

18 killed in Baghdad explosion

Bahrain

At least 18 people were killed and over 90 wounded in an explosion in Baghdad's Sadr City district yesterday, an Iraqi police source said. An interior ministry spokesman said in a brief statement the blast was the result of the detonation of an ammunitions cache and that security forces had opened an investigation.

Authorities did not offer an explanation of the discrepancies between the two statements, neither of which gave casualty figures.

Sadr City is a stronghold of nationalist cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, whose political bloc won a May 12 parliamentary election.

Pak journalist released



Lahore

A Pakistani journalist who openly criticised the military and its alleged meddling in politics was freed early yesterday, several hours after being abducted.

The journalist, Gul Bukhari, who is a dual Pakistani-British national, has been a vocal critic of Pakistan's powerful military on social media and in her articles in the run-up to a July 25 general election.

She has also defended ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who clashed with the military before the Supreme Court forced him from office last year over an undeclared source of income.



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BD286,000 football stadium foundation stone laid

Manama

Youth and Sports Affairs Ministry is keen to implement His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's directives to provide all kinds of support to the youth and sports movement and to develop the infrastructure of national clubs, Youth and Sports Affairs Minister Hisham Al Jowdar said yesterday while patronising the foundation stone-laying ceremony of a football stadium for the Umm Al Hassam Club.

The Ministry is also exerting tremendous efforts to translate the strategy of the Representative of HM the King for Charity Work and Youth Affairs, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Com-



Mr Al Jowdar speaks to club officials after the ceremony.

mittee Chairman, HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, on providing high-quality infrastructure for clubs so that they could attract talented youth

into the ground, Mr Al Jowdar pointed out.

Mr Al Jowdar asserted that the establishment of modern stadiums will support clubs and boost the game in Bahrain.

MP Bu Majeed, in his statement, lauded HM King Hamad's constant care for Bahraini youth through the infrastructure projects implemented for sports clubs across the kingdom, paying tribute to the Youth and Sports Affairs for supporting the Umm Al Hassam Club through the BD 286,000 stadiuim.

Umm Al Hassam Club's Chairman, Dr Hisham Abdulrahman Al Binali, said that the minister's patronage of the ceremony reflects his support for national clubs.

Don't shed crocodile tears!

Qatar is accused of funding and promoting terrorism; intervening in the domestic affairs of Gulf countries

● Saudi and UAE officials have said that Doha has yet to meet 13 demands made by the four states, including closing the state-funded Al Jazeera television station and reducing ties to Iran.

Riyadh

Saud Al Qahtani, an adviser at Saudi Arabia's Royal Court has slammed Qatar's former Foreign Minister Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani who tried to hold the anti-terror quartet responsible for the Gulf crisis, Al Arabiya reported.

"He cries crocodile tears on the GCC and claims that we violate the council's regulations that must be unanimous. He says these silly statements to more than half of the GCC countries which boycotted him," he was quoted.

"Where was this Gulf unity



Where was this Gulf unity which he claims when Qatar tore it in it like a fatal cancer for 21 years?

SAUD AL QAHTANI

which he claims when Qatar tore it in it like a fatal cancer for 21 years?" Qahtani said.

On June 5, 2017, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Bahrain decided to cut diplomatic ties with Qatar, after years of unstable relations. Qatar was accused by the quartet of funding and promoting terrorism and intervening in the domestic affairs of the quartet countries.

Subsequently, Qatar's Emir

Sheikh Tamil bin Hamad Al Thani, was handed a list of demands by the quartet, which he has to meet in order to end the crisis, and declare his country safe.

Instead, the Qatari government decided to deepen the crisis by accusing the Arab countries of suppressing opposition, creating humanitarian crises, intimidating citizens and using media to promote propaganda to discredit Qatar.

"The information in our hands today does not indicate any glimmer of hope for a solution now, as the matter does not happen suddenly," Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmad Al Khalifa had told a foreign newspaper recently.

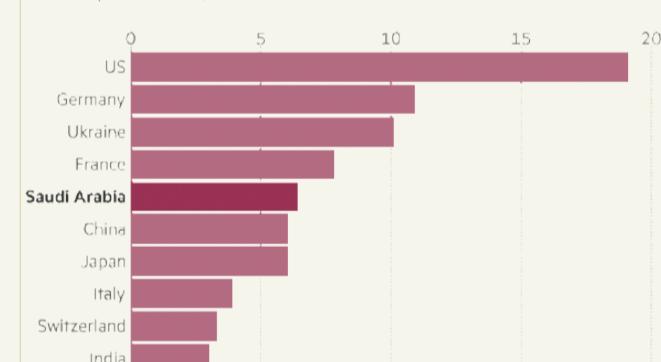
After initially disrupting Qatar's imports and triggering the withdrawal of billions of dollars from its banks by depositors from the four states, the world's top exporter of liquefied natural gas quickly developed new trade routes and deployed tens of billions of dollars from its sovereign wealth fund to protect its domestic lenders.

Losses all the way

The blockade has affected Qatar very badly. Qatar Airways said on Tuesday that the airline may incur losses for the second consecutive year. Qatar Airways has been banned from operating in or flying over 18 cities in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Egypt. Economic Intelligence Unit white paper has recently highlighted the risks of doing business in Qatar. The unit also warns the crisis will affect Qatari riyal, making it volatile in the long run.

Qatar's reliance on Saudi Arabia

Goods imports to Qatar, 2016 (%)



Source: International Trade Centre

Qatar was heavily dependent on Saudi imports

MIGHTY HEART

Fighter pilot saves villagers, dies heroic death

New Delhi

In a tragic incident, an Indian Air Force Jaguar aircraft crashed on Tuesday morning killing its pilot Air Commodore Sanjay Chauhan. The incident took place at around 10:30 in the morning in the Mundra taluk of the Kutch region in northwestern Gujarat.

According to sources, Commodore Chauhan took off the aircraft from Jamnagar Airbase for a routine training mission when the fighter jet crashed near Bareja village.

Sources said Commodore Chauhan didn't eject from the air-

craft when the incident occurred because it was over the village and could have taken many lives. A Court of Inquiry into the incident has been ordered by the air headquarters to investigate the cause of the accident, the sources added.

"The plane, which was on a routine sortie, crashed near Bareja village," said an official in Gujarat.

The plane's debris was strewn far and wide on the outskirts of



Air Commodore Sanjay Chauhan

the village, locals said.

Chauhan, aged around 50, was a decorated and highly experienced fighter pilot.

"During his service, Chauhan had held several important posts such as the Commanding Of-

ficer of the Test Pilots' School. He also commanded a fighter squadron of the IAF," said one of the officials.

"He was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal in 2010," he said.

Among other similar incidents in the country, two air force pilots were killed in March after a microlight aircraft they were flying in crashed at Majuli district in Assam.

Later in April, an Mi-17 chopper crashed in Uttarakhand's Kedarnath in April, injuring six. An IAF chopper also crashed landed in Jammu and Kashmir's Natha Top on May 23. However, all passengers and the crew were safe.

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Family faces eviction threat

Salem family has been living in the building for four generations now

● Mohammed said he was taken aback when the ministry officials later produced a letter in court which said the family had agreed to be part of the project and is willing to vacate the house.

TDT|Manama
Thamer Tayfor

A Bahraini extended family is preparing themselves to sleep on the streets as the Housing Ministry is allegedly planning to take over their house. They say the ministry intends to demolish the building leaving them without shelter.

Mohammed Salem who lives in Hoora on the Exhibition Road, says he is helpless.

He heads the family consisting of his wife and children, two sisters, Sara, a widow, and Shaikha, a disabled, along with two sons of his deceased brother Abdulla.

"Two days before Ramadan we received a letter from the ministry asking to vacate the building within 45 days or else we would be forcibly evicted. We have been living in this building for four generations now," he told Tribune.

According to Mohammed, it was around six years ago the ministry decided to acquire the land which hosts the building for a project comprising 14 apartments. "Officials from the ministry came to us and told us that our house was part of the project and we will be given a temporary apartment until the project gets completed."

"The officials also told us that we need not vacate the house if we don't intend to be part of the project," said Mohammed, adding that the family decided not to vacate the building as they had lived there for generations.

However, Mohammed said he was taken aback when the ministry officials later produced a letter in court which said the family had agreed to be part of the project and is willing to vacate the house. The letter also carried the signatures of Mohammed and his family members.

"The letter has been forged. They have now taken possession of our house without our knowledge. The Department of Acquisitions has misled us. They value our property at BD85 per square feet, which is not even half of the existing market value."

"We pleaded to the Department of Acquisitions citing our concerns. But the head of the department rejected our plea. When asked about the valuation of the property, he said the committee to decide over property price has been dissolved and hence there won't be any change in the offer," Mohammed explained.

With no other go, the family filmed a video requesting HRH the Premier to offer them respite and posted it on social media. The



The building in Hoora where the family lives.

We are a poor family. I am a disabled individual and my sister is a widow. Since our father's death we have been living together. Where are we supposed to go?

SHAIKHA SALEM



The building's plan drawn in 1959.

video became viral within no time. "The very next day, the Prime Minister's office contacted us and we shared our ordeal with them. The Housing Ministry officials contacted us again and they promised to make a better offer. But nothing much happened," said Shaikha Salem.

"We are not going to leave our house until they give us another house. Since the 1930s, our family has been living here and we are the fourth generation. The current market value of the property is nearly BD300,000 and we have all documents proving our ownership," she added.

"We are a poor family. I

Two days before Ramadan we received a letter from the ministry asking to vacate the building within 45 days or else we would be forcibly evicted. We have been living in this building for four generations now.

MOHAMMED

85

Bahraini dinar per square feet was the rate fixed by the committee.

am a disabled individual and my sister is a widow. Since our father's death we have been living together. Where are we supposed to go? After constructing a 14-house complex, what if they give us a small apartment. How can a big family like ours live in a small apartment?"



His Majesty, HRH the Premier and HRH the Crown Prince with Shaikh Abdulla's sons and grandsons during their visit to offer condolences.

A tribute to the symbol of wisdom



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

May Allah have mercy on the great man and the one who stays in our memories, the hearts and minds of the simple people of Bahrain. May Allah have mercy on His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalid Al Khalifa, a father figure to all, whose affection was beyond any reckoning.

An extremely interesting personality, he was like a father, uncle and brother to every Bahraini showering them with his love and care.

I do not think His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalid has left us. I can't believe it. His impact is found in every human, cultural, religious, political, social and cultural site in the Kingdom of Bahrain. He was the one who documented and intro-

duced the Kingdom's history to the world.

He taught us to love our culture, knowledge and our history. He served a true inspiration to generations across Muharraq, Riffa and Manama through his patriotism and unconditional love.

Now it is up to the scholars and academic figures of this country to collect information and document the legendary life of this human heritage.

His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalid was one of the pillars of modern Bahrain and hence it is of great importance to document his contributions towards the Kingdom and its people.

While working alongside the Higher Committee for Hajj, I had the special privilege to understand the administrative acumen of His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalid. There were problems and complaints every day from the part of employees as well as citizens. But His Highness had a unique management



HRH the Premier and HRH the Crown Prince attend the funeral prayer.

style to address them all. He never took a tough decision against

anyone, for he treated everyone as his colleagues and not inferior

officials.

None of the employees of His

Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin

Khalid felt that he was a su-

preme authority. He was always the adviser who gave advice to the wrongdoer without putting them down. He had solutions

for even the toughest of issues. He was innovative, friendly and loved by everyone.

His Highness did not disappoint any citizen who approached him with an issue and no-one ever returned from his office unsatisfied during his tenure as the President of Supreme Committee for Hajj.

I would assert that these unique qualities made him a special president of the committee.

Words would fall short to describe the great man's loss to this nation. Though sadness hover over the Kingdom, unable to cope with his demise, I think this is the time for all of us to reassure ourselves that this great man has not left us by standing up for the values he had always highlighted in his life.

His Highness, you are still very much with us as your actions and thoughts reverberate through the culture, scientific and religious spheres of the Kingdom.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune)

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Distribution of housing units underway

● The undersecretary highlighted the government's support to the Housing Ministry's efforts, noting that the government is keen to achieve the royal directives

Manama

The Housing Ministry said that the distribution of the ready housing units at the "Khalifa Town" project is underway.

The move follows the order of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, to distribute 5,000 housing units, within the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to meet the citizens' needs marking the holy month of Ramadan.

The Housing Ministry's Undersecretary, Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, said that the beneficiaries will be handed over the keys after having received their contracts earlier.

He stressed that the "Khalifa



A beneficiary receives his house key from a ministry official

"Town" project is among the strategic projects currently carried out by the Housing Ministry within the 25,000-unit programme included in the Government Action Plan, and emanate from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's directives to build 40,000 units.

He added that the Khalifa Town will, after completion, accommodate 54,000 people within its 6,000 housing units, noting that 400 units have already been completed, and that work is in full swing to begin the other phases.

The undersecretary highlighted the government's support to the Housing Ministry's efforts, noting that the government is keen to achieve the royal directives aimed at ensuring the stability of Bahraini families through harnessing all its potentials to provide them with the requirements of decent and stable life.

He extended sincere congratulations to all the beneficiaries of housing units, pledging the ministry's keenness to implement HRH the Crown Prince's order as soon as possible.



The New Millennium School-DPS Bahrain held a week-long celebration to mark the World Environment Day. The activities included cleanliness campaigns, poster making and recycling of e-wastes.

Hospital under ventilator as EWA disconnects power

Hospital stops functioning; staff did not allegedly receive salary for months

Though Tribune tried to contact the hospital management, the attempts ended in vain.

TDT|Manama

Lights went off in a private hospital in the Kingdom after the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) disconnected power supply owing to unpaid bills.

Tribune visited the hospital and found it was not functioning with no patients and doctors and other staff.

Sources confirmed that the hospital owed big amounts in pending bills to the EWA.

Though Tribune tried to contact the hospital management, the attempts ended in vain.

Located in the Northern Governorate, the hospital had been allegedly going through tough financial situations during the past couple of years, pushing its staff to go on a strike more than once after not receiving salaries for months.

Owing to unpaid salaries, many doctors and nurses left the hospital. It was functioning with a skeleton staff and even that seems to have ended now.

A SOURCE

Some staff alleged that they did not receive salaries of 18 months. When contacted earlier, the hospital

management told Tribune that it was undergoing a restructuring and the financial and other issues facing the hospital would be solved soon.

"Owing to unpaid salaries, many doctors and nurses left the hospital. It was functioning with a skeleton staff and even that seems to have ended now," a source said. "There were instances when the doctors themselves conducted blood tests and other lab tests due to inadequate number of staff," the source added. "earnt that the hospital did not approach any authorities for help following action from the part of EWA."

Expat's body flown back

TDT| Manama
Harpreet Kaur

The body of a labourer who died in a construction site accident was flown back home yesterday. Muhammad Nasser, an Indian expat, was working for a construction company in Askar.

Nasser's father-in-law told Tribune over phone that the family was waiting for the results of an investigation carried out into the death by the Bahraini authorities.

Nasser died after a heavy machinery vehicle hit the cabin in which he was sitting, according to father-in-law of the deceased.

"The roof of the cabin collapsed on him, leading to death," he added.

Bill to criminalise exploitation of children in election campaigns rejected

The committee's decision will be debated and voted on before the 40-member council in its upcoming weekly sessions.

TDT|Manama

A legislation to criminalise the exploitation of children in election campaigns was recently rejected by the Woman and Child Affairs Committee in Shura Council.

Despite previous approval of the Parliament and the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR), committee members rejected the bill, which instructs to amend Article 60 of Law 37 of 2012 (Child Law) criminalising the exploitation of children in electoral propaganda.

Committee members' decision came while they convened on Monday to discuss the bill. Committee Head Dr Fatima Al Kooheji explained in a statement that the bill adds a new clause to existing law. "It prohibits exploiting children in electoral propaganda or any other procedures and stages of elections of all kinds and forms, unless approval of parents or legal custodians is obtained".

Dr Al Kooheji justified the committee's rejection, stating that "the purpose of the amendment is applied in the existing



The legislation criminalises the exploitation of children in electoral propaganda without the approval of parents or legal custodians.

The purpose of the amendment is applied in the existing law and hence it was rejected.

DR AL KOOHEJI

the will of their parents or legal custodians.

NIHR said in a written statement to the councils, "The NIHR

believes that the children's rights require special protection, which differ in content and nature from any other rights, since the satisfaction thereof requires the provision of a sound, healthy, physiological and social environment. This is a reason to continue to improve the status of children without discrimination, to socialise and educate them in an atmosphere of peace and security, and to divert them from all kinds of exploitation

1000

Bahraini dinar fine plan was rejected by NIHR

that may place them at risk."

"The Institution further stresses the inadmissibility of pushing the children or placing them under political pressure while they are still in the process of the formation of their political awareness, since the protection of children against political exploitation is one of the most authentic elements of protecting their rights to survival and development, in order to be able to contribute to the building and upgrading of their community. This fact is emphasised by the constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain," NIHR explained.

"NIHR agrees upon the modification of Article 60 of the law and believes that such amendments are consistent with the international commitments of the Kingdom relevant to human rights issues," the institution stated, while adding that the punishments mentioned in the law, inflicting an imprisonment sentence not exceeding one year and/or a BD1,000 fine, should be reconsidered.

Ex-Shura member fined for defaming firm

TDT|Manama

The Lower Criminal Court has fined an ex-Shura Council member BD200 for launching a defamation campaign against a local company in 2016.

The defendant was convicted of accusing the company of favouring foreign employees.

Artisans in danger of disappearing

Future not bright and young won't prefer the profession, they say



Abu-Jaffar at the pottery workshop



Abu-Jaffar carving and painting wood to make Quran stands

There were at least 14 factories in the village in the past couple of decades and more in earlier years. They were reduced to five-six factories nowadays.

TDT|Manama
Muhammad Mansour

Traditional artisans in the Kingdom are finding it difficult to pursue their professions with no support from authorities as well as a diminishing markets for their products.

Many artisans are now in the job for just one reason - to carry forward the legacy they inherited from their ancestors.

Mohammed Jaffar Al Shoghol, or Abu-Jaffar as the people of Aali prefer to call him, is a 55-year-old father of four boys who says he spent the best

years of his life working in pottery and wood carving workshops.

Speaking to Tribune, Abu-Jaffar explained that he spends most of his day time at the pottery factory he inherited from his father and that his evening hours are mostly devoted to carving wood at his house, which is located in the northwestern borders of the village.

Speaking more about the history of the profession in Aali and how it dramatically diminished, Abu-Jaffar said, "For many centuries, the people of Bahrain depended on the sea and farms to make a living. The majority of the inhabitants of the island's villages were either fishermen, pearl divers or farmers. However, it's not the same in Aali, which is one of the most ancient villages in Bahrain. This is proved by the various archeological sites scattered around it. Because of Aali's geographical nature and distance from the sea, the people of the village depended on pottery and clay making for centuries, in addition to farming.

"There were at least 14 factories in the village in the past couple of decades and more in earlier years. They were reduced to five-six factories nowadays. The industry was abandoned by many of the families that depended on it for centuries, but don't see it as the best income source for them anymore."

"I have decided to continue the legacy of my ancestors and teach the profession to my children. My grandfather owned one of the biggest factories in the village. He also inherited it from his father. The factory then expanded when my late father and my uncle decided to split it into two workshops, around 80 years ago. The remains of the old factory and the ovens still exist in the northeastern parts of the village," Abu-Jaffar explained.

He recalled, "Back in those days, our ancestors used to extract the clay needed for pottery making from Hunainiya valley near Riffa. There were no proper means of transportation back then and they mainly depended on donkey trolleys, a process that required a lot of effort. I still remember how we used to be punished by the elder ones when we were naughty kids and played around with the clay. It was a precious substance to them and had a great value back at that time."

Narrating his story, Abu-Jaffar continued, "I am the eldest among my siblings and I studied up to secondary school, before deciding to join

my father in the profession and make it my career in the late 1970s. My passion for creative pottery making wasn't welcomed by my father, who was very traditional. I used to carve faces and verses of the Holy Quran, but he insisted on sticking to the ordinary manufacturing of vases and jars.

"He repeatedly told that these are unacceptable fads, particularly the Quran verses, as the manufacturing processes requires burning them in the oven. This motivated me to expand and develop my work to include wooden sculptures and carving. I first began working at my cousins' carpentry workshops. I still go there sometimes, but I have equipped my garage at home so I can continue working on special orders while I'm not in the workshop."

"Most of my customers are from Aali, Buri, Salmabab and the surrounding areas. They show me samples of the sculptures they would like me to make for them and I make an exact copy of it. This includes antiques and sculptures from

Bahrain, the Arabian Gulf and other countries of the world. Each of my designs are unique, and that's why I only make special orders, with regards to the wooden sculptures. But at the pottery factory, I keep many pieces of pottery ready, as we frequently receive tourists and school students who are seeking to purchase such souvenirs. As for the wooden pieces, Ramadan is considered a busy season. I receive orders to make sculptures that are usually used in mosques, maatams and majlis (social and religious gathering places). This increases during the Holy Month because people spend most of their time in

supplication and strengthening social bonds at these places. They usually order traditional chests, Quran stands and chairs," Abu-Jaffar said.

Abu-Jaffar is convinced that the future of his profession is not bright and new generation would hardly select such professions. "Modern technologies and lifestyles had a strong impact on our lives, especially younger generations. It's the era of speed. Sitting in a workshop for hours could be a boring thing to them. But I try my best to teach my children and the other kids in the family. It's important to preserve the profession that fed us in the past and helped our ancestors survive. Anyhow, I'm glad that my youngest son shows the most interest in traditional work."



Abu-Jaffar's son helping him at workshop.



Abu-Jaffar at his workshop.



I try my best to teach my work to children and other kids. It's important to preserve the profession that fed us in the past and helped our ancestors survive.

ABU-JAFFAR

BUSINESS

business

BisB introduces Innovation Lab

Facility to enable the bank's IT team to pilot and test-drive new products currently available in the digital market

● The Lab is aimed at harmonizing FinTech with its business operations to deliver superior financial solutions to customers

TDT|Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) has launched its in-house innovation lab, a dedicated creative space that will allow the bank to perform exploratory test runs, in an effort to continually improve new banking products and services before they are deployed in the market.

The Innovation Lab is part of the bank's drive to harmonize financial technology with its business operations, to deliver superior integrated financial solutions to satisfy its customers' expectations. The Lab is one of the major achievements of the IT team in the bank, in line with the bank's strategy" Ishraq," es-

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The Lab is automated with biometric authentication for added security measures, and is equipped with various new technologies, location based services, self-service machines, new gen ATMs, robotics etc.

HASSAN JARRAR
CEO, BISB



Bahrain Islamic Bank staff at the newly launched innovation lab to test-launch banking products

Alba key participant at Harbor's 11th Aluminium Outlook



Tim Murray

TDT|Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), soon to be the world's largest single-site smelter, is participating in one of the leading aluminium events - Harbor's 11th Aluminium Summit being held from June 5 to 7 in the USA.

As a keynote speaker on 'Strategic Market Topics' panel, Alba's Chief Executive Officer Tim Murray spoke about Alba's mega Line 6 Expansion Project, its impact on the global aluminium industry as well as the Kingdom of Bahrain and its economy.

"Harbor Aluminium Summit is one of the premier industry conferences for networking and sharing of market knowledge," said Murray.

Alba's Director of Marketing, Boris Santosi, Manager Sales and Marketing - Americas, Patrick Hudson, Manager Financial Accounting and Controlling Ahmed Abdul Qader and Manager Investor Relations & Corporate Secretary Eline Hilal were also present at the 11th Aluminium Summit this year.

Algosaibi Holding, Ebdaa in pact to support low income Bahrainis

TDT|Manama

Algosaibi Holding Group has signed an agreement with Ebdaa Bank to help low-income Bahrainis make their way to business as part of a nonprofit social financing.

A grant of BD100, 000 provided by Algosaibi Holding will help enhance the bank's financial solvency and increase its ability to expand borrowers list which currently includes more than 2,500 borrowers.

The agreement was signed by Dr Khalid Al Ghazawi, CEO of Ebdaa Bank, and Fawaz Algosaibi, CEO of Algosaibi Holding, at the headquarters of Ebdaa Bank in Sanabis.

"We grant five types of loans without guarantees to low-income Bahrainis in Ebdaa Bank, including the Sayidati loan to finance projects run by housewives, in addition to other financing products that suits each borrowers' project," Dr

Al Ghazawi said.

"The total amount of one loan varies between BD500 and BD1000, while the average of per loan is only 893 dinars. This support from Algosaibi Group can greatly improve our business, especially as we monitor high rates of sustainability and expansion of borrowed projects," he added.

Al Ghazawi, CEO of Ebdaa Bank, welcomed Algosaibi

Holding as a new supporter to bank's supporters group which including Mona Almoayyed, Khalid Kanoo, Abdulhameed Dwani, AGFUND, Eskan Bank and Bahrain Development Bank.

He praised Algosaibi Holding Group as one of the leading Bahraini institutions in the field of promoting the national economy and supporting the Bahraini society.



Dr Khalid Al Ghazawi and Fawaz Algosaibi after signing the agreement

ASRY showcases retrofits expertise at shipping expo

TDT | Manama

ASRY, the leading maritime repair and fabrication facility in the Gulf, is using Posidonia, the Athens shipping exhibition, as a platform to showcase its experience and expertise in the Ballast Water Treatment System (BWTS) and Scrubber retrofit sector. The exhibition, which takes place until June 8, has a record 2,010 exhibitors

from 92 countries. The expo also brings many of ASRY's European current and potential clients to explore networking opportunities as the company solidifies its presence in the international shipping market. "We have installed several BWTS systems for our long-term clients already and see more negotiations taking place for the rest of the year," confirmed ASRY New Construction and

Engineering Senior Manager Sauvir Sarkar. "Our Greek clients are proving to be the most interested in moving forward in both the BWTS and Scrubber retrofits."

"The Greek market is one of ASRY's most important territories," explained ASRY Ship Repair General Manager Magdy Al Sharkawy, also attending the exhibition, "especially in the ship repair sector."

their financial business faster in a simplified and hassle-free manner," he said.

"The possibilities are endless, our employees can utilize the lab to demonstrate potential services, identify the business value of trending technologies, and experiment with services remotely before they go-to-market. Moreover, the lab will play a pivotal role in facilitating the exchange of ideas, serving as a creative space, further promoting a culture of innovation within the Bank. Similarly, the lab will be used for internal meetings as a more interactive space, conducting more thought-provoking collaborations with our partners and vendors to contribute to the banking industry's digital evolution," he added.

"We are continually seeking new ways to streamline our operations in order to transform the lives of our customers, by enabling them to work and live better through innovative, simple solutions that facilitate their banking transactions," he added.

BBK, BIBF team up to host EmTech Summit



Hassaan Burshaid and Dr. Ahmed Abdul Hameed Al Shaikh signing the deal

TDT|Manama

BBK, Bahrain's pioneer in retail and commercial banking, and the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) have joined hands to hold a summit and expo on emerging technologies (EmTech) later this year. To be held under the theme "Technology that Changes the Paradigm", from October 3-4 at the Four Seasons Hotel, Bahrain Bay, the two-day EmTech Summit & Expo will focus on emerging technologies and how it can reshape Bahrain's economy.

Under the patronage of the Central Bank of Bahrain, the Summit will see both international and local experts coming together to deliver insightful sessions and stimulating panel discussions focused on new topics relevant to emerging technologies and the economic conditions that will govern the Bahraini market. An international expo will also be held, showcasing the latest IT trends and giving the participants a more comprehensive overview

of economic prospects and potential threats to financial and economic stability, in addition to prospects of support for entrepreneurs in the Kingdom.

"With the fast-changing trends in technology and communication in the financial sector, we believe in the importance of keeping up with the developments within the industry and the subsequent changes in market requirements," said BBK Chief Executive, Reyadh Yousif Sater.



The two-day EmTech Summit & Expo will focus on emerging technologies and how it can reshape Bahrain's economy

European refiners reduce purchases of Iranian oil

London

European refiners are winding down oil purchases from Iran, closing the door on a fifth of the OPEC member's crude exports after the United States imposed sanctions on Tehran, company and trading sources said.

Although European governments have not followed Washington by creating new sanctions, banks, insurers and shippers are gradually severing ties with Iran under pressure from the US restrictions, making trade with Tehran complicated and risky.

US President Donald Trump on May 4 announced his decision to quit a landmark 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers and reimposed sanctions on Tehran. The

sanctions on Iran's petroleum sector will take effect after a 180-day "wind-down period" ending on Nov. 4.

"We cannot defy the United States," said a senior source at Italy's Saras, which operates the 300,000-barrels-per-day (bpd) Sarroch refinery in Sardinia.

Saras is determining how best to halt its purchasing of Iranian oil within the permitted 180 days, the source said, adding: "It is not clear yet what the US administration can do but in practice we can get into trouble."

A drop in crude trading between Iran and Europe could complicate efforts by the European signatories of the nuclear deal - France, Germany and Britain - to salvage the agreement.

AirAsia denies reports of being summoned

India's CBI last month accused the airline of bribing government officials to allow AirAsia India to fly international routes.

AirAsia's statement said it will act in accordance with Malaysian laws and cooperate fully with Indian authorities.

Reuters | Delhi

AirAsia Group said the company and its chief executive had not received notice of a summons to appear before India's federal investigators over allegations that the airline broke rules to obtain a flying licence in the country.

"We wish to state categorically that neither AirAsia Group nor Tan Sri Tony Fernandes, in his personal capacity, has received any such notice as of today," the company said in a statement on Tuesday.

Media reports said earlier that Fernandes had been asked to appear before the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on June 6.

India's CBI last month accused the airline, some of its employees and third parties of violating foreign direct investment rules while obtaining its licence to fly, and of bribing government officials in an attempt to get regulations relaxed to allow AirAsia India to fly international routes.

A CBI source reiterated yesterday that Fernandes had been summoned to appear before investigators but did not clarify if that summons had been delivered. The source also said that police were likely to give more details on the matter later in the day.

AirAsia's statement on Tuesday said that "if and when" the company receives a notice from CBI through official channels, it will act in accordance with Malaysian laws and cooperate fully with Indian authorities.

The Football Stadium will open one hour before the first match each day, and from 4:00 until 11:00 pm on non-match days.

Manama

Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay is offering a unique tented venue dubbed 'The Football Stadium' to enjoy the excitement of the world's biggest sporting event 'World Cup 2018' from June 14 to July 15.

The Football Stadium, according to Four Seasons, will show matches on a massive 4 x 10-metre high-definition screen, together with 160 LCD screens, offering 150 supporters a perfect view of each game.

Spectators can take part in a range of fun activities, from taking on friends in a table football tournament to honing their scoring skills with Play Station

The Football Stadium will show matches on a 4 x 10m high-definition screen

business

THE DAILY tribune

Sorry, it was just a joke, says Qatar Airways CEO

Akbar Al Baker apologises for sexist remarks during Aviation meet in Sydney

Reuters | Sydney

He is outspoken, provocative!

Al Baker is one of the airline industry's most outspoken figures, known for provocative and often humorous criticism of rival airlines or suppliers, but he has also drawn criticism over the judgment of some of his declarations.

In 2017 he apologised after calling US flight attend-

ants "grandmothers" during a trade row with US airlines, prompting an airline union to accuse him of sexism and age discrimination.

In 2014, Qatar Airways defended policies on pregnancy and marriage for cabin crew after coming under fire over working conditions in the conservative Gulf emirate.



When asked about female employment among Middle East airlines and why his job as CEO could not be done by a woman, Al Baker had said: "Of course it has to be led by a man because it is a very challenging position."

"Bridging the gap at senior levels will not be simple," de Juniac wrote.

The gender row comes amid a deeper debate about whether airlines based on different national social models, recruitment policies and wage structures can compete on equal terms.

US and some European airlines have accused Gulf carriers of unfair competition, but Walsh said he believed Gulf airlines competed on an equal footing.

India hikes rates for first time in 4 years

AFP | Mumbai

India's central bank raised interest rates for the first time in over four years yesterday, highlighting concerns over rising inflation.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said the benchmark repo rate -- the level at which it lends to commercial banks -- would be increased by 25 basis points to 6.25 per cent.

The rate was last hiked in January 2014 when it hit 8.0pc before a series of cuts.

Retail inflation in India recently touched 4.58pc, above the target set by the RBI's monetary policy committee (MPC).

It is being stoked by rising oil prices and increased consumer spending as India's economy turns a corner following a number of disruptive measures.

A predicted normal monsoon is also expected to sustain the Indian economy's growth -- for which agriculture is a cornerstone -- over coming months.

"Against the above backdrop, the MPC decided to increase the policy repo rate by 25 basis points and keep the stance neutral," said a bank statement.

"The MPC reiterates its commitment to achieving the medium-term target for headline inflation of four per cent on a durable basis," it added. The RBI last cut its main interest rate in August, snipping off 25 basis points to 6.0pc.

Trade war getting hotter

Reuters | Brussels

The European Union expects to hit US imports with additional duties from July, ratcheting up a transatlantic trade conflict after Washington imposed its own tariffs on incoming EU steel and aluminium.

EU members have given broad support to a European Commission plan to set 25 per cent duties on up to 2.8 billion euros (\$3.3bn) of US exports. That plan also includes duties of between 10 and 50pc on a further 3.6 billion euros of US imports in March 2021.

US products on the list include orange juice, bourbon,

jeans, motorcycles and a variety of steel products.

The European Union, Canada and Mexico have all responded after US President Donald Trump last Friday ended their exemptions from tariffs of 25

pc for steel and 10 pc for aluminium. Canada will impose retaliatory tariffs on \$12.9bn worth of US exports from July 1.

Mexico put tariffs on products ranging from steel to pork and bourbon on Tuesday.



Representative picture



The Football Stadium will show matches on a 4 x 10m high-definition screen

games.

Commenting, Richard Raab, General Manager of Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay, said, "We are delighted to invite football fans to our unique indoor stadium. For those unable to

travel to Russia this summer, a visit to The Football Stadium at Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay is the closest thing to actually being at the match."

The stadium, Raab said, offers a wide variety of food and bev-

erages, selection of à la carte items, a range of Arabic mezze as well as snacks including burgers, nachos and spring rolls.

Also on offer at The Football Stadium is an indoor shisha lounge at the Hotel over the summertime.

Charges are as follows: BD12 for an all-inclusive admission ticket to rebate against food and beverage (excluding shisha) from June 14 to June 28. From June 30 to July 15, it will be priced BD18.

All-inclusive special Group Package is priced at BD150 for groups of 5 and above, including complimentary beverages and food platters. To make a reservation call (973) 1711 5000.

ers.

Visit 'The Football Stadium' at Four Seasons Bahrain



Manama

Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay is offering a unique tented venue dubbed 'The Football Stadium' to enjoy the excitement of the world's biggest sporting event 'World Cup 2018' from June 14 to July 15.

The Football Stadium, according to Four Seasons, will show matches on a massive 4 x 10-metre high-definition screen, together with 160 LCD screens, offering 150 supporters a perfect view of each game.

Spectators can take part in a range of fun activities, from taking on friends in a table football tournament to honing their scoring skills with Play Station

The Football Stadium will open one hour before the first match each day, and from 4:00 until 11:00 pm on non-match days.

Aramco inks gasoline deal with Pertamina

Singapore

Saudi Aramco has agreed a term contract with Indonesia's Pertamina for the first time to supply gasoline over July to December this year, traders familiar with the matter said yesterday.

This would likely be the first time Aramco Trading is supplying term barrels into Indonesia, Asia's largest importer of the motor fuel, the traders said, though this could not immediately be confirmed.

Pertamina and Aramco Trading officials declined to comment.

Aramco Trading will be supplying a total of about 1 million barrels a month of 88-octane and 92-octane gasoline grades, traders said.

It was not immediately clear where Aramco planned to supply the cargoes from but it holds a majority share in S-Oil Corp, South Korea's third-biggest oil refiner.

US asks OPEC producers to pump more oil: sources

Reuters | Dubai/London

The United States government has unofficially asked Saudi Arabia and some other OPEC producers to raise oil output, but it has not requested a specific figure, three OPEC and industry sources said on Tuesday.

The US request to raise output has been made unofficially from Washington to each of the oil producers rather than to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries as a group, the sources said.

Earlier on Tuesday, Bloomberg reported that the US government had asked Saudi Arabia and some other OPEC producers to increase oil production by about 1 million barrels per day (bpd).

Mideast markets end mixed

Stimulus plan boosting Abu Dhabi while Saudi Arabia pulled back after six straight days of gains

● Egypt declines on uncertainty over the public response to imminent energy subsidy cuts

Reuters | DUBAI

Major Middle Eastern stock markets were mixed yesterday with news of a 50 billion dirham (\$13.6bn) economic stimulus plan boosting Abu Dhabi while Saudi Arabia pulled back after six straight days of gains.

The Abu Dhabi index added 0.8 per cent with some big banks and real estate firms outperforming. Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank gained 1.4pc and Aldar Properties climbed 1.5pc.

The three-year stimulus package announced by the crown prince includes more investment in new technologies and tourism.

Many details are not known, however, and it is not clear how much the package can help the residential real estate market, where prices dropped 7.8pc from a year ago in the first quarter.

The Saudi index rose in early



A Saudi trader observes the stock market on monitors at Falcom stock exchange agency in Riyadh

trade but closed 0.3pc lower. Petrochemical giant Saudi Basic Industries (SABIC) 2010.SE, which had soared 13pc since the end of April, retreated 1.5pc.

But telecommunications firm Zain Saudi added 1.2pc after saying it had refinanced a 5.9bn riyal (\$1.6bn) facility on preferential terms and obtained fresh working capital to fund its digital plans.

The Saudi market surged this

week after the appointment of businessman Ahmed bin Suleiman al-Rajhi as labour minister spurred hopes that reforms making it more expensive to hire foreign workers may be implemented with less disruption to the private sector.

Valuations of many Saudi stocks look rich to many fund managers, however, with SABIC trading at over 20 times trailing earnings.

In Dubai, where average valuations are about half those in Saudi Arabia, the index rose 0.4pc.

Builder Arabtec shot up 3.9pc in its heaviest trade since last July. The stock has rebounded over 30pc from a multi-year low since it reported in mid-May its highest quarterly profit since late 2014.

Qatar gained 0.2pc as Qatar

Insurance rose 2.7pc after its

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▼ 0.3%	» 8,383 points.
DUBAI	▲ 0.4%	» 3,056 points.
ABU DHABI	▲ 0.8%	» 4,652 points.
QATAR	▲ 0.2%	» 9,328 points.
KUWAIT	▲ 0.7%	» 4,759 points.
BAHRAIN	▼ 0.1%	» 1,267 points.
OMAN	▼ 0.3%	» 4,580 points.
EGYPT	▼ 0.7%	» 15,909 points.

board approved a share buy-back worth up to 500 million riyals (\$137 million). The company has a market capitalisation of about 12.6bn riyals.

In Egypt, the index dropped 0.7pc after sliding 2.3pc on Tuesday, a drop which analysts attributed to uncertainty over the public response to imminent energy subsidy cuts in light of public protests in Jordan.

But Ezz Steel was last up 2.2pc in its heaviest trading in nearly a month after reporting a first-quarter consolidated net loss after tax and minority interests of 67 million Egyptian pounds (\$3.8 million), down from a year-ago loss of 521 million pounds, as sales climbed 55pc.

Arab Light crude price to Asia at four-year high

Reuters | Singapore/New York



Saudi Aramco said yesterday it raised its July price for its Arab Light crude for Asian customers by \$0.20 a barrel versus June to a premium of \$2.10 a barrel to the Oman/Dubai average, the highest in four years.

Meanwhile a 5-cent per barrel increase introduced by Aramco for Arab Extra Light crude's July OSP would keep the Saudi grade competitive against similar quality Murban oil from Abu Dhabi, two traders in Asia said on Wednesday.

For Arab Heavy crude, the July OSP for Asia rose as much as 70 cents a barrel from the

Arab Light is a medium-gravity, high-sulfur crude oil produced by Saudi. A major export grade for Saudi and a global benchmark, it is mainly produced from the super giant Ghawar field, but also contains volumes from other fields

previous month, surpassing expectations of a 40-50 cent hike on the back of stronger fuel oil margins.

Aramco could also start exporting Arab Heavy crude to new customer Hengli Petrochemical from July as the Chinese company prepares to start up a 400,000 barrels-per-day (bpd) refinery in northeast China.

"There is no lack of demand" for heavy crude in Asia, one Singapore-based trader said.

Last month, Saudi Aramco told buyers it planned to reduce Arab Heavy crude exports in June, but would top up the volume with the Arab Light grade to meet contractual obligations.

In other regions, Saudi customers in Northwest Europe and the Mediterranean saw the largest price hikes in July, more than \$1 per barrel higher than the previous month.

The company raised its Arab Light OSP to Northwest Europe by \$1.80 for July from the previous month at a discount of \$2.40 a barrel to the ICE Brent.

The Arab Light OSP to the United States was set at a premium of \$0.90 a barrel to the Argus Sour Crude Index (ASCI) for July, up 20 cents a barrel from the previous month.

Saudi term crude supplies to the United States are priced as a differential to the Argus Sour Crude Index (ASCI).



Fuel nozzles are seen at a petrol station in Madrid

Oil prices slip again

London

Oil prices fell yesterday on increasing signs that Saudi Arabia and other big crude producers may raise supply to balance a surge in demand during the peak US summer driving season.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed above \$80 a barrel last month, but prices have eased since then on talk of higher output by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Brent was down 35 cents a barrel at \$75.03 by 1320 GMT US light crude was 30 cents lower at \$65.22.



Industry data from the American Petroleum Institute showed on Tuesday that US crude inventories fell by 2 million barrels last week, compared with analysts' expectations for a draw of 1.8 million barrels.

Investors awaited official inventories data from the US Energy Department's Energy Information Administration at 1430 GMT.

Abu Dhabi announces, three-year, \$13.61 billion stimulus

The UAE economy is expected to recover gradually this year without suffering a significant blow to

Ordered the creation of at least 10,000 jobs for Emiratis in the private and public sectors over the next five years.

Reuters | Dubai

Abu Dhabi's crown prince said on Tuesday he had approved 50 billion dirham (\$13.61 billion) worth of measures to stimulate growth in the emirate and make it easier to do business, create jobs and boost tourism.

Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) tweeted that the new initiative would also speed up contract payments to the private sector and exempt new licenses from the requirement of having



Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan

a physical presence in the emirate in the first two years.

"Under the guidance of HH

Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed, I have approved a 3-year, 50 billion dirham economic stimulus pack-

age to support Abu Dhabi's economic development and have tasked the Executive Council's Executive Committee to draw up a working plan for allocations within 90 days," Sheikh Mohamed tweeted.

He also ordered the creation

of at least 10,000 jobs for Emiratis in the private and public sectors over the next five years.

More money would be spent to establish an "Abu Dhabi Accelerators and Advanced Industries Council" to attract and support value-added investments and new technologies.

The UAE economy is expected to recover gradually this year without suffering a significant blow to growth from the introduction of a 5 per cent value-added tax in January.

Growth rose by 1.2pc in the first quarter of 2018, accelerating from 0.1pc in the previous quarter year-on-year, the central bank said last week.

Non-oil economic activity in the Gulf Arab country grew by 3.1pc from a year earlier over the same period, slowing slightly from 3.4pc in the final quarter of 2017.

Corrosion of democratic institutions: India context

Indian government's alleged attempts to influence judiciary and media won't do any good to its democracy



HARTOSH SINGH BAL

A fair and independent electoral process, an independent judiciary, a parliament with a noisy opposition, a relatively free press and an army that has stayed away from politics have defined India since it adopted its constitution in 1950.

India stood apart in the developing world as a country where the Constitution served as the basis for the operations of the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. But it has taken just four years of the Bharatiya Janata Party government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the country to realize how fragile that achievement was, how close it has come to being subverted.

India has a fairly decentralized system of governance. States are governed by chief ministers, who are the elected leaders of a political party or a coalition of parties that has a majority of the seats in a state assembly. An Indian state also has a governor, a federal appointee holding a ceremonial, nonpartisan, constitutional position. After an election, the governor invites the party or the coalition that won the most seats to form the government.

While every government has attempted to use this office to its own ends, the corrosion of the governor's office became evident this month after state elections in the southern Indian state of Karnataka. An alliance of parties opposed to Modi's BJP won a majority of the seats. Karnataka's governor, Vajubhai Vala, who used to be an aide to Modi, was constitutionally bound to invite the non-BJP alliance to form the government.

Instead, Vala demonstrated his loyalty to Modi by asking the BJP to form the government. The Indian Supreme Court had to intervene so that a basic task of a democracy could be accomplished: letting the alliance that had a clear majority form a government.

A similar corrosion is apparent in Parliament, too. Over the decades, the Parliament has served as a venue for the opposition to critique the government. A few months back, opposition lawmakers made several attempts to move a vote of no confidence against the government. A no-confidence motion takes precedence over other parliamentary business, but the speaker of the lower house, who is drawn from the BJP, denied the opposition lawmakers their motion for over a month.

The BJP has a strong majority and the no-confidence motion posed no threat — except that during the nationally televised debate, the opposition would point out the fail-

The Indian news media, with a few respectable exceptions, has turned into cheerleaders for Modi and his politics. Most of the press not only ignores critical reporting but also actively spins the news to favour the government.

ures of Modi's economic policies.

Despite the partial opening of the Indian economy the annual budget still has an oversize impact. Lawmakers discuss the allocations for health, education and the like for weeks. If the parliamentary session is ending, the allocations that haven't been approved yet are consolidated and voted on in a procedure called the "guillotine."

In March, three weeks before the budget session would come to an end, Modi's party denied the lawmakers their crucial role of assessing and critiquing financial allocations by invoking the guillotine.

The desire of Modi's government to ensure that the core democratic institutions function not as they are meant to but as it desires has even affected the esteemed Supreme

Court. Most cases in the Supreme Court are decided either by a single judge or by a group of judges assigned by the chief justice.

In January, four senior justices held a rare news conference. They accused the chief justice of violating procedure in the assignment of judges.

Prashant Bhushan, one of India's most prominent lawyers and a critic of the Modi government, explained the implications of the accusations. "Politically sensitive cases are being assigned to hand-picked benches, with no senior judge on them, so that the desired outcomes are achieved," Bhushan said in an interview. "The chief justice is clearly manipulating and misusing the judiciary in the interest of the government."

Bhushan alleged that the government and the ruling party were blackmailing the chief justice, who faces charges in a graft case.

Indian Army Gen. Bipin Rawat was appointed army chief in violation of the tradition that the senior general takes that job. Since his appointment, Rawat has backed the Modi government's position on political issues to a degree unseen in previous chiefs.

Even the Election Commission of India, which had a reputation of overseeing free and fair elections, has faced allegations of modifying election dates to favor Modi. Unsurprisingly, the commission, until early this year, was headed by a bureaucrat who worked closely

with Modi when he was the chief minister of Gujarat.

And further, the Indian news media, with a few respectable exceptions, has turned into cheerleaders for Modi and his politics. Most of the press not only ignores critical reporting but also actively spins the news to favor the government.

The spin resonates with the large segment of Indian society invested in Modi's Hindu nationalist politics.

A sting operation by the website Cobrapost recently illustrated the fall in standards. Representatives from the website, posing as members of a Hindu nationalist group, met with the executives of some of India's largest media companies. They offered to pay the companies millions of dollars to publish and broadcast Hindu nationalist propaganda aimed at benefiting the BJP. Most of the media companies agreed to consider the deal.

As India prepares for the national elections next year, there is a sense of alarm: If Modi was willing to drown dissent and subvert national institutions when his government enjoyed popular support, how far down an undemocratic path might he and his party go to ensure a victory?

(Hartosh Singh Bal, the author of "Waters Close Over Us: A Journey Along the Narmada," is the political editor of The Caravan magazine.)

(In collaboration with New York Times)



Lawyers protest unjust transfer of judges by the government in Bengaluru.

CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

Reschedule school timings amidst hot summer

Being the mother of a five-year-old, it hurts to see my little one drenched in sweat, partially dehydrated when she gets back home each day.

When every other school chooses to reschedule its timings, due to the severe climatic conditions, I am surprised that Asian School has not opted to do so.

Being a parent, I find it totally unacceptable and forces me to question the school authorities, as to why no meas-

ures have been taken to reschedule the school timings, even with Government warnings mentioning the severe climatic conditions.

With due respect to the school authorities, please consider this request and reschedule the school timings as the present timing forces the children to be exposed to scorching heat which drains them out by the time they are home.

A concerned mother

The Indian School KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN المدرسة الهندية

ISO 9001: 2015 Certified Institution

Ref. No.: ISB/CR/25/18

Date: 4/6/2018

CIRCULAR - 25

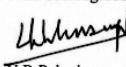
Re-scheduled school timing for Classes IV to XII from 5.6.2018

Dear Parent

Please be informed that the school will function up to 11.30 a.m. for all the classes of Isa Town campus with effect from Tuesday, 5 June 2018. The school timing is re-scheduled due to the Terminal Examinations, Formative Assessments and prevailing harsh weather conditions. This arrangement will continue until further notice.

Students using private transport are required to make necessary arrangements accordingly.

With best regards,


V.R. Palaniswamy
Principal



A circular issued by the Indian School Bahrain showing changes in school timings.

Email: mail@newsofbahrain.com

1654

Louis XIV is crowned King of France.

1929

The **Lateran Treaty** is ratified, bringing Vatican City into existence.

1977

Five hundred million people watch the high day of the Silver Jubilee of **Queen Elizabeth II** begin on television.

2000

The United Nations defines the Blue Line as the border between Israel and Lebanon.

Tutelary democracy returns

The military in Pakistan is disempowering politicians who stray from its positions on security policy and choking the press for reporting about its critics



ABBAS NASIR

On June 1, Pakistan moved towards its second democratic transition of power in its 71-year-old history as Nasir Mulk, a retired judge, was sworn in as caretaker prime minister for two months to preside over national elections on July 25. He was jointly nominated by the governing party, the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) and the opposition.

In a country where generals have directly ruled for 31 years, this would qualify as a cause for celebration. Instead, Pakistanis see the return of "tutelary democracy," as the military disempowers politicians who stray from its positions on foreign policy and national security, supports a new party and punishes the press for providing fair coverage to its perceived opponents.

The current season of troubles began in April 2016 after the Panama Papers had named then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's three children as having purchased luxury properties in London using offshore companies. Sharif's name did not appear in the papers. Opposition politicians, including Imran Khan, the former cricket star, whose Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Party is seen as the military's favorite, took the case to the Supreme Court.

Tensions between the civilian government and the military establishment escalated in October 2016 after Sharif began asserting himself on foreign policy and national security, which the military considers its domain.

In April 2017, the Supreme Court of Pakistan set up a team to investigate the allegations against

Sharif and his family arising out of the Panama Papers. Surprisingly, the investigative team included officials from Pakistan's spy agencies – Inter-Services Intelligence and Military Intelligence.

Three months later, the Supreme Court disqualified Sharif from holding public office on account of a misdeclaration. The court ruled that Sharif had not been "honest" and "truthful" – necessary conditions to hold public office, according to the Constitution of Pakistan. He resigned as prime minister. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, a minister from his party, was appointed in his place. Sharif and his family members are being tried for corruption in a lower court.

Sharif understands the ways of tutelary democracy well because his party was the military favorite in the 1980s, when Gen. Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq promoted him.

The relations between Sharif and the military worsened after the publication of a report in Dawn, the oldest and most respected newspaper in Pakistan, in October 2016. The newspaper revealed that Sharif, and his younger brother and aide Shahbaz Sharif, had warned the military leadership of Pakistan's growing international isolation because of its continued support of militant groups.

Sharif had already refused to extend the retiring army chief's term in office. The generals were livid that the rebuke was leaked to the media. The military whipped up hysteria over the report, which appeared in Dawn, implying that Sharif's government was toeing the line of adversarial foreign powers and demanded that the source of the leak be named. Social media users and television personalities known for their proximity to the intelligence services vilified Sharif's government; Dawn; its editor, Zaffar Abbas; and the writer Cyril

Two months before the elections, a concerted campaign by the military establishment seems underway to engineer the political process to ensure that Sharif can't even exercise power vicariously and is relegated to history.

Almeida.

Numerous young army officers, whose colleagues were killed fighting the Taliban on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, believed the rhetoric about the treacherous civilian leadership and journalists. They confronted the military leadership and demanded that they act against what they felt were treasonous civilians.

Sharif's government was forced to order an inquiry. Federal ministers, Abbas and Almeida were questioned. The journalists refused to reveal their sources. Subsequently, a new army chief was named and a tenuous calm followed.

But the military hadn't forgotten or forgiven Sharif. The investigation by a team that included intelligence officers into the Panama Papers allegations paved the way for Sharif's ouster. Despite losing his job and being barred from contesting elections, Sharif remained popular and exercised power through Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, the prime minister he got appointed, and through his younger brother, who heads his party.

Two months before the elections, a concerted campaign by the military establishment seems

underway to engineer the political process to ensure that Sharif can't even exercise power vicariously and is relegated to history. In the past few weeks, there has been a series of defections from Sharif's party to Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

Officials from the intelligence services have been making threatening calls to journalists objecting to accurate reporting of Sharif and his family's corruption trial. Journalists at one newspaper told me that they had received phone calls objecting to their reporting on the defense counsel's pointing out of inaccuracies and gaps in the testimony of Wajid Zia, a top officer of the country's Federal Investigation Agency and the prosecution's star witness against the Sharifs.

The military has also been unhappy about the peaceful, widespread protests by young Pashtuns and their articulate questions about disappearances, extrajudicial killings and mistreatment of their people during counterinsurgency operations in northwestern Pakistan along the border with Afghanistan. The media was told to completely black out the Pashtun movement.

Jang Group, Pakistan's largest media group, which runs several newspapers and Geo Television, the leading news network, took a defiant posture for months. Intelligence operatives got cable operators to force the network off air in most parts of the country. The network's ratings and advertising revenue fell, and it was unable to pay its staff for three months. Eventually, the network capitulated and settled on the military's terms.

Dawn remained the lone voice of defiance and independent journalism. Pakistan's military is one of the biggest real estate developers in the country, and it owns or runs some of the most

upmarket residential areas in all major urban centers. The circulation of Dawn is being impeded in those areas where a large number of its readers may reside. News agents are being warned against distributing the paper in the rural Pakistan as well. Real estate giants such as the military-controlled Defense Housing Authority have withheld advertisements from Dawn as a punitive measure.

On May 30, Hameed Haroon, the chief executive of Dawn and the president of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society, spoke about the "blatant attacks on the freedoms of expression" by the state institutions: "We will not be a party to the upturning of the Article 19 of the Constitution. And we will not be a party to the killing of the freedom of expression in the country."

But Haroon's newspaper is being choked to force it to its knees or die. That would be a tragedy as it is about the only media organization in Pakistan where editorial decisions are made by journalists and not by the owners. I edited the paper from 2006 to 2010.

Zaffar Abbas, my friend and successor, survived two murderous attacks earlier in his career and more recently received death threats. He has continued publishing the paper without flinching. But the emerging scenario seems scarier.

An unfair and disputed election would unleash turbulence that Pakistan could well do without. The Pakistani people have suffered terribly in the past two decades of pitiless terrorism and war. They deserve to be governed by representatives elected in a free and fair election. And they deserve a robust press – one that raises necessary questions.

(Abbas Nasir, is a columnist and former editor of Dawn, the leading English-language newspaper in Pakistan.)



01



I am a trusting person who genuinely helped you in the capacity of a mother & a sister. It costs nothing to be kind. I will never change even if the world is cruel.

@RehamKhan1

02



I know it sounds dumb but sometimes I forget how close the rest of Europe is to the UK! I'm definitely going to do some more European adventuring after tour

@AmazingPhil

03



The EU plans to block UK participation in the new 500m euros European Defence Industrial Development Programme. This is a clear example where the EU needs the UK and the UK needs the EU. The security of our continent should be paramount.

@thomasbracke

04



Great news for Australia as the coal industry goes from strength to strength. From today's National Accounts the ABS said "This quarter featured the biggest rise in Coal Mining since September quarter 2014 due to strong demand for thermal coal."

@mattjcan

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

world

I will resign, says Duterte if enough women protest

Philippines leader dismisses misogyny claims saying 'It's a showbiz thing'

Reuters | Manila

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has defended his kiss on the lips of a married Filipino woman in South Korea, and said he will resign if enough women are offended and sign a petition calling for him to step down.

Duterte has described Sunday's kiss as "pure showbiz" intended to entertain a crowd of Filipino expatriates. Feminists called it his "perverted way" of taunting female critics who are angered by frequent derogatory comments, some of a sexual nature.

"If there are enough women to ... Well I think if all women here would sign a petition for me to resign, I will resign," Duterte told a media briefing around midnight on Tuesday upon his return from an official visit to South Korea.

Social media was abuzz with photos and videos of Duterte on stage asking an unidentified woman from an audience of Filipinos to kiss him in exchange for a book he was handing out.



Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte gestures during an armed forces change of command ceremony at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines

The woman, who appeared excited to see Duterte in person, agreed.

Duterte enjoys a rock star status among Filipinos and has a cult-like following among those living overseas. He said kissing women was his "style" during his 22 years as a mayor in Davao City prior to becoming president.

"During the campaign in my mayoralty days, I kiss every woman there, lips to lips," the 73-year old Duterte said.

"The problem is you don't know me."

Duterte's controversial remarks about women include several public jokes about rape. But none have dented his domestic support and many Fil-

f there are enough women to ... Well I think if all women here would sign a petition for me to resign, I will resign

RODRIGO DUTERTE

ipinos view his politically incorrect, earthy language as part of his appeal.

Women's rights advocates in the Philippines recently launched an online #BabaeAko (I Am A Woman) campaign to send a message that they were not taking Duterte's "sexist" statements sitting down.

Presidential legal counsel Salvador Panelo yesterday said the kiss showed Duterte's caring, fatherly character, and the recipient in Seoul enjoyed the moment.

"She did it willingly and excitedly, she was tickled pink," he told news channel ANC.

Villagers use ladder to rescue leopard from well

Daily Mail | New Delhi

This is the incredible moment villagers and forest officials teamed up to rescue a wild leopard after it became trapped inside a well using a ladder in central India.

The dramatic scene unfolded when locals spotted the three-year-old wild cat struggling to stay afloat in a 20 foot deep well in Dhundi village near Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

After locals raised the alarm, they were joined by forest rescue services and after working together they succeeded in coaxing the leopard out of the dwelling by lowering a makeshift wooden ladder into the water.

Mobile phone footage shows the group carefully lowering the bamboo ladder, which was about six metres long, inside the well as the leopard contin-



After the ladder is lowered into the well, the leopard can be seen climbing up and reaching the top

ues to splash around the water. The wooden contraption is submerged for several minutes before the leopard begins to ascend the rungs of the ladder to safety before swiftly darting off into the nearby forest.

The leopard was believed to have fallen into the well when it was searching for food and water.

Lokesh Nirapure, assistant director of forest services said: 'I instructed my staff to arrange ladders and some ropes. When I reached the spot, the ladder was ready.'

'As mercury rises, the wild animals stray into human habitats in search of water. The villagers said this leopard had been also been spotted several times near the water bodies and wells recently.'

'French Spiderman' foiled in Seoul skyscraper attempt

French climber Alain Robert was stopped by security guards half way up Seoul's Lotte Tower

AFP | Seoul

French urban freeclimber Alain Robert attempted to scale the world's fifth-tallest building yesterday, getting more than half way up the 123-storey Lotte World Tower in Seoul before security forced him to abandon the ascent.

The 55-year-old, dubbed the 'French Spiderman', made his way up the building bare-handed and without ropes as staff pursued him from inside.

"I climbed about 75 stories



Alain Robert climbs Lotte World Tower in Seoul

and then after that, it was a bit like cat and mouse," Robert said. "Finally, I decided to surrender."

He was taken to the rooftop on a maintenance cradle and arrested.

As he awaited processing by police he told AFP his climb

was to celebrate the recent peace-making efforts between the two Koreas and he hoped the authorities would take that into account.

"I may get a hefty fine ... but I did it because of what is happening now between South and North Korea," Robert said.

Blast kills two at Afghan voter registration centre

AFP | Kabul

A bomb blast at a voter registration centre in northern Afghanistan killed at least two people and wounded two others, officials said yesterday, the latest attack on a process already marred by violence.

The bomb was placed in a school used as a voter registration centre in Pul-e-Khomri, the capital of northern Baghlan province, provincial spokesman Mahmood Haqmal told AFP.



"One police and one employee of the election commission were killed and two police have been wounded," he said.

Baghlan police spokesman Zabiullah Shuja confirmed the incident, saying that police had launched an investigation.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack but Taliban and Islamic State group have vowed to disrupt the parliamentary and district council elections scheduled for October 20.

Yesterday's attack is the latest assault on a voter registration centre aimed at deterring people from signing up for the long-delayed polls.

Climber scales Everest, another peak 24 hours later



Linda Blakely celebrating at the summit of Everest

Reuters | Beijing

A Londoner has become the first British woman to climb Everest and then scale the world's fourth highest peak 24 hours later.

Linda Blakely, 44, barely celebrated reaching the world's highest summit before tackling neighbouring Lhotse, which is 28,000ft.

The businesswoman from East Acton is only the fourth woman in the world to conquer the two peaks one after the other. Today she described how her record-breaking ascent was nearly scuppered by extreme winds and described the "terrifying" climb as "like an obstacle course".

She also revealed she kept her trip a secret from her mother in Northern Ireland so that she would not worry.

Blakely said: "The only time I felt like I couldn't do it was on the summit push on the day I moved on from Camp 2. I was really exhausted and there were terrible winds."

YOU SMILE
Villagers in India use a makeshift ladder to rescue a leopard trapped inside a 20-foot well after it fell in while searching for food

Fire rips through newly renovated hotel in London

At least 20 engines have been sent to the scene in William Street

AFP | London

A fire broke out at London's luxury Mandarin Oriental hotel on Wednesday, with dozens of firefighters deployed to tackle the blaze that pumped thick smoke high into the air.

The 12-storey hotel was evacuated and crowds quickly built up outside as around 120 firefighters and 20 fire engines tackled the blaze on the roof.

The five-star hotel completed what it called the "most extensive restoration in its 115-year history" only last week, after nearly two years of work.

With almost 200 rooms, the hotel is located near Harrods department store in Knightsbridge, an upmarket area of central London.

Firefighters were called to the blaze at 3.55pm, and were expected to continue working into the night.

"The smoke from this large fire was very visible across central London," said fire brigade station manager Pam Oparaocha.

"Firefighters are working extremely hard to bring the fire under control. Crews wearing



Firefighters tackle a blaze at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Knightsbridge, central London

breathing apparatus are carrying out a search inside the building.

"Once the fire has been brought under control fire investigators will take over to establish how the blaze started."

A spokesman for the hotel said they would provide an update as soon as they could.

Roads were closed off near the hotel, an Edwardian-style building that opened its doors in 1902 and was bought by Mandarin

Oriental in 1996.

Penelope Evans, 50, from Battersea in south London, was leaving Harrods when she noticed the blaze.

"I saw all this black smoke coming from the sky, it was covering everything and the smell was horrendous," she said.

"It was like people were in shock, everyone immediately just started leaving the street and the area."

Firefighters could be seen

crowded on a fire escape outside the building.

There appeared to be no visible damage to the outside of the hotel.

Transport for London, which manages the city's public transport system, said an entrance to Knightsbridge Underground station had been closed "at the request of the emergency services".

The London Ambulance Service said had sent incident re-



Overlooking London's Hyde Park on one side and Knightsbridge on the other, the hotel was originally built in 1889 as an exclusive 'Gentleman's Club'

Trump-Kim summit set for Singapore's Sentosa Island

Reuters | Washington

The summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will be on Singapore's southern island of Sentosa, White House said on Tuesday as preparations accelerated for next week's event.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said in a Twitter post that the venue would be the Capella Hotel on Sentosa and thanked Singaporeans for their hospitality. The summit is scheduled to start on the morning of June 12.

Trump told reporters at an Oval Office event that plans for what will be the first meeting between a serving US president and a North Korean leader, were "moving along very well."

"A lot of relationships being built, a lot of negotiations going on before the trip," he said. "We'll see what happens. But it's very important – it'll be a very important couple of days."

Trump, who is seeking to persuade Kim to shut down a nuclear missile programme that now threatens the United States, said on Friday the summit he had cancelled the previous week was back on after he received the North Korean delegation bearing a letter from Kim.

Police chase soldier in armoured truck

Soldier steals armoured vehicle, takes it on two-hour ride in Virginia

Reuters | Richmond

A soldier stole an armoured personnel carrier from a National Guard base in Virginia on Tuesday and took the vehicle on a two-hour drive that ended in a police chase through downtown Richmond, the state capital, state police said.

The unidentified man took



This is INSANE! Someone has hijacked a 'Tank-like' vehicle from Fort Pickett and just drove it by our apartment!

PARKER SLAYBAUGH



A 60-mile chase involving an armored personnel carrier came to an end in Richmond

the vehicle at about 7:50 p.m. from Fort Pickett, a Army National Guard base in Blackstone, Virginia, state police spokeswoman Corinne Geller said in an email to Reuters.

The suspect then drove the military vehicle, which was not equipped with any weaponry, east on Route 460 and then

north into Richmond on Interstate 95 at about 40 miles (65 km) per hour, Geller said.

Once in Richmond, several police squads followed the armoured personnel carrier, which travels on tracks similar to a tank, through downtown as it headed toward the Capitol building, the Richmond

Times-Dispatch reported.

Capitol police officers with combat-style rifles guarded the entrance to Capitol Square as a police helicopter shined a spotlight on the vehicle and police worked to stop traffic, the newspaper reported.

"This is INSANE! Someone has hijacked a 'Tank-like' vehicle from Fort Pickett and just drove it by our apartment!" Parker Slaybaugh, the communications director for the Virginia Speaker of the House, said on Twitter.

At about 9:40 p.m. local time, the driver drove the armoured vehicle onto a median and was surrounded by police, ending the 60-mile (95 km) pursuit, the Richmond Times-Dispatch reported. Police tased the suspect, who was identified as a military soldier, Virginia State Police spokeswoman Keeli Hill said during a news conference.

Dutch PM uses mop to clean after spilling coffee



A woman gives the Dutch PM some tips on how to mop

Daily Mail | Amsterdam

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte inspired confidence he likes to run a clean office after being filmed mopping up a coffee he spilled on his way into parliament.

However, the leader clearly needed to brush up on his technique after one of the cleaners had to take control and show him how to use the

mop properly. Social media users applauded Rutte's efforts as the clip went viral on World Environment Day.

Rutte, known for a handful of humble gestures in public, was caught on film after clumsily dropping his coffee cup when he entered parliament.

But rather than standby and let the cleaners do their job he takes a mop from one of the women and tries to clean up the mess himself.

France building enclosed village for people with Alzheimer's disease



An artist's impression of how the new village in Dax, France will look

The village costs the same as a typical nursing home, but will be less restrictive

Daily Mail | Paris

France is building a specially designed village to allow people with Alzheimer's disease to continue living normal lives outside of a nursing home.

The new village will be built in

Dax, in the southwest of France near border with Spain.

People living in the village – who will be called residents instead of patients – will have their own supermarket, health centre, hairdresser, brasserie, gym, library and a farm.

The village will be enclosed for the residents' safety but they will be able to wander round freely within its walls.

Nursing staff will be dressed in plain clothes and people will be given less medication, while volunteers will help to run



Dementia sufferers can live freely without medication in a medieval-style citadel that includes a library and gym

the village.

Its developers hope the 29 million euro village will allow people with Alzheimer's and dementia to lead more active and happier lives.

Residents of the new village will live in shared houses and everybody living there will have Alzheimer's disease, which causes the majority of cases of dementia.

Alzheimer's can cause people to become forgetful and have difficulty communicating and concentrating.

features



Benoit Lecomte starts his attempt to cross the Pacific

French swimmer Ben Lecomte faces a gruelling six month swim from Tokyo to San Francisco through shark-infested waters

Swimmer begins record Pacific crossing attempt

AFP | Choshi, Japan

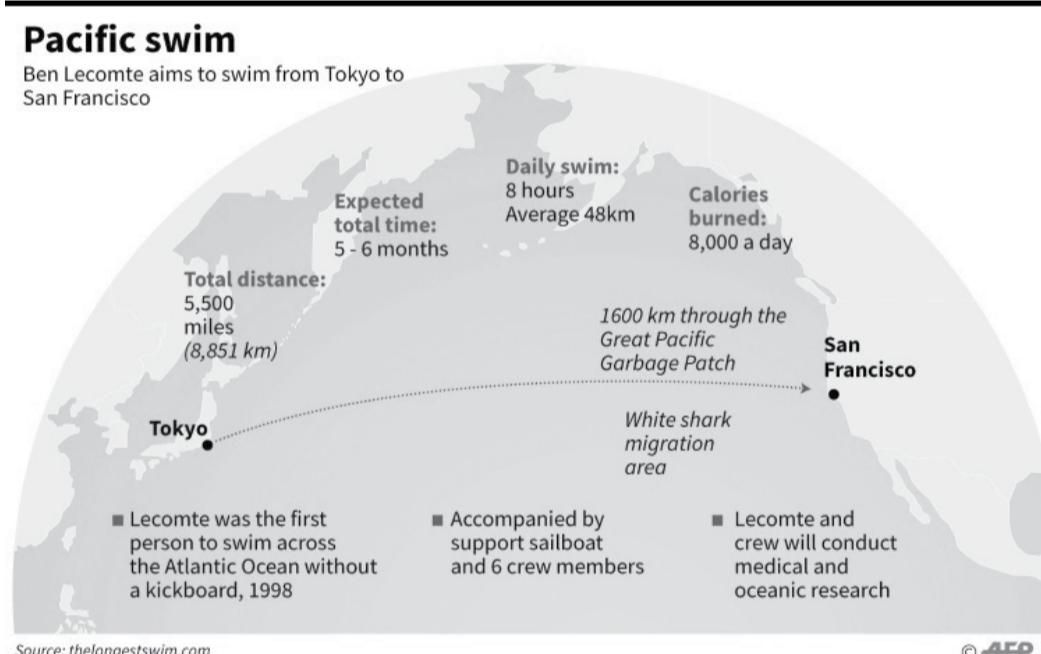
Ben Lecomte dived into the Pacific Ocean, kicking off an epic quest to swim 9,000 kilometres (5,600 miles) from Tokyo to San Francisco, through shark-infested waters choking with plastic waste.

Under sunny skies, the 51-year-old Frenchman slipped into cool and placid waters shortly after 09:00am (0000 GMT), in warm and pleasant conditions with a slight breeze.

He will face giant waves, sharks and jellyfish, and will also swim through part of the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" in his attempt to be the first to accomplish the feat of swimming across the world's biggest ocean.

"I'm very anxious to start right now," said the swimmer as he prepared to take to the waves.

His son and daughter swam with him for the first hundred metres or so, then rejoined a crowd of around 70 well-wish-



ers, with family and friends hugging each other on the shore.

"It's very emotional for a lot of people here," said Lecomte.

Part adventurer, part environmentalist, Lecomte hopes to

raise awareness of plastic contamination and ocean pollution and his support team will conduct a raft of experiments on the trip, expected to take between six to eight months.

Part of his daunting swim takes him through the Texas-sized vortex of garbage that floats between Hawaii and California, where tangled plastic will pose extra dangers.

Lecomte aims to swim around eight hours a day and will burn off more than 8,000 calories daily in the process.

In an interview with AFP just before he began his Odyssey, Lecomte revealed the mind tricks that keep him going through the physical torture of eight hours of ocean swimming per day.

"The mental part is much more important than the physical. You have to make sure you always think about something positive or you always have something to think about.

"When you don't have anything to occupy your mind, it goes into kind of a spiral, and that's when trouble starts," he said.

He said the hardest part was getting back into the chilly water every morning and admitted that he would hit a "wall" after around four to six hours every day.

"I try to disassociate my mind from my body and everything that happens to my body -- pain or cold, I try to put aside."



The Pacific Ocean is the largest ocean on the planet. It covers more than 30 per cent of the earth's surface. It is bigger than the landmass of all the world's continents combined

His team will collect water samples to learn more about the build-up of micro-plastics littering the area.

He will be accompanied throughout by the 20-metre (67-foot) support boat Discoverer, where he will eat, rest and sleep before being dropped every morning where he stopped the previous evening.

Mother Nature runs wild on China's emerald isle

The remote site 140 kilometres from Shanghai captivates tourists with its fairy-tale setting and East China Sea vistas

AFP | Shengshan

China's rampant development has sent nature into full retreat, but in one village the countryside has crept back to reclaim lost ground.

Houtouwan was once a thriving fishing community of sturdy brick homes clinging to the steep hills of the island of Shengshan.

But it's now abandoned, with entire houses completely overgrown as if shrink-wrapped in a lush layer of green.

The only thing disturbing the bush's re-conquest of the village are the crowds of tourists drawn to the remote site 140 kilometres (87 miles) from Shanghai by its fairy-tale setting and East China Sea vistas.

Houtouwan was established in 1950 and prospered over the



In the mid-1990s the village, which once had as many as 3,000 residents, was largely abandoned in favour of a neighbouring town on the island

3,000

residents once lived in the village in mid 1990s, but abandoned it in favour of a neighbouring town on the island

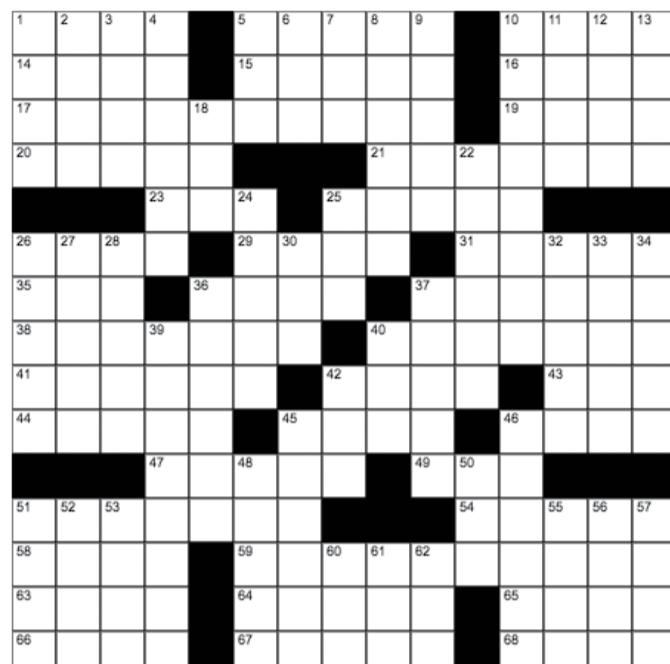
decades on the sea's riches.

But its tiny harbour eventually proved too small for the larger vessels needed to sustain fishing, and the ships were diverted to nearby ports instead.

The big seas that lash the coast at certain times of the year often made it too dangerous to land small craft, meaning the only connection to other communities on Shengshan was a strenuous trek up a steep, winding path.

entertainment

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1- Former Russian ruler; 5- Forget it!; 10- Large village; 14- On a single occasion; 15- Overact; 16- Fencing weapon; 17- Buyers; 19- Ceremonial act; 20- Kick Out of You; 21- Most strange; 23- Sound booster; 25- Composition; 26- Pickle flavoring; 29- "Rhyme Pays" rapper; 31- Danny's daughter; 35- From ___ Z; 36- Chemical used on trees; 37- Cosmetics; 38- Feast; 40- Shining; 41- Native Alaskans; 42- Info; 43- Skater Babilonia; 44- Synagogue scroll; 45- Poker pot starter; 46- DEA agent; 47- Bellini opera; 49- Litigate against; 51- Republic in central

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

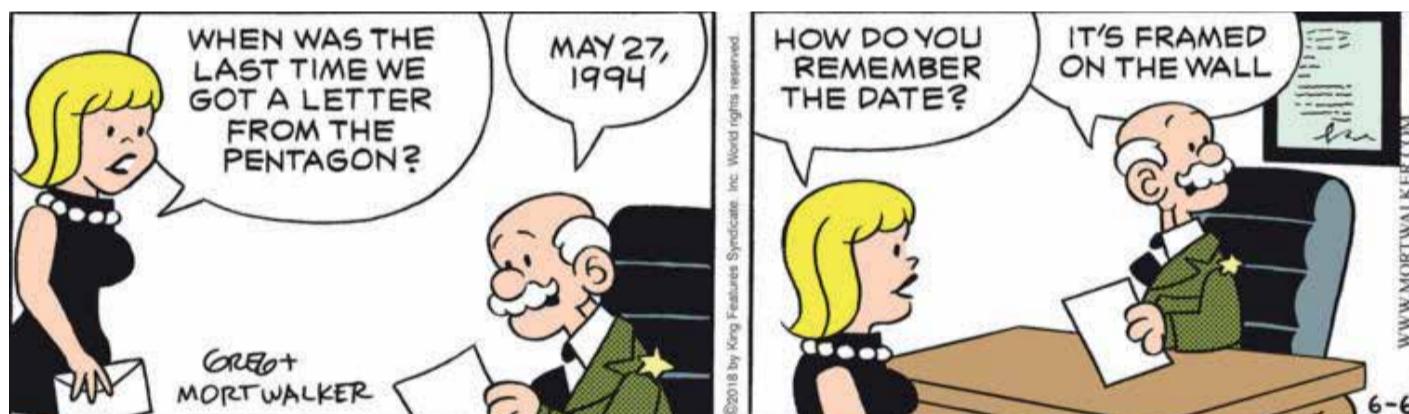


Europe; 54- View; 58- Et ___ (and other men); 59- Mechanical properties of air; 63- 1996 Tony-winning musical; 64- Utopias; 65- I smell ___!; 66- Start of a counting rhyme; 67- Grandmas; 68- Went through, as the paper;

DOWN

1- Pith helmet; 2- Cozy; 3- Land measure; 4- Type of thermometer; 5- PBS supporter; 6- Mantra sounds; 7- Heartache; 8- Still; 9- Approvals; 10- Japanese dish; 11- Mayberry boy; 12- Dampens; 13- Nair competitor; 18- Stage hog; 22- Open shelter; 24- Heaps; 25- Alway; 26- Sponge gently; 27- Author Calvino; 28- Hermit; 30- Member of genus Felis; 32- Gaucho's rope; 33- Pertaining to the moon; 34- Eye-related; 36- Writer; 37- Ships' officers; 39- Amount; 40- Fink; 42- Kind of fingerprint; 45- Actress Plummer; 46- Drink of the Gods; 48- Grow to maturity; 50- Country bordered by Canada and Mexico; 51- River in central Switzerland; 52- Peter Fonda title role; 53- ___ Fein; 55- Green land; 56- Final Four org.; 57- Cornerstone abbr.; 60- Bard's nightfall; 61- Italian article; 62- Ed.'s in-box filler; 47- Bellini opera; 49- Litigate against; 51- Republic in central

BEETLE BAILEY



WORD OF THE DAY

unbeknownst

Definition:

1: happening or existing without the knowledge of someone specified — usually used with to

2: not known or not well-known : unknown

Did You Know?
Unbeknownst is an irregular variant of the older unbeknown, which derives from beknown, an obsolete synonym of known. But for a word with a straightforward history, unbeknownst and the now less common unbeknown have caused quite a stir among usage commentators. In spite of widespread use (including appearances

in the writings of Charles Dickens, A. E. Housman, and E. B. White), the grammarian H. W. Fowler in 1926 categorized the two words as "out of use except in dialect or uneducated speech." The following year, G. P. Krapp called them "humorous, colloquial, and dialectal." Our evidence, however, shows that both words are standard even in formal prose.

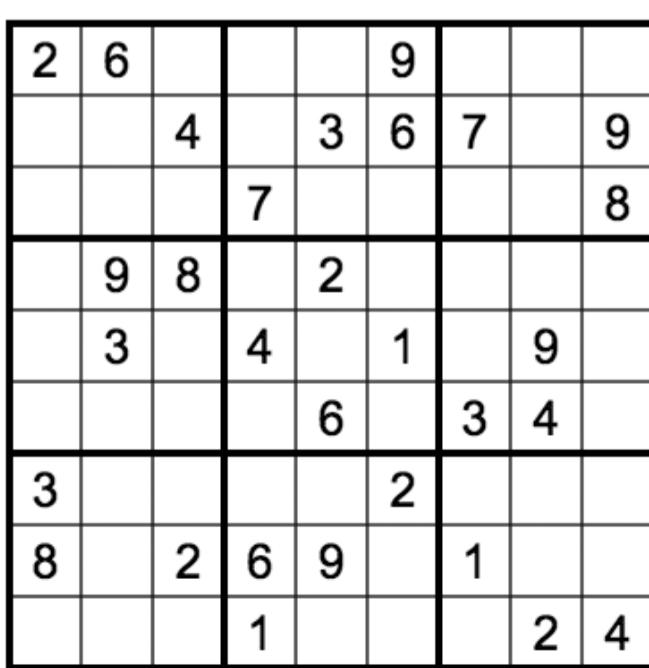
SUDOKU

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



How to play

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.



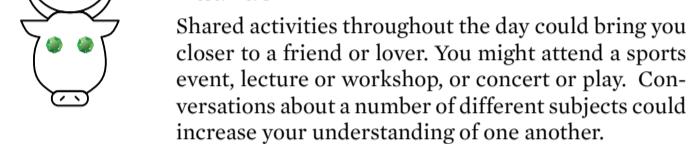
YOUR STAR TODAY

Aries



Your health is likely to be glowing and your physical energy high. You'll probably want to spend some of your time today working out or otherwise getting some exercise. This gets the endorphins going so you feel that much more motivated to pursue job-related or personal projects.

Taurus



Shared activities throughout the day could bring you closer to a friend or lover. You might attend a sports event, lecture or workshop, or concert or play. Conversations about a number of different subjects could increase your understanding of one another.

Gemini



Your self-confidence is likely to skyrocket today. Good news about money could reach you while you're at home, causing family members to want to celebrate. You might be a little tired, but you'll be up for it anyway, since the news gives you a second wind.

Cancer



More than one social event could take place in your neighbourhood, putting you in touch not only with neighbours but also with interesting new people. These get-togethers should be jovial and congenial. You can expect a lot of stimulating conversation and physical activity like games or dancing.

Leo



Today could bring a lot of physical activity, possibly including workouts, sports, and dancing, as your energy, enthusiasm, and stamina are all high. Life may be mentally demanding, too, but you can handle it. Relations with friends and colleagues should be warm, congenial, and full of good-natured banter.

Virgo



A number of children could cross your path today, perhaps at a social event. You might get caught up in their games and momentarily experience being a child again yourself. This could increase your appeal for love partners, so don't be surprised if you're the recipient of admiring glances from the people around you.

Libra



A lot of visitors may come to your home today. Land might be discussed. At some point you'll be reminded of someone from the past and experience a momentary wave of longing to see this person again. This won't last, however. You'll be too busy relating to those present now.

Scorpio



Expect to hear some great news from relatives or neighbours, perhaps involving money. You could hear this from more than one source, so it's likely true. You might spend a lot of time driving around, mainly running errands but also seeking people who are in the know.

Sagittarius



The forthcoming completion of a frustrating project could be moved closer by one intense burst of energy from you. Self-confidence and determination come together to make sure you tie up all the loose ends and finish it all up. However, don't expect to be able to relax for long.

Capricorn



Today you might take a trip, perhaps a long-distance vacation. This may have been planned in advance, but it could just as easily be spur of the moment. You're in the position where you feel secure enough financially and established enough in your working life to cut yourself a little slack and make time for enjoyment.

Aquarius



Some interesting insights could steer you in the right direction regarding a goal you've been working toward for a long time. You generally prefer logic to ESP, but today your intuition is so strong that it's difficult to resist. You could also feel a burst of physical energy that spurs you on to do whatever needs to be done.

Pisces



Expect to spend a lot of time in the company of others, perhaps running from one social event to another. At least one could end up being helpful to your professional life. A lot of stimulating conversation could take place today, perhaps giving you clues to opportunities or trends that you want to follow.

JUNE Ramadan Day Imsak Fajr Sunrise Dhur Asr Maghrib Isha

7 22 THU 03:02 am 03:12 am 4:45 am 11:37 am 03:03 pm 06:28 pm 07:58 pm



Invita hosted its annual Ghabga at the InterContinental Regency Bahrain on Saturday. Above, the Management and staff during the event.



Thattai (Bhatia) Hindu Community (THC) presented a cheque for BD 500 to Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) towards Ramadan charity. Above, THC vice chairman Bhagwan Asarpota and EC member Mahendra A Bhatia presenting the cheque to BRCS Director General Mubarak Al Hadi.



As part of its commitment to community service and support for charities, CrediMax donated BD 10,000 to Bahrain Red Crescent Society during a handover ceremony at its headquarters in the presence of CrediMax Chief Executive Younis Ali Mirza and Senior Manager Essa Hassan Ebrahim, in addition to Mubarak Al Hadi, Director General of Bahrain Red Crescent Society and Zainab Ali Zayer.



Al Rawabi Private School held their Annual "Ghabga" at the Crowne Plaza Hotel for its staff and faculty.



Almoayed Computers hosted its annual Ghabga event along with Hewlett Packard Enterprise at Gulf Hotel's Awaal Ballroom. The event saw a large attendance, that included senior officials from ministries, financial institutions, public and private companies, consultants etc. The event marked the celebration of the spirit of Holy Month of Ramadan.



Majid Al Futtaim—the leading shopping mall, communities, retail and leisure pioneer across the Middle East, Africa and Asia—created great moments with a City Centre Bahrain Ramadan Ghabga for media at Furn Bistro, The Westin Hotel, City Centre Bahrain. City Centre Bahrain gathered media representatives from Bahrain and Saudi Arabia in a special celebration of Ramadan and created great moments by playing interactive games, enjoying exciting prizes and delicious Ghabga dishes.



Public Security Sports Association has organised various sports competitions for female officers in Ramadan, including football and tennis. The officers from different directorates of the Interior Ministry showed their high sports skills and dedication to win the games.

SHOW

KAAALA

(TAMIL / ACTION / CRIME)
★ Rajinikanth, Eswari Rao, Nana Patekar

DANA CINEMA 10:45,13:45,16:45,19:45,22:45

SEEF (I) 10:30 AM + 10:45 AM + 11:15 AM + 1:30 + 2:00 + 2:30 + 4:30 + 5:00 + 5:30 + 7:45 + 8:15 + 8:45 + 11:00 + 11:30 PM + 12:00 MN

AL HAMRA 11:15 AM + 2:30 + 5:30 + 8:45 PM + 12:00 MN

KAAALA

(TELUGU / ACTION / CRIME)
★ Rajinikanth, Eswari Rao, Nana Patekar,

DANA CINEMA 10:30,13:30,16:30,19:30,22:30

SEEF (I) 1.00 + 4:15 + 7:30 + 10:45 PM

KAAALA

(HINDI / ACTION / CRIME)
★ Rajinikanth, Eswari Rao, Nana Patekar,

DANA CINEMA 11:00, 14:00, 17:00, 20:00, 23:00

CINECO (20) 10:30 AM + 1:45 + 5:00 + 8:15 + 11:30 PM

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 10:45 AM + 2:00 + 5:15 + 8:30 + 11:45 PM

SAAR 7:45 + 11:00 PM

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 7:45 + 11:00 PM

PARMANU

(HINDI/ ACTION/ DRAMA/ HISTORY)
★ John Abraham, Boman Irani, Diana Penty

DANA CINEMA 10:45,13:15,15:45,18:15,20:45,23:15

CINECO (20) 1.30 + 6:30 + 11:30 PM

VEERE DI WEDDING

(HINDI/ACTION/DRAMA/HISTORY)
★ John Abraham, Boman Irani, Diana Penty

DANA CINEMA 10:45,13:00,15:15,17:30,19:45,22:00,00:15

CINECO (20) 11:15 AM + 1:45 + 4:15 + 6:45 + 9:15 + 11:45 PM

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 10:45 AM + 1:15 + 3:45 + 6:15 + 8:45 + 11:15 PM

SAAR 8:45 PM

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 8:45 + 11:15 PM

JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM - 3D

(ACTION/ADVENTURE/SCI-FI)
★ Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, Jeff Goldblum

DANA CINEMA 11:00,13:30,16:00,18:30,21:00,23:00

10:45,13:15,15:45,18:15,20:45,23:15

CINECO (20) 12.45 + 3:30 + 6:15 + 9:00 + 11:45 PM DAILY AT (MAX 3D): 1:00 + 3:45 + 6:30 + 9:15 PM + 12:00 MN

DAILY AT: 12:15 + 3:00 + 5:45 + 8:30 + 11:15 PM DAILY AT (VIP II): 12:30 + 3:15 + 6:00 + 8:45 + 11:30 PM DAILY AT (VIP II): 12:00 + 2:45 + 5:30 + 8:15 + 11:00

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 10:45 AM + 1:45 + 3:45 + 6:15 + 8:45 + 11:15 PM

SAAR 8:45 PM

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 9:00 + 11:30 PM

DEADPOOL 2

(18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
★ Ryan Reynolds, Josh Brolin, Morena Baccarin

CINECO (20) 11:30 AM + 2:00 + 4:30 + 7:00 + 9:30 PM + 12:00 MN

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 12:30 + 6:00 + 11:30 PM

SAAR 11:15 PM

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 9:00 + 11:30 PM

AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR

(PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)
★ Karen Gillan, Robert Downey Jr., Tom Holland

CINECO (20) 11:30 AM + 2:30 + 5:30 + 8:30 + 11:30 PM

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 3:00 + 8:30 PM

RAMPAGE

(PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION)
★ Dwayne Johnson, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Will Yun Lee

CINECO (20) 10:30 AM + 12:45 + 3:00 + 5:15 + 7:30 + 9:45 PM + 12:00 MN

DEADPOOL 2

(18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
★ Ryan Reynolds, Josh Brolin, Morena Baccarin

CINECO (20) 11:30 AM + 2:00 + 4:30 + 7:00 + 9:30 PM + 12:00 MN

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 12:30 + 6:00 + 11:30 PM

SAAR 11:15 PM

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 9:00 + 11:30 PM

JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM - 3D

(ACTION/ADVENTURE/SCI-FI)
★ Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, Jeff Goldblum

DANA CINEMA 11:00,13:30,16:00,18:30,21:00,23:00

10:45,13:15,15:45,18:15,20:45,23:15

CINECO (20) 12.45 + 3:30 + 6:15 + 9:00 + 11:45 PM DAILY AT (MAX 3D): 1:00 + 3:45 + 6:30 + 9:15 PM + 12:00 MN

DAILY AT: 12:15 + 3:00 + 5:45 + 8:30 + 11:15 PM DAILY AT (VIP II): 12:30 + 3:15 + 6:00 + 8:45 + 11:30 PM DAILY AT (VIP II): 12:00 + 2:45 + 5:30 + 8:15 + 11:00

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 10:45 AM + 1:45 + 3:45 + 6:15 + 8:45 + 11:15 PM

SAAR 8:45 PM

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 9:00 + 11:30 PM

LAST RAMPAGE : THE ESCAPE OF GARY TISON

(CRIME / DRAMA / MYSTERY)
★ Robert Patrick, Heather Graham, Bruce Davison

DANA CINEMA 10:45,12:30,14:15,16:00,17:45,19:30,21:15

,23:00,00:45

CINECO (20) 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00

PM + 12:00 MN

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 11:30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

DEADPOOL 2

(18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
★ Ryan Reynolds, Josh Brolin, Morena Baccarin

CINECO (20) 11:30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12:00 MN

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 12:30 + 6.00 + 11.30 PM

SAAR 11:15 PM

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 9:00 + 11.30 PM

AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR

(PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)

★ Karen Gillan, Robert Downey Jr., Tom Holland

CINECO (20) 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 3:00 + 8.30 PM

RAMPAGE

(PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION)

★ Dwayne Johnson, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Will Yun Lee

CINECO (20) 10:30 AM + 12:45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12:00 MN

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 10:45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM

SAAR 11:15 PM

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 9:00 + 11.30 PM

DEADPOOL 2

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+ 11.00 MN

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 11:15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM

DEADPOOL 2

(18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

★ Ryan Reynolds, Josh Brolin

SPORTS

sports

Muguruza thrashes Sharapova

● Muguruza scores first win over Sharapova

● Muguruza faces simona Halep in the semi-finals

Reuters | Paris

Spain's Garbine Muguruza thrashed Maria Sharapova to reach the French Open semi-finals on Wednesday as a second top-of-the-bill showdown in three days failed to materialise at Roland Garros.

Sharapova's eagerly-awaited fourth-round clash with Serena Williams never even made it on court on Monday as her American nemesis pulled out an hour before the scheduled start with



Spain's Garbine Muguruza celebrates after victory

a pectoral injury.

This time the Court Philippe Chatrier crowd -- at least the



ones that could be prised away from their luncheon -- got a match, if not a contest, as Mu-

guruza roared to a 6-2 6-1 victory and on to a semi-final against top seed Simona Halep in which the world number one ranking will also be on the line.

Sharapova, back at the clay-court slam for the first time since 2015 following a doping-ban, walked on court with two French Open crowns to Muguruza's one and a 3-0 head-to-head record against the reigning Wimbledon champion.

An hour and 10 minutes later the 31-year-old was walking off after her worst French Open spanking since she managed only two games against Dominika Cibulkova at the same stage in 2009.

"I just didn't feel free, and I felt there was a lot of force behind all the shots and that it wasn't coming natural to me -- didn't have the rhythm," Shara-

pova told reporters.

The signs were ominous when the five-times Grand Slam champion coughed up three nervy double-faults in the opening game. Muguruza sensed weakness and pounced for a 4-0 lead.

Sharapova did finally settle, holding serve to love, but Muguruza clumped down an ace to make it 5-1.

The former world number one drilled a backhand winner down the line to hold again in the next game, the 28th seed clutching her fist as she walked to the chair.

But Muguruza was relentless and brought up two set points with a scorching backhand winner before sealing the opening set with a clubbing forehand that Sharapova fended into the net.



A ball boy holds an umbrella over Spain's Rafael Nadal as rain falls during the men's singles quarter-final match.

French Open: Rain halts Rafa fightback

AFP | Paris

Rafael Nadal was fighting back in his French Open quarter-final against Diego Schwartzman on Wednesday when rain brought an early halt to action at Roland Garros.

Top seed Nadal, chasing an 11th title in Paris, dropped the first set 6-4 to his Argentine opponent, the first time he lost a set at the tournament since 2015.

But he was 5-3 and 30-15 to the good when rain sent the players off for good.

Over on Court Suzanne Lenglen, Marin Cilic and Juan Martin del Potro were locked in a first-set tiebreak when play was called off.

The two quarter-finals will resume today.

Murray's Wimbledon hopes hit after pull-out



Britain's Andy Murray

AFP | London

Andy Murray's hopes of being fit enough to play at Wimbledon have taken a fresh hit after he pulled out of his planned comeback next week in the Netherlands.

The former world number one, who has not played a competitive match since he was knocked out of the Wimbledon quarter-finals last July due to a hip injury, underwent surgery in Australia in January after pulling out of the Australian Open.

"Unfortunately I won't be ready to play in Hertogenbosch," the British three-time Grand Slam champion posted on his Facebook page.

"I was really excited to play there for the first time but I'm

still not quite ready to return. I am still aiming to play in the coming weeks, but I want to be 100 percent when I do return. Thanks as always for the support."

Having only just returned to the practice courts, Murray faces a race against time to be fit for Wimbledon, which starts on July 2.

The 31-year-old will make a decision on whether he will enter Queen's, in London, which begins on June 18, next week.

"Andy Murray has to withdraw from the Libema Open. The former world number one has not recovered in time from his hip operation in January and will have to postpone his comeback on the ATP tour," said a statement on the tournament's website.

Murray, who has slipped to 47th in the world, said in a promotional video released Tuesday that he was "getting closer" to playing again following his frustratingly long injury lay-off.

"It's been very slow," he said in the video.

"I've been out getting close to a year now, which is a lot longer than I think me and any of my team kind of expected at the beginning but I'm getting closer to playing again."

Murray, who has won two Wimbledon titles, said he was hoping to play at the Grand Slam event and hopes to be in contention again.

Kwiatkowski back in yellow

● The Sky outfit finished a whopping 37sec ahead of second-placed BMC

AFP | Louhans, France

Sky dominated the team time trial on the third stage of the Dauphine du Critérium yesterday, rolling at a record average of 57kmh (35mph) with a tailwind over the flat 35km course.

Sky's Polish rider Michal Kwiatkowski, victim of a crash on Tuesday, regained the race leader's yellow jersey and now leads three teammates in the overall standings: Italian Gianni Moscon (at 3sec), Spaniard Jonathan Castroviejo (9) and Welshman Geraint Thomas (21).

Celebrations Wednesday were a far cry from the end of the previous day which saw Kwiatkowski crash in the closing kilometres and the race leader was pleased he suffered no ill effects.

"It's a wonderful feeling to win as a team. We rode a perfect stage, technically and tactically, on the entire course," the Pole said.



Poland's Michal Kwiatkowski (C), wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, rides with England's Tao Geoghegan Hart (R) and his other teammates of Great Britain's Sky cycling team



Lotto finished in third, at 52sec, and Australian team Mitchelton in fourth (56)

"I'm so happy that I got no major issues after the crash yesterday. If I could have picked up one stage win in the Dauphine, I'd like it to be the TTT. "It's a wonderful feeling to win as a team."

"We rode a perfect stage, technically and tactically, on the entire course."

The Sky outfit finished a whopping 37sec ahead of second-placed BMC, with Lotto in third, at 52sec, and Australian team Mitchelton in fourth (56).

Thomas called Team Sky's effort "fluid and fast".

Marquez crash 'like gold' for title bid, says Dovizioso

Autosport | London

Ducati's Andrea Dovizioso has described MotoGP points leader Marc Marquez's crash in the Italian Grand Prix as being "like gold" for his own title ambitions.

Successive non-finishes at Jerez and Le Mans had left Ducati rider Dovizioso trailing Marquez by 49 points prior to Sunday's Mugello race.

But Marquez then finished outside of the points in 16th after crashing on the fifth lap of 23 at the Scarperia right-hander before remounting his works Honda.

It means Dovizioso is now within 29 points of his 2017 title rival.

Ricky Ponting to join Australia coaching staff

AFP | London

Australia great Ricky Ponting will join the backroom staff of head coach Justin Langer during the team's tour of England.

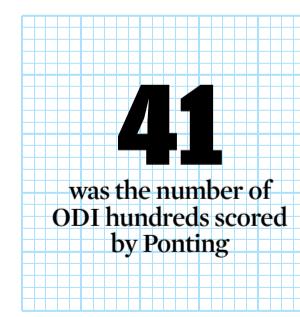
Former Australia captain Ponting, one of the outstanding batsmen of his generation, was already due to be in Britain to commentate on the five-match one-day international series against 2019 World Cup hosts England that starts on June 13 and a subsequent Twenty20 international.

But Wednesday's announce-



Ricky Ponting

ment by Cricket Australia will see Ponting joining forces with Langer, an old team-mate, again after the pair coached Austral-



41

was the number of ODI hundreds scored by Ponting

ia's Twenty20 team against Sri Lanka on home soil in 2017.

Ponting also assisted former Australia head coach Darren Lehmann, who quit following the ball-tampering scandal in South

Africa in March, for the Twenty20 tri-series against England and New Zealand earlier this year. As a batsman Ponting averaged over 42 in 375 ODIs, with an excellent strike rate above 80.

His 41 hundreds in the format included a brilliant 140 not out in a 2003 World Cup final win over India in Johannesburg.

Ponting had first won the World Cup in 1999 before enjoying back-to-back triumphs as captain in 2003 and 2007.

More recently, the 43-year-old Tasmanian has coached the Delhi Daredevils in this year's edition of the IPL T20 match.



I was really excited to play there for the first time but I'm still not quite ready to return. I am still aiming to play in the coming weeks, but I want to be 100 percent when I do return. Thanks as always for the support

ANDY MURRAY

Open Track night: BIC set for extreme action

● Open Track Night is one of the most popular activities for race fans being offered at BIC

● This will be the second Open Track held during the Holy Month of Ramadan

TDT | Manama

As the summer heat reaches extreme levels, so do the action and intensity at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC).

This Friday, "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" hosts a fantastic double-header with an Open Track Night for cars and motorbikes as well as an exciting evening of Burnout.

The activity is scheduled to be held from 8pm to 1am along BIC's brilliantly floodlit 2.55-kilometre Inner Track.

Open Track Night is one of the most popular activities for race fans being offered at BIC. It is a non-competitive event that allows drivers to come



Highlight of the previous race

and explore their own car's or bike's performance in a safe, controlled and professional environment.

Driver etiquette is of ultimate importance so there is no close or aggressive overtaking. Overtaking is by invitation between corners and driving is monitored, with poor or dangerous driving dealt with swiftly.

The event attracts sports cars and bikes that rarely ever see hitting the streets. Many of these top-of-the-line automobiles will be coming from all over the Gulf, including from

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and the UAE.

Participants can choose between driving for the full night at BD95 per person, or for just half the night at BD68. A single session can also be availed for at BD35. Friends or family members accompanying drivers also have a chance to be a part of all the action as a passenger. The fee is BD12. All vehicles must first go through scrutineering before being allowed to take to the track. Participants must also be wearing the appropriate clothing, which includes closed-

toe footwear. Meanwhile, Burnout will be taking place for the fifth successive weekend at a special course along BIC's car park. It is one of the most popular events at the circuit during Ramadan. Scores of participants from all over the Gulf put on a fantastic show for massive crowds.

Burnout offers a unique spectacle for fans, with the sight of huge flames and rapidly rising white smoke, along with the smell of burning rubber, rousing the senses. For more information, visit BIC's official website, www.bahraingp.com.

Jawaher gulf beat GAC by 29 runs

TDT | Manama

Jawaher gulf Karnataka beat GAC by 29 runs in the latest matches of the 7 A side side soft ball Carrefour Bahrain Ramadan Cricket tournament. Batting first, Jawaher Gulf Karnataka scored 44 for 3 wickets in allotted 5 overs. Main scorer Vasanth salian 21 runs in 12 balls and sunil scored 10 runs in 8 balls. In bowling britto Jose gave 7 runs and took 1 wicket. In reply, GAC is tumbled allout in 15 runs in 4.4 overs, the main Bowler sunil took 3 wickets in 1 runs.

In Second Match, Al sabagh defeated Muddabar CC by 26 runs. Batting first, Al Sabbagh scored 41 runs loosing 4 wickets in 5 overs. The main scorer Nadeem who scored 19 runs in 15 balls played and the main bowler Abdullah took 2 wickets for 2 runs. In reply, Muddabar CC scored only 17 runs all out in 5overs.

In third match, Godfathers beat Supernet Telly Kings by 2 wickets.

Russia's Khabilov visits KHK gym



Rustam Khabilov (centre) with fighters at KHK MMA Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Russian mixed martial artist Rand Combat Sambo World Champion, Rustam Khabilov visited KHK MMA Gym in Bahrain.

He is the first Russian fighter to appear in a UFC main event.

Khabilov interacted with the fighters of KHK MMA Fight Team and trained alongside the national team of Bahrain who is trained at the KHK MMA

Gym. Over the years KHK MMA has attracted multiple fighters from around the world to visit Bahrain.

KHK MMA Bahrain was found by His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and the initiative is among the top training facilities in the world. The previous week, former boxing champion, Amir Khan had visited KHK MMA Gym in wake of the first ever event scheduled by Brave Combat Federation in Europe.



Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) held the closing ceremony of one of its biggest activities - the annual Ramadan Sports Season for 2018 - on Saturday at Alba Club in the presence of Alba's Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) Khalid Abdul Latif, Alba Managers and employees

Boxing legend Rogan arrives in Belfast

● Martin Rogan is an Irish heavyweight boxer and a former Commonwealth heavyweight title holder



TDT | Manama

Irish Boxing Legend, Martin Rogan visited the team of Brave Combat Federation in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Rogan is an Irish heavyweight boxer and a former Commonwealth heavyweight title holder. The event marks the entry of Brave Combat Federation to Europe. The initiative is noted to make a huge impact in the sports by athletes

and veterans of the sport in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Apart from Rogan, multiple sports personalities and celebrities are scheduled to attend Brave 13: Europe Evolution hosted on 9th June at the SSE Arena in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

The even will be broadcasted live on Abu Dhabi Sports, Eir Sports, StarSat, VodaComm, Combate and Ran Fighting.

Brave CF hosts media day

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation has hosted the media day in Ramada Encore at Belfast.

The media day consisted of extensive photoshoots, interviews, fight breakdown and analysis. This marks the first media day hosted in Europe by the Bahrain based Mixed Mar-

tial Arts organisation found by His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Exclusive photoshoots were conducted by Jerry McCarthy and Motasem Awad.

The media day conducted exclusives from Karl Amoussou, Rodrigo Cavalheiro, Mohammad Fakhreddine, Stephen Loman and more.



LEYAN MANAGEMENT EVENTS



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WC Group B: European heavyweights to do battle

TEAMS:

Portugal: FIFA ranking: 4
Best achievement: 3rd place 1966
Coach: Fernando Santos

Spain: FIFA ranking: 8
Best achievement: Champion 2010
Coach: Julen Lopetegui

Morocco: FIFA ranking: 42
Best achievement: Round of 16 1986
Coach: Herve Renard

IR Iran: FIFA ranking: 36
Best achievement: First stage 1978, 1998, 2006, 2014
Coach: Carlos Queiroz

KEY GAME

Portugal-Spain (15 June 2018, Fisht Olympic Stadium, Sochi)

A mouth-watering tie in Sochi lies in store. You could hear the gasps at Moscow's State Kremlin Palace when these two European heavyweights – and neighbours – were drawn alongside each other in Group B.

This is a game not to be missed.



Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo gestures during a training session

3

Iran were the third team to book their place at the 2018 World Cup after hosts Russia and 2014 hosts Brazil

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Russia presents familiar territory for Portugal. As UEFA EURO 2016 winners, Portugal secured their berth to the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup, where Fernando Santos's side defeated Mexico in the play-off for third place. IR Iran will be looking to Sardar Azmoun for goals. The 22-year-old striker, who plys his trade in Russia with Rubin Kazan, notched 11 goals in qualifying, the same number.

Morocco topped a tightly-contested African zone Group C to secure qualification to Russia 2018, pipping Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon and Mali.

World Cup Golden Boot revealed

James Rodriguez is current holder after scoring six goals in Brazil four years ago

Dailymail | Moscow

It is the prize that has been won by the likes of Ronaldo, Gary Lineker and Miroslav Klose over the years and now the 2018 incarnation of the World Cup Golden Boot has been revealed.

Designed by adidas, the latest Golden Boot was unveiled



The Golden Boot

in a pop-up store in Moscow's Tsum department store ahead of the tournament's highly-anticipated kick-off.

Featuring the German sportswear giant's signature three stripes across the front, the award appears to be based on the adidas X 18+ boot.

There will be a number of the game's leading players eyeing up the prize that is presented to the top scorer at each World Cup finals.

It was most recently won by Colombia's James Rodriguez after he scored six goals in Brazil four years ago.

Germany's Thomas Muller claimed the prize in South Africa in 2010 after he burst onto the international scene with five goals.

Argentina cancel final WC warmup against Israel

Reuters | Buenos Aires

Argentina have cancelled their final World Cup warmup match against Israel, striker Gonzalo Higuain said on Tuesday, as political pressure grew ahead of Saturday's scheduled fixture in Jerusalem. "They've finally done the right thing," Higuain said in an interview with ESPN, confirming reports the game had been cancelled.

The match at Jerusalem's Teddy Kollek Stadium was to be Argentina's last before they kick off their World Cup campaign in Russia on June 16.

There was no initial reaction from the Israeli FA or from Israeli politicians. Reports said that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had called Argentinian President Mauricio Macri to ask him to persuade the team not to cancel their visit.

Israel Radio quoted an unnamed diplomatic official who said the chances of salvaging



Argentina's forward Lionel Messi attends a training session at the FC Barcelona 'Joan Gamper' sports center in Sant Joan Despí, near Barcelona

the fixture were very slim.

The visit of twice world champions Argentina has attracted huge interest among Israeli fans, mainly because of Barcelona great Lionel Messi's planned participation.

Palestinians celebrated the cancellation. In Gaza, people cheered and in Ramallah in the West Bank, the Palestinian FA issued a statement thanking Messi and his colleagues for cancelling the game.

"The Palestinian FA thanks Argentina's players led by star Messi for refusing to be used to serve a non-sporting goal."

Rajoub called a news conference for Wednesday in Ramallah, which he will hold outside the Argentinian representative's office.

Iran first team to arrive in Russia

Iran will be based at the Lokomotiv Bakovka Training Center in the Moscow region

Reuters | Moscow

Iran became the first team to arrive in Russia for the World Cup on Tuesday, nine days before the opening match of the June 14 to July 15 tournament.

Iran have been drawn in Group B alongside former World Cup winners Spain, reigning European champions Portugal and Morocco.

"Being in Russia is a dream come true for Iranian football," Iran manager Carlos Queiroz said. "We have achieved this through hard work and sacrifices, which only heightens how



Iran's national football team Portuguese coach Carlos Queiroz and his footballers arrive at Moscow's Vnukovo airport on June 5, 2018, to take part in the 2018 FIFA World Cup football tournament in Russia.



FIFA WORLD CUP

RUSSIA 2018

7 days to go.....

honoured and privileged we feel to be here.

Iran will be based at the Lokomotiv Bakovka Training Centre in the Moscow region. This will be their fifth appearance at the finals.

"The Iranian national team will relish rubbing shoulders with the best teams and being part of this fantastic World Cup family."

Manchester City the WC kings, followed by Madrid, Barcelona

Barcelona, PSG and Manchester United are among those sending more than 10 players

Espn | London

Manchester City ruled the Premier League in 2017-18 and now they're taking over the world. ESPN FC has crunched the numbers and Pep Guardiola's men are out in front with 16 players going to Russia. According to official FIFA squad list below:

Manchester City (16), Real Madrid (15), Barcelona (14), Paris Saint-Germain (12), Chelsea (12), Tottenham (12).



Luis Suarez of Uruguay

helped Portugal land, and are followed by plenty more European heavyweights; Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester United are among those sending more than 10 players. According to official FIFA squad list below:

Manchester City (16), Real Madrid (15), Barcelona (14), Paris Saint-Germain (12), Chelsea (12), Tottenham (12).

PLAYER OF THE DAY



Bryan Ruiz

An attacking midfielder who can also play as a second striker, Ruiz was a key player in Costa Rica's run to the quarter-finals at Brazil 2014. The Ticos captain scored three goals in qualifying for Russia 2018.



The visit of Argentina has attracted huge interest among Israeli fans, mainly because of Messi's planned participation