepared by Gravity instructors, to prepare him to reach a high level and potentially compete at future competition.

"I am so happy to be the youngest Bahraini to represent the Kingdom of Bahrain and Gravity in this sport. I look forward to my visits to Gravity afterschool every day," Talal said.

Talal's father, Mohammed Janahi also expressed his gratitude toward Gravity Indoor Skydiving for giving Talal this great opportunity and for their continuous support. "It has truly been a great learning curve for Talal," he added.

Spotlight on Bahrain's diplomatic strides

Geneva

The Assistant Foreign Minister, Abdulla Al Doseri, met with senior officials and ambassadors on the sidelines of the 40th session of the Human Rights Council, the high-level segment in Geneva.

The Assistant Foreign Minister held talks with Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Georgia, Ambassador Lasha Darsalia, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia, Vice-President of the Human Rights Council, Ambassador Vesna Batistic Kos, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Fiji Islands and Vice-President of the Human Rights Council, Ambassador Nazhat Shameem Khan, and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iceland to the United Nations Office at Geneva



Mr Al Doseri with Ambassador Lasha Darsalia

and Vice-President of the Human Rights Council, Ambassador Harald Aspelund.

During the meetings, the Assis-

tant Foreign Minister praised the distinguished bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and other friendly countries,



Mr Al Doseri with Ambassador Harald Aspelund

stressing the Kingdom's keenness to further develop its relations in order to achieve common interests.

He also briefed the ambassadors and representatives on the progress of the Kingdom of Bahrain in many areas of human

rights, highlighting its prominent initiatives and efforts in the development of health, housing care and services, raising the quality and outcomes of education, advancing Bahraini women, bridging gender gap, and other achievements.

The ambassadors and representatives praised the growing bilateral relations with the Kingdom of Bahrain and expressed their congratulations for the Kingdom's achievements in the field of human rights, wishing it further progress and success.

A number of topics and issues of mutual interest were discussed, including cooperation in supporting the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, especially in the framework of the membership of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the Council for the years 2019-2021.

Saudi Arabia to set a global benchmark in patient safety

'Med Consult' launched in collaboration with King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre and World Health Organisation

● **Al Rabiah added that the Jeddah Declaration on Patient Safety would also be launched at the end of the summit.**

Jeddah

The Saudi Ministry of Health launched an application aimed at reducing diagnostic errors and enhancing patient safety yesterday, Arab News reported.

This was revealed by Saudi Health Minister Dr Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabiah in his speech on the Fourth Global Ministerial Patient Safety Summit, which opened at the Ritz Carlton on Saturday under the patronage of

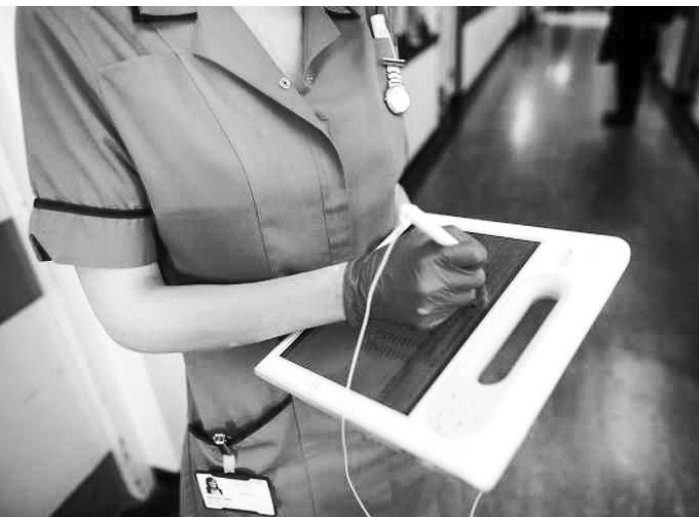
King Salman.

The application, called "Med Consult," was launched in collaboration with the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

According to Al Rabiah, who extended the King's warm greetings to the participants, the app is one of the important outcomes of the summit.

"It is an application for medical consultations through which health practitioners in low and middle-income countries and consultants from around the world can visually communicate and share experiences," the Saudi minister said.

Al Rabiah added that the Jeddah Declaration on Patient Safety would also be launched at the end of the summit. "We hope that this



A nurse uses a wireless electronic tablet to order medicines

declaration could be a continuation of our efforts to promote patient safety internationally and

a practical tool to improve safety in health sector.

He added that the Kingdom has

taken great strides in improving health care and enhancing patient safety. "This is also a key health component of the National Transformation Programme, which will help us achieve our Vision 2030 goals," he said.

For his part, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the UK and former health secretary Jeremy Hunt reviewed the most important patient safety issues in his country. Hunt cited a number of heartbreaking stories of patients who had suffered due to medical errors. He highlighted how his former ministry learnt from those experiences to prevent the further occurrence of such life-threatening errors.

"British health practitioners are now aware enough to avoid medical errors and consider the safety of their patients," Hunt said.

Women's Day blog article contest set

● The winner will receive a gift worth 100BD (265USD). All applicants must submit their blog article by emailing to mariam@afkarech.com in English before March 8.

TDT | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

To mark International Women's Day 2019 on March 8, Afkarech Foundation is hosting a competition for women in the Kingdom (aged from sixteen years and upwards) by inviting them to pen a blog article using the theme #balanceforbetter.

The theme this year for IWD is #balanceforbetter where the organisation is inviting all women interested in writing from age sixteen and up to create a blog using the theme from 500-800 words where all those shortlisted will appear on Afkarech Blog.

The winner will receive a gift worth 100BD (265USD). All applicants must submit their blog article by emailing to mariam@afkarech.com in English before March 8.

Mariam Alammadi founder of Afkarech, said: "The theme for this year's International Women's Day is 'Balance for better'. Balance is not a women's issue, it's a business issue. The race is on for the gender-balanced boardroom, a gender-balanced government, gender-balanced media coverage, a gender-balance of employees, more gender-balance in wealth, gender-balance in sports coverage.

"Gender balance is essential for economies and communities to thrive. Collective action and shared responsibility for driving a gender-balanced world are key. International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, while also marking a call to action for accelerating gender balance."

US renews designation of PKK as terrorist organisation

● **Turkish foreign minister Mevlut Cavusoglu confirmed that the discussions entailed the sale of a US Patriot missile defence system to Ankara.**

Ankara

In an apparent effort to gain concessions from Turkey on the issues of arms sales and creating an internationally-monitored safe zone in Syria, the Trump administration has renewed the designation of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) as a terrorist organisation.

The US State Department issued a statement announcing that it "has reviewed and maintained the Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) designation of the PKK". The militant group was first designated in October 1997 and the US has offered



The US has renewed the PKK's designation at the close of a US delegation trip to Turkey.

financial rewards for information on three of its leaders.

"The United States maintains a strong commitment to our partnership with our NATO ally Turkey, including fighting PKK fundraising operations in Europe and elsewhere", the statement read. While the move reiterates a longstanding US position on the PKK, its timing

comes as a US inter-agency delegation is visiting Ankara and negotiating a range of issues between the two NATO allies including Syria, the sale of Patriot missiles, trade and counter terrorism.

The meetings were the second this month between Washington and Ankara. The talks began on Wednesday and were due to con-

clude Friday, but it is unclear if they reached a breakthrough.

Turkish foreign minister Mevlut Cavusoglu confirmed that the discussions entailed the sale of a US Patriot missile defence system to Ankara. "The United States said they could sell Patriots, and the delegations are negotiating," Mr Cavusoglu said on Friday, Turkish

news agency Anadolu reported. However, issues relating to the time frame of delivering the \$3.5 billion and Turkey's purchase of S-400 missiles from Russia are complicating the talks, and remain unresolved.

US officials have insisted that if Ankara goes ahead with its purchase from Russia, then the Patriots deal will be withdrawn. "The S-400 will be delivered towards the end of this year in autumn. We bought S-400s because we could not purchase Patriots," Mr Cavusoglu was quoted as saying.

Nicholas Heras, a senior fellow at the Centre for New American Security, said the US-Turkish talks involve a number of trade-offs between the two states.

"The US is trying to gather enough carrots (incentives) to put into a basket to satisfy Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's desire to show that he has strong national security chops, and re-designating the PKK is an easy carrot for Washington," said Mr Heras.

world



Western powers led by the US blamed the Syrian regime for the deadly attack and unleashed air strikes on military installations in response

Chlorine used in Syria's Douma?

● Two cylinders likely containing chlorine smashed into a housing block in the town

● A team of OPCW inspectors took more than 100 samples from seven sites in Douma

The OPCW report said that there were “reasonable grounds that the use of a toxic chemical as a weapon has taken place on 7 April 2018. This toxic chemical contained reactive chlorine.”

The Hague, Netherlands

The world's chemical weapons watchdog said Friday that chlorine was used against the rebel-held Syrian town of Douma in 2018, in a long-awaited final report on the deadly attack. The report by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was based on a visit by inspectors to the site of the attack which witnesses said killed 43 people. Western powers led by the United States blamed the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad for the incident and unleashed air strikes on military installations in response. The Hague-based watchdog said two cylinders likely containing chlorine smashed into a housing block in the town. The OPCW report said that there were “reasonable grounds that the use of a toxic chemical as a weapon has taken place on 7 April 2018. This toxic chemical contained reactive chlorine.” It said however that it found no evidence of the use of nerve agents in Douma, which had been previously alleged by some parties in the conflict. The findings confirmed an interim OPCW report released last July saying that traces of

chlorine were found.

‘Staged provocation’

Russia, which backs Assad, rejected the report and said the attack was “staged” by Syrian rescue volunteers known as the White Helmets. “In spite of all the evidence presented by Russia, Syria, and even British journalists that the Douma incident is no more than ‘White helmets’ staged provocation, Technical Secretariat of OPCW states in today’s report that chlorine was used in Douma as a chemical weapon,” the Russian Embassy in The Hague tweeted. British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt however said Syria should now honour its 2013 vow to destroy all its chemical weapons, made after 1,400 people were killed in the Damascus suburb of Ghouta in what the UN said was an attack using the nerve agent sarin. France’s Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian echoed the comments, calling for “the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime to end and for the perpetrators of such acts to be punished”. The report said “two yellow industrial cylinders dedicated for pressurised gas” were found, one of which had landed on top of the housing block and crashed through it. It said it was “possible that the cylinders were the source of the substances containing reactive chlorine.” The OPCW said witnesses told the team there were “43 decedents related to the alleged chemical incident, most of whom were seen in videos and photos strewn on the floor of multiple levels of an apartment building and in front of the same building.” The watchdog also rejected claims by the Syrian regime that the gas came from an alleged rebel chemical weapons facility and storehouse in the area.



Young children look at a member of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) after leaving the Islamic State (IS) group's last holdout of Baghouz, in Syria's northern Deir Ezzor province

Pakistanis sign petition seeking Nobel Peace Prize for Imran Khan

Islamabad, Pakistan

More than 300,000 people have signed online petitions calling for Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to receive a Nobel Peace Prize after he freed an Indian pilot in a bid to defuse tensions with his country's neighbour. The hashtag #NobelPeaceForImranKhan began trending on Twitter after Khan unexpectedly announced that the captured pilot would be released as a “peace gesture”. Pakistan's information minister Fawad Chaudhry yesterday also submitted a resolution in the country's parliament demanding Khan be given the award for his contribution to peace in the region.

Anger over ‘forced’ video of Indian pilot

AFP | New Delhi, India

A furious backlash erupted in India yesterday over a video of an Indian pilot captured by Pakistan praising his captors, as deadly tensions simmered between the neighbours with fierce shelling across their Kashmir frontier. Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, whose MiG fighter crashed Wednesday as he chased Pakistani jets over disputed Kashmir, crossed over at the Wagah frontier late Friday several hours after the scheduled time. Media reports said Abhinandan's return to India had been held up because the pilot was forced to make the video before getting his freedom.

In the heavily edited video distributed by the Pakistani military just before his release, he praised the professionalism of the Pakistani army and criticised Indian media for creating war hysteria. “The army personnel saved me from the mob. The Pakistani army is very professional and I am impressed by it,” he said. Omar Abdullah, a former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir state, said the video tainted Pakistan's gesture to return the pilot so quickly. Indian media slammed the video as “distasteful” and said it breached international norms for prisoners of war. India's social media also slammed the video, which was tweeted by the Pakistan.



Invitation to the Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting of Takaful International Company B.S.C. to be held on Sunday 24 March 2019 at 10:30 am

The Board of Directors of Takaful International Company would like to invite the Shareholders to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), which will be held on **Sunday 24 March 2019, at Wyndham Grand Manama Hotel starting from 10:30 am**. If the quorum has not been fulfilled, a second meeting will be held on Sunday 31 March 2019 at the same time and place to discuss and adopt the agendas below.

- Agenda for the Annual General meeting:**
- Approve the previous minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 21 March 2018.
 - Discuss and approve the Board of Directors report for the financial year ended 31 December 2018.
 - Receive the Shari'a Supervisory Board report for the financial year ended 31 December 2018.
 - Receive the statutory auditor's report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2018.
 - Discuss and approve the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2018.
 - Discuss and approve the following recommendations of the Board of Directors in allocating the net profits for the year as follows:
 - Transfer BD **65,074/-** to the statutory reserve.
 - Transfer of the net profit for the year 2018 of **BD 585,657/-** to the retained earnings.
 - Inform shareholders about their total liability on Zakat of **BD 187,249/-** (i.e., BD 2.200 for every one thousand share held) for the year ended 31 December 2018, as determined by Shari'a Supervisory Board.
 - Inform shareholders about related party transactions during the year ended 31 December 2018 as detailed in note (18) of the financial statements.
 - Discuss and approve the Corporate Governance report for the year 2018 and the Company's compliance with Central Bank of Bahrain's requirements.
 - Discharge the Board of Directors for all the matters related to their conduct for the financial year ended 31 December 2018.
 - Appointment / Re-appointment of the Shari'a Supervisory Board Members for the financial year 2019.
 - Appointment / Re-appointment of the Statutory Auditors for the financial year 2019 subject to the approval of the Central Bank of Bahrain and authorize the Board of Directors to fix their fee.
 - Any additional matter according to article 207 of Bahrain Commercial Companies Law.

- Agenda of the Extraordinary General Meeting:**
- Approve the previous minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting held on 21 March 2018.
 - Approve the Board of Directors' resolution to amend the memorandum and articles of association in accordance with the provisions of Law no. (1) for the year 2018 with respect to the amendments of some provisions of the Commercial Companies Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. 21 of 2001 and AAOFI Shari'a, Governance and Accounting standards.
 - Authorize the Chairman of the Board or a person acting on his behalf to sign the amended memorandum and articles of association before the notary public.

- Notes:**
- The financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2018 and copies of the proxy card are available with the share registrar (Bahrain Bourse) at their offices in the Bahrain Financial Harbor 4th floor, and at the company's offices at Seef Area.
 - All registered Shareholders at the annual general meeting date, are eligible to attend the meeting in person or assign, in writing, a proxy holder to attend on their behalf. The proxy holder should not be the Chairman of the board, a board member or an employee of Takaful International Company.
 - For institutional Shareholders, the proxy holder attending the meeting should present a valid power of attorney that authorizes him to be the representative of that Shareholder. The power of attorney has to be in writing, signed by the company's authorized person, stamped by the official company's stamp and submitted to Takaful International Company before the deadline.
 - The proxy card shall be deposited, at least 24 hours before the AGM, at Takaful International Company's main office in Seef Area. The card may be delivered by hand, post, faxed to: 17582688 or emailed to: takaful@gigtakaful.bh. The Shareholder must ensure delivering the proxy card before the deadline. Any cards received after the deadline will not be valid for the AGM.
 - For any inquiries, please call the board of Directors' Secretary on 17565686.

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www.gigtakaful.bh



Venezuelan scavengers dig through trash at a landfill, in Pacaraima, Roraima State, Brazil, on the border with Venezuela

US slaps sanctions on Venezuela regime

Washington, United States

The United States and Russia clashed Friday over how to assist crisis-wracked Venezuela, with Moscow pledging new relief channeled through President Nicolas Maduro and Washington slapping sanctions over the blocking of US aid.

A day after Russia and China vetoed a US and European resolution at the UN Security Council that called for unimpeded aid deliveries, Washington said it was targeting six Venezuelan military officers for stopping US-led convoy.

Four people were killed in the melee as Maduro's forces prevented the 178 metric tonnes of rice, beans and other food from crossing into the country from Colombia. The leftist strongman says the aid is a pretext for a US-led invasion.

"We are sanctioning members of Maduro's security forces in response to the reprehensible violence, tragic deaths

and unconscionable torching of food and medicine destined for sick and starving Venezuelans," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said.

Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido, whom Washington has recognized as interim president, had hoped to triumph in bringing in the stockpiles of food.

Russia steps up

More than 50 countries recognize Guaido as Venezuela's rightful president -- but Maduro enjoys strong support from Russia, which is eager to challenge US interventionism, as well as China, which is concerned over the fate of billions of dollars Beijing has lent to Caracas.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, receiving Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodriguez in Moscow, said Russia was stepping up shipments of wheat and was considering sending more medical supplies after shipping 7.5 tonnes.

Mission space capsule

● The new capsule blasted off aboard the Falcon 9 rocket built by SpaceX

● The capsule is scheduled to reach the ISS by Sunday at around 1100 GMT

Cape Canaveral, United States

NASA and SpaceX celebrated the successful launch yesterday of a new astronaut capsule on a week-long round trip to the International Space Station -- a key step towards resuming manned space flights from US soil after an eight-year break.

This time around, the only occupant on board SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsule was a dummy named Ripley -- but NASA plans to put two astronauts aboard later this year.

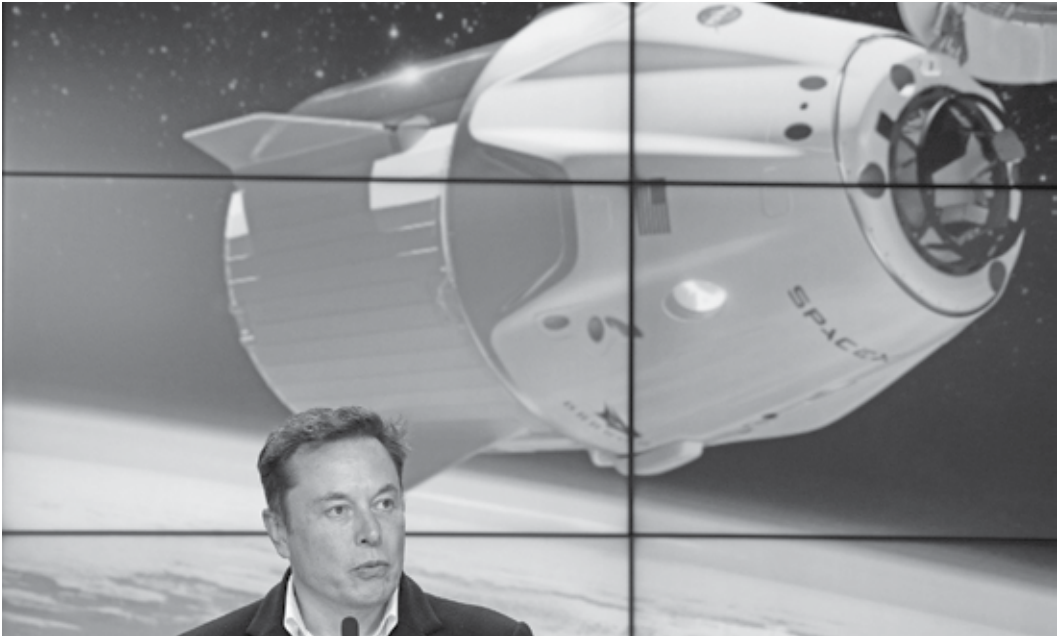
The new capsule blasted off aboard the Falcon 9 rocket built by SpaceX -- run by billionaire Elon Musk -- at 2:49 am (0749 GMT) from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida, lighting up the coastline.

Eleven minutes later, the confirmation came from SpaceX mission control: "Dragon separation confirmed."

That triggered cheers at the firm's headquarters and at the Kennedy Space Center.

The capsule is scheduled to reach the ISS by Sunday at around 1100 GMT, with a return to Earth next Friday.

It will splash down in the



SpaceX chief Elon Musk speaks during a press conference after the launch of SpaceX Crew Dragon Demo mission at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida

Atlantic Ocean, from where it will be brought back to Cape Canaveral.

In another success, the rocket's first stage returned to Earth, landing on a platform 500 kilometers (310 miles) off the Florida coast in the Atlantic. It marks the 35th such recovery by SpaceX.

NASA had announced weather conditions were good head of the launch, with an 80-percent chance of favorable weather.

SpaceX chief Elon Musk, who founded the company in 2002, was at the space center for the occasion.

"This is a critically important event in American history," the head of the US space agency, Jim Bridenstine, told reporters on Friday

"We're on the precipice of

launching American astronauts on American rockets from American soil again for the first time since the retirement of the space shuttles in 2011."

Boeing next

Boeing also received a contract in 2014 to develop a space vessel, the Starliner. It will not be tested until April, in a mission similar to SpaceX's.

NASA did not want to rely on just one single vehicle, in case of accidents.

"We're going to be a customer," Bridenstine told reporters.

Planning has been delayed by around three years, with the first manned SpaceX flight still penciled in for July, though officials frequently refer to the end of 2019 as a more realistic deadline.

'Going to learn a ton'

Saturday's flight aims to test the vessel's reliability and safety in real-life conditions.

The dummy riding in the capsule -- which SpaceX's Hans Koenigsmann prefers to call a "smartie" -- has been nicknamed Ripley in honor of the character played by Sigourney Weaver in the "Alien" movies.

It is fitted with monitors to test the forces that future astronauts will be subjected to on takeoff and when they return to the Earth's atmosphere and then splash down in the Atlantic, slowed down by giant parachutes.

Rio carnival opens



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Rio de Janeiro's fabled Carnival -- one of the world's biggest and most lively parties -- kicked off Friday with the traditional symbolic passing of a key to the city to festival leader King Momo.

Once again this year, mayor and former evangelical Christian pastor Marcelo Crivella is sitting out the fun.

He sees all the debauchery -- so much sweat, skin and sequins -- as less than ideal, and has cut public funding for the samba troupes who will strut their stuff over the weekend in half.

So Tourism Minister Marcelo Alves took his place for the opening festivities.

Wilson Neto -- the big, jovial man who plays King Momo -- accepted the key in the Sambadrome in a shower of confetti, and then declared Rio's legendary Carnival open.

The 14 elite samba schools in the "special group" will parade on Sunday and Monday through the Sambadrome as they compete for the most prestigious Carnival title.

Some of them have adopted themes highlighting women, blacks and indigenous people in Brazil -- an in-your-face response to Brazil's far-right President Jair Bolsonaro.

Starting Friday, the traditional "blocos" street parties were thumping in Rio and other Brazilian cities such as Salvador, Recife and Sao Paulo.

Authorities expect seven million people -- including one and a half million Brazilian and foreign tourists -- to participate in this gigantic outdoor party.

In a country that is just edging out of severe economic crisis and a tense electoral process, Carnival is a sacred ritual of collective catharsis.

Even Crivella could not be a total naysayer, saying in a video posted Friday on social media: "May God protect us and make it a good carnival."



A reveller of "Academicos do Tucuruvi" samba school



View of the Imperio de Casa Verde samba school float



A reveller of Imperio de Casa Verde samba school

US, SKorea to ‘discontinue’ major military exercise



Representative picture. (Courtesy of Stars and Stripes)

Washington, United States

The US military and South Korea are planning to “discontinue” annual large-scale military exercises as President Donald Trump pursues efforts to improve ties with North Korea, a US official said.

The comment from the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, came shortly after the conclusion of Trump’s second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Hanoi, which ended without a formal agreement but with both sides suggesting they will keep talking.

NBC News first reported that the Foal Eagle drills -- which usually take place in the spring -- would be scrapped, citing two unnamed US defense officials.

Foal Eagle is the biggest of the regular joint exercises held by the allies, and has always infuriated Pyongyang, which condemned it as preparations for invasion. In the past, it has in-

volved 200,000 South Korean forces and some 30,000 US soldiers.

It overlaps with the Key Resolve exercise.

Since Trump’s first summit with Kim last year in Singapore, the US and Seoul have scaled back or scrapped several joint military drills, and US bombers are no longer flying over South Korea.

Trump has repeatedly complained that the exercises are too costly.

NBC reported that the annual exercises would be replaced with “smaller, mission-specific training.”

The Republican president however has ruled out withdrawing any of the 28,500 US forces based in South Korea to defend it from its nuclear-armed neighbor, which invaded in 1950.

Any such drawdown would face strong push-back from the US Congress and Japan, whose conservative government is deeply wary of North Korea’s intentions.

Recipe for disaster



This undated handout provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of Australia shows the oil spill from the MV Solomon Trader along the coastline of Rennell Island, some 240 kilometres south of the capital Honiara. New Zealand joined an international effort on March 1 to limit damage from oil spilling out of the ship that ran aground near World Heritage-listed waters in the Solomon Islands almost a month ago.

Trump in Trouble!



Trump blames North for student’s death, doesn’t mention Kim



US student Otto Frederick Warmbier (R), who was arrested for committing hostile acts against North Korea, speaking at a press conference in Pyongyang. (file)

- The 22-year-old Warmbier died days after being sent back to the United States in 2017
- Trump said he believed the North Korean leader’s claim that he didn’t know what happened to Otto Warmbier

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump on Friday sought to quell a firestorm sparked by his comments on the case of an American student tortured and left in a coma in North Korea, saying his words had been “misinterpreted.”

Trump sparked widespread criticism when he told reporters at this week’s summit with Kim Jong Un in Vietnam that he believed the North Korean leader’s claim that he didn’t know what happened to Otto Warmbier during his detention.

The 22-year-old Warmbier died days after being sent back to the United States in 2017.

After a stern rebuke from Warmbier’s parents, Trump took to Twitter, insisting he held North Korea responsible for the student’s death -- but without directly blaming Kim or even mentioning him.

“I never like being misinterpreted, but especially when it comes to Otto Warmbier and his great family,” Trump said. “Of course I hold North Korea responsible for Otto’s mistreatment and death.”

“Most important, Otto Warmbier will not have died in vain. Otto and his family have become a tremendous symbol of strong passion and strength, which will last for many years into the future.”

Earlier Friday, Warmbier’s parents Fred and Cindy condemned the US leader’s “lavish praise” of Kim this week fol-

”

I got Otto out along with three others. The previous Administration did nothing, and he was taken on their watch. I love Otto and think of him often!

DOANLD TRUMP

lowing their summit in Hanoi.

“We have been respectful during this summit process. Now we must speak out,” they said in a statement.

“Kim and his evil regime are responsible for the death of our son Otto. Kim and his evil regime are responsible for unimaginable cruelty and inhumanity,” they said.

“No excuses or lavish praise can change that.”

Firestorm over Trump praise

Warmbier, an Ohio native who studied at the University of Virginia, had traveled to North Korea on a tour.

He was pulled away at the Pyongyang airport and charged

Warmbier, an Ohio native who studied at the University of Virginia, had traveled to North Korea on a tour. He was pulled away at the Pyongyang airport and charged with crimes against the state for allegedly taking down a propaganda poster in his hotel. He was sentenced to 15 years of hard labour.

with crimes against the state for allegedly taking down a propaganda poster in his hotel.

He was sentenced to 15 years of hard labor. After lengthy negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang, Warmbier was released but died a few days later on American soil.

After the Hanoi summit, Trump said of Kim: “He knew the case very well, but he knew it later.”

Kim “tells me that he didn’t know about it, and I will take him at his word,” Trump said.

‘Tortured beyond belief’

Washington politicians reminded the president that in 2017, he took credit for obtaining Warmbier’s release.

“Otto was tortured beyond belief by North Korea,” Trump said at the time.

That year, he also labelled Kim Jong Un a “madman who doesn’t mind starving or killing his people.”

Warmbier’s parents were then invited to attend Trump’s State of the Union address in Congress in January 2018 and were hailed as “incredible people” in his speech.

In a tweet earlier Friday, before the Warmbier statement, Trump sought to put a good spin on his abortive nuclear talks with Kim.

“Great to be back from Vietnam, an amazing place. We had very substantive negotiations with Kim Jong Un - we know what they want and they know what we must have. Relationship very good, let’s see what happens!”

After Warmbier’s death, the US government supported his parents in a lawsuit against Pyongyang.

On December 24, a US judge ordered North Korea to pay \$501 million over Warmbier’s death from apparent torture.

A judge said that Warmbier had been used “as a pawn in that totalitarian state’s global shenanigans and face-off with the United States.”

China isn't having enough babies

*Can the state
keep up with the
rapid ageing of
such a large population?*



WANG FENG

Fewer babies were born in China last year than in 2017, and already fewer had been born in 2017 than in 2016. There were 15.23 million new births in 2018, down by more than 11 per cent from the year before. The authorities had predicted that easing and then abolishing the one-child policy in the mid-2010s would trigger a baby boom; it's been more like a baby bust.

No, these figures don't mean that China's population itself has started to decline. But they do mean that the population overall is ageing, and fast. And they mean that the Chinese government can no longer manipulate fertility with blunt pro-natal policies; the reasons for the drop run too deep. Instead of futile, retrograde statist intervention in people's reproductive choices, the authorities should undertake broad economic and social reforms to address the deep causes of the decline while mitigating the burdens of its worst effects.

Fertility in China started dropping, and rapidly, in the late 1960s — long before 1980, the year the government officially put the one-child policy in place. As with other countries, the reasons included improved survival for infants and children, and women's increased participation in the labour force. And the factors that

are driving down fertility today, such as mass urbanisation, greater wealth and more choices for women, are here to stay.

Several decades of internal migration have brought half a billion people into the cities. Six out of 10 Chinese now live in urban areas, compared with 2 in 10 four decades ago. In 1990, only 3pc of college-age Chinese attended college; in 2015, the number was more than 40pc for men and 45pc for women. Today, Chinese women — armed with new knowledge, living independently in vibrant cities and determined to pursue their own goals — are less likely than previous generations to let their personal and reproductive decisions be influenced by pressure from the state or their families. In 1990, virtually every woman in China was married by the age of 30, according to official census data. In 2015, 1 in 10 women had not married by 30; in Shanghai, it was 1 in 5.

Low fertility has its benefits. Fewer children probably means that more attention is paid to them, including in the form of more investment in education. China's population may be older overall, but it also is wealthier, a fact that has brought new economic opportunities, such as more health care related products and services, and greater spending on leisure. The declining size of the work force and rising labour costs together drive up demand for labor-saving technologies, from automation to artificial intelligence.

But fertility in China has dropped even as life expectancy



has increased, and that combination has translated into the population's ageing overall — which, in turn, has meant an increasing economic burden on working-age people. Since 2010, the number of Chinese people between the ages of 20 and 24, for example, dropped by about 30pc (from more than 127 million to about 90 million), even as the number of people ages 60 and above increased by almost 39pc (from 180 million to nearly 250 million). Based on our analysis of official statistics and other population data, we estimate that by 2030 the 20-to-24 age group will shrink by another 20pc (to

The Chinese government
urgently needs to
address these mounting
demographic pressures
with systemic reforms.

Islamic Republic of Iran a dead



BARIA ALAMUDDIN

The Islamic Republic at 40 years old doesn't have much to celebrate. Last week's anniversary was a reminder of four decades of regional and global terrorism, and four decades of terrorism against long-suffering citizens whose birthright wealth is corruptly devoured and squandered on overseas aggression.

Iran is one of a small number of rogue states that measures national success by the size of its missiles. President Hassan Rouhani boasted to amassed crowds last week that "we will continue to pursue our path and our military power... We have not asked and will not ask for permission to develop various types of missile." Yet most of Iran's rocket tests have embarrassingly gone up in smoke. Along with engineering incompetence, many failures are reportedly due to US intelligence slipping faulty spare parts into missile supply chains.

Nevertheless, the Commander of US Central Command Vice Adm James Malloy warned: "They have a growing capability in cruise missiles, they have a growing capability in ballistic missiles, they have a growing capability in unmanned surfaced systems, all these things that we watch that are offensive, and destabilising in nature." Fur-

thermore, a fortune is recklessly wasted by Tehran on waging cyber wars against foreign states.

Despite what Iran's apologists — like EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini — like to claim, the ayatollahs' default mode of governance is conflict through as many different means as possible. Tehran's warmongering regime is like the rabid neighbourhood dog that senselessly and indiscriminately attacks the legs of all passers-by. The Gulf region hasn't known peace since 1979, and won't know peace until this theocratic war machine is derailed.

These same apologists argued that the 2015 nuclear deal would benefit ordinary Iranians. Instead, Tehran diverted billions toward a tsunami of militancy in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and elsewhere, while upscaling its ballistic missile program. Architects of the nuclear deal promised to address Iran's other nefarious activities. Instead, European leaders were seduced by the mirage of profiting from Iranian markets and oil, putting them on a collision course with Donald Trump's pledge to get tough on Tehran. Yet Trump's own containment strategy is incoherent. His preemptive Syria pullout (combined with ill-advised comments about "watching" Tehran from bases in Iraq) created further fissures within the foreign policy community over Iran strategy.

Meanwhile, the French, Germans and British are stubbornly defying diplomatic gravity with a mechanism that supposedly al-



Iranian women hold up portraits of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, during a rally marking the 40th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

lows companies (which have long since fled Iran's imploding marketplace) to evade US sanctions. This farcical initiative appears solely designed to delude Iran long enough for the US to elect a different president. However, the mechanism allows Iranian diplomats to gleefully run rings around their Western counterparts. The more Iran is allowed to get away with, the more aggressive and demanding it gets. Meanwhile, India, China, Russia and Iraq are

vigorously circumventing US oil sanctions.

Sanctions cause ordinary Iranians to suffer, while conflict-thirsty hardliners pocket the profits of sanctions evasion and relish the opportunity to go on the offensive. Despite Rouhani's increasingly anti-American rhetoric, his domestic popularity has plummeted, while Qassem Soleimani, the brains behind Tehran's regional blitzkrieg, is rated as the most popular figure in Iran. Iranians

must be forced to see that Soleimani's war-making bankrupts state coffers and makes their country weaker and more hated; as evidenced by thousands of furious Iraqi Shiite protesters chanting "Iran get out." Instead of disengaging from Syria and the region, Western and Arab allies must block Tehran at every turn. Sanctions alone are a blunt tool and can be counterproductive when divorced from a holistic and forceful containment strategy.

*The more
Iran is
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and
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it gets*

1986

The **Australia Act 1986** commences, causing Australia to become fully independent from the United Kingdom.

1991

An **amateur video** captures the beating of **Rodney King** by Los Angeles police officers.



2005

James Roszko murders four Royal Canadian Mounted Police constables during a drug bust at his property in Rochfort Bridge, Alberta, then commits suicide.

2005

Steve Fossett becomes the first person to fly an airplane non-stop around the world solo without refueling.



health care and pensions has increased from 6.3pc of gross domestic product in 2007 to 11.6pc of gross domestic product in 2016 — faster than spending on military or domestic security programmes.

Assuming that China simply maintains welfare benefits at current levels, the population's ageing could push up public spending on education, health care and pensions from 10pc today to 17pc of China's gross domestic product by 2035, and then 23pc by 2050 — that's the share of gross domestic product for all government spending today. Should China increase welfare benefits in line with high-income countries — a stated aspiration of the Chinese leadership — they could take up to 32pc of the gross domestic product by 2050. Unless the Chinese government can increase tax revenues, it will be left with little to spend on other stated priorities, like its "One Belt, One Road" initiative or military expansion.

Moreover, the results of greater expenditures have been uneven so far. Spending on education heavily favours the urban elites. Reimbursement rates for health care vary widely according to one's social status. The average pension payment is less than \$10 per month for a rural elderly person but nearly \$500 dollars for a retired civil servant. A scare last summer over delayed payments in one rust-belt province was a fresh warning that China's pension system, which is organised by both region and employment

sector, is too fragmented to be reliable and struggling to keep up with the population's ageing.

Education and health care, two sectors over which the government has tremendous control, are among the most inefficient in China. China's educational system is hyper-competitive, yet it is not turning out the most creative or productive workers. Education also is very expensive, which may dissuade parents from having children. So, too, with high housing costs.

The Chinese government urgently needs to address these mounting demographic pressures with systemic reforms. It must provide adequate child care and equal access to public education, and ensure quality in health care. It should postpone the retirement age (currently 55 for women and 60 for men) and nationalise pension standards. More broadly, it needs to promote social equality, especially gender equality, and a work-life balance.

Two generations of Chinese, many of them raised as only-children, have experienced China's prosperity, and if their parents and grandparents hoped that the state could provide food and shelter, they now expect safe medicine, clean air, adequate health care and decent pensions. The Chinese leadership's political legitimacy is on the line. For decades, China mortgaged its population for the sake of economic growth. It's payback time.

(Wang Feng is professor of sociology at the University of California, Irvine.)

And man walking



Sanctions cause ordinary Iranians to suffer, while conflict-thirsty hardliners pocket the profits of sanctions evasion and relish the opportunity to go on the offensive.

effort to reach out to the Arab world, Netanyahu continues his murderous, expansionist policies against the Palestinians, meaning that 99 percent of Arab publics will always reject an unjust and meaningless peace.

China pointedly stayed away from Warsaw, while two key states — Turkey and Russia — instead of joining for a mature discussion, were meeting with Iranian officials to discuss how to carve up Syria into their respective zones of influence.

France and Germany must wake up to the escalating threat their irresponsible approach facilitates. French police last year thwarted an attempted Iranian terrorist attack against Paris-based oppositionists, with parallel actions against Iranian diplomats implicated in assassination and terrorist plots across the continent. Via Syria and Lebanon, Iran and Hizbollah have become Medi-

terranean powers, while Iraqi proxies agitate to strike Western assets. Are we ready to grapple with the implications of this, given Iran's continuing threats to launch attacks and blockages in the Hormuz waterway?

Tehran has, meanwhile, derailed efforts to consolidate democracy in Iraq and Lebanon. Cabinet-forming efforts in Baghdad are held hostage, while Hezbollah threatened to block a confidence vote in the new Lebanese Cabinet after questions were raised over its dominance of this coming government. Tehran's stranglehold over the Damascus regime is similarly all-consuming. Iran's leaders believe that vast expenditure on overseas aggression makes the nation invincible, yet the biggest challenge to the Islamic Republic doesn't come from abroad. Four decades of overseas terrorism and squandered wealth has hollowed out this regime, like an ancient tree rotten on the inside and ready to collapse.

Iranians are ready for change and, with global support and solidarity, this change simply becomes a matter of time. From the outside, the Islamic Republic looks like a sprawling colossus, devouring everything within its reach; but, when you take a closer look, the Islamic Republic at 40 years old is a dead man walking.

(Baria Alamuddin is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK. She is editor of the Media Services Syndicate and has interviewed numerous heads of state.)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



In 99% of the counties in the United States, a minimum wage worker working full-time cannot afford market rate for a one-bedroom apartment. I'll pass the Rent Relief Act as President, to guarantee more money in families' pockets who are struggling with rent.

@KamalaHarris

02



Spending a few hours today doing calltime. But instead of calling donors, I'm calling constituents to personally follow up on casework they've brought to our office, and give them progress updates myself. Getting big money out of politics means your Reps can do more of this.

@AOC

03



India's happiness on return of Wing Commander Abhinandan is unprecedented. I salute the courage and resilience of Wg Commander Abhinandan.

@arunjaitley

04



We need to learn the lessons from our past interventions before committing the same blunder in Venezuela. If Trump moves forward without a Congressional vote, I will support a War Powers Resolution to stop military action.

@RoKhan

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

Savings for the nation's future



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

I found it an eye-opener that popular Hollywood actress Chrissy Metz was quoted as saying financial decisions as simple as buying a laptop reduced her to tears of panic.

Like many movie stars and successful people, Chrissy too had struggled financially before hitting the jackpot.

Financial planning is something that is on a lot of minds in Bahrain as we all strive to balance rising cost of living with the need to save for the future.

Women of today are especially vulnerable to a hesitation when it comes to rigorous fiscal planning despite the fact that they have access to wider education and better career opportunities than my mother's generation.

This is perhaps because we live in a more consumerist society where there are more temptations to buy more things. I am not saying men are

not just as susceptible but the fact is that in the olden days, Bahraini women held the purse-strings and ran their home economies efficiently while the men sailed the seas, powering Bahrain's maritime economy through trade and the pearling industry.

In Bahrain, women are powering entrepreneurial ventures and increasingly they are influential in the national economy.

According to the statistics released by the Labour Market Regulatory Agency as of the end of 2014, the percentage of

Bahraini Women in the Workforce has reached 35.3 per cent of the total Bahraini Workforce for both private and public sectors.

They must translate this into yet another meaningful victory — by inculcating the habit of fiscal prudence in every home and making it a national trait, by bringing up our future generations of sons and daughters to learn this habit of planning for a prosperous future based on today's hard work.

But in order to do this systematically, we must strengthen the parents' role with educational inputs. Schools must begin financial education for children and teach them that it can be intellectually stimulating, emotionally gratifying, and socially rewarding.

We have all heard of the saying that many drops of water make a big ocean. Every household's savings will make for a stronger nation.

(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

EU ready to give Britain more guarantees: Barnier

Reuters | Berlin

The European Union is ready to give Britain more guarantees that the Irish “backstop” is only intended to be temporary, the bloc’s chief Brexit negotiator said on Friday.

“We know that there are misgivings in Britain that the backstop could keep Britain forever connected to the EU,” Michel Barnier said in an interview with Germany’s Die Welt newspaper to be published on Saturday.

“This is not the case. And we are ready to give further guarantees, assurances and clarifications that the backstop should only be temporary.”

The backstop, an arrangement designed to prevent the return of “hard” border infrastructure between EU member Ireland and British-ruled Northern Ireland if there is no trade deal after Brexit that makes it unnecessary, has become the main point of contention in the proposed Brexit deal.

“We will not reverse the backstop,” Barnier added. “It’s an in-



British Prime Minister Theresa May (L) arrives at the EU headquarters in Brussels to hold a meeting on Brexit talks with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker (R) and EU Brexit European Commission's Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier (C)

surance. We don’t want to make use of it. And this is also the case when you insure your house. It’s only intended for the worst-case scenario.”

British Foreign Secretary Jer-

emy Hunt said last month that the key to securing a Brexit deal that the British government can get through parliament was to define the “temporary” nature of the Irish backstop more pre-

cisely.

Prime Minister Theresa May has said that, if British law-makers once more reject her withdrawal agreement in a vote due to take place by March 12, they will get to vote on asking her to request that the EU delay Brexit.

Barnier said EU guarantees that the backstop is temporary could come as part of the political agreement setting out expectations for Britain’s relationship with the bloc after it leaves.

He told Die Welt that any extension must be intended specifically to solve the impasse. He added that he saw little risk of the remaining 27 EU leaders opposing a delay to Britain’s exit, currently set down as March 29, as long as Britain was serious about finding a solution.

“The question that the EU27 will ask is: What (is it) for? The answer cannot be that Britain wants to postpone a problem. One would want to solve it.”

He added that any decision to allow an extension would have to be unanimously approved by EU leaders at a summit on March 21.

Mohamed Hasan Al Mezel wins AUB’s Cash prize of \$25000



Mohammed Al Mezel, the winner

TDT | Manama

Ahli United Bank (AUB) has announced Mohamed Hasan Al Mezel as the latest winner of \$25,000 through AUB’s MyHassad savings scheme’s weekly draw.

The cheque was presented during a special prize-giving ceremony held at the bank’s headquarters.

Receiving the cheque, Al Mezel said, “I feel blessed winning such a grand prize for the first time in my life and have decided to invest it in my children’s education.”

Ahli United Bank earlier this year announced the launch of the all-new 2019 edition of its saving scheme, MyHassad with a prize pool of over US\$8 million and up to 863 prizes over the year.

Each week, Bahrain-based MyHassad customers will get a chance to win a grand cash prize of \$25,000. This is on top of the twenty BD 1,000 prizes to be won weekly.

MyHassad, AUB said, will offer customers the newly added chances of winning a fabulous prize of BD100,000 (\$265,000) every month.

Every quarter, MyHassad will offer a grand prize of \$500,000 to AUB’s Bahrain-based customers.

Making this year’s scheme truly special is the new grand Eid Al Fitr Prize of \$250,000, AUB said. In addition, MyHassad offers customers further chances to win 10 Eid prizes of \$1,000 each. MyHassad’s biggest surprise for 2019 is the opportunity to become an instant millionaire with its new US\$ 1 million jackpot.

Trump urges China to remove tariffs on agricultural products

Washington, United States



US President Donald Trump on Friday urged China to abolish tariffs on agricultural products imported from the United States -- adding that trade talks between the rival powers were going well.

“I have asked China to immediately remove all Tariffs on our agricultural products (including beef, pork, etc.),” the president wrote on Twitter.

He said his request was based on the fact that negotiations with China were “moving

along nicely” -- and his delay last week of a planned tariff increase on Chinese exports.

“This is very important for our great farmers - and me!” he added.

After months of trade war, the US and China agreed to a 90-day truce to work out their differences. It was scheduled to end Friday, but Trump eventually lifted the ultimatum to increase tariffs, satisfied by progress made in several rounds of talks in Beijing and Washington.

BCCI holds weekly Majlis

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) announced holding its weekly Majlis meetings today.

This week’s meeting themed Constructions and Real-Estate will be held today from 6:00 pm.to 7:30 pm, the Chamber announced.

In this regard, the chamber renewed its invitation to the business community to attend.

Fintech seminar

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) is organising a seminar themed “FinTech” on Monday from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm at Bahrain Fintech Bay.

The move aims to highlight the prospect of Fintech in transforming businesses and the economy.

The chamber extended its invitation to the business community to attend the seminar to keeping abreast of technological advancement.



MIKE ORLOV

Professional Development Trends

This week I thought I would share a summary of a conversation with a client, with his permission, outlining the thought-processes behind choosing the right partner to improve his own performance, performance of the enterprise, productivity and develop managers and key employees in the enterprise.

The dialogue went something like this:

As you face increasing pressure to deliver results in the short-term and create exciting, sustainable futures for the long-term, all the while developing leaders within your organisation, you will require advisors, facilitators and outside-aid to propose and then implement activity to help with ranges of complex issues.

You know there is a vast transfer of institutional, industrial and professional knowledge demanded by current market-environments. You need to augment gaps in knowledge and skills, emphasising the transfer of wisdom. Leadership competencies, management capabilities and functional skills all need improving. You will also need to create greater agility, consistent attitudes and behaviours as well as improve communication through the enterprise.

Your future forecast is to need managers with much more meaningful interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence where exceptional leadership competencies, attitudes and behaviours are demanded.

Breakthrough thinking and new information will be driven by knowledge, experience and skills you and your management team need in order to achieve new patterns of action

Since you are placing a premium on these elements, it is very likely you will demand even more focus on developing yourself as well as individuals to lead your enterprises, divisions, departments and teams.

Exploring outside aid will mean you will need to define whether you are looking for consultants, facilitators, trainers or coaches. When looking at coaches, you will need to define whether they are life coaches, career coaches, executive coaches or business coaches and whether you believe they need, or have had, business and/or executive experience.

Consulting, facilitating, coaching and training is certainly becoming an even greater necessary-focus for you to propel your people, your organisation and yourself further and faster; gaining a multiplier effect for long-term results, not just

satisfying the need for this year’s closing numbers.

You will choose outside help which offers useful-learning in a format that is memorable and fun; why make it dull and boring which is easily forgotten.

Breakthrough thinking and new information will be driven by knowledge, experience and skills you and your management team need in order to achieve new patterns of action; more than advice, more than consulting, more than training and more than life-coaching, you are going to demand implementation as well as advice and intervention.

Given this brief, you will want to find those who have been line managers, directors and operatives in enterprises and can show they have been serial-achievers. You will search for a unique blend of senior executive experience, professional coaching presence, and a gift for leveraging diverse strengths to accelerate leader-development, management-capabilities and team-alignment with professional intervention-effectiveness.

The demand for ‘been there, seen that, done that’ will continue to rise, as you are better positioned to help your leaders. You will be looking for pithy insights and proven strategies but also recognise each situation is unique; off-the shelf proposals will not fit your particular situation.

There will be a need for mutually accountable relationships. You will seek outside help from people who are prepared to customise and tailor-make interventions to share practical wisdom relevant to you and your situation, which can be implemented speedily; quickly weaponising against the most pressing concerns.

You will ensure you find hard-working outside help where aid with implementation is part of delivery; look for individuals who are prepared to roll-up their sleeves and get involved. Does your possible facilitator suggest pre- and post-360 interviews, structured feedback and other tools which will be used to quantify and qualify results, demonstrating measurable results and return-on-investment?

(Mike Orlov is a Partner at Stepping Stone Global, a Bahrain-based boutique strategic management consultancy. He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Leadership and Management. Email: info@steppingstoneglobal.com)

Batelco backs Capacity Middle East 2019

TDT | Manama

Batelco yesterday announced its backing to Capacity Middle East 2019 as a Platinum sponsor.

The annual Capacity Middle East, the largest annual carrier event in the region, brings together top telecom players to exchange knowledge and explore mutual business

opportunities.

The event acts as a networking platform, uniting data businesses to purchase and sell annual trading agreements, as well as offering new partnership opportunities with OTTs, content and cloud providers, data centres, IXPs and ISPs.

Batelco Chief Global Business Officer Adel Al-Daylami, who will



Adel Al-Daylami

attend the event along with the Batelco team, said that Capacity Middle East is of great importance in Batelco's annual calendar, providing an invaluable opportunity to network with its current partners and meet potential new partners.

Capacity Middle East 2018 is expected to attract a number of senior level representatives

from major regional players within the telecommunications industry, who will lead conferences and discussion panels allowing participants to receive exposure and visibility within the industry. The event, which will take place from March 4 to 7 2019, will be held at the Grand Hayatt in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Extradition of Huawei executive to US begins

● Beijing said Ottawa's action amounted to a "severe political incident"

● Meng, Huawei's chief financial officer and the daughter of the company's founder Ren Zhengfei, is due in court on March 6

AFP | Ottawa, Canada

Canada on Friday launched the extradition of Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou to the United States -- the latest move in a case that has roiled relations between the North American neighbors and China. Beijing was quick to react, saying Ottawa's action amounted to a "severe political incident."

The 47-year-old businesswoman was changing planes in Vancouver in December when she was detained at Washington's request on suspicion of violating US sanctions on Iran -- sparking arrests of Canadians in China that were seen as retaliatory.

"Today, Department of Justice Canada officials issued an Authority to Proceed, formally commencing an extradition



Meng Wanzhou (R), CFO of Huawei Technologies, answers the door for individuals carrying flowers after she was released on bail in Vancouver



Abusing their bilateral extradition treaty to apply arbitrary coercive measures against Chinese citizens, in violation of their rights and legitimate interests. This is a severe political incident

LU KANG

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

process in the case of Ms. Meng Wanzhou," the government said in a statement.

Meng, Huawei's chief financial officer and the daughter of the company's founder Ren Zhengfei, is due in court on March 6, when prosecutors will present the evidence against her and lay out detailed arguments for her extradition. The decision, the statement said, followed a "thorough and diligent" review which found sufficient evidence to warrant putting the matter before a judge.

At the end of the process -- which could last months, or even years -- Canada's attorney general will have the final say on whether or not to hand Meng over. China Foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said in a

statement the US and Canada were "abusing their bilateral extradition treaty to apply arbitrary coercive measures against Chinese citizens, in violation of their rights and legitimate interests".

"This is a severe political incident."

China had "solemnly protested" to the Canadian authorities for Meng's release, and called on the US to drop its arrest warrant and extradition request, Lu added. Meng has been released on bail pending the outcome of the hearings.

Nine days after Meng's arrest, Chinese authorities detained two Canadians -- former diplomat Michael Kovrig and businessman Michael Spavor -- in what was widely seen as an act of retaliation. A third Canadian, meanwhile, had his sentence for drug trafficking upped from 15 years in prison to death row.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has insisted on a strict hands-off approach to the issue, with his justice department stressing on Friday that "Canada is a country governed by the rule of law."

Trudeau sacked his ambassador to China for undermining that position by saying Meng had a "strong" case against extradition, and later adding that it would be "great for Canada" if the US dropped the case.

SBI confirms account frauds totalling \$1.12bn



A man checks his mobile phones in front of State Bank of India (SBI) branch in Kolkata

Reuters

State Bank of India (SBI) confirmed on Friday it had reported fraud totalling 79.51 billion rupees (\$1.12 billion) during the first nine months of this financial year.

Indian media reported this week, based on a "right to information" query, that the frauds involved 1,885 cases, but SBI declined to say how much they had cost customers.

SBI, India's largest lender by assets, said the fraudulent

activity had been mainly in high-value accounts and that all of these had been classed non-performing assets "much earlier", with most of the portfolio already fully provisioned for.

India's banks have come under increased scrutiny after smaller state-run Punjab National Bank reported a massive \$2 billion fraud last year.

SBI said in an exchange filing on Friday that the resolution process for recovery has begun via various debt recovery regulatory bodies.

China publishes final rules for new tech board

Reuters | Shanghai

China has finalised regulations for a Nasdaq-style innovation board that promises to smooth the way for Chinese technology IPOs and, if successful, could raise Shanghai's profile as a capital-raising competitor to Hong Kong and New York.

The stock market regulator late on Friday published the rules for the tech board after considering opinions from the public on draft regulations that were introduced on Jan. 30. They took effect immediately.

Listings on the new board will be done according to a registration system that limits official powers to control the timing of IPOs. In addition, some companies that are not yet profitable will be allowed to go public.

China has long wanted its tech champions to list closer, but many of the best-known firms, including Alibaba Group Co Ltd and Tencent Holdings, chose to raise funds in international markets. New York and Hong Kong accounted for nearly 70 percent of the money raised through Chinese IPOs.

German carmakers to invest 60 billion euros in electric cars: VDA

Reuters | Frankfurt

Germany's car industry is to invest nearly 60 billion euros (\$68 billion) over the next three years on electric cars and automated driving, the head of the VDA car industry association said ahead of the Geneva motor show.

"We will invest over 40 billion euros in electric mobility during the next three years, and another 18 billion euros will be invested in digitisation and connected and automated driving," VDA president Bernhard Mattes said in a statement on Saturday.

The range of electric car models from German manufacturers would treble to around 100 in that period, he said.

The Geneva International Motor Show, where manufacturers showcase their latest models and concepts, runs from March 7 to 17.

"The ramp-up of electric mobility is coming in Europe,"



VDA president Bernhard Mattes

Mattes said. "Without it, the EU's CO2 targets cannot be achieved by 2030," he added, calling for what he called appropriate regulatory conditions across Europe.

Germany, together with a few other major European economies, is set to have a much higher share of electric vehicles among its new registrations than the EU average, he said.

Charging infrastructure for electric cars must be expanded and incentives offered to buyers of e-cars, he said.

Canada appeals court upholds tobacco ruling

● Imperial Tobacco Canada, a subsidiary of British American Tobacco, Rothmans Benson & Hedges and JTI-MacDonald have one month to launch an eventual appeal

Montreal, Canada

Quebec's appeals court on Friday upheld a historic ruling ordering three tobacco firms to pay Can\$15.5 billion (US\$11.6 billion) to smokers in the Canadian province who claimed they were never warned about the health risks associated with smoking.

Imperial Tobacco Canada, a subsidiary of British American Tobacco, Rothmans Benson & Hedges and JTI-MacDonald



Imperial Tobacco spokesman Eric Gagnon speaks to the media

have one month to launch an eventual appeal before Canada's Supreme Court.

In June 2015, the Superior Court of Quebec ruled that the three companies should pay the whopping amount to tens of thousands of smokers suffering from emphy-

11.6bn
dollars were ordered to pay by three tobacco firm to smokers in Canadian province

sema, lung cancer or throat cancer. According to media reports, accruing interest will bring the final amount to more than Can\$17 billion.

The two class action lawsuits behind the award, which were originally filed in 1998, affected nearly one million smokers or ex-smokers, some of whom had been consuming tobacco since the 1960s. The trial only began in March 2012.

"We are disappointed with today's decision," Imperial To-

bacco Canada spokesman Eric Gagnon told reporters. "As the ruling in the lower court showed, Canadian consumers know the risks associated with tobacco use. We should not be held responsible."

Lawyers for the plaintiffs meanwhile celebrated the "historic" ruling, going so far as to call it a "masterpiece."

"The ruling reached the same conclusions as did the lower court, solidifies them and confirms that the companies conspired for 50 years to lie to the public," one of the attorneys, Andre L'Esperance, told journalists. "This is a total victory, on all fronts," added his colleague Philippe Trudel. The lower court had ruled that the companies failed in their general duty "not to cause injury to another person" and to inform their customers of the risks associated with their products.

FinTech Bay completes successful first year

● The celebratory event was held at the Arcapita Building

● To date, Bahrain FinTech Bay has attracted 75 local and international partner

● Long term plans include a global fintech fund

TDI | Manama



Officials during a photocall on the occasion of Bahrain FinTech Bay celebrating its year one anniversary

Bahrain FinTech Bay is celebrating its first year anniversary since its launch in February 2018.

The celebratory event was held at the Arcapita Building with their partners, governmental bodies, Bahrain FinTech Bay residents, financial institutions, universities, and various community members.

Aimed at accelerating local early-stage FinTech companies to their next stage of development, the platform worked towards attracting foreign growth-stage FinTech companies to

Bahrain and creating a physical hub for co-creation and the sharing of resources and ideas.

To date, Bahrain FinTech Bay has attracted 75 local and international partners, 8 Venture Acceleration Platform partners, and published 5 in-depth market ecosystem reports, and hosted two successful platforms - 'BlockOn', a knowledge-exchange platform where the latest innovations and applications for the blockchain community were showcased.

The second, 'RegFact' was held last week bringing together regulators, financial institutions, FinTechs and others to discuss the latest developments and provide key insights into the world of regulatory technology.

Earlier this year, Bahrain FinTech Bay announced the launch of its FinTech Talent Programme in partnership with Tamkeen focused on the training and development of Bahrainis and is the first and only of its kind in the Middle East. In Ad-

dition, a significant development on the talent front with the announcement of the Georgetown Professional Development Certificate Programme in FinTech. Bahrain Fintech Bay which will host some live classroom sessions which will accept the first cohort in April 2019.

Fintech for Sustainability Hackathon

The MENA region's largest Fintech Hub is currently working on a few initiatives for 2019

”
This year Fintech Bay will focus on providing more value to partners, deepening linkages with the region and other jurisdictions through the launch of sister platforms in Silicon Valley and Singapore.

KHALID SAAD
BAHRAIN FINTECH BAY CEO

which includes the first Fintech for Sustainability Hackathon will take place at Bahrain FinTech Bay in March, which will host 50 university students, and creating a guide for those seeking a career in the FinTech sector. In April, Insurbyte will be launched to provide knowledge exchange, foster synergies among market players to find solutions and implement & promote innovative insurance practices in a collaborative, open and transparent manner.

Long term plans include a

global fintech fund that is being raised which aims to link international players in the fintech space, establishing three “sister platforms” in Singapore, Silicon Valley and Detroit to build international links and connect the Fintech ecosystem.

Bahrain FinTech Bay CEO, Khalid Saad commented “Bahrain's FinTech ecosystem has witnessed key developments over the past year which have strengthened Bahrain's position as a FinTech hub. Bahrain FinTech Bay has grown over the last year to become the largest FinTech platform in the region with over 75 partners and around 40 residents from Bahrain, the region and beyond.”

This year, Saad said, FinTech Bay will focus on providing more value to partners, deepening linkages with the region and other jurisdictions through the launch of sister platforms in Silicon Valley and Singapore.

“Additionally, we will be focusing on creating sustainable job and education opportunities for Bahrainis in FinTech and innovation through the National FinTech Talent Development Programme.”

NBB announces massive prizes with Al Watani scheme

TDI | Manama

”
The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) yesterday announced new Al Watani Savings Scheme prizes for the year 2019.

Al Watani is offering a grand midyear prize of US\$1,000,000 plus a five-year monthly salary of US\$5,000 to one winner. In addition, yearlong cash prizes are offered whereby four monthly winners will receive US\$25,000 and two winners of Semi-Annual Cash Prizes will receive US\$250,000 each, an NBB statement said.

“The December 2019 year-end “Dream Prize” is yet to be announced and it is promising to be, once again, one of the largest life changing Prizes in the Kingdom,” the statement added.

Last year's “Dream Prize” presented to a luxurious villa at the Riffa Views, a Porsche SUV and US\$1,000,000 in cash. Qualifying Customers with their Savings and Savewave (kids/youth) accounts, automatically enter the draws.

Commenting, Mahmood Al A'ali, Head of Retail Transfor-



”
This year, we would like to encourage all customers to look out for all NBB prizes and stay tuned for the announcement of the “Dream Prize” that will be a life changer for the lucky winning customer

MAHMOOD AL A'ALI
HEAD OF RETAIL TRANSFORMATION
AT NBB

mation at NBB, said, “We are delighted to announce another exciting year of rewards for NBB's Savings and Savewave account holders.”

US envoy slams UK ‘smear campaign’

● The envoy accused the EU of following a “museum of agriculture” approach, while US farmers were using new scientific and technological tools

London, United Kingdom

”
The US ambassador to Britain yesterday denounced a “smear campaign” against American agriculture as Washington and London try to pave the way to a post-Brexit trade deal.

Woody Johnson said Britons were being fed “inflammatory and misleading terms” such as chlorinated chicken and hormone beef to cast US agriculture in “the worst possible light”.

Britain is due to leave the European Union on March 29 and will be free to strike its own trade deals afterwards.

“We Americans are now ready to negotiate the most ambitious and comprehensive trade deal in the history of our special relationship,” Johnson wrote in *The Daily Telegraph* newspaper.

“And, of course, we want agriculture to be part of those negotiations -- it is a great opportunity for both of us.

“But the British public has been led to believe otherwise.”

He said Britons were being presented with a false choice between sticking with European Union directives or being flooded with US food “of the lowest quality”.

“It's time the myths are called out for what they really are: a



”
We Americans are now ready to negotiate the most ambitious and comprehensive trade deal in the history of our special relationship

WOODY JOHNSON
US AMBASSADOR TO BRITAIN

smear campaign from people with their own protectionist agenda.”

He accused the EU of following a “museum of agriculture” approach, while US farmers were using new scientific and technological tools to become more productive.

A spokeswoman for British Prime Minister Theresa May's Downing Street office said: “We have always been very clear that we will not lower our food standards as part of a future trading agreement.”

Britain is due to leave the European Union on March 29 and will be free to strike its own trade deals afterwards



”
We have always been very clear that we will not lower our food standards as part of a future trading agreement

SPOKESWOMAN FOR BRITISH PRIME MINISTER THERESA MAY

Meanwhile Minette Batters, president of Britain's National Farmers' Union, said: “It is imperative that any future trade deals, including a possible deal with the USA, do not allow the imports of food produced to lower standards than those required of British farmers.

“British people value and demand the high standards of animal welfare, environmental protection and food safety that our own farmers adhere to.

“These world-leading standards must not be sacrificed in the pursuit of reaching rushed trade deals. We should not accept trade deals which allow food to be imported into this country produced in ways which would be illegal here.”

Algeria looks for Bouteflika's response to huge protests

Algiers, Algeria

”
Algerians yesterday watched for the presidency's response to the biggest rallies yet against Abdelaziz Bouteflika's re-election bid, as the ailing and absent head of state turned 82.

Driven by rising frustration, tens of thousands took to the streets on Friday.

Many attempted to march on the seat of government and the presidential palace, but were repelled by police truncheons and volleys of tear gas.

A day after the unrest, state-news agency APS reported Saturday that Bouteflika had replaced his veteran campaign manager, but no immediate explanation was given for the dismissal.

Trump to address core conservatives after rough week

National Harbor, United States

”
President Donald Trump prepared yesterday to address a conference of right-wing activists, capping a turbulent week that included a failed summit with North Korea and explosive testimony by his former lawyer branding him a criminal. The White House has not previewed the themes of the president's speech at the National Harbor near Washington. But the president took to Twitter to confirm he would be speaking at 11:30 am (1630 GMT), telling followers: “Record crowd, live broadcast. Enjoy!”

Apple holders vote down proposal to disclose ideology of director nominees

Reuters

”
Apple Inc shareholders on Friday defeated a shareholder proposal from a conservative group that would have required the company to disclose the “ideological perspective” of nominees for its board of directors.

The proposal, placed on the

shareholder ballot by the National Center for Public Policy Research, received only 1.7 percent of votes at the iPhone maker's annual meeting in Cupertino, Calif.

Shareholder advisory firms Glass Lewis and Institutional Shareholder Services both recommended shareholders vote against it.

SHOW

OASIS JUFFAIR

1-FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY (15+) (DRAMA/COMEDY/BIOGRAPHY) NEW
⊛ DWAYNE JOHNSON, FLORENCE PUGH, JACK LOWDEN
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM
DAILY AT (VIP): 10.45 AM + 3.30 + 8.15 PM

2-TOTAL DHAMAAL (PG-13) (HINDI/COMEDY/ADVENTURE) NEW
⊛ AJAY DEVGN, MADHURI DIXIT, ANIL KAPOOR
FROM THURSDAY 21ST 7.00 PM ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN

3-THE KNIGHT OF SHADOWS: BETWEEN YIN AND YANG (PG-13) (ACTION/COMEDY/FANTASY) NEW
⊛ JACKIE CHAN, ELANE ZHONG, ETHAN JUAN
DAILY AT: 2.45 + 7.15 + 11.45 PM

4-KIKORIKI. DEJAVU (G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW
⊛ DENIS CHERNOV, JEFFREY HYLTON
DAILY AT(KIDS CINEMA): 10.45 AM + 2.45 PM

5-JUNE (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW
⊛ JOJU GEORGE, RAJISHA VIJAYAN, SARJANO KHALID, ARJUN ASOKAN
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

6-KODATHI SMAKSHAM BALAN VAKEEL (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW
⊛ DILEEP, MAMTA MOHANDAS, PRIYA ANAND
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM

7-ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/ROMANTIC)
⊛ ROSA SALAZAR, CHRISTOPH WALTZ, JENNIFER CONNELLY
DAILY AT: 1.15 + 6.30 + 11.45 PM
DAILY AT (VIP): 1.00 + 5.45 + 10.30 PM

8-GULLY BOY (PG-15) (HINDI/DRAMA/MUSICAL)
⊛ ALIA BHAT, RANVEER SINGH, SIDDHANT CHATURVEDI
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

9-THE LEGO MOVIE 2 (G) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
⊛ CHRIS PRATT, ELIZABETH BANKS, WILL ARNETT
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 12.30 + 4.30 + 9.00 PM

10-SPIDER MAN INTO THE SPIDER VERSE (PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)
⊛ HAILEE STEINFELD, NICOLAS CAGE, MAHERSHALA ALI
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 6.45 + 11.15 PM

11-URI: THE SURGICAL STRIKE (15+) (HINDI/ACTION/DRAMA)
⊛ VICKY KAUSHAL, KIRTI KULHARI, PARESH RAWAL
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 3.45 + 9.00 PM

12- KUMBALANGI NIGHT (PG-13) (MALAYALAM)
⊛ FAHADH FAASIL, SHANE NIGAM, SOUBIN SHAHIR
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM

13-9 (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)
⊛ PRITHVIRAJ SUKUMARAN, PRAKASH RAJ, MAMTA MOHANDAS
DAILY AT: 2.00 + 8.00 PM

14-PERANBU (PG-15) (TAMIL)
⊛ MAMMOOTTY, SADHANA, ANJALI
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 5.00 + 11.00 PM

CITYCENTRE

1- FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY (15+) (DRAMA/COMEDY/BIOGRAPHY) NEW
⊛ DWAYNE JOHNSON, FLORENCE PUGH, JACK LOWDEN
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
DAILY AT (VIP II): 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

2- TOTAL DHAMAAL (PG-13) (HINDI/COMEDY/ADVENTURE) NEW
⊛ AJAY DEVGN, MADHURI DIXIT, ANIL KAPOOR
FROM THURSDAY 21ST 7.00 PM ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN

3- DUMPLIN (15+) (COMEDY/DRAMA) NEW
⊛ DANIELLE MACDONALD, JENNIFER ANISTON, LUKE BENWARD
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM

4- UPGRADE (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER) NEW
⊛ LOGAN MARSHALL-GREEN, RICHARD ANASTASIOS, ROSCO CAMPBELL
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM

5- THE KNIGHT OF SHADOWS: BETWEEN YIN AND YANG (PG-13) (ACTION/COMEDY/FANTASY) NEW
⊛ JACKIE CHAN, ELANE ZHONG, ETHAN JUAN
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

6-ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/ROMANTIC)
⊛ ROSA SALAZAR, CHRISTOPH WALTZ, JENNIFER CONNELLY
DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 2.15 + 7.00 + 11.45 PM
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.45 + 5.15 + 7.45 + 10.15 PM + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)

7-GULLY BOY (PG-15) (HINDI/DRAMA/MUSICAL)
⊛ ALIA BHAT, RANVEER SINGH, SIDDHANT CHATURVEDI
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

8-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA)
⊛ LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 12.00 MN + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
DAILY AT (VIP I): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM

9-HAPPY DEATH DAY 2U (PG-15) (THRILLER/COMEDY/CRIME)
⊛ JESSICA ROTHE, RUBY MODINE, PHI VU
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM

10-THE UPSIDE (PG-15) (COMEDY/DRAMA)
⊛ KEVIN HART, BRYAN CRANSTON, NICOLE KIDMAN
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM

11-GLASS (PG-15) (THRILLER)
⊛ JAMES MCAVOY, BRUCE WILLIS, SAMUEL L. JACKSON
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

12-THE LEGO MOVIE 2 (G) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
⊛ CHRIS PRATT, ELIZABETH BANKS, WILL ARNETT
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 PM
DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 12.00 + 4.45 + 9.30 PM

13-NADI ELREGAL EL SERI (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)
⊛ KARIM ABDULAZIZ, GHADA ADEL, MAJDE ALKIDDAWI
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM

14-AQUAMAN (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)
⊛ JASON MOMOA, AMBER HEARD, NICOLE KIDMAN
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM

15-JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN (PG) (COMEDY/ACTION/ADVENTURE)
⊛ ROWAN ATKINSON, OLGA KURYLENKO, EMMA THOMPSON
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM

16-HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD (PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)
⊛ CATE BLANCHETT, JONAH HILL, GERARD BUTLER
DAILY AT: 2.15 + 6.30 + 10.45 PM

17-RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
⊛ JOHN C. REILLY, SARAH SILVERMAN, GAL GADOT
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 PM

18-THE PRODIGY (18+) (THRILLER/HORROR)



⊛ TAYLOR SCHILLING, JACKSON ROBERT SCOTT, PETER MOONEY
DAILY AT: 9.45 + 11.45 PM

19-SPIDER MAN INTO THE SPIDER VERSE (PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)
⊛ HAILEE STEINFELD, NICOLAS CAGE, MAHERSHALA ALI
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.15 + 8.30 PM

SEEF (II)

1 FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY (15+) (DRAMA/COMEDY/BIOGRAPHY) NEW
⊛ DWAYNE JOHNSON, FLORENCE PUGH, JACK LOWDEN
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

2- TOTAL DHAMAAL (PG-13) (HINDI/COMEDY/ADVENTURE) NEW
⊛ AJAY DEVGN, MADHURI DIXIT, ANIL KAPOOR
FROM THURSDAY 21ST 7.00 PM ONWARDS
DAILY AT: (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)

3-DUMPLIN (15+) (COMEDY/DRAMA) NEW
⊛ DANIELLE MACDONALD, JENNIFER ANISTON, LUKE BENWARD
DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 PM

4- UPGRADE (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER) NEW
⊛ LOGAN MARSHALL-GREEN, RICHARD ANASTASIOS, ROSCO CAMPBELL
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN

5- THE KNIGHT OF SHADOWS: BETWEEN YIN AND YANG (PG-13) (ACTION/COMEDY/FANTASY) NEW
⊛ JACKIE CHAN, ELANE ZHONG, ETHAN JUAN
DAILY AT: (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

6-WHAT THEY HAD (PG-15) (DRAMA) NEW
⊛ HILARY SWANK, MICHAEL SHANNEN, ROBERT FORSTER
DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.00 + 9.00 PM

7-THEN CAME YOU (PG-15) (COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
⊛ NINA DOBREV, MAISIE WILLIAMS, ASA BUTTERFIELD
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 3.15 + 7.30 + 11.45 PM

8- KIKORIKI. DEJAVU (G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW
⊛ DENIS CHERNOV, JEFFREY HYLTON
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.00 + 2.45 + 4.30 PM

9-TIME OUT (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY/ROMANTIC) NEW
⊛ MAGUY BOU GHOSN, YORGO CHALHOUB, WISSAM SABBAGH
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 3.00 + 7.00 + 11.00 PM

10-ALONE / TOGETHER (PG-15) (FILIPINO/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
⊛ LIZA SOBERANO, ENRIQUE GIL, JASMINE CURTIS
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

11-ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/ROMANTIC)
⊛ ROSA SALAZAR, CHRISTOPH WALTZ, JENNIFER CONNELLY
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN

12-GULLY BOY (PG-15) (HINDI/DRAMA/MUSICAL)
⊛ ALIA BHAT, RANVEER SINGH, SIDDHANT CHATURVEDI
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN

13-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA)
⊛ LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM

14-THE UPSIDE (PG-15) (COMEDY/DRAMA)
⊛ KEVIN HART, BRYAN CRANSTON, NICOLE KIDMAN
DAILY AT: 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM

15-THE LEGO MOVIE 2 (G) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
⊛ CHRIS PRATT, ELIZABETH BANKS, WILL ARNETT
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.00 + 8.15 PM

16-HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD (PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)
⊛ CATE BLANCHETT, JONAH HILL, GERARD BUTLER
DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.15 + 10.30 PM

SEEF (I)

1- TOTAL DHAMAAL (PG-13) (HINDI/COMEDY/ADVENTURE) NEW
⊛ AJAY DEVGN, MADHURI DIXIT, ANIL KAPOOR
FROM THURSDAY 21ST 7.00 PM ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

2- THE KNIGHT OF SHADOWS: BETWEEN YIN AND YANG (PG-13) (ACTION/COMEDY/FANTASY) NEW
⊛ JACKIE CHAN, ELANE ZHONG, ETHAN JUAN
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM

3- KODATHI SMAKSHAM BALAN VAKEEL (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW
⊛ DILEEP, MAMTA MOHANDAS, PRIYA ANAND
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM

4-JUNE (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW
⊛ JOJU GEORGE, RAJISHA VIJAYAN, SARJANO KHALID, ARJUN ASOKAN
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM

5- KANNE KALAIMAANE (PG-13) (TAMIL) NEW
⊛ UDHAYANIDHI STALIN, TAMANNAH
FROM FRIDAY 22ND
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 4.00 + 9.00 PM

6-L.K.G (PG-13) (TAMIL) NEW
⊛ RJ BALAJI, PRIYA ANAND
FROM FRIDAY 22ND
DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM

7- KUMBALANGI NIGHT (PG-13) (MALAYALAM)
⊛ FAHADH FAASIL, SHANE NIGAM, SOUBIN SHAHIR
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM

SAAR

1-FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY (15+) (DRAMA/COMEDY/BIOGRAPHY) NEW
⊛ DWAYNE JOHNSON, FLORENCE PUGH, JACK LOWDEN
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + (11.15 PM THURS/FRI)

2-TOTAL DHAMAAL (PG-13) (HINDI/COMEDY/ADVENTURE) NEW
⊛ AJAY DEVGN, MADHURI DIXIT, ANIL KAPOOR
FROM THURSDAY 21ST 7.00 PM ONWARDS

DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + (11.15 PM THURS/FRI)

3- THE KNIGHT OF SHADOWS: BETWEEN YIN AND YANG (PG-13) (ACTION/COMEDY/FANTASY) NEW
⊛ JACKIE CHAN, ELANE ZHONG, ETHAN JUAN
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.00 + 6.15 + (11.30 PM THURS/FRI)

4-ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/ROMANTIC)
⊛ ROSA SALAZAR, CHRISTOPH WALTZ, JENNIFER CONNELLY
DAILY AT: 6.00 + 8.30 + (11.00 PM THURS/FRI)

5-GULLY BOY (PG-15) (HINDI/DRAMA/MUSICAL)
⊛ ALIA BHAT, RANVEER SINGH, SIDDHANT CHATURVEDI
DAILY AT: 3.15 + 8.30 PM

6-THE LEGO MOVIE 2 (G) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
⊛ CHRIS PRATT, ELIZABETH BANKS, WILL ARNETT
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 PM

AL HAMRA

1- KODATHI SMAKSHAM BALAN VAKEEL (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW
⊛ DILEEP, MAMTA MOHANDAS, PRIYA ANAND
DAILY AT: 3.00 + 9.00 PM + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)

2-JUNE (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW
⊛ JOJU GEORGE, RAJISHA VIJAYAN, SARJANO KHALID, ARJUN ASOKAN
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 6.00 PM

WADI AL SAIL

1-FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY (15+) (DRAMA/COMEDY/BIOGRAPHY) NEW
⊛ DWAYNE JOHNSON, FLORENCE PUGH, JACK LOWDEN
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

2-TOTAL DHAMAAL (PG-13) (HINDI/COMEDY/ADVENTURE) NEW
⊛ AJAY DEVGN, MADHURI DIXIT, ANIL KAPOOR
FROM THURSDAY 21ST 7.00 PM ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM

3-UPGRADE (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER) NEW
⊛ LOGAN MARSHALL-GREEN, RICHARD ANASTASIOS, ROSCO CAMPBELL
DAILY AT: 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM

4- THE KNIGHT OF SHADOWS: BETWEEN YIN AND YANG (PG-13) (ACTION/COMEDY/FANTASY) NEW
⊛ JACKIE CHAN, ELANE ZHONG, ETHAN JUAN
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

5- KIKORIKI. DEJAVU (G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW
⊛ DENIS CHERNOV, JEFFREY HYLTON
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.15 PM

6-ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/ROMANTIC)
⊛ ROSA SALAZAR, CHRISTOPH WALTZ, JENNIFER CONNELLY
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM

7-GULLY BOY (PG-15) (HINDI/DRAMA/MUSICAL) NEW
⊛ ALIA BHAT, RANVEER SINGH, SIDDHANT CHATURVEDI
DAILY AT: 3.00 + 8.30 PM

8-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA)
⊛ LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN
DAILY AT: 6.00 + 11.30 PM

9-THE LEGO MOVIE 2 (G) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
⊛ CHRIS PRATT, ELIZABETH BANKS, WILL ARNETT
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.00 + 3.15 + 5.30 PM

Movie Review

‘A Madea Family Funeral’ ends Tyler Perry’s series on a quaint note

If writer-director-star Tyler Perry makes good on his threat to make “A Madea Family Funeral” the final film featuring his larger-than-life comedic heroine, then Madea will going out with a whimper and not with a bang, even by Perry standards.

When Madea and Uncle Joe (both played by Perry) and their friends Aunt Bam (Cassi Davis) and Hattie (Patrice Lovely) aren’t on screen to harass each other or the younger characters who so clearly need Madea’s wisdom and toughlove, the proceedings grind to a painful halt. And even when that quartet is around, the movie lumbers from one people-in-a-circle-sitting-around-talking scene to the next one. This is Perry’s 21st feature film, and 10th Madea vehicle, and his idea of directing still seems rooted in community theatre.

We open on a houseful of characters we’ve never seen before and will only barely get to know, planning a 40th anniver-



Tyler Perry as Madea in ‘A Madea Family Funeral’

sary party for their parents Vianne (Jen Harper, “Greenleaf”) and Anthony (Derek Morgan, “Joan of Arcadia”). Traveling to the party are Madea, Joe, Bam and Hattie, driven by Joe’s up-right-attorney son Brian (Perry again, sans latex).As the out-of-townners arrive at their hotel, they discover that Anthony has had a heart attack while having sex with family friend Renee (Quin Walters, “The Haves and the Have Nots”), which puts a

crimp in the anniversary party plans but does allow them all to be around for the impending funeral.

Whether or not Vianne will learn the circumstances of her husband’s death, and what the repercussions will be about Vianne’s older son sleeping with his younger brother’s fiancée, is about all the plot that the movie can muster. But the real draw is Madea, of course, and she gets to be unleashed onto both a family of two-timers and hypocrites and the black funeral itself, a ritual that the movie parodies as overdone and taxingly long.Perry is clearly having a blast in all that effects makeup: “A Madea Family Funeral” gives him a third older character to play, a leg-less lech named Heathrow who speaks through an electrolynx; the (often improvised) scenes involving this trio give the film genuine comic spark and energy. And while Perry’s Brian character is a perpetual straight man, the movie finally finds something funny for him

to do in a traffic-stop scene in which he insists on compliance while his elders show justifiable concern about dealing with the police.

But when we’re left with the grieving family and their sexual secrets, the movie has the dramatic and visual flatness of a TV soap opera. Director of Photography Richard Viallet appears to have created the first feature film with motion smoothing, and the rest of the cast makes little impact, except for Davis, who’s always game to yes-and Madea, and Harp-er, who gets a third-act monologue that demonstrates what this movie might have been had Perry not been phoning it in as a screenwriter. Anyone who’s ever seen a Perry play on stage will recognize the film’s climax, in which the characters all sit around (once again, in a circle of couches) while Madea delivers life advice and homilies, a cue for the audience to gather their coats and purses and get ready to go home.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHANU ABDUL RAHUMAN Father of ZAIRA SHANU RAHUMAN , holder of Indian Passport **No N1654768** dated 24/01/2016 issued at **BAHRAIN** , having permanent residence at **Bait ul Aashiya, House No.11A, Thejas Nagar, Thattamala P.o, Kollam**, kerala - 691020 Presently residing at **VILLA 5 ,COMPOUND 1661 ,ROAD NO.4057,BLOCK NO:540 , AL DIRAZ, BAHRAIN** do hereby change my daughter name as (Given Name) **ZAIRA** ,(Surname) **SHANU RAHUMAN**, objection if any may be forwarded to Embassy of India , P.O.Box 26106, Bldg No. 1090, Road No. 2819 , Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

I, SHANU ABDUL RAHUMAN Father of AASHIYA SHANU RAHUMAN , holder of Indian Passport **No L4520439** dated 15/04/2014 issued at **BAHRAIN** , having permanent residence at **BAIT UL AASHIYA, HOUSE NO.11A, THEJAS NAGAR, THATTAMALA P.O, KOLLAM, KERALA - 691020** Presently residing at **VILLA 5 ,COMPOUND 1661 ,ROAD NO.4057,BLOCK NO:540 , AL DIRAZ, BAHRAIN** do hereby change my daughter name as (Given Name) **AASHIYA** ,(Surname) **SHANU RAHUMAN**, objection if any may be forwarded to Embassy of India , P.O.Box 26106, Bldg No. 1090, Road No. 2819 , Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

I, RAJAN KANNOTH Father --of NIRMAL RAJ , holder of Indian Passport **No L3418655** dated 04/03/2014 issued at **BAHRAIN** , having permanent residence at **H.NO.IX – 50, OLATT P.O, PADIKKEEL, KASARAGOD DISTRICT, KERALA.** Presently residing at **FLAT NO.24,BUILDING NO.4035 ,ROAD NO.469,BLOCK NO:604, SITRA, BAHRAIN** do hereby change my son name as (Given Name) **NIRMAL**, (Surname) **RAJ**, objection if any may be forwarded to Embassy of India , P.O.Box 26106, Bldg No. 1090, Road No. 2819 , Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

celebs

Jerry Lee Lewis suffers minor stroke

Rock n roll pioneer Jerry Lee Lewis, known as “The Killer”, has suffered a minor stroke but is expected to make a full recovery. A statement issued by his publicist Zach Farnum said the 83-year-old keyboardist had the stroke on Thursday night, but is recuperating in Memphis, reports deadline.com. “So far, no scheduled shows are affected”, Farnum said. Lewis is scheduled to perform at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in April. He is best known for early rock classics like “Great balls of fire” and “Whole lotta shakin’”. He was also a member of the “Million Dollar Quartet” with Carl Perkins, Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash.

Katherine Helmond dead at 89
Los Angeles

Legendary actress Katherine Helmond is dead at 89. She was battling Alzheimer’s disease. Helmond’s talent agency confirmed the news of her demise saying she took her last breath on February 23, reports hollywoodreporter.com. Her career spanned more than five decades. She was popularly known for playing matriarch Jessica Tate on “Soap” which ran from 1977 to 1981. She even bagged Emmy nominations for the role. She also featured in other TV shows like “Coach”, “Who’s the Boss?” and “Everybody Loves Raymond”. On the film front, Helmond was a part of hit films like “Time Bandits”, “Brazil” and “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas”.



Jessica Chastain

Jessica Chastain says ‘It: Chapter Two’ has bloodiest scene in history

Los Angeles

Actor Jessica Chastain has teased a scene from her upcoming movie “It: Chapter Two”, saying that it will be the bloodiest sequence to be ever shot for a horror film. The 41-year-old actor recently appeared on “The Tonight Show” where host Jimmy Fallon asked her about the much-awaited film, which is a sequel to Andy Muschietti’s 2017 hit “It”. “I’m gonna say something and I think I’m gonna be in trouble but I’m gonna do it. It might be a spoiler, but in the movie there’s a scene that someone said on set that it’s the most blood that’s ever been in a horror film in a scene,” she said. “The next day I was pulling (fake) blood out of my eyeballs,” Chastain added. Directed by Muschietti, “It: Chapter Two” will also feature James McAvoy, Bill Skarsgard, Jay Ryan and Bill Hader.

Amanda Bynes checks into mental health facility

Los Angeles

Actress Amanda Bynes has entered a rehab facility following a relapse.

According to people.com, the “Living Proof” actress is seeking treatment for drug addiction and mental health issues. Bynes has been struggling since the end of last year, when she stepped back into the public eye and began pursuing work in Hollywood again, said sources. Last year, Bynes opened up about her previous mental struggles when she spoke about how her use of drugs created multiple problems in her life. “I was high on marijuana when I saw that but for some reason, it really started to affect me. I don’t know if it was a drug-induced psychosis or what, but it affected my brain in a different way than it affects other people. It absolutely changed my perception of things.”



Amanda Bynes



Amber Heard

Johnny Depp slaps \$50mn defamation suit against Amber Heard

Los Angeles

Actor Johnny Depp has sued actress and former wife Amber Heard for defamation, seeking \$50 million. Depp’s lawyers filed the defamation suit against Heard on Friday over her December 18, 2018 op-ed in The Washington Post in which she characterised herself as a domestic abuse victim, reports people.com. Depp’s lawsuit calls Heard’s allegations of domestic violence against him a “hoax”. Heard “purported to write from the perspective of ‘a public figure representing domestic abuse’ and claimed that she ‘felt the full force of our culture’s wrath for women who speak out’ when she ‘spoke up against sexual violence’,” Depp’s lawyers state in the lawsuit.

“The op-ed depended on the central premise that Heard was a domestic abuse victim and that Depp perpetrated domestic violence against her. “Depp never abused Heard. Her allegations against him were false when they were made in 2016. They were part of an elaborate hoax to generate positive publicity for Heard and advance her career,” Depp’s lawyers say in the lawsuit. In response, Heard’s representative said: “This frivolous action is just the latest of Johnny Depp’s repeated efforts to silence Amber Heard. She will not be silenced. Depp’s actions prove he is unable to accept the truth of his ongoing abusive behaviour.”



Johnny Depp



Justin Bieber and Hailey Baldwin

Hailey Baldwin posts special birthday message for husband Justin Bieber

Los Angeles

Justin Bieber turned 25 yesterday and wife Hailey Baldwin has the sweetest birthday message for her husband. The supermodel took to her Instagram account and shared two adorable candid photos to mark Bieber’s special day. “25 sure looks good on u lover,” she wrote in the caption. Giving us major couple goals, the pictures ooze romance as it features the

newlywed couple embracing one another and laughing together. The much-in-love couple, after exclusively dating for a while, decided to make things official and secretly tied the knot in a New York courthouse in September 2018. While they are yet to host another wedding ceremony for their friends and families, the couple is successfully painting the Internet red with their never-ending social media PDA, giving all the couples out there married life goals.

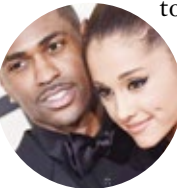
McKellen feels Spacey, Singer abused others as they were in the closet
Los Angeles

Veteran actor Ian McKellen says disgraced Kevin Spacey and Bryan Singer weren’t open about themselves and their desires, and that’s the reason they had problems with their relationships with other people. During the live recording of the #QueerAF podcast, McKellen expressed his views about the sexual assault allegations his former colleagues Spacey and Singer both face, reports variety.com. “Both of them were in the closet,” he said. “Hence all their problems as people and their relationships with other people. If they had been able to be open about themselves and their desires, they wouldn’t have started abusing people in the way they’re being accused,” McKellen added. Starring as the villain Magneto, McKellen worked with director Singer on several films in the “X-Men” franchise and starred in his 1998 movie “Apt Pupil”. He interacted with Spacey while the accused actor served as the artistic director at the Old Vic Theatre in London, a venue that uncovered 20 accounts of alleged inappropriate behaviour during Spacey’s tenure from 2003-2015.

Ariana Grande, Big Sean seen together four years after breakup

Los Angeles

American singer Ariana Grande and her ex-boyfriend and rapper Big Sean were spotted hanging out together on Wednesday. According to E Online sources, the singer was pho-



Big Sean and Ariana Grande

tographed sitting in the passenger seat next to the rapper in his car with her dog in her arms. The two were spotted outside a Los Angeles recording studio, where Ariana had been working for a few hours. The famous couple broke up

in 2015 and the reason given to the fans was that, they both had conflicting and clashing schedules for the next year which would not have allowed them to spend a lot of time together. So, instead of a messy breakup later on, both of them chose to depart on good terms and remain friends.

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SPORTS

sports

Kyrgios to face Zverev in Acapulco

● Nick Kyrgios wins through to Mexico ATP Tour final after three-set victory over John Isner

● Alexander Zverev beats Cameron Norrie to advance

Reuters | Acapulco, Mexico

Nick Kyrgios continued his scintillating run at the Mexico Open on Friday, downing third-seeded John Isner in three sets to book a title showdown with world number three Alexander Zverev.

Australia's Kyrgios, the former world number 13 who has slipped to 72nd in the rankings, defeated Isner 7-5, 5-7, 7-6 (9/7), following victories over 17-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal and three-time Grand Slam winner Stan Wawrinka.

Kyrgios, 23, reached his first ATP final since capturing his fourth trophy in Brisbane in January 2018.

Second-seeded German Zverev powered into his first final of the year with a 7-6 (7/0), 6-3 victory over Britain's Cameron Norrie.

Two nights after he saved



Australian tennis player Nick Kyrgios returns the ball to US tennis player John Isner

three match points in a final-set tiebreaker against Nadal, Kyrgios converted his third match

point with a drop shot from the baseline, sealing the win after two hours and 21 minutes.



Nick Kyrgios wins second third-set tie-break of the week to reach Acapulco final

He broke Isner in the penultimate game of the opening set, and Isner returned the favour late in the second. Neither mustered a break point in the third.

"I was just trying to take care of my serve, that's really all you can do against John," said Kyrgios, who had the edge on Isner in aces with 25 to the big-serving American's 24.

The unpredictable Australian, who seemed rattled at times by hostile fans in his victories over Nadal and Wawrinka, played happily to the crowd on Friday.

"It's insane," he said. "One point they were cheering my name, another point they were booing me. It's just entertainment."

Zverev, 21, is playing just his second tournament of the year after crashing out of the fourth round of the Australian Open.

He hasn't dropped a set all week, and was convincing against the 64th-ranked Norrie.

Unable to serve out the first set, Zverev raced through the tiebreaker and quickly seized a 3-0 lead in the second set, relying on a strong baseline game and 10 aces.

"It was very tough. It was pretty windy out here, not easy conditions, and his game actually I think fits the wind quite well, so it was not easy," Zverev said. "I'm just happy to be through."

In women's semi-final action, China's Wang Yafan ousted third-seeded Croatian Donna Vekic 2-6, 6-3, 6-1 to reach her first WTA Tour final.

She'll face fifth-seeded American Sofia Kenin, who defeated Canadian Bianca Andreescu 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.

After dropping the first set Wang -- 24 and ranked 65th in the world -- squeaked through in a second set that featured just one hold of serve.

Although 28th-ranked Vekic converted all six of her break points against Wang, 39 unforced errors ultimately proved too much to overcome and Wang didn't face a break point in the final set.

Kenin will be looking for her second title of 2019, having broken through for her first WTA crown at Hobart in January.

'Strange' if I'm not at United next season: Solskjaer

Reuters | London

Manchester United interim manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said it would be "strange" if he is not in charge at Old Trafford next season after being part of their promotional campaign to sell season tickets.

United are unbeaten in the Premier League since Solskjaer took over from Jose Mourinho in December, winning nine of their 11 games to revive hopes of a top four finish.

The former United forward has been endorsed for the top job by a number of his counterparts in England, including Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, with United set to make a decision at the end of campaign.

"I've done a video shoot on season tickets so I'm pleading with them to get their season tickets," Solskjaer told a news conference ahead of yesterday's clash against Southampton.

"It will be strange to see myself in a video if I'm not here. It's not strange doing it, though. My kids if they see a commercial with me in it and I'm back home in Norway - that will be strange."

Kane at the double in NZ's record 715-6 against Bangladesh

AFP | Hamilton, New Zealand

New Zealand's first innings record 715 for six, including a double century from skipper Kane Williamson, put them in total control of the first Test against Bangladesh after three days yesterday.

The hosts breached the 700 barrier for the first time on their way to building a 481 run lead and were six wickets away from the win by stumps.

Bangladesh were 174 for four in the second innings, still 307 behind and with their last two recognised batsmen at the crease.

"Obviously that was historic," batting coach Craig McMillan said after play finished for the day.

"The contributions throughout the innings make it a very special one," he added, describing Williamson's unbeaten 200 as "sublime".

Williamson declared the innings when he reached the 200 milestone for the second time in his career.

On an explosive day of batting, with a total of 438 runs scored, Tamim Iqbal gave Bangladesh a flying start to their reply as they raced to 88 without loss.

But once Neil Wagner's relentless barrage of bouncers captured the wicket of Shadman Iqbal for 37, the visitors soon stood at 126 for four.

Mominul Haque and Mohammad Mithun barely regis-



New Zealand's Kane Williamson bats

tered and Tamim was caught behind for 76.

The opener ducked under a Tim Southee bouncer but left his bat held high with the ball ricocheting off the periscope and into the gloves of BJ Watling.

Soumya Sarkar on 39 with Mahmudullah on 15 held the innings together for 13 overs through to stumps.

New Zealand skipper Williamson resumed the day on 93 and calmly worked his way to his 20th century -- the most ever by a New Zealander -- and passed 6,000 Test runs faster than any of his countrymen.

At the other end, Neil Wagner and Colin de Grandhomme

700
runs barrier was breached by New Zealand for the first time as they built a 481 run lead

pounded the bowling as New Zealand piled on 264 runs from 45 overs and went 25 runs past their previous record of 690 against Pakistan in 2014.

Mehidy Hasan bagged two wickets but bore the brunt of the assault, finishing with his side's most expensive Test figures ever of two for 246 from 49 overs.

Neymar reveals double injury blow hit World Cup hopes

AFP | Sao Paulo, Brazil

Brazilian superstar Neymar revealed Friday that he suffered major two injuries last season with a previously undisclosed angle ligament strain accompanying the broken foot which badly affected his role at the World Cup.

The fragile Paris Saint Germain star picked up another foot injury in January this year which will sideline him until April.

Last year, the first injury kept him out of action for three months and he returned just in time for the World Cup in Russia, where Brazil was eliminated in quarter-finals by Belgium.

"My injury before the World Cup was different, I also broke an ankle ligament and had a hard time getting better because of it," Neymar told TV Globo in an excerpt from an interview to be broadcast in full on Sunday.

"The ankle is always annoying as it takes longer to get back

to normal."

According to the Globoesporte.com website, part of the same media group as TV Globo, the first examinations carried out after the injury of February 26, 2018 had already revealed the rupture of an ankle ligament. He was then operated on March 3, in Brazil, by the doctor of the Brazilian national team.

After his latest injury suffered on January 23 this year, the medical chiefs favoured "conservative treatment" rather than another operation.

In another excerpt from the TV Globo interview, Neymar said he had "cried for two days" after his latest injury setback.

PSG hope to have him for a possible quarter-final Champions League in April which they are favourites to reach as they have a 2-0 first leg lead over Manchester United in their last-16 clash.



Neymar

Sarri not sure about Kepa's return to team

Reuters | Liverpool

Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga remains the club's first choice but manager Maurizio Sarri is still uncertain if the Spaniard will be recalled to the starting team for Sunday's Premier

League trip to Fulham.

Arrizabalaga was fined by the club for his refusal to be substituted by Sarri near the end of extra time in Sunday's League Cup final defeat by Manchester City and he was dropped for Wednesday's 2-0 league win over Tottenham Hot-

spur.

"I'm sure in one of the two next matches he will be on the pitch," Sarri told a news conference, suggesting Willy Caballero could continue in goal after making his first league appearance of the season against Tottenham.



Kepa Arrizabalaga

100 for Federer

Roger Federer wins 100th career title with straight sets victory over Stefanos Tsitsipas

AFP | Dubai

Roger Federer wrote another “special” page of history as he defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-4 yesterday at the Dubai Championships to win the 100th title of his career.

The 20-time Grand Slam winner claimed a record eighth trophy at the Aviation Club.

The Swiss second seed was untouchable throughout much of the 69-minute final as he gained revenge for his fourth-round Australian Open defeat by the 11th-ranked Greek youngster.

“It’s so special to win my eighth here combined with 100,” Federer said. “I had tough opponents all the way through -- right up to Stefanos today.


“He’s already having a great career, the game is in good hands.”

Federer joins Jimmy Connors (109) as the only other man to have won 100 titles.

His 99th trophy came last October at his home event in Basel.

He missed out on his century at the Paris Masters, the ATP Finals and the Australian Open.

Federer had to work hard this week, winning in three sets over Philipp Kohlschreiber and Fer-



Federer joins Jimmy Connors (109) as the only other man to have won 100 titles

nando Verdasco.

Tsitsipas saw the end of an eight-match winning streak as he arrived in the Gulf with the Marseille title from last weekend.

Federer broke in the opening game of the final, but had to battle to claim the opening set.

Tsitsipas saved three set points in the final game before Federer -- who faced two break points -- finished off the set as Tsitsipas returned wide.



Roger Federer

Jadhav, Dhoni steer India to victory

AFP | Hyderabad

Kedar Jadhav yesterday said batting with Mahendra Singh Dhoni is a learning experience after the duo led India to a six-wicket win over Australia in the first one-day international.

Jadhav, top-scoring with 81, and Dhoni, batting on 59, put on an unbeaten 141-run stand as the hosts achieved their target of 237 with 10 balls to spare in Hyderabad and take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

The pair registered their second successive century stand against Australia in ODIs after India were in trouble at 99 for four with paceman Nathan Coulter Nile and leg-spinner Adam Zampa taking two wickets each.

“Recently in Australia, we put up a similar kind of chase. When you have Mahibhai (Dhoni) at the other end, you don’t have to worry about a lot,” Jadhav, who also took a wicket with his spin bowling, said after receiving the man of the match award.

“Nobody better than him in the middle to learn the game from. We are looking forward to every game, and we learn from our captain (Virat Kohli) that we need to keep our intensity up.”

India’s pace spearhead Mohammed Shami also made it count with figures of 2-44 to restrict Australia to 236 for seven after they elected to bat first.

Spinner Kuldeep Yadav and paceman Jasprit Bumrah also took two wickets each to set up victory for the hosts who recently lost a two-match Twenty20 series 2-0 against the visitors.

Rohit Sharma, who made 37, and Kohli, who scored 44, set up the chase during their partnership of 76 after India lost Shikhar Dhawan for nought.

Coulter-Nile and Zampa then combined to dent the

Australia		
U. Khawaja c Shankar b Yadav		50
A. Finch c Dhoni b Bumrah		0
M. Stoinis c Kohli b Jadhav		37
P. Handscomb st Dhoni b Yadav		19
G. Maxwell b Shami		40
A. Turner b Shami		21
A. Carey not out		36
N. Coulter-Nile c Kohli b Bumrah		28
P. Cummins not out		0
Extras (w5)		5
Total (7 wickets, 50 overs)		236

India (target 237)		
R. Sharma c Finch b Coulter-Nile		37
S. Dhawan c Maxwell b Coulter-Nile		0
V. Kohli lbw b Zampa		44
A. Rayudu c Handscomb b Zampa		13
M.S. Dhoni not out		59
K. Jadhav not out		81
Extras (lb1, w5)		6
Total (4 wickets, 48.2 overs)		240

opposition chase with three strikes in the space of eight overs.

But Dhoni and Jadhav, who hit 9 fours and 1 six in 87 balls, mixed the right dose of caution and aggression to thwart the Aussie bowling on what seemed like a sluggish pitch.

Jadhav completed his fifty in 67 deliveries but it was Dhoni’s 71st ODI half-century that brought the packed house on its feet to applaud another match-winning knock from the veteran wicketkeeper-batsman.


Earlier Australia suffered an early blow when skipper Aaron Finch was dismissed for nought in his 100th ODI. He was caught behind off Bumrah in the second over.

Usman Khawaja top-scored with 50 while the in-form Glenn Maxwell made 40 off 51 deliveries in an otherwise ordinary show by the Australian batting.

Maxwell threatened to disrupt the hosts’ plans but skipper Virat Kohli’s move to bring back pace spearhead Shami in the 36th over paid off.

Shami bowled debutant Ashton Turner and Maxwell -- who had hit an unbeaten 113 in the second T20 on Wednesday -- in quick succession to dent Australia’s chances of putting up a big total.

“The way Shami has come into the white-ball set-up after his Test performances, have never seen him so lean. He has lost 5-6 kgs. He’s running in and bowling so well,” said Kohli.



Recently in Australia, we put up a similar kind of chase. When you have Mahibhai (Dhoni) at the other end, you don’t have to worry about a lot

KEDAR JADHAV



Indian cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni plays a shot

Mahrez fires Man City into top spot

● Lloris salvages Spurs a point against Arsenal

● Romelu Lukaku strikes twice as Manchester United beat Southampton

AFP | London

Riyad Mahrez fired Manchester City back to the top of the Premier League as the champions won 1-0 against Bournemouth, while Hugo Lloris saved Tottenham in their draw with north London rivals Arsenal yesterday.

Pep Guardiola’s side sit two points above Liverpool thanks to Mahrez’s second-half winner at Dean Court.

The only frustration for City in a hard-fought victory were injuries to Kevin De Bruyne and John Stones, which could significantly impact their bid to win an unprecedented quadruple.

De Bruyne hobbled off after the Belgian midfielder suffered a non-contact injury in the first half. He has already been absent for long spells this season because of two different knee injuries.

City, who are already without injured duo Fernandinho and Aymeric Laporte, also lost England defender Stones with an unspecified problem just after the interval.

At Wembley, Lloris saved a 90th-minute penalty as Tottenham salvaged a 1-1 draw in a pulsating derby.

Mauricio Pochettino’s side

fell behind in the 16th minute when Aaron Ramsey slotted home from Alexandre Lacazette’s pass.

But Harry Kane won a controversial 74th-minute penalty to equalise for Tottenham.

Kane was offside when Christian Eriksen sent over a free-kick, but the flag stayed down and the England striker was bundled over by Shkodran Mustafi.

Kane calmly notched his 22nd goal of the season and his ninth in nine Premier League games against the Gunners.

Arsenal had a golden opportunity to take the points when Davinson Sanchez was penalised for a soft challenge on Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

Referee Anthony Taylor felt the minimal contact was enough to justify a penalty, but Lloris came to Tottenham’s rescue as the France star dived to his right to keep out Aubameyang’s low penalty.

United leapfrog Arsenal

Arsenal dropped to fifth place after Manchester United moved one point above them into fourth with a dramatic 3-2 win against struggling Southampton at Old Trafford.

Yan Valery smashed a fierce drive past United goalkeeper David De Gea for a memorable first goal of the young Southampton defender’s career in the 26th minute.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer’s team equalised in the 53rd minute as Brazilian midfielder Andreas Pereira bagged his first Premier League goal with a long-range curler.

English Premiere League

Tottenham Hotspur	1	-	1	Arsenal
Bournemouth	0	-	1	Manchester City
Brighton	1	-	0	Huddersfield Town
Burnley	1	-	3	Crystal Palace
Manchester United	3	-	2	Southampton
Wolverhampton	2	-	0	Cardiff City

Italian Serie A

Empoli	3	-	3	Parma
Milan	1	-	0	Sassuolo

German Bundesliga

1. FC Nürnberg	0	-	1	RB Leipzig
Bayer 04 Leverkusen	2	-	0	Sport-Club Freiburg
Eintracht Frankfurt	3	-	2	TSG 1899 Hoffenheim
FC Schalke 04	0	-	4	Fortuna Düsseldorf
Hertha BSC	2	-	1	1. FSV Mainz 05

Spanish La Liga

Espanyol	3	-	1	Real Valladolid
Villarreal	1	-	2	Alaves

French Ligue 1

Caen	0	-	2	Paris Saint-Germain
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English Championship

Aston Villa	4	-	0	Derby County
Brentford	2	-	0	Queens Park Rangers
Hull City	2	-	0	Birmingham City
Ipswich Town	1	-	2	Reading
Millwall	1	-	3	Norwich City
Preston North End	1	-	1	Bristol City
Rotherham United	3	-	2	Blackburn Rovers
Stoke City	2	-	0	Nottingham Forest
Swansea City	2	-	0	Bolton Wanderers
Wigan Athletic	0	-	0	Middlesbrough

*Scores as of closing

Romelu Lukaku, back in form after a long barren spell, put United in front six minutes later with a composed finish.

Elsewhere, Crystal Palace pushed Burnley back into relegation danger with a 3-1 win at Turf Moor.

Palace went ahead in the 15th minute when Jeffrey Schlupp’s cross was turned into his own net by Burnley defender Phil Bardsley.

Michy Batshuayi, on loan from Chelsea, doubled Palace’s lead in the 48th minute.

Wilfried Zaha made it three in the 76th minute and Ashley Barnes’s last-minute effort was no consolation for Burnley, who are five points above the bottom three.



Manchester City’s midfielder Riyad Mahrez scores the opening goal past Bournemouth’s goalkeeper Artur Boruc (L)