

Djokovic heaps praise on 'very complete' Medvedev

World number one Novak Djokovic hailed Daniil Medvedev as a "very complete player" yesterday, having lost to the young Russian in their last two matches.

P16

OP-ED 8 Maximum pressure remains the best policy against Tehran

THE DAILY tribune

Dakota Johnson rings in 30th birthday with boyfriend Chris Martin 14 CELEBS

WORLD 6 Nobel Physics honours dark matter, exoplanets

White House 'won't co-operate'
 Washington, DC

The White House has officially refused to co-operate with the impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump.

A letter sent to Democratic leaders rejected it as "baseless" and "constitutionally invalid".

Three Democratic-led House committees are investigating Mr Trump.

The inquiry is trying to find out if the president held back aid to Ukraine in exchange for an investigation into Joe Biden, who is running for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The White House letter comes hours after the Trump administration blocked the US ambassador to the European Union from appearing before a congressional impeachment investigation.

Brexit 'now impossible'
 London

A No 10 source has said a Brexit deal is "essentially impossible" after a call between the PM and Angela Merkel.

Boris Johnson and the German chancellor spoke earlier about the proposals he had put forward to the EU - but the source said she made clear a deal based on them was "overwhelmingly unlikely".

Mrs Merkel's office said it would not comment on "private" conversations.

But the BBC's Adam Fleming said there was "scepticism" within the EU that Mrs Merkel would have used such language.



02 HRH Premier tells journos to uphold highest values, ethics

03 Security strides stressed as ministry hosts US delegation

04 Inmate gets three-year jail for attacking prison guard

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A judicious judiciary



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received, at Al Safriya Palace, newly-appointed Constitutional Court Vice-President Chancellor Ahmed Ibrahim Rashid Al Mulla and member Judge Ahmed Hamad Abdulla Al Dossary, who took their oath before HM the King. HM the King congratulated them on their appointment by royal order and wished them success, thanking them for assuming this judicial responsibility. HM the King praised Bahrain's courts for their longstanding history, hailing the Kingdom's pioneering role in all fields in the region. His Majesty commended the dedicated efforts exerted by members and affiliates of the Constitutional Court. Newly-appointed judges at the Court of Cassation and High Court of Appeals also took their oath before HM the King, who wished them success in performing their duties. HM the King praised Bahrain's judiciary, which has been marked, along its history, by its independence, impartiality, probity and the consolidation of the principles of truth, justice and the rule of law.

The unbridled Turks

Turkey boosts troops on Syria border after operation warning



Turkish army vehicles head to the Syrian border.

1,000

US troops are still tackling IS forces in Syria.

● **Trump says Washington has an important relationship with Turkey but threatens to obliterate its economy if it did 'anything outside of what we would think is humane'.**

● **Turkish defence ministry says preparations for northern Syria offensive have been completed.**

Damascus

Turkey has boosted its military positions on the border with Syria after saying it is ready for a long-threatened operation that could target Kurdish forces long allied to the US.

Dozens of military vehicles were sent to the area following a US troop withdrawal from north-eastern Syria.

President Trump defended his move again on Tuesday, saying the Kurds had not been abandoned, calling them "special".

His controversial decision was widely condemned at home and abroad.

Turkey regards the Kurdish militias, which dominate the US-allied Syrian Democratic

'Return to Damascus or face abyss'

Damascus

Syria's deputy foreign minister has urged the country's Kurds to rejoin the government after the United States appeared to abandon their main ally and endorse a Turkish offensive on their autonomous north-eastern region.

Faisal Mekdad said the Syrian Kurds should re-join Damascus or be "plunged into the abyss" just hours after the Turkish military said that plans were prepared for an offensive.

His comments, published in pro-government daily Al Watan

Forces (SDF), as terrorists, and the US pullout was seen as paving

the way for an offensive. Convoys of trucks with armed personnel carriers and tanks were seen heading

on Tuesday, are the first since President Donald Trump's abrupt decision to stand aside along Syria's north-eastern border with Turkey.

On Tuesday evening, Turkey's parliament voted to extend by another year a mandate that allows the government to order cross-border military offensives in Iraq and Syria when faced with security threats.

In a show of hands, legislators approved the motion as Turkey says it is ready to carry out a new incursion into Syria.

Turkey has renewed the mandate — which has allowed the

country to battle Kurdish rebels, Islamic State group militants and other groups that Turkey views as terrorists in Iraq and Syria — every year since 2014.

The Syrian Kurds have reacted angrily to the US move and fear that the Turkish offensive will undermine the hard-fought autonomy they gained since 2011 by battling ISIS back from the territory they call Rojava.

Ankara sees the People's Protection Units (YPG) as the Syrian offshoot of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a group which has waged a decades-long insurgency in Turkey.

Mr Trump said his pullout - described as a "stab in the back" by Kurdish forces who helped defeat Islamic State (IS) in Syria - affected "only 50 soldiers" of some 1,000 US troops in the country.

In a series of tweets, Mr Trump softened his tone, praising Turkey as a trade partner and Nato ally, hours after saying he would "destroy and obliterate" its economy if the country went "off limits".

Turkey said Tuesday it was ready for an offensive into northern Syria, while President Donald Trump insisted the United States had not abandoned its Kurdish allies who would be targeted in the assault.

Trump has blown hot and cold since a surprise announcement on Sunday that Washington was pulling back 50 to 100 "special operators" from Syria's northern frontier.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received, at Al Safriya Palace, in the presence of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, newly-appointed Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, who took his oath before HM the King. HM the King congratulated the Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs, wishing him success in assuming this national responsibility for the sake of the nation and citizens. He praised the minister's competence which qualifies him to perform his duties fully.

Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has praised the contributions of the National Press to enhancing the Kingdom's development and progress march, through successive generations of journalists and columnists who assumed their responsibility and participated wholeheartedly and dedicatedly in the service of the nation.

HRH Premier stressed that the press and media play a pivotal role in the development process, highlighting the importance of the awareness-raising and enlightenment efforts of press and media in mobilising the community's efforts towards constructive participation in the nation-building and progress march, as well as in strengthening the pillars of stability and security.

"Our keenness to honour the press personnel every year is a well-deserved appreciation for their significant national contributions and outstanding efforts in the service of journalism," HRH Premier said, adding that the honouring is a "message to every creative person in various sectors that their giving and dedication for the sake for the advancement and progress of the nation are appreciated by all."

HRH the Prime Minister made the statements as he patronised and attended the ceremony held today by the Information Affairs Ministry at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel to honour the winners of the fourth edition of the "Khalifa bin Salman Press Award."

The Prime Minister congratulated the award winners, affirming that they represent honourable models that reflect the Bahraini press, with its long history of high competence and professionalism, wishing them further success.

HRH Premier expressed pride in the professionalism and credibility of the Bahraini press, which, he said, has made it credible and trustworthy in obtaining accurate information and news and presenting high-quality intellectual content that enhances the culture of society and moves it to wider horizons of knowledge.

HRH Premier tells journos to uphold highest values, ethics

HRH the Premier honours members of media



Meera Ravi receives her award from HRH the Premier.



Mahmoud Rafiq receives the award.



Ronnie Middleton receives the award.



HRH the Premier awards George Middleton.



HRH the Premier awards Robert Smith.



HRH the Premier awards Sandeep Singh Grewal.

The Prime Minister saluted the press and the media personnel for their clear hallmarks in establishing the foundations of a distinguished school journalism in the region, and a model that reflects the respect of the noble values of the journalism profession as one of the tools for the progress of societies.

HRH Premier underlined the crucial role played by the press and media in the development process, citing their keenness to raise social issues.

“Our keenness to honour the press personnel every year is a well-deserved appreciation for their significant national contributions and outstanding efforts in the service of journalism.”

HRH THE PREMIER

The Prime Minister recalled with appreciation the contributions of the pioneers of journalistic and media work in the Kingdom, who left clear imprints and became role models for the subsequent promising generations who are on the path to safeguarding their distinguished legacy.

HRH Premier praised their years-long dedication in the service of the press and media, stressing that their giving will remain engraved in the national

memory and a source of inspiration for the new generations as it epitomises the true meanings of dedication in the service of the homeland.

HRH the Prime Minister then honoured the award laureates, who are columnist Mahmeed Al Mahmeed, from "Akhbar Al Khallej" newspaper, for the "Best Column", journalist Mustafa Nooreddin, from "Al Ayyam" newspaper, for the "Best Press Interview", journalist Waleed Sabri, from "Al Watan" news-

paper, for the "Best Press Interview" and photographer Abdul Rasool Al Hujairi, from "Al Bilad" newspaper, for the "Best Press Photo".

HRH Premier also honoured the personnel of the English newspapers and magazines, in recognition of their contributions to the press and media field in the kingdom.

The Prime Minister also honoured the late journalist Lutfi Nasr, columnist Dr Abdulla Al Hawaj, from "Al Bilad" newspaper, columnist Ahmed Jumaa and columnists Adel Al Marzooq for their distinguished press work and publications in various fields of knowledge, as well as efforts to document the progress march the kingdom is witnessing in various fields.

HRH Premier wished the press and media personnel every success in carrying out their patriotic mission of defending the nation's security and stability, as well as supporting its efforts to achieve more progress and prosperity.

A short film highlighting HRH Premier's support to the press and media community, as well as his unwavering interest in supporting the role of the press in pushing comprehensive development efforts forward, was screened.

Information Affairs Minister and Board of Trustees Chairman of the Bahrain Institute for Political Development (BIPD), Ali Al Romaihi, in a statement, extended deepest thanks, appreciation and gratitude to HRH the Prime Minister for patronising the fourth award-distribution ceremony of the "Khalifa bin Salman Press Award", which coincides this year with the 80th anniversary of the issuance of first Bahraini newspaper.

UAE Exchange opens new branch in Ras Zuwayed



Customers can now simply walk-in and choose from a bouquet of financial services such as instant money transfer, real-time account credit facility, and foreign currency exchange at the newly-inaugurated UAE Exchange branch in Ras Zuwayed. The new branch was inaugurated by Ahmed Jaffar Al Haiki, Undersecretary for Ministry of Labour and Social Development, in the presence of Akassh Nainwal, Country Head of UAE Exchange-Bahrain, customers and other senior officials of UAE Exchange. "The opening of the new branch is in line with our strategic expansion plans in the country and reflects our commitment to facilitate customers with seamless movement of money," said Mr Nainwal, during the branch inauguration. With this new addition, the total branch network of UAE Exchange in the country stands at 12.

BD100m support for private sector discussed

TDT | Manama

Following the directives issued by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister, during the 2019 Government Forum, the Minister of Finance and National Economy yesterday met a number of executives from relevant authorities regarding the establishment of a BD100 million liquidity fund to support the private sector.

Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al



Shaikh Salman chairs the meeting.

Khalifa met with the Chairman of the Labour Fund "Tamkeen", Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Zayed R Alzayani, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), Sameer Abdullah Nass, First Vice-Chairman of the BCCI, Khalid Najibi, Chairman of the National Bank of Bahrain (NBB), Farouq Al Moayyed, CEO of the NBB, Jan Christophe Durand, Chairman of Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK), Murad Ali Murad, CEO of the BBK, Reyadh Sater, Chairman

of Bahrain Development Bank (BDB), Khaled Al Rumaihi, and the CEO of the BDB, Sanjeev Paul.

During the meeting, the Minister of Finance and National Economy and the attendees reviewed and discussed procedural aspects of launching the liquidity fund, in coordination with the relevant authorities.

As outlined by HRH the Crown Prince during the 2019 Government Forum, the fund will be established to support various economic sectors within the Kingdom and ensure targeted objectives are achieved.

Security strides stressed as ministry hosts US delegation

Bahrain succeeded in overcoming threats and interferences aimed at disturbing its stability, says Public Security Chief

● The meeting discussed security co-operation between Bahrain and the US and methods to develop them.

● The President of Customs also held a meeting with the US Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

Manama

Chief of Public Security, Major-General Tariq Al Hassan has chaired the delegation of the Interior Ministry in a joint meeting with a US delegation led by the Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, David Pekoske at the Public Security Officers Club.

The meeting was also attended by the President of Customs, Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Assistant Undersecretary for Nationality, Passport and Residence Affairs, Shaikh Ahmed bin Isa Al Khalifa and senior officers.

The Chief conveyed the best



Maj Gen Al Hassan and David Pekoske sign agreements on mutual co-operation.

wishes and greetings of Interior Minister to the US officials, along with his hope for the visit to achieve its goals of reinforcing of the exchange of security experiences and expertise between the two friendly countries.

The Chief asserted that through the wisdom of His Majesty the King, Bahrain has succeeded in overcoming threats and interferences in its internal affairs that aimed to disturb its security and stability.

He said that the Interior Ministry has managed to counter terrorism and achieve an unprecedented reduction in crime rates.

He attributed the achievement to a long journey of development

“The Interior Ministry has managed to counter terrorism and achieve an unprecedented reduction in crime rates.”

MAJ-GEN AL HASSAN

and modernisation backed by the Interior Minister. Also because of the human resources development, transparency, activeness and accountability.

He revealed that the security statistics of the current year are better than figures recorded

ten years back, highlighting that the Interior Ministry is aware of ongoing attempts to harm the national unity disturb nationalism and national unity.

The Chief said that the Interior Ministry had presented a national initiative with various strategies to protect Bahrain through promoting national identity, nationalism and loyalty away from racism, sectarianism and religious discrimination.

He said that several segments had welcomed the national plan in society.

The Chief wished the meeting would promote bilateral co-operation, along with the exchange of expertise to achieve the inspirations of the two friendly

countries.

The meeting discussed security co-operation between Bahrain and the US and methods to develop them. Also, future cooperation projects in fighting electronic and technical terrorism and technical assistance in training.

The two sides discussed various topics, including the facilitation of the processing of paperwork of travellers, through the use of the latest technologies.

The Chief and the US Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security signed a memorandum of understanding to exchange information, secure establishment, reinforce cybersecurity and exchange training expertise.

Meanwhile, the President of Customs held a meeting with the US Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, in which they discussed customs cooperation and topics of common interest.

After that, the US Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security and Deputy Chief of Public Security visited the Muharraq Coast Guard Base.

The US official was introduced to the latest vessels and the marine security systems, along with the capabilities of the Coast Guard to protect the regional waters of the Kingdom.

Bahrain-EU co-operation stressed

Manama

First Deputy Speaker of the Representatives Council Abdul Nabi Salman yesterday received Senior Adviser of the Delegation of the European Union to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Alexis Konstantopoulos.

He praised the delegation's role in fostering relations between the European Union and the GCC countries, stressing common keenness to cement ties in various fields.

He pointed out keenness of the Representatives Council to build a distinguished partnership with the European Union in the parliamentary field in order to exchange experiences in the legislative and parliamentary work.

The meeting also shed light on common strategic interests between the European Union and the Kingdom mainly in the security, political, economic and cultural fields.

There was also an emphasis on Bahrain's commitment to maintaining international peace and security and root out all forms of terrorism.

Last year, the Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sameer Nass alongside first vice-chairman Khalid Najibi and board members Ahmed Al Saloom and Ramez Al Awadhi held talks with the Head of Trade Section of the European Union Lucie Berger.

Bahrain, Indian State of Kerala sign MoU for co-operation in FinTech, ICT

TDT | Dubai

The Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB), the investment promotion agency for the Kingdom, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) – the Kerala government body for supporting technology startups in Kerala.

The MoU aims to provide a framework for co-operation between the two authorities to promote innovation in their respective markets in the fields of FinTech, ICT and related emerging technologies.

The signing took place in Dubai, where both parties were attending the 39th annual GITEX Technology Week.

A key focus of the MoU is to build business opportunities for each country's startups in the other's market.



KSUM has been consistently participating in GITEX.

The scope of cooperation also includes the facilitation of delegation visits to Bahrain and India, as well as collaboration on knowledge exchange and best practice regarding education programmes and curricula, including facilitating and enhancing cooperation between relevant parties such as financial and technological institutions, universities and research institutions, technology experts, and government agencies; fa-

“We are excited to partner with the Kerala Startup Mission to encourage greater collaboration between entrepreneurs and innovators in both countries.”

MS ABDULRAHMAN

ilitating the development and growth of FinTech and ICT startups and centres via support from hubs such as Bahrain Fintech Bay, Brinc Batelco IoT Accelerator, Flat6 Labs Bahrain, Brilliant Lab and KSUM Hub; and exploration of innovation projects in areas such as digital and mobile payments, blockchain and distributed ledgers, big data, flexible platforms (API), AML, eKYC, and other emerging areas in FinTech

and ICT.

Dr Saji Gopinath, KSUM CEO said: “Building a robust ecosystem where FinTech startups and IT firms can access and engage with critical soft infrastructure such as universities, financial institutions and government agencies will be a key enabler for growth and innovation in the FinTech and ICT sectors. These are priority areas for both Kerala and Bahrain, and we are immensely excited to build

even further upon where we are already seeing incredible growth with this timely new partnership.”

Pakiza Abdulrahman, Manager of Business Development - Startup at the EDB said: “We are excited to partner with the Kerala Startup Mission to encourage greater collaboration between entrepreneurs and innovators in both countries. We have invested heavily in developing the required ecosystem that is essential for start-ups to grow and succeed. Supporting Bahraini startups to expand internationally is essential to our journey.”

FinTech and ICT are already a key focus for collaboration between the two countries, with a similar MoU signed by the EDB and the Government of Maharashtra last year. Indian cryptocurrency exchange Belfrics is one of several FinTechs testing innovative technologies in Bahrain's regulatory sandbox.

iGA confirms validity of 'notify me' SMS

Manama

In response to rumours on social media regarding SMS, Information and eGovernment Authority has confirmed that the messages are valid and official, being sent through telecom companies, in collaboration with TRA, as previously announced on 25th September 2019.

To verify the authenticity of the message, the user will be directed immediately to the official National Portal, www.bahrain.bh, which is the only registration platform.

iGA has urged users once again to update their contact details in order to receive official government notifications related to their government transactions via SMS and email

Users must also make sure to enter their correct mobile numbers and emails as the system will carry out an automatic confirmation process prior to registration.



iGA

in instead of by post. Bahrainis, residents, and GCC

citizens can avail of the service by visiting the National Portal

at Bahrain.bh, or by following the link mentioned in the SMS.

Users must also make sure to enter their correct mobile numbers and emails as the system will carry out an automatic confirmation process prior to registration.

To use the NotifyMe service on Bahrain.bh, users can login with their eKey or ID card, then select 'Register Contact

Details'.

Once the login attempt is successful, the system will request users to enter their mobile numbers and One-Time Passwords (OTP), which they will receive via SMS on the same mobile number.

They can then click on the link they receive by emails to complete the registration process.

Inmate gets three-year jail for attacking prison guard

Accused charged with attacking a prison guard while performing his official duties

TDT | Manama

A young defendant who was convicted of beating up a prison guard has been sentenced to three more years in prison by the First High Criminal Court.

According to Prosecutors, the accused had asked the physician on duty at Dry Dock Prison clinic to give him a sedative drug or "else he would commit suicide".

"The doctor rejected his request and asked the prison guard

to take the accused to his cell. The accused turned outrageous and began beating up the guard," the Prosecutors added.

Later a group of prison guards jumped into the scene and handcuffed the accused and took him to his cell.

The accused was charged with attacking a prison guard while performing his official duties.

The accused refused to attend court proceedings and the sentence was read out by the judge in his absence, sources said.



The accused refused to attend court proceedings and the sentence was read out by the judge in his absence.

SOURCES

A delegation from the Office of the Ombudsman, led by the Director of Monitoring of Prisons

and Detention Facilities, Hamad Salman Taqi, had recently paid a visit to the Dry Dock Detention Centre.

The visit was within the mandate of the Ombudsman Office to follow up on the activities and events provided to inmates and remand detainees to educate them religiously and culturally.

The delegation was informed about the activities, events and programmes provided by the Dry Dock Detention Centre to the remand detainees in various

cultural fields, in line with the directives of the Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, and the Interior Ministry's officials.

The Monitoring of Prisons and Detention Facilities Director lauded the events and activities, noting that they reflect efforts to consolidate the respect for human rights within the detention facility, and create a positive human environment that encourages detainees to be involved in meaningful activities.

Press award praised

Manama

Minister of Information Affairs Ali bin Mohammed Al Romaihi, the Board of Trustees Chairman of Bahrain Institute for Political Development (BIPD), praised His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa's patronage of the distribution ceremony of the 4th edition of Khalifa bin Salman Press Award yesterday.

He described the event as an accolade to the impartial and objective national word and its enlightening and constructive role in serving the homeland and citizens as well as promoting noble humanitarian values in the state of law and institutions.

The Information Minister affirmed that honouring the best journalistic works for the fourth consecutive year reflects the government's support to the press and media freedom and its outstanding contribution as a key partner in defending national security and stability and promoting achievements in the prosperous era of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

He underscored the role of the competent and well-qualified national competencies in serving the government's action plan and the Economic Vision 2030.

Speaker attends launch of Arab Women's Rights Charter

Abu Dhabi

Council of Representatives Council Speaker Fawziya Zainal paid tribute to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for the landmark strides attained, enabling Bahraini women to move from the phase of empowerment to the phase of progress.

She also hailed the vision of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of HM the King and Supreme Council for Women (SCW) President, which contributed to Bahraini women's development and progress in all fields.

The Speaker made the statement as she attended the main session to launch the Arab Charter on Women's Rights, under the patronage of Her Highness Shaikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union (GWU), President of the Supreme Council



Ms Zainal at the session to launch Arab Women's Rights Charter in Abu Dhabi.

for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation (FDF).

UAE Federal National Council (FNC) President Dr Amal Abdulla Al Qubaisi, Arab Parliament Speaker Dr Mishaal bin Fahm Al

Salami, in addition to a number of Arab and international parliamentarians and personalities.

The Speaker highlighted the launch of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women, and the Bahraini Women's Day on the 1st of December

of each year, pointing out the centennial of formal education in Bahrain which will be celebrated this year.

She underlined the establishment of equal opportunity units in public and private sector enterprises in support of Bahraini

women's development and empowerment, highlighting the launch of the Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Global Award for Women's Empowerment.

She lauded the strategic and solid relations binding the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa and UAE President His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

She also praised cooperation between Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of HM the King and Supreme Council for Women (SCW) President and HH Shaikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union (GWU), President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation (FDF).



Dr Al Nuaimi addresses the session.

Bahrain congratulated over achievements in edu sector

Muscat

Education Minister, Higher Education Council (HEC) President Dr Majid Al Nuaimi led Bahrain's delegation to the 19th meeting of the GCC Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministers' Committee in Muscat, Oman.

Oman's Minister of Higher Education Rawiya bint Saud Al Busaidia addressed the opening ceremony, welcoming ministers and members of the accompanying delegations.

She stressed the importance of the meeting in consolidating the GCC cooperation in the field of higher education and human research.

Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Alzayani also addressed the session, thanking the Sultanate of Oman for hosting the meeting of the GCC Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministers' Committee.

He also congratulated the Kingdom of Bahrain on the centenary of the inception of the formal education.

world

Lam warns, 'Chinese military could step in'

AP | Hong Kong

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam warned yesterday that the Chinese military could step in if an uprising for democratic reforms that has rocked the city for months "becomes so bad" but said the government still hopes to resolve the crisis itself.

Lam urged foreign critics to accept that the four months of protests marked by escalating violence were no longer "a peaceful movement for democracy."

She said seeking Chinese intervention was provided for under Hong Kong's constitution but that she cannot reveal under what circumstances she would do so.

"I still strongly feel that we should find the solutions ourselves. That is also the position of the central government, that Hong Kong should tackle the problem on her own, but if the situation becomes so bad, then no options could be ruled out if we want Hong Kong to at least have another chance," she said at a news conference.

The protests started in June over a now-shelved extradition



I still strongly feel that we should find the solutions ourselves. That is also the position of the central government, that Hong Kong should tackle the problem on her own, but if the situation becomes so bad, then no options could be ruled out if we want Hong Kong to at least have another chance

CARRIE LAM
HONG KONG LEADER



Riot police officers fire rubber bullets toward anti-government protesters during a demonstration in the Tseung Kwan O residential area in Kowloon, Hong Kong



People walk past a vandalised store in Causeway Bay district in Hong Kong

bill that would have allowed some criminal suspects to be sent to mainland China for trial but have since morphed into a larger anti-government movement. Protesters say the bill is an example of Beijing's increasing influence over the former British colony, which was promised a high level of autonomy when it returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

The unrest has pummeled tourism and hurt businesses in the global financial hub, further bruising the city's economy as it

grapples with the effects of the U.S.-China trade war.

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday urged Chinese President Xi Jinping to ensure a "humane solution" in Hong Kong. He warned that any "bad" outcome could hurt trade talks ahead of negotiations in Washington on Thursday.

Hardening her government's stance on the protests last week, Lam invoked a colonial-era emergency law to criminalize the wearing of masks at rallies

but it fueled more anger, with daily violence over the long holiday weekend. Police officers last week fired gunshots while under attack from protesters, wounding two teenagers who were the first victims of police gunfire since the protests started.

Enforcement of the mask ban began Saturday, and Lam said it was too early to call it a failure.

Police regional chief Kwok Yam-yung said 241 people were detained in widespread "atrocities" over the last four days that

saw ferocious attacks on officers and those with opposing views.

He said that included 77 who violated the mask ban and that 14 of them were charged Tuesday, bringing the total number of prosecutions to 16. The mask ban is punishable by up to a year in jail and a fine, which is light in comparison to those accused of rioting, which carries a penalty of up to 10 years.

Since June, 2,363 people have been arrested, with more than 200 charged with rioting.

China publishes white paper on China and world in new era

Xinhua | Beijing

China's State Council Information Office on Friday issued a white paper, titled "China and the World in the New Era."

Besides a preface and a conclusion, the white paper consists of four sections: "China Has Found a Development Path Suited to Its Actual Conditions," "China's Development Is an Opportunity for the World," "A Prosperous and Beautiful World Is the Common Aspiration of All Peoples," and "China Contributes to a Better World."

"China has entered a new era of development. China now has an impact on the world that is ever more comprehensive, profound and long-lasting, and the world is paying ever greater attention to China," it said.

The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Over the past 70 years, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the PRC has witnessed profound changes and achieved a miracle of development unprecedented in human history, the white paper noted.

"In just a few decades, China has completed a course that took developed countries several hundred years," it said.

China has now become the world's second largest economy, taken care of the material needs of its nearly 1.4 billion people, and achieved moderate

China has entered a new era of development. China now has an impact on the world that is ever more comprehensive, profound and long-lasting, and the world is paying ever greater attention to China

CHINA'S STATE COUNCIL INFORMATION OFFICE

all-round prosperity.

"This has brought tremendous change to China. It also represents remarkable progress for human society, and above all, a significant contribution on China's part to world peace and development," it said.

The white paper noted that China remains the world's largest developing country, with a large population and foundations that need to be further strengthened.

"Some of the fundamentals in China remain unchanged, and therefore China is still facing a raft of severe challenges. The Chinese people still have work to do," the paper read.

Doomed Kiribati ferry crew drunk, victims died horribly

● The report details a string of failures

● The deaths of 84 passengers and 11 crew was the worst maritime disaster ever in Kiribati

● Report found widespread use of alcohol

Wellington

Crew members of an overloaded Kiribati ferry which sank in the Pacific claiming 95 lives were drunk, leaving passengers to die slow deaths from starvation and hypothermia, a damning report has found.

The report gives the first official account of the loss of the ferry MV Butiraoui, which sank in January last year after setting off from Nonouti island bound for the capital Tarawa.

It details a string of failures that led to the sinking and also gives a glimpse of the horrors endured by victims, who were missing in the vast ocean for eight days before the alarm was raised.

"Most, if not all, victims died from hunger, dehydration and hypothermia," it found.

"One died while giving birth in (these) most unhealthy and extreme conditions," it said.

The deaths of 84 passengers and 11 crew was the worst maritime disaster ever in Kiribati, a collection of 33 atolls and reefs scattered over an area the



There were only seven survivors from the loss of the ferry MV Butiraoui in January 2018, who were found in a small aluminium boat after 10 days adrift

size of the continental United States.

There were only seven survivors, who were found in a small aluminium boat after 10 days adrift.

The Kiribati government has previously provided few details about the circumstances of disaster, or even the number of fatalities, and initially refused to distribute the report widely.

Ferries are a transport lifeline for its 110,000 population but the report found the Butiraoui, a 17.4 metre (57 foot) catamaran, should never have set out on its fateful voyage.

One of its life-rafts was "non-functioning", its distress

beacon was missing or broken, it was not licenced to carry passengers and it had run aground twice before the voyage, damaging the vessel's structural integrity.

In addition, the ferry set off in rough seas without the crew notifying maritime authorities of its departure.

The report found widespread use of alcohol by the master and crew during working hours, "giving every drunken crew (member) the feeling of grandeur and power to make decisions alone".

"It was obvious the master of the MV Butiraoui was reckless and inconsiderate of the ship, crew and passengers," it said. The ship's master did not survive.

The report found the catamaran began to fall apart 30 minutes into the journey and had split and sank after two hours.

It said there was no leadership from the crew, who had limited survival training.

Most, if not all, victims died from hunger, dehydration and hypothermia

REPORT

Macron vows 'unrelenting fight' against terror



Macron spoke at a ceremony at the police headquarters where the attack took place

Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron vowed an "unrelenting fight" against extremists yesterday as he paid tribute to the four Paris police staff stabbed to death last week by a radicalised colleague.

Mickael Harpon, a 45-year-old computer expert in the police intelligence-gathering department, used a kitchen knife and an oyster shucker to kill three male and one female colleague in a 30-minute rampage that ended when an officer shot him in the head.

The attack in the police's inner sanctum caused shock in France, where the government is being pressed to answer how Harpon's radicalisation went unnoticed, despite him having high-level security clearance.

"We will wage an unrelenting fight in the face of terrorism," Macron vowed at a ceremony at the police headquarters near Notre-Dame cathedral where the attack took place.

Thursday's attack brought to 255 the number of people killed in attacks blamed on, or claimed by radicals since 2015.

Nobel Physics honours dark matter, exoplanets

Nobel 2019

PHYSICS

2019 Evolution of the universe and Earth's place in the cosmos

James Peebles (Canada-US)
Michel Mayor (Switzerland)
Didier Queloz (Switzerland)

2018 Laser inventions

A. Ashkin (US)
G. Mourou (France)
D. Strickland (Canada)

2017 Gravitational waves

R. Weiss (US)
B. C. Barish (US)
K. S. Thorne (US)

2016 Phases of matter

D. Thouless (Britain)
F. D. Haldane (Britain)
J. M. Kosterlitz (Britain)

2015 Neutrinos and mass

T. Kajita (Japan)
A. B. McDonald (Canada)

2014 Efficient LEDs

I. Akasaki (Japan)
H. Amano (Japan)
S. Nakamura (US)

2013 Higgs Boson particle

F. Englert (Belgium)
P. W. Higgs (Britain)

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Illustrations: Niklas Elmehed

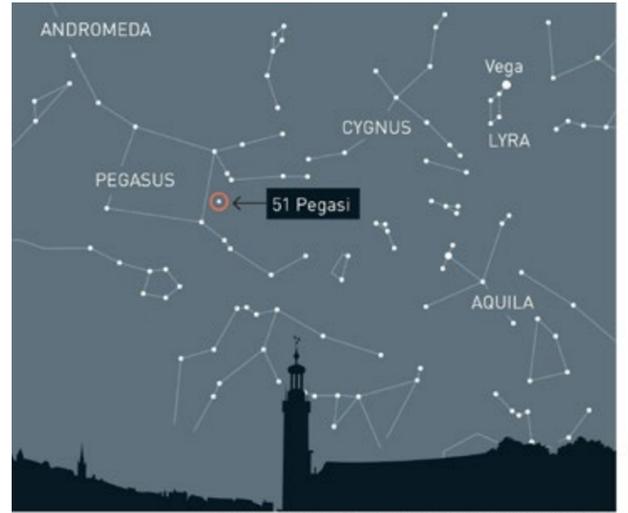
THE NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS 2019

James Peebles
"for theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology"

Michel Mayor
"for the discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a solar-type star"

Didier Queloz

THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



This year's Physics Laureates Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz have explored our home galaxy, the Milky Way, looking for unknown worlds. In 1995, they made the first discovery of a planet outside our solar system, an exoplanet, orbiting a solar-type star, 51 Pegasi.



Goran K Hansson (c), Secretary General of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and academy members Mats Larrson (l) and Ulf Danielsson, announce winners of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Physics during a news conference at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, Sweden

● The 2019 #NobelPrize in Physics has been awarded with one half to James Peebles "for theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology"

● The other half jointly to Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz "for the discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a solar-type star"

AFP | Stockholm

Canadian-American cosmologist James Peebles and Swiss astronomers Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz yesterday won the Nobel Physics Prize for research that increases the understanding of our place in the universe.

Peebles won one-half of the prize "for theoretical discoveries that have contributed to our understanding of how the universe evolved after the Big Bang," professor Goran Hansson, secretary general of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, told a press conference.

Mayor and Queloz shared the other half for the first discovery, in October 1995, of a planet outside our solar system -- an exoplanet -- orbiting a solar-type star in the Milky Way.

"Their discoveries have forever changed our conceptions of the world," the jury said.

Developed over two decades since the mid-1960s, Peebles' theoretical framework is "the basis of our contemporary ideas about the Universe."

Peebles built upon Albert Einstein's work on the origins of the Universe by looking back to the millennia immediately after the Big Bang, when light rays started to shoot outwards into space.

Using theoretical tools and calculations, he drew a link between the temperature of the radiation emitted after the Big Bang and the amount of matter it created.

YOU KNOW WHAT

The discovery by 2019 #NobelPrize laureates Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz started a revolution in astronomy and over 4,000 exoplanets have since been found in the Milky Way. Strange new worlds are still being discovered, with an incredible wealth of sizes, forms and orbits.

The spots show small temperature variations in the background radiation.

Background radiation

Big Bang 400,000 years

14 billion years

Dark matter 26%

Ordinary matter 5%

Dark energy 69%

SECRETS IN THE BACKGROUND RADIATION

The universe was extremely hot and dense in its earliest moments, the Big Bang. Since then, the universe has been expanding, getting larger and colder. Almost 400,000 years after the Big Bang, the initial radiation began to travel through space. This radiation still fills the cosmos and, coded into it, many of the universe's secrets are hiding. Using his theoretical models, James Peebles was able to predict the shape of the universe and the matter and energy it contains. (Below curve). His calculations were a good match with later measurements of background radiation.

The curve shows how many spots there are of each size in the background radiation.

- The first peak shows that the universe is geometrically flat. i.e. two parallel lines will never meet.
- The second peak shows that ordinary matter is just 5% of the matter and energy in the universe.
- The third peak shows that 26% of the universe consists of dark matter.

From these three peaks, it is possible to conclude that if 31% (5%+26%) of the universe is composed of matter, then 69% must be dark energy to fulfil the requirements for a flat universe.

©Johan Jarnestad/The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

James Peebles took on the cosmos, with its billions of galaxies and galaxy clusters. His theoretical framework, developed over two decades, is the foundation of our modern understanding of the universe's history, from the Big Bang to the present day.

'Revolution in astronomy'

His work showed that the matter known to us -- such as stars, planets, and ourselves -- only make up five percent, while the other 95 are made up of "unknown dark matter and dark energy."

"This is a mystery and a challenge to modern physics," the academy said.

Peebles is Albert Einstein Professor of Science at Princeton University in the United States, while Mayor and Queloz are both professors at the University of Geneva. Queloz also works at the University of Cambridge in Britain.

Using custom-made instruments at their observatory in southern France in October 1995, Mayor and Queloz were able to detect a gaseous ball similar in size to Jupiter, orbiting a star around 50 light years from our own Sun.

Harnessing a phenomenon known as the Doppler effect, which changes the colour of light depending on whether an object is approaching or retreating from Earth, the pair proved the planet, known as 51 Pegasus b, was orbiting its star.

The Nobel jury noted that the discovery "started a revolution in astronomy" and since then over 4,000 exoplanets have been found in our home galaxy.

'Simply extraordinary'

"Strange new worlds are still being discovered," challenging our preconceived ideas about planetary systems and "forcing scientists to revise their theories of the physical processes behind the origins of planets."

In a statement, the two astronomers hailed their win as

"simply extraordinary", saying the discovery was "the most exciting of our careers".

The prize consists of a gold medal, a diploma and the sum of nine million Swedish kronor (about \$914,000 or 833,000 euros).

The trio will receive the prize from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on December 10, the anniversary of the 1896 death of scientist Alfred Nobel who created the prizes in his last will and testament.

In 2018, the honour went to Arthur Ashkin of the US, Gerard Mourou of France and Donna Strickland of the US for laser inventions used for advanced precision instruments in corrective eye surgery and in industry.

This year's Nobel prize season kicked off on Monday with the Medicine Prize awarded to Americans William Kaelin and Gregg Semenza, and Britain's Peter Ratcliffe.

They were honoured for research into how human cells sense and adapt to changing oxygen levels, which opens up new strategies to fight such diseases as cancer and anaemia.

The winners of this year's Chemistry Prize will be announced on Wednesday.

The Literature Prize will follow on Thursday, with two laureates to be crowned after a sexual harassment scandal forced the Swedish Academy to postpone the 2018 award, for the first time in 70 years.

On Friday the action moves to Norway where the Peace Prize is awarded, with bookies predicting a win for Swedish teen climate activist Greta Thunberg on betting sites such as Ladbrokes.

The Economics Prize will wrap up the Nobel prize season on Monday, October 14.

Stolen truck slams into cars in Germany

● Police said it was too soon to speculate about a motive

● A white articulated lorry slammed into around nine cars

AFP | Limburg, Germany

A stolen truck ploughed into several cars in the centre of the German city of Limburg leaving a number of people injured, police said yesterday, adding that the driver had been detained.

Police said it was too soon to speculate about a motive for the incident, which began when a man seized the truck at 5:20 pm (1520 GMT) on Monday.

"We currently do not have sufficient information about what was behind it," the police said.

The white articulated lorry slammed into around nine cars waiting at a traffic light opposite the courthouse in Limburg in western Hesse state, crushing them together.

Police said "around nine people were slightly injured," including the driver of the stolen



The articulated lorry slammed into around nine cars waiting at a traffic light

Q We currently do not have sufficient information about what was behind it

POLICE

vehicle.

Police staged a major deployment of officers and vehicles, with a helicopter circling overhead the city of 35,000, about an hour's drive from Germany's financial capital of Frankfurt.

The site was cordoned off by police and brightly lit up as tow trucks removed the damaged cars one by one.

'Didn't say a word'

The original driver of the

truck, who was not named, was quoted by daily *Frankfurter Neue Presse* (FNP) as saying a man had "dragged" him out of his lorry.

He said the man, in his 30s with short dark hair and a full beard, had yanked open the driver-side door and stared at him wide-eyed before forcing him out of the vehicle.

"I asked him 'What do you want from me?'," he told FNP. "He didn't say a word."

The truck sped into the

parked cars a few hundred metres (yards) further on and came to a stop on the central reservation of a six-lane road.

When the man behind the wheel of the truck emerged from the crash, several passers-by provided first aid, FNP said.

"The passers-by said the driver said 'Allah' several times" and spoke Arabic, FNP reported.

Police did not confirm this account.

Bettina Yeisley from Limburg, whose office is next to the scene of the crash, told FNP that she heard a loud bang and ran out onto the street with colleagues.

They found the man sitting beneath a tree, without knowing the circumstances.

"He was bleeding from the nose, his hands were bloody, his trousers torn. He said that everything hurt. I asked him his name and he said, 'My name is Mohammed'."

Authorities urged users of social media not to jump to conclusions on the motive.

"We are not ruling anything out," a spokesman for the state police force said, quoted by DPA said. "But we call on you: don't take part in speculation!" the regional police wrote in several tweets.

Russia bestows medal on US astronaut in failed launch

Moscow

Russia has decorated NASA astronaut Nick Hague, who survived an aborted space launch last year, with one of its highest honours, the Order of Courage, a Kremlin decree said on Tuesday.

Hague along with Russian cosmonaut Aleksey Ovchinin had a close brush with death when their Soyuz rocket failed minutes after blast-off from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan in October last year. They were forced to eject and make a harrowing emergency landing.

It was the first such accident in Russia's post-Soviet history.

In a decree released on Tuesday, the Kremlin commended 44-year-old Hague for his "courage and high professionalism" shown during life-threatening conditions. After the accident Hague and Ovchinin successfully launched to the International Space Station aboard another Soyuz.

Venezuelans turn to alternative medicine amid shortages

AFP | Caracas

The small waiting room at the home of self-styled healer "Brother Guayanes" in Caracas' rundown Petare district fills up quickly with patients -- business has never been better.

With Venezuela's chronic medicine shortages and hyperinflation, more and more people are turning to alternative medicine to treat common ailments in the crisis-wracked South American country.

"We go to the hospital and there's nothing there. They don't have medicines, or they're too expensive, what are we to do?" said Rosa Saez, 77, who has come to get treatment for a painful arm.

Carlos Rosales -- he uses the more ceremonious "Brother Guayanes" for his business -- is finishing up a "spiritual intervention" on a patient in what passes for his surgery.

The patient lies, eyes closed, on a cot as, in a series of swishes and clicks, the healer waves five pairs of scissors one after another over his prone body.

The healer says he performs 200 such interventions a week in a dim, candle-lit room that features two camp beds and an array of plaster statues that Rosales says represent "spiritual entities".

A regular visitor to the spiritual center, Saez says she has faith in Rosales' methods: "He healed my kidneys."



Patients wait at the spiritual healer's clinic in Petare

Natural healing

All across Venezuela, but particularly in poor areas like Petare, patients cannot hope to afford the price of medicines that due to the economic crisis, have become exceedingly rare.

Venezuela's pharmacists' federation say pharmacies and hospitals have on average only about 20 percent of the medicine stock needed.

Rosales' clinic is muggy with the smell of tobacco. A crucifix suspended from a chain around his neck, he practices a seeming mixture of smoke-blowing shamanism, plant-based medicine and mainstream religion.

Posters hung near the entrance re-

mind clients to arrive with a candle and tobacco and "Don't forget that payment is in cash".

Much like a general practitioner, Rosales spends time consulting with his patients, examining them with a stethoscope, before offering a diagnosis. Often he prescribes potions based on plants and fruit, such as pineapple and a type of local squash known as chayote.

"We know medicines are necessary," he says. "I'm not against medicine, but my medicine is botany."

Plants replace drugs

At her stall in a downtown Caracas market, 72-year-old Lilia Reyes says she has seen her trade in medicinal plants



Venezuelan spiritual healer "Brother Guayanes" poses at his clinic in the Caracas neighborhood of Petare



Esperanza Castillo, 74, waits for treatment at the clinic with her daughter

flourish.

"I can't keep up with the demand," she said at her stall, bathed in the aroma of camomile, one of the 150 plants

she sells.

Careless consumption of some herbs can be deadly, warns Grismery Morillo. A doctor at a Caracas public hospital, she says she has seen many cases of acute liver failure in people who have eaten certain roots.

According to Venezuela's opposition parties, some 300,000 chronically ill people are in danger of dying from the shortages of medicines.

But despite the risks, people like Carmen Teresa say they have no alternative.

In the kitchen of her restaurant which closed down three years ago as the economic crisis took hold, the 58-year-old Colombian prepares an infusion of fig leaves to treat "diabetic neuropathy".

The painkillers needed for the condition are "too expensive" and prices are going up due to hyperinflation, so she is cutting back on the pills and supplementing her treatment with herbal infusions.

She needs at least four tablets a day to keep her diabetes at bay. Her mother, bedridden since breaking a leg a year ago, suffers from Alzheimer's disease and needs five pills a day for hypertension.

"I'm still taking my pills, but I reduced the dose," says Teresa, who is also replacing cholesterol pills with lemon juice.

'I've never raped a woman,' says French director Besson

Paris

French film director Luc Besson on Monday denied raping or drugging a young actress -- the first time the maker of "The Fifth Element" has spoken publicly about the sex allegations against him.

A judge reopened a rape investigation into the movie mogul on Friday, eight months after Paris prosecutors had dropped a case brought by the Dutch-Belgian actress Sand Van Roy, who claimed that Besson had repeatedly raped her over a two-year



French director Luc Besson faces a number of accusations of assault or harassment

period. She is one of nine women who have said they were assaulted or harassed by the powerful director and producer.

Van Roy, 28, had minor roles in his "Taxi 5" and "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets".

Besson has admitted having a relationship with Van Roy but dismissed her as a "fantasist".

"This case is a lie from A to Z. I did not rape that woman, I have never raped a woman in my life," he told BFMTV.

"I have never lifted a hand to a woman, I have never threatened

a woman... I never drugged this woman as has been said. That is a lie," he said in extracts from the interview, which will be broadcast in full on Tuesday.

'I made some mistakes'

The maker of hits such as "Nikita", whose legal problems have coincided with a run of box office failures, also denied ever harassing women or holding them against their will.

However, Besson, 60, said that he had a relationship with Van Roy and had made "some mis-

takes".

"I betrayed my wife and my children. It did not only happen once, it happened several times during our 20 years of marriage," he added.

Van Roy first went to the police in May 2018 after spending the night with Besson in a luxury Paris hotel.

Two months later she said that she had been raped four times during over the two years when she had been "in a controlling professional relationship" with the director.

She said she had feared for her career if she complained.

Police questioned Besson about the accusations in October 2018.

One actress later told prosecutors that she had to escape on "her hands and knees" from an audition in Besson's Paris office in 2002.

A source close to the new investigation said preliminary inquiries into accusations by another woman are still underway in Paris.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

A TREE IS KNOWN BY ITS FRUIT; A MAN BY HIS DEEDS. A GOOD DEED IS NEVER LOST; HE WHO SOWS COURTESY REAPS FRIENDSHIP, AND HE WHO PLANTS KINDNESS GATHERS LOVE.
SAINT BASIL

Maximum pressure remains the best policy against Tehran

A global consensus will give Donald Trump more leverage in future talks to make a deal actually worth signing

SIMON WALDMAN

Despite the hype about a potential meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations between US President Donald Trump and his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani, the tete-a-tete never took place after Mr Rouhani apparently refused to take Mr Trump's call.

However, the US and other interested parties should not be fooled by Iran playing hardball. Behind the obstinacy, rhetoric and belligerence, most notably last month's attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities, is a regime in serious trouble.

The US policy of "maximum pressure" should continue, for no other reason than because it works. However, in order to be more effective, the Trump administration needs to take a page out of the Barack Obama playbook by getting other countries on board, especially China and the Europeans.

Although not expressed in such terms now, maximum pressure was essentially the Iran policy of the Obama administration. From 2012 onwards, the White House managed to lead a crippling international sanctions campaign in response to Tehran's drive towards nuclearisation. As a result, Iran experienced high levels of inflation, unemployment, severe trade restrictions and exclusion from international financial transactions. Not only was the Iranian economy crashing but the country was internationally



Hassan Rouhani and the Iranian regime have been put under severe stress by the Trump administration's maximum pressure strategy

isolated and there were increasing stirrings of domestic unrest.

Although not constituting regime change, these conditions did lead to a change of government, with reformist Mr Rouhani defeating hardliners in Iran's 2013 presidential elections by an overwhelming majority. Still, Washington and her allies maintained pressure and two years later, when the five permanent members of the UN Security

Council – the US, Russia, China, France, UK – plus Germany, were negotiating the details of what resulted in the 2015 nuclear deal, Tehran was facing the harsh reality that it could not fund its international proxies, maintain its presence in Syria and also have an unrestricted nuclear programme.

The tragedy of Mr Obama's Iran policy was that it squandered the success of its maxi-

mum pressure policy for what turned out to be a worthless deal. The deal did not include restrictions on missiles or Iran's support for the Assad regime in Syria, terrorist groups and proxy militias. It also contained a sunset provision that allowed Iran to increase its uranium enrichment after 10 years.

Then US secretary of state John Kerry and his undersecretary and chief negotiator Wendy

Where are the checks and balances

HUSSEIN IBISH

Americans face an historic test of their much-vaunted political freedom. At stake are the fundamental norms of democratic governance, and the outcome is greatly in doubt.

The crisis is both complex and extremely simple. Last week, a dizzying torrent of revelations emerged at an alarming frequency.

But underneath the whirlwind of details, Mr Trump stands accused of leveraging the vast power of his office and the weight of US foreign policy for personal political gain, especially seeking foreign investigations against a likely 2020 election opponent; and of soliciting interference in domestic politics over several months from Ukraine by effectively making military aid and potential presidential-level meetings for that beleaguered country conditional upon investigations into former vice president Joe Biden and his son Hunter, who once served on the board of a Ukrainian energy company.

All this is thoroughly documented in a White House memo, a whistleblower complaint and text messages between senior administration officials. At least one additional whistleblower has reportedly stepped forward and "multiple" others might apparently follow.

The CIA's head lawyer Courtney Simmons Elwood even made a criminal referral to the Justice Department as far back as August

14 – a complaint that appears to have been summarily dismissed – about Mr Trump's conduct, based on the whistleblower's account.

It is not a question of whether Mr Trump did this or even if he broke the law. The American system must instead determine if he abused the powers of his office and violated standards of acceptable presidential conduct.

Meanwhile, not only is there no evidence against the Bidens, there isn't even a concrete accusation. Mr Trump and his allies speak vaguely about "corruption" but they offer no specific allegations. This is nasty innuendo, apparently unsupported by any evidence.

Mr Trump and his aides are also fixated on two preposterous conspiracy theories. The first holds that Ukraine rather than Russia intervened in the 2016 US election. The second imagines that the Russia investigation was a set-up by anti-Trump "deep state" US officials working with British, Australian and possibly Italian agents, who supposedly lured Mr Trump's convicted former aide George Papadopoulos into a trap laid by Maltese-born academic Joseph Mifsud, who has denied the accusation.

Chasing after such follies is now a key priority of US foreign policy.

Additionally, Mr Trump last week publicly urged China to investigate the Bidens. He also allegedly made similar requests of Britain, Australia and Italy on these matters. So after years of insisting that there was "no



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and US President Donald J Trump.

collusion" between the Trump campaign and Russia in 2016, Mr Trump is openly attempting collusion with numerous countries for 2020. Now, as then, his defenders claim he is just joking but that is absurd.

An enraged Mr Trump has described the House of Representatives' impeachment inquiry as a "coup", branded his critics "traitors" and even warned of "civil war" if he is constitutionally and lawfully removed from office.

He insists he cannot be criminally investigated by either Congress or authorities in various US states such as New York, where prosecutors are trying to examine his taxes, effectively placing himself above the law. And he

If there is no pushback against Trump's behaviour, there will be a new set of norms and expectations

2001

Ahmad Shah Massoud, leader of the Northern Alliance, is assassinated in Afghanistan by two al-Qaeda assassins who claimed to be Arab journalists wanting an interview.

2009

The Dubai Metro, the first urban train network in the Arabian Peninsula, is ceremonially inaugurated.

2012

The Indian space agency puts into orbit its heaviest foreign satellite yet, in a streak of 21 consecutive successful **PSLV** launches.



2015

Elizabeth II became the longest reigning monarch of the United Kingdom.



Throughout 2017 and 2018, Iranians took to the streets in dozens of cities to protest corruption, bad governance, gender inequality, expensive foreign entanglements and even the regime itself.

hostage and lock them away in its notorious Evin prison, Iran's modern-day Chateau d'If fortress, with impunity.

Since Mr Trump withdrew from the nuclear deal in May last year and instigated his maximum pressure policy, Iran's economy is once again facing collapse. According to the International Monetary Fund, by the end of this year the economy will retract by a massive 6 per cent while inflation currently stands at 37.2 per cent. Meanwhile unemployment has crept back up to 12.2 per cent and looks set to rise.

To make matters worse, unlike the post-2012 period, when oil prices were between \$90 and \$100 a barrel, today the cost of crude hovers between \$50 and \$60. This is terrible for Iran, whose energy reserves fuel its economy. In short, the economic outlook is catastrophic.

Iran also faces significant in-

ternal discord. Throughout 2017 and 2018, Iranians took to the streets in dozens of cities to protest corruption, bad governance, gender inequality, expensive foreign entanglements and even the regime itself.

However, in order to truly exert maximum pressure, Mr Trump needs to find some kind of accord with China towards Iran. This should be a matter for discussion when US-Chinese trade talks resume next week. China recently signed a \$400 million investment deal in Iran's oil, gas, transport and petrochemical infrastructure. In return, Beijing receives steady supplies of oil paid for in its own currency. If Tehran loses this vital lifeline, it will have no choice but to make major concessions.

In the meantime, Washington needs to capitalise on growing European frustration with Iran. Europe is angered by Tehran's incremental breaches of the nuclear deal through additional levels of nuclear enrichment. Last week British Prime Minister Boris Johnson even called for a new nuclear deal, noting that there were "many defects" in the existing one. Mr Trump also needs to be patient; time is on his side but it is not on Tehran's.

If he really wants to get a better nuclear deal than his predecessor, Mr Trump needs to seek additional international support and stick to his guns. This will give him more leverage in future talks to make a deal actually worth signing.

on those in power?



The first was marked by uncertainty and incompetence. The second mainly reflected traditional Republican priorities like tax cuts and confirming conservative judges.

New York Times.

The Trump presidency has gone through three phases in its three years.

The first was marked by uncertainty and incompetence. The second mainly reflected traditional Republican priorities like tax cuts and confirming conservative judges.

But in the third year, Mr Trump is unrestrained, newly confident and increasingly aggressive and transgressive. He is effectively daring everyone: "Stop me if you can."

While public support for impeachment has significantly increased, his base remains mostly loyal and unmoved, with only three Senate Republicans so far expressing concern about the president's actions. It is not clear what could possibly break that spell.

As Mr Trump notes, at present

House Democrats can impeach him but have no path for getting the Republican-controlled Senate to convict and remove him from office. And, while he looks increasingly vulnerable in next year's election, there's no guarantee he will lose.

Yet if this unprecedented behaviour is not punished and Mr Trump remains unchecked and unrebuked, any abuses of power will intensify, probably exponentially. Far worse, a new set of norms, expectations and precedents will have been established and effectively rewarded.

Misusing state authority to smear opponents, inviting foreign governments to interfere in US politics, blatantly gaming the system and severely eroding checks on presidential power will be hard to reverse. If there is no effective pushback, this is how future presidents will behave - simply because they can.

The Republican Party has completely succumbed, with next year's nominating convention carefully rigged to eliminate any hint of dissent. But broader American institutions are now buckling under the pressure.

What looms is not the victory of a noxious ideology. That would be bad enough.

This is far more tragic. The venerable foundations of the American republic are being shaken to their very core by nothing more than the petty and personal pursuit of power.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Indian Air Force is a symbol of valor and courage. On Air Force Day, I salute our Air Force heroes and their families. Entire nation is proud of your dedication and commitment to safeguard our motherland.

@AmitShah

02



Someone please tell the Radical Left Mayor of Minneapolis that he can't price out Free Speech. Probably illegal! I stand strongly & proudly with the great Police Officers and Law Enforcement of Minneapolis and the Great State of Minnesota! See you Thursday Night!

@realDonaldTrump

03



Chris Collins shot to fame as the first member of Congress to endorse Donald Trump for president. His sudden fall from presidential cheerleader to admitted liar is a tale of money, family ties and murky ethics.

@nytimes

04



Today, the Trump Administration will argue to the Supreme Court that, in our country, it should be legal to fire someone because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This is wrong—and we must fight back. #RiseUpOct8

@KamalaHarris

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

Wide Angle

The great and unmatched wisdom of world leaders



JOEL INDRUPATI

Within 24 hours, by Tuesday evening, there were over 122,150 comments on US President Donald Trump's Monday tweet.

"My great and unmatched wisdom" was how he referred to his own intellect in the tweet, while strongly reiterating how he would tackle Turkey, if Turkey goes against his wishes.

Modesty, we all know, has not always been a virtue for many political leaders. In fact, it is probably impossible for you to become a powerful leader if you are very modest.

If you shy away from praising yourself, and from showing yourself in good light, whether blatantly or subtly, it is unlikely that you would be recognised as a strong leader.

This topic spurred me to compile some nuggets of such leader-speak from political stages; to recall some interesting words and phrases - about themselves - from some contemporary world-leaders.

"I am an extremely stable genius," Donald Trump had once said during a press conference.

His tweet now ran something like this: "As I have stated strongly before, and just to reiterate, if Turkey does anything that I, in my great and unmatched wisdom, consider to be off limits, I will totally destroy and obliterate the Economy of Turkey (I've done before!)"

Some people, making comments on this tweet likened Trump's behaviour to that of the great Wizard of Oz's, from the movie, where the wizard addresses himself as 'the Great and Wonderful Wizard of Oz'.

Some others quoted Shelley's poem in which a vain king says, "My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings; Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!"

Recently, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson called himself "the model of restraint" while the parliament was noisily fighting over Brexit.

His implication that he can keep his head when all about him were losing theirs, and blaming it on him, would have made Rudyard Kipling proud; 'if', he was around.

Boris Johnson had even implied he was 'The Incredible Hulk', saying UK would emulate Bruce Banner, the mild-mannered Marvel scientist who transforms into the Hulk when angry.

"Hulk always escaped, no matter how tightly bound in he seemed to be - and that is the case for this country. We will come out on October 31 and we will get it done."

By this month-end, we shall know how incredible this hunk, I mean, Hulk will come out from the Brexit imbroglio.

When he was the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson had told reporters he would not run for Prime Minister. No one would vote for "a prat who gets stuck on a zip wire" he'd said referring to a time he got stuck.

The British Prime Minister had even called himself the 'son-in-law of India'. And not only because he was once married to Marina Wheeler, a half-Indian, the niece of the eminent Indian writer, the late Khushwant Singh.

It is perhaps also because he has now inducted into his cabinet, three Indian origin members - Priti Patel, Alok Sharma and Rishi Sunak.

While we are on the topic of India, we must not forget that Indian Prime Minister Modi had called himself 'chowkidar' (watchman), 'fakir; (religious ascetic), 'mazdoor no. 1' (first worker), 'pradhan sevak' (chief servant) of the country.

Russian President Vladimir Putin called himself a tough "jungle kid", hardened in street fights even before he went to school, in his biography.

Rodrigo Duterte likened himself to Hitler, when dealing with drug addicts and had stirred controversy for a while.

Angela Merkel did not call herself the 'Climate Chancellor', but willingly accepted it.

Trump, however, is unique. That is why France's Emmanuel Macron calls himself 'a maverick like Trump', and Brazil's Bolsonaro calls himself 'The Trump of South America'.

(The writer's twitter handle: @joelindrupati)

business

Exploit technological advancements: Telecom Authority tells 'Aregnet'

TRA participates AREGNET meeting, hands over the chairmanship to Tunisia



The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) delegates during the 17th annual meeting of Arab Regulatory Network (AREGNET) in Tunisia

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has called on to exploit advancements in technology that are available industry-wide to capitalise on the "major technological changes occurring around us."

Shaikh Nasser Bin Mohamed

Al Khalifa, the Acting General Director of TRA, told the 17th annual meeting of Arab Regulatory Network (AREGNET) that the world of technology is rapidly changing, particularly in telecom.

"How we communicate has made leaps and bounds since the days where all we had were voice calls," Shaikh Nasser told

the meeting in Tunisia adding: "This means we have opportunities that are exploitable industry-wide."

Shaikh Nasser, who headed TRA delegation, urged the forum to look forward to advancements in "Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Digital Currencies and 5G mobile networks" occurring around.

On the last day, TRA handed over its chairmanship to Tunisia's National Regulatory Authority for Telecommunications.

TRA chaired the expert group meeting, during which regulators from the Arab region reviewed various joint projects and working groups.

TRA also hosted a series of workshops and meetings as

part of its activities in AREGNET during April 2019. The meetings shed light on new projects on the economic effects of over-the-top (OTT) application, emergency communications in the Arab region, utilisation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the telecommunications and ICT sectors and the new generation of mobile network (5G).

NBB implements Personal Data Protection law



All NBB ATMs feature PDPL consent screen

TDT | Manama

National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) said it has become the first bank in the Kingdom to comply with the new Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL) which came into effect on 1st August 2019.

Under the PDPL, organisations are required to obtain the consent of their customers to communicate with them. NBB said it's using its ATM network to obtain customers' consent.

Additional features, NBB said, will be deployed to manage personal data more easily during next year.

Commenting, Subah A. Latif AlZayani, Head of Retail at NBB, said that the bank is "mindful of the importance of compliance with the laws and regulations aimed at safeguarding customer information."

Sudan received half of \$3bn promised by Saudi, UAE

Reuters | Abu Dhabi

Sudan has received half of \$3 billion in aid promised by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in April and expects the remainder to be paid by the end of next year, Sudan's finance minister said late on Monday.

The Gulf countries agreed the aid package soon after former president Omar al-Bashir was ousted, throwing a lifeline to Sudan's new military leaders at the time.

Finance Minister Ibrahim Elbadawi said Saudi Arabia and



Finance Minister Ibrahim Elbadawi. (Courtesy of Dabanga)

the UAE had deposited \$500 million in the Sudanese central bank, while \$1 billion worth of petroleum products, wheat and agricultural production inputs had been received.

Long lines for bread and fuel are a recurring feature of Sudan's economic crisis.

"I met with the ambassadors of the kingdom and of the UAE, and we agreed on a programmed schedule that will God willing take us to the end of 2020, to finish off the rest of the grant," Elbadawi said.

He was speaking on the sidelines of an event in Abu Dhabi,

where Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok is visiting after traveling to Riyadh earlier in the week.

Sudan's new prime minister was accompanied on his visit to the Gulf by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, head of the transitional sovereign council, and other senior officials.

Last month, Elbadawi announced a nine-month economic rescue plan aimed at curbing rampant inflation while ensuring supplies of basic goods, which would keep bread and petrol subsidies in place until at least June 2020.

Russia forecasts oil price at \$50



Energy Minister Alexander Novak

Moscow

Russia, one of the world's biggest energy producers, is basing its economic forecasting on an oil price of \$50 per barrel, Energy Minister Alexander Novak said yesterday.

"We believe that in the medium term, oil prices will be around \$50," Novak said in an interview with Rossiya 24 state television, adding this was a "conservative scenario".

"Our forecast of (Russia's) socio-economic development is based on this price," he said.

The forecast is below the current market price for oil which has been volatile as worries about supply have been counterbalanced by concerns over a slowing world economy.

Yesterday WTI, the US benchmark, traded at around

\$52 while its European counterpart, Brent, stood at just over \$58.

Russia's budget for the current year was based on an price of around \$42 per barrel, the lowest in about a decade, according to Bloomberg.

Export of oil and natural gas are two major sources of revenue for Russia which has, however, been trying to diversify the economy.

Russia has been cooperating with OPEC, of which it is not a member, to limit production with a view to engineering an oil price rebound after sharp drops seen in 2014-2015.

In mid-September energy markets briefly soared following attacks on oil infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, but dropped off again amid unease about the global economic outlook.

Sony's PlayStation 5 launch set for late 2020

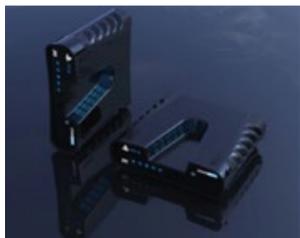
● A major new feature of the updated console would be its immersive controller

● The new controller will offer "haptic feedback"

● Another feature will be "adaptive triggers"

San Francisco

Sony said yesterday its next-generation PlayStation 5 console, with new immersive features giving players the tactile experience of virtual worlds, would launch for the 2020 holi-



Picture courtesy of bgr

day season.

The Japanese electronics firm, which had teased its new console earlier this year, said a major new feature of the updated console would be its immersive controller.

"One of our goals with the next generation is to deepen the feeling of immersion when you play games, and we had the opportunity with our new con-

troller to reimagine how the sense of touch can add to that immersion," said Jim Ryan, president and chief executive of Sony Interactive Entertainment.

The new controller will offer "haptic feedback" that brings players closer to the action of games.

"With haptics, you truly feel a broader range of feedback, so crashing into a wall in a race car feels much different than making a tackle on the football field," Ryan said.

"You can even get a sense for a variety of textures when running through fields of grass or plodding through mud."

Another feature will be "adaptive triggers" incorporated into controls "so that you feel the tactile sensation of drawing a bow and arrow or accelerat-

ing an off-road vehicle through rocky terrain," he added.

Sony, which leads the console segment, announced the move as more gamers move away from these boxes to streaming games powered by the internet cloud on a variety of devices.

Google, Apple and others have launched game subscriptions which compete with Sony's PlayStation Now cloud video game service.

According to NPD Group, a market research firm, 73 percent of Americans ages two and older play video games, an increase of six percentage points since June 2018.

Mobile remains the most popular gaming platform, with mobile gaming appealing to gamers across all consumer segments, the NPD survey showed.

Trump blacklists 28 Chinese entities over Xinjiang abuses

● The 28 entities blacklisted include 18 public security bureaus in Xinjiang, one police college and eight businesses

AFP | Washington

The US is to blacklist 28 Chinese entities that it says are implicated in rights violations and abuses targeting Uighurs and other mostly Muslim minorities in the Xinjiang region, the commerce department announced.

The United States "cannot and will not tolerate the brutal suppression of ethnic minorities within China," Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross said, announcing the move, which bars the named entities from purchasing US products.

The blacklisted firms included video surveillance company Hikvision, as well as artificial intelligence companies Megvii Technology and SenseTime, according to an update to the US Federal Register set to be published Wednesday.

The ban comes amid heightened tensions between the US and China, particularly over trade policy and Beijing's actions in the western Xinjiang region.

On Monday, the White House announced that talks between the two countries were set to resume on Thursday, with Beijing's top trade envoy Liu He due to meet US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

The US has meanwhile stepped up its rhetoric against Beijing over its policies in the western Xinjiang region.

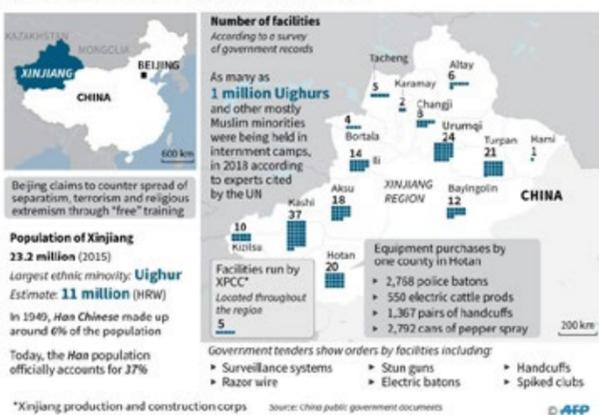
Rights groups say China has detained around one million Uighurs and other Muslims in re-education camps in the region -- actions that Washington has said are reminiscent of Nazi Germany.



Right groups say China has detained around one million Uighurs and other Muslims in re-education camps in western Xinjiang region

Xinjiang and its 'training centres'

"Vocational education and training centres" in China's northwest region have come under international scrutiny, with rights activists describing them as political re-education camps



Graphic on "educational facilities" in China's Xinjiang region that rights activists describe as political internment camps



China had until recently denied the existence of re-education camps, but now claims they are "vocational training schools" necessary to control terrorism

During last month's United Nations General Assembly, the State Department organised an event to highlight the plight of the Uighurs, with the US's second-highest diplomat John Sul-

livan decrying "China's horrific campaign of repression."

China had until recently denied the existence of re-education camps, but now claims they are "vocational training schools" necessary to control terrorism, while decrying interference in its "internal affairs."

Huawei targeted

The 28 entities blacklisted include 18 public security bureaus in Xinjiang, one police college and eight businesses.

"These entities have been implicated in human rights violations and abuses in the implementation of China's campaign of repression, mass arbitrary detention, and high-technology surveillance against Uighurs, Kazakhs and other members of Muslim minority groups," the Federal Register update said.

Megvii, which is backed by e-commerce giant Alibaba, said in a statement that it "strongly" protests against the decision, which it insisted was "without any factual basis."

Hikvision was also included in that ban, which will preclude any US federal agency from purchasing telecom or technology equipment from the firms and comes amid concern that Huawei is linked to Chinese intelligence. The US fears that systems built by Huawei could be used by Beijing for espionage via secret "backdoors" built into telecom networking equipment.

China urges US to remove sanctions

Reuters | Hong Kong

China strongly urges the US to remove sanctions on Chinese firms and will take any necessary measures to firmly protect its own interests, China's commerce ministry said in a statement late yesterday. The ministry also said it strongly urges the US to stop making irresponsible remarks on the Xinjiang issue and to stop interfering in China's internal affairs.

EU tells UK's Johnson to stop playing 'stupid' blame game



Boris Johnson, British PM and Angela Merkel, German Chancellor (file)

Reuters | London/Brussels

The European Union accused Britain of playing a "stupid blame game" over Brexit on Tuesday after a Downing Street source said a deal was essentially impossible because German Chancellor Angela Merkel had made unacceptable demands.

With just 23 days before the United Kingdom is due to leave the bloc, the future of Brexit remains deeply uncertain and both London and Brussels are positioning themselves to avoid blame for a delay or a disorderly no-deal Brexit.

In a sign that Johnson's last-ditch proposals to bridge the impasse have failed, a Downing Street source said Merkel and Johnson spoke on Tuesday morning and she made clear that a deal was "overwhelmingly unlikely".

The Downing Street source said that if Merkel's position on Northern Ireland remaining in the EU's customs union was the bloc's position, then a deal was impossible.

The EU was scathing

"Boris Johnson, what's at stake is not winning some stupid blame game," European Council President Tusk said on Twitter. "At stake is the future of Europe and the UK as well as the security and interests of our people. You don't want a deal, you don't want an extension, you don't want to revoke, quo vadis?"

A disorderly Brexit could rip apart the United Kingdom, hurt global growth and shape

the future of the European Union which was built on the World War Two ruins of Europe.

Brexit Blame Game

Merkel said that for a deal, Northern Ireland would have to stay in the EU's customs union and full alignment with the EU forever, the Downing Street source said.

The leader of the small Northern Irish party that supports Johnson's government accused the EU and Ireland of trying to trap the British territory in a permanent customs union.

The opposition said Johnson was trying to apportion blame for the failure of the negotiating process.

A separate Downing Street source told Reuters that unless the European Union compromises and does a Brexit deal shortly, then the United Kingdom will leave without a deal.

"If the EU doesn't do a deal shortly, then we leave without a deal," the source said. "We are leaving the European Union."

Johnson has consistently said the United Kingdom will leave the EU on Oct. 31 with or without a deal, though a law passed by parliament demands he write a letter to the EU asking for a delay if he cannot strike an exit deal by Oct. 19.

Samsung Electronics flags 56pc fall in Q3 operating profit

● Fourth consecutive quarter in which the South Korean tech company has recorded a profit drop

Seoul

Samsung Electronics said yesterday it expected operating profits to drop more than 50 per cent in the third quarter as it struggles with a long-running slump in the global chip market.

Operating profit for July to September was forecast to reach 7.7 trillion won (\$6.4 billion), down 56.2pc from a year earlier, the world's largest maker of smartphones and memory chips said in a statement.

It marks the fourth consecutive quarter in which the South Korean tech company has recorded a profit drop in the face



South Korean tech titan Samsung leads the global smartphone market with a 23-percent share of the sector

of falling semiconductor prices and weakened demand for its mobile devices.

Sales for the third quarter were expected to reach around 62 trillion won, down 5.3pc from

the same period last year.

Samsung withholds net profit and sector-by-sector business performance until it releases its final earnings report, which is expected later this month.

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

'Competitor in crisis'

The estimates for the third quarter showed a slight rise from the April to June period, which analysts attributed mainly to improvements in the mobile business.

The firm rolled out its flagship Note 10 devices that connect to superfast 5G network in August that analysts say have sold far better than its previous models to give Samsung a much-needed boost.

"The Note device is usually released in August or September and sells well until December, so I expect the demand to continue until the fourth quarter," said



The South Korean tech titan leads the global smartphone market with a 23-per cent share of the sector, trailed by Chinese competitors Huawei and Oppo, with Apple in fourth place, according to sales tracker IHS Markit

Tom Kang, research director at Counterpoint Research.

Samsung appealed to high-end users with the launch of

its first foldable smartphone last month after faulty screens forced an embarrassing delay in April.

The premium smartphone market has grown fiercely competitive and overall sales have cooled as a lack of major innovation has caused people to wait longer before upgrading to new models.

Samsung also took advantage of the US trade ban against Huawei, "replacing a strong competitor in crisis" with its mid-to-low tier Galaxy A handsets, said Sujeong Lim, an analyst at Counterpoint Research.

Increased demand for Samsung's OLED display panels used in handsets by competitors -- including Apple's new iPhone 11 -- is also expected to help improve the company's quarterly profit.

Samsung has been caught up in a trade war between Japan and South Korea stemming from World War II disputes.

Sterling sinks as Germany's Merkel downbeat on Brexit deal outlook

AFP | London

The British pound dived yesterday after German Chancellor Angela Merkel reportedly warned that a Brexit deal was “overwhelmingly unlikely”, further stoking fears of a disorderly and costly departure from the EU.

Merkel told British Prime Minister Boris Johnson that a deal was doomed to fail unless London agreed to keep British-run Northern Ireland that borders EU-member Ireland in the bloc's customs union, a Downing Street source said.

The host of next week's European summit, EU Council president Donald Tusk, in turn accused British Prime Minister Boris Johnson of trying to shift blame for the failure of the Brexit talks.

“Markets are having to focus on the various potential outcomes which are now imminent,” Interactive Investor analyst Rebecca O’Keeffe said.

“A deal looks very unlikely unless the EU blinks first.”

‘Greater chance of no-deal’

She added: “For many, the word of the PM is government policy, hence the global market is moving towards pricing in an ever greater chance of a no-deal.”

Losses were exacerbated by official data showing that British productivity tumbled at its fastest rate in five years in the second quarter of 2019.



Merkel told Johnson that a deal was doomed to fail unless London agreed to keep British-run Northern Ireland in the bloc's customs union

Stock markets on both sides of the Atlantic meanwhile posted losses on growing investor doubts over chances of success in this week's China-US trade talks.

Losses for London stocks were limited thanks to the weak pound, which boosts multinationals earning in stronger currencies, but Paris and Frankfurt

fell more than one percent.

Meanwhile on Wall Street the Dow Jones index was also down more than one percent in late morning trading.

There had been a general feeling in recent weeks that a solution to the long-running US-China tariffs saga may be found, providing some much-needed support to equities in the face of

worsening economic data.

Trade talks

Beijing's top trade envoy Liu He is due to meet US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on Thursday.

But observers warn it is unlikely progress will be smooth, with reports this week saying China had cut back on the number of areas it is willing to discuss, suggesting leaders sense weakness in the White House as Donald Trump faces impeachment proceedings and a slowing economy.

The US on Monday announced it would blacklist 28 Chinese firms that it says are implicated in rights violations and abuses targeting Uighurs and other mostly Muslim minorities, which could further complicate the trade talks.

The trade meeting comes just over a week before a new round of punitive tariffs is due to be imposed on China. “There is a feeling the trade talks are over even before they have begun,” said market analyst David Madden at CMC Markets UK.

Further dampening sentiment was the statement by the IMF's new head, Kristalina Georgieva, that trade disputes had helped push the global economy into a “synchronised slowdown”.

While trade tensions had been talked about as a danger to the economy, “now, we see that they are actually taking a toll,” she said.

Key figures around 1530 GMT

New York - Dow Jones:	▼ 0.4pc at 26,017.31 points
London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.6pc at 7,516.03 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▼ 0.5pc at 12,494.24 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.4pc at 5,478.06 (close)
EURO STOXX 50:	▼ 0.7pc at 3,431.82
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 0.1pc at 22,869.50 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▼ 0.9pc at 28,164.05 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 1.1pc at 2,737.74 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1646 from \$1.1709 at 2100 GMT
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.3004 from \$1.3028
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 111.24 yen from 111.68 yen

IMF's new chief Georgieva warns of 'synchronised slowdown' in global growth

Reuters | Washington

New International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva issued a stark warning about the state of the global growth on Tuesday, saying trade conflicts had thrown it into a “synchronised slowdown” and must be resolved.

In her inaugural speech after taking over the global crisis lender on Oct. 1, Georgieva unveiled new IMF research showing that the cumulative effect of trade conflicts could mean a \$700 billion reduction in global GDP output by 2020, or around 0.8 percent.

The research takes into account US President Donald

Trump's announced and planned tariff increases on remaining Chinese imports, or around \$300 billion worth of goods. Much of the GDP losses will come from a decline of business confidence and negative market reactions, she said.

“In 2019, we expect slower growth in nearly 90 percent of the world. The global economy



International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva

is now in a synchronized slowdown. This means that growth this year will fall to its lowest rate since the beginning of the decade,” Georgieva said.

The Bulgarian economist, a former European Union official who previously held the number two job at the World Bank Group, said that trade had “come to a near standstill.”

She warned that fractures in trade could lead to changes that last a generation, including “broken supply chains, siloed trade sectors, a ‘digital Berlin Wall’ that forces countries to choose between technology systems.”

She also referenced frequent complaints about China's trade practices, without specifically naming the country.

Hong Kong Stock Exchange drops bid for London rival

AFP | Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Stock Exchange yesterday dropped its multibillion-dollar takeover bid for the prized London Stock Exchange Group, which would have created a global markets titan.

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) said in a statement that it was “disappointed” to pull its bid -- but that the move was in the best interests of its shareholders.

In a brief reaction statement, London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) said it “remains committed to and continues to make good progress on its proposed acquisition of Refinitiv” that remains on track to complete in the second half of next year.

HKEX made its shock proposal on September 11 before LSEG formally rejected the offer the following day, citing “fundamental” flaws and concerns over its ties to the Chinese city's government.



The Hong Kong Stock Exchange made a shock bid of more than £30 billion for the London Stock Exchange Group last month

“HKEX under the helm of chief executive Charles Li has been on an expansion drive both East and West for years, acquiring the London Metal Exchange in 2012 and later expanding its trading link with mainland China,” noted Fiona Cincotta, senior market analyst at City Index trading

group. “But the attempt to take over the LSEG proved a step too far as the London exchange fended off the bid that would have created a \$70-billion company, suspecting that eventually HKEX's links to the local government would have led to political interfer-

ence in the markets,” she added Tuesday.

HKEX chairman Laura Cha said at the time of the offer that it represented a “compelling” opportunity and would bring together the largest and most significant financial centres in Asia and Europe.

On Tuesday, HKEX said that “despite engagement with a broad set of regulators and extensive shareholder engagement, the board... is disappointed that it has been unable to engage with the management of LSEG”.

In a blog post, Li said the “goal is to keep moving forward, reinforcing HKEX's role and building Hong Kong's strength as a financial market”.

Hong Kong lawmaker and HKEX shareholder Christopher Cheung criticised the unsolicited takeover bid, telling financial data and news provider Bloomberg the “whole offer was a farce”. “When HKEX announced the



The HKEX cash-and-shares bid for LSEG worth £32 billion (\$40bn, 36bn euros) had been dependent on the axing of the latter's planned acquisition of US financial data provider Refinitiv for \$27bn

ulators.

“It turns out they have not. HKEX now must address the danger of stagnant business growth,” he added.

Since the HKEX unveiled its takeover offer last month, LSEG stock has held stubbornly below the bid level -- which stood at more than £83 per share -- as investors remained unconvinced.

Refinitiv meanwhile will help LSEG shift from generating revenue solely from the trading of securities to providing investors information about trading, which will put it in direct competition with Bloomberg.

The transformational Refinitiv deal comes two years after LSEG's failed £21-billion merger with Germany's Deutsche Boerse.

That proposal -- the third failed attempt at a tie-up between the British and German stock exchange operators -- was blocked by the European Commission on competition fears.

Nissan names executive Uchida as next CEO, Gupta as COO

Reuters | Tokyo/Paris

The board of Nissan Motor Co has picked Senior Vice President Makoto Uchida as its next chief executive and Ashwani Gupta as its chief operating officer, two sources said yesterday, following a board meeting of the scandal-hit automaker.

Directors at Nissan, including those from top shareholder Renault SA, voted unanimously in favour of the two executives, one of the sources said. Both of the sources spoke on condition of anonymity.

No one was immediately available for comment at Nissan. The automaker was due to hold a news conference at 1130 GMT.

The decision, earlier reported by the Nikkei newspaper,

comes after months of turmoil at Japan's second-largest automaker following the downfall of former Chairman Carlos Ghosn last year and the departure of former CEO Hiroto Saikawa last month.

Ghosn is awaiting trial in Tokyo on financial misconduct charges that he denies.

Saikawa was forced to step down after he admitted to being improperly overpaid.

The internal strife also has implications for Nissan's often difficult relationship with Renault.

Uchida was not seen as one of the frontrunners in the race to be the next chief executive, it was reported.

The India-born Gupta is currently COO of alliance junior partner Mitsubishi Motors Corp.

‘Call of Duty Mobile’ smashes records with 100m downloads

Reuters

The mobile version of videogame franchise “Call of Duty” racked up 100 million downloads in its first week, industry site Sensor Tower said yesterday, dwarfing the debuts of previous smashes including “Fortnite” and “PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds” (PUBG).

“This is by far the largest mobile game launch in history in terms of the player base that's been built in the first week,” said Randy Nelson, Head of Mobile Insights at Sensor Tower. The first-person shoot-



Representative picture

er hit's publisher Activision Blizzard Inc launched Call of Duty: Mobile on Oct. 1. Sensor Tower said the numbers reflected worldwide unique downloads across Apple's App Store and Google Play in the period since. PUBG, Fortnite and Electronic Arts' Apex Legends respectively scored 26.3m, 22.5m and 25m in their first week of release.

CAMPUS

Aryabhata house triumph at ISB youth festival

TDT | Manama

Aryabhata House emerged as the overall champions in the Indian School Bahrain (ISB) Youth Festival Tarang 2019 which concluded with a glittering grand finale at the school campus in Isa Town on Thursday.

Aryabhata House won the overall championship with 1806 points in the hotly contested youth festival. Vikram Sarabhai House which got 1666 points is the runners-up. JC Bose House with 1559 points bagged the third prize while CV Raman House which got 1400 points was placed in the fourth position in the youth festival.

Indian School Class IX student Devisree Sumesh who belongs to the Aryabhata House won the coveted Kalaratna award with 72 points. The Kalashri award was won by Class X student Athulkrishna Gopakumar with 59 points. Athulkrishna belongs to the JC Bose House.

Following students emerged as the Group Champions in different levels: Anagha Sreedharan Lal (Level A - 58 Points-JC Bose House), Sneha Murali-



ISB officials with the champions

idharan (Level B- 54 Points-VSB House), Krishna Rajeevan Nair (Level C -61 points-CVR House), Shreya Muralidharan (Level D- 46 Points-VSB House).

Following students won the House Star Awards: Rudra Rupesh Aiyer (VSB House -52 Points), Sannidhyu Chandra (CV

Raman-32 Points), Jeon Biju Manakkal (JC Bose-50 Points), Nandana Rathna Pradeep (Aryabhata- 56 Points).

Chief Guest Ministry of Labour Assistant Undersecretary for Labour Affairs Ahmed J Al Haiki, Guests of Honour Santy Excavation and Construction

Managing Director R Ramesh and BKG Holding SPC/Qatar Engineering Laboratory Chairman KG Baburajan distributed the trophies to the champions. ISB Chairman Prince S Natarajan, Secretary Saji Antony, Asst. Secretary Premalatha NS, EC Members Adv. Binu Mannil

Varughese, Mohammad Khurshed Alam, Rajesh MN, Ajaykrishnan V, Saji George, Deepak Gopalakrishnan, Principal VR Palaniswamy, Riffa Campus Principal Pamela Xavier and Staff Representative Johnson K. Devassy, community leaders S Inayadulla, Soman Baby and

Boban Idiculla attended the ceremony. Head Teacher Activities Sreekanth S presented the youth festival report. ISB well-wisher S.Mohankumar was presented a memento.

Prize winning dance events were also presented during the closing ceremony.

AGU to participate in World Food Security meeting

TDT | Manama

The Arabian Gulf University (AGU) is all set to participate in the 46th meeting of the Committee on World Food Security, organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United States (FAO) in Rome.

The event will take place on October 14-18 and AGU will be represented in it by Water Resources Professor at the Arabian Gulf University (AGU) Dr. Waleed Zubari who received a personal invitation from United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for a special session that will be held on the side line of the event.

The session is entitled "Informed Decision Making on Arab food security within the context of climate change" and



Dr Waleed Zubari

will take place on October 15, 2019.

The session will discuss the results of tracking food security in the Arab region and the impact of climate change on the agricultural sector within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related Arab strategies and

initiatives.

ESCWA aims to hold this interactive seminar, which will feature representatives of Arab governments and experts from the academic and research sector as well as regional organisations to track food security in the Arab region and the impact of climate change on the agricultural sector, and to consolidate the science-policy interface within national and regional policy-making.

Dr. Zubari explained that these discussions and the mutual dialogue among the Arab countries and abroad are useful in understanding how to rely on scientific data and evidence to inform countries and regions of the ability to cope with climate change in the agricultural sector and ultimately achieve food security.

NMS students clean up Karbabad Beach

TDT | Manama

To commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the students of New Millennium School-DPS participated in the Beach Cleanup Campaign at Karbabad Beach, on 2nd October.

The main highlight of this activity was to encourage and promote community work in students, making them aware of the environmental hazards created by the inconsiderate disposal of garbage.

The ecological activity organised by the Indian Embassy, reinstated in children the need to promote the sustainability of resources and the three R's of the environment: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. The school's environmental ambassadors dedicated almost two hours of hard work towards this cause.

The students braved the scorching heat to collect the rubbish from the Beach which



Students take part in cleaning

could otherwise prove fatal to the marine life. The 2 hours beach cleanup not only lowered the risk of the people gathering within the beach but also attained good benefits to the sea animals.

The volunteers were provided with gloves, shovels, pitch forks and wheelbarrows. The beach cleanup was a big success and the volunteers managed to fill around 25 bin bags full of rubbish.

Chairman Dr. Ravi Pillai,

Managing Director Geetha Pillai and the Principal Arun Kuumar Sharma appreciated the whole-hearted efforts of the students and their teachers in taking part in the campaign. Principal remarked that the coastal zone is a fragile ecology and one of the most vulnerable to change and damage. The smallest and the so seemingly little things like picking up bits of litter can have a dramatic impact on the local environment.

RCSI Bahrain hosts Clubs and Societies Fair

TDT | Manama

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) recently played host to its annual Clubs and Societies Fair at its Busaiteen campus.

Held annually at the start of the academic year, the event is one of the biggest in the RCSI Bahrain student calendar and offers a chance for established clubs and societies to showcase their activities and attract more members, whilst for new students it is an opportunity to get a taste of the extracurricular

activities the university has to offer.

This year's event saw more than 45 existing and prospective clubs and societies. Alongside the long-standing organisations, including the Medical Research Society, Nursing Society and the sports teams, new clubs and societies such as Surgical Training and Research Society (STARS), Toastmasters and the Writer's Society will be hoping to have attracted sufficient numbers of members to be awarded full club/society status by the university.

RCSI Bahrain is a constituent



Visitors attend the event

university of RCSI, which was established in Dublin, Ireland in 1784. Licensed as an independent private university, RCSI



Students during the event

Bahrain is a not-for-profit health sciences institution focused on education and research to drive positive change in all areas of

human health worldwide. As one of the region's leading healthcare institutions, RCSI Bahrain is committed to combin-

ing successful academic achievements with a full programme of extracurricular and sporting activities.

celebs

Vanessa Hudgens and Sarah Hyland

Dakota Johnson

Sarah Hyland asks Vanessa Hudgens to be her bridesmaid

Los Angeles

Actress Vanessa Hudgens has said that actress Sarah Hyland has asked her to be her bridesmaid when she marries Wells Adams.

Hyland is set to tie the knot with fiancé Wells Adams after the pair got engaged in Fiji back in July, and over the weekend Hudgens shared a photograph on her Instagram Stories of a wooden box her close friend sent her, which was decorated with leaves and had her name shortened to "Vaness" written on it, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

The "Second Act" star tagged Hyland in the post and added a GIF graphic, which read: "Bridesmaid."

Hyland recently gushed about how she is engaged to her "forever person."

The 28-year-old actress can't believe how quickly time has gone since their first date at the Emmys after-party two years ago.



Dakota Johnson rings in 30th birthday with boyfriend Chris Martin

Los Angeles

Actor Dakota Johnson known for her role in '50 Shades of Grey' rang in her 30th birthday with a star-studded birthday bash on Saturday.

The actor was joined by her boyfriend Chris Martin as well as his ex-wife Gwyneth Paltrow, a source told People.

Apart from the special guests, the list of invitees also included Johnson's mother Melanie Griffith, Miley Cyrus, Sean Penn, and Robert Downey Jr.

Johnson arrived at her party with her 42-year-old singer and Moses, his son with Paltrow. The exes also have a 15-year-old daughter, Apple.

"Dakota had a huge birthday celebration and she seemed to have a wonderful time," said the insider. "You can tell that she is loved because so many of her friends showed up. Even Gwyneth was there."

Johnson and Gwyneth can be seen spending time and catching up together as the festivities went into full swing with a band as well as a silent disco where guests could listen to music with wireless headphones.

"Dakota seems very close with her," the source said. "They hugged and chatted a lot."

Martin also surprised Johnson with a birthday cake in the shape of her dog Zeppelin that was decorated with sparklers.



Chris Martin



Robert Pattinson to compete for Lead Actor Oscar next year

Los Angeles

Actor Robert Pattinson will compete for an Oscar in the lead actor category for his role in "The Lighthouse" at the 92nd Academy Awards ceremony.

According to variety.com, A24 will submit Pattinson in the lead actor category, with co-star Willem Dafoe in the supporting actor field.

"The Lighthouse", which will release internationally on October 18, has been earning praise on the festival circuit since premiering at the film fest in Cannes in May. Director-writer Robert Eggers won an International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI) Prize.



Robert Pattinson

Arnold: James Cameron is a great friend

Los Angeles

Ahead of the release of the action thriller "Terminator: Dark Fate", Hollywood star Arnold Schwarzenegger opened up on his equation with the producer James Cameron, saying "he is a great friend".

He said: "I've known him since 1983. Cameron and I clicked right away. And I think it was not necessarily because of anything else other than we were both like kids and liked similar things. We were both into knives. He knew which company made what knife. So did I. So, we talked about the difference between a hand-crafted knife and a hard-mounted knife. And swords, Samurai swords, and how they have been folded seven times."



Arnold Schwarzenegger

Priyanka Chopra pitches herself as first female Bond

Los Angeles

Indian actress Priyanka Chopra has put herself in the running to be the first female James Bond.

The 37-year-old actress is a massive fan of the British spy drama franchise, and thinks it's definitely time for a female '007' agent and thinks she is the perfect candidate, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I've always been keen on (playing James Bond) but I can't put myself into the race obviously," she told Britain's Metro newspaper.

"I think, in my lifetime it would be amazing to have a female Bond. Whether that's me or someone else, it's something I would love to see."

The "Baywatch" star made it clear she's a serious contender and, when asked which actress she could see stepping into Daniel Craig's shoes, she joked: "Me!"

"I don't know, I would just be very happy with the fact that it would be a woman," the "Mary Kom" actress said.

She added: "I definitely think (it's time)."

The shooting recently wrapped on the 25th Bond movie titled "No Time To Die", which is rumoured to be Craig's fifth and final outing in the role.

Priyanka is gearing up for the release of her next "The Sky Is Pink", which is slated to hit the screens on October 11.



Priyanka Chopra

Rihanna to release visual autobiography

Los Angeles

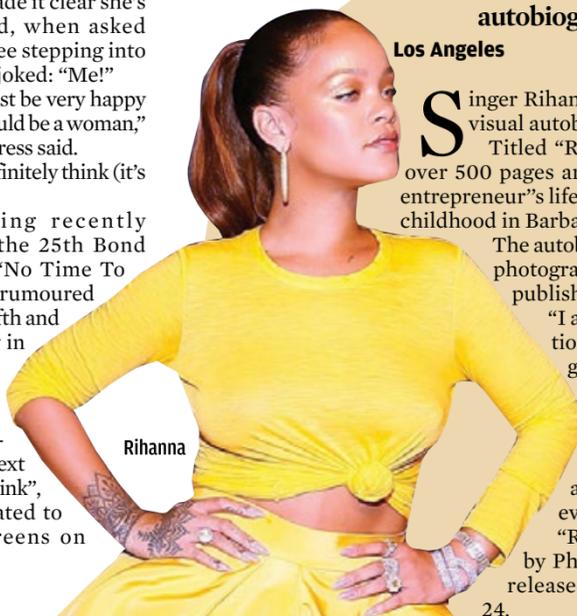
Singer Rihanna is all set to launch her visual autobiography.

Titled "Rihanna", the book will have over 500 pages and will follow the singer and entrepreneur's life through photographs from her childhood in Barbados to present times.

The autobiography will contain over 1,000 photographs, many that have never been published before, reports variety.com.

"I am so excited to share this collection of incredible images. I'm very grateful to the talented photographers and artists who contributed. We've been working on the book for over five years and I'm really happy to be able to finally share it with everybody," Rihanna said.

"Rihanna" is published by Phaidon and will be released on October 24.



Rihanna

Cherry Jones joins Jessica Chastain in Tammy Faye biopic

Los Angeles

Veteran actor Cherry Jones has been roped in to feature in the biopic on televangelist Tammy Faye Bakker, featuring Jessica Chastain.

The announcement comes hot on the heels of Jones' Emmy win for "The Handmaid's Tale".

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Andrew Garfield is also cast in Fox Searchlight's upcoming biopic "The Eyes of Tammy Faye".



Cherry Jones

Ranveer, Deepika at "83" wrap-up party with cast and crew

Mumbai

Actress Deepika Padukone hosted a wrap-up party of her forthcoming film "83", which was attended by the cast and crew of the film.

At the party held on Monday night, Deepika arrived twinning with her husband and actor Ranveer in white top and jeans.

The couple posed for the paparazzi and, in sync with the film's theme, Ranveer and Deepika played pretend-cricket on the green carpet. Ranveer batted and Deepika bowled.

The Kabir Khan-directed "83" tells the story of India's first-ever cricket World Cup victory in 1983. Ranveer plays Kapil Dev, who captained the victorious team while Deepika is cast as Kapil's wife Romi.

Others spotted at the do included the film's cast members Tahir Raj Bhasin, Ammy Virk, Sahil Khattar, Hardy Sandhu, Saqib Saleem, Adinath Kothare and Chirag Patil, who came with wife Sana Ankola Patil.



Ranveer and Deepika

Jennifer Lopez sued for USD 150,000 over copyright infringement

Los Angeles

Sharing a picture of her with beau Alex Rodriguez can cost Jennifer Lopez a whopping sum of USD 150,000 as she is being sued for copyright infringement.

Splash News and Picture Agency, the firm which has filed a suit against Lopez claim that a picture of the 50-year old posted on her Instagram story in 2017 was clicked by them and they are the owner of it. Lopez never sought their permission prior to sharing, according to the court documents obtained by E! News.

"Plaintiff never licensed the Photograph to defendant. Nevertheless, Lopez used it without authorization or permission from plaintiff to do so," the documents state.



Jennifer Lopez

Nick Jonas joins 'The Voice' as coach for Season 18

Los Angeles

Singer-songwriter Nick Jonas is all set to join season 18 of the NBC singing competition 'The Voice'. He will join returning coaches Blake Shelton, Kelly Clarkson, and John Legend who are all currently coaching on this season alongside Gwen Stefani, reported E! News.

The youngest member of 'The Jonas Brothers', Nick is the first Jonas Brother to serve as a coach in the U.S. However, Joe Jonas has been a coach on the Australian version of 'The Voice', and Nick appeared as a mentor for his team in 2018. Joe has also been a mentor on the U.S. version.



Nick Jonas

SPORTS

sports

Shaikh Khalid hails Bahrain's achievement

Bahraini athletes return home after World Athletics Championships

TDI | Manama

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa hailed the outstanding results made by Bahrain's athletes in the World Athletics Championships.

The Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee was speaking as he received Bahrain's National Athletics team members following their historic first-place achievement at the Arab level (second at the Asian level and 12th overall) in the event after winning a gold medal, one silver and one bronze.

On this occasion, the HH Shaikh Khalid escalated his sincere congratulations to HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa,



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa with the athletes

the Prime Minister, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, and HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad

Al Khalifa, Representative of HM the King for Charity and Youth Affairs and President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports on the achievement accomplished by the Bahraini

athletes in the event.

HH Shaikh Khalid said that this victory embodies the utmost sponsorship extended to the sports movement in the Kingdom of Bahrain in general and

athletics in particular by HM the King who has been keen to pave the way for an ideal environment for the athletics national teams to enable them to achieve such accomplishments that reflect

the huge development made by the sports field in Bahrain.

Furthermore, HH Shaikh Khalid pointed out to the incredible performance produced by Salwa Eid in the women's 400m final race which enabled her to win the gold medal en route to clocking the third-fastest time in history. He also praised the displays of Rose Chelimo who won the silver medal in the women's marathon race as well as the relay team after bagging the bronze medal in the mixed 4 X 400 race.

"We are proud of the achievements of our champions. It was an epic event and they mirrored the perfect image for the Kingdom's athletics," HH Shaikh Khalid said, applauding the efforts of Bahrain Athletics Association under the leadership of Mohammed Abdulatif bin Jalal in preparing the athletes ahead of the event.

Injury prevents Lestienne's long-awaited return to Belgium squad

Reuters | London

Maxime Lestienne's recall to the Belgium squad for their Euro 2020 qualifiers this week ended in bitter disappointment on Monday when he had to withdraw because of injury.

The Standard Liege attacker was a surprise inclusion when Roberto Martinez announced his squad last Friday, praising him for his form in domestic

competition over the last weeks.

It ended a six-year wait for Lestienne, who was called up in 2013 but did not play and has been in international wilderness since.

But Lestienne's joy lasted just 48 hours.

He has been ruled out of the qualifiers after suffering a hamstring injury on Sunday in the league game against Antwerp, the Belgian football association said.

Thibaut Courtois and Romelu Lukaku were absent on Monday as the Belgian squad began preparations for Thursday's clash against San Marino in Brussels, where they are expected to become the first country to secure a berth in next year's tournament, and Sunday's away game against Kazakhstan.

Real Madrid goalkeeper Courtois missed the weekend win over Granada after falling ill.

Lukaku did not feature against Barcelona in the Champions League last Wednesday but played 90 minutes on Sunday for Inter Milan in their home defeat by Juventus.

The Belgian association offered no explanation for their absence from the first training session, prompting speculation in the local media about their availability for the international assignments.

Kevin De Bruyne is already out of the two encounters through injury although captain Eden Hazard is back.

Belgium have won all of their six matches and have a three-point lead over second placed Russia in Group I.

Ceballos: I was right to swap Madrid for Arsenal

Reuters | Madrid

Arsenal midfielder Dani Ceballos believes he was right to join the club on loan from Real Madrid, where he had not been enjoying his football.

Ceballos has played 11 times for the Gunners in all competitions, scoring one goal and assisting two others, earning himself a call-up to the Spanish national team.

Moreno has selected the midfielder in the squad to face Norway and Sweden in Euro 2020 qualifying fixtures on Sep. 12 and 15 respectively.

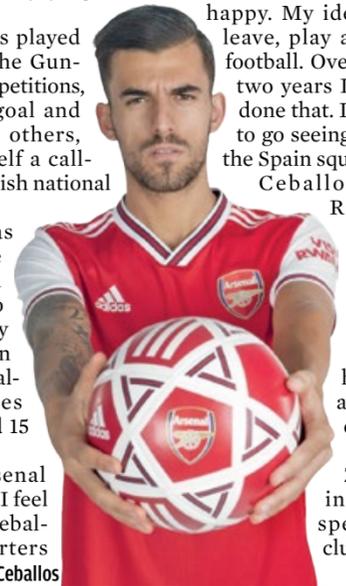
"I'm at Arsenal right now and I feel very good," Ceballos told reporters

Dani Ceballos

yesterday in Madrid, where the Spanish team are training. "I knew I definitely wanted to leave (and) I was right to leave Madrid.

"Right now I'm where I want to be, and I am very happy. My idea was to leave, play and enjoy football. Over the past two years I have not done that. I was right to go seeing as I'm in the Spain squad."

Ceballos joined Real Madrid from Real Betis in 2017, but he failed to establish himself as a key player under Zinedine Zidane in his first spell at the club.



Smith, Warner in Australia T20 squad

Reuters | Sydney

Australia yesterday named Steve Smith and David Warner in their Twenty20 squad for home series against Sri Lanka and Pakistan as selectors firm up plans for next year's World Cup on home soil.

Australia host Sri Lanka in three T20 internationals starting in Adelaide on Oct. 27 before facing top-ranked Pakistan in three matches next month.

"It is almost a year to the day until Australia hosts the men's T20 World Cup and we have selected this squad with that in mind," selector Trevor Hohns said in a statement.

"The squad we have selected is quite role specific and we believe it gives us the flexibility to thrive in all match conditions.

"We're delighted to welcome Smith and Warner back ... Steve is a world-class batsman in all formats while Warner is



Steve Smith and David Warner celebrate during a Test match (file photo)

Australia's highest ever T20I runs-scorer."

Smith is set to play his first T20 international since 2016 and will look to continue the fine form he has shown since his return from a one-year ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

The 30-year-old smashed 774 runs in four Ashes tests against England recently as Australia

retained the urn.

Warner scored 692 runs in this year's IPL for Sunrisers Hyderabad and 647 runs in the 50-over World Cup in England as Australia reached the semi-finals.

Australia dropped all-rounder Marcus Stoinis while Ashton Turner was preferred ahead of fellow spinner Nathan Lyon. They also included the big-hit-

ting Glenn Maxwell.

The 14-man squad captained by Aaron Finch will travel to Adelaide on Oct. 24 before the first T20I against Sri Lanka.



We're delighted to welcome Smith and Warner back ... Steve is a world-class batsman in all formats while Warner is Australia's highest ever T20I runs-scorer

TREVOR HOHNS

Depleted Germany lose sick Werner for Argentina friendly

AFP | Munich

RB Leipzig striker Timo Werner became the latest player to be ruled out of Germany's friendly with Argentina, prompting coach Joachim Loew to call for reinforcements on Monday.

Loew added Hoffenheim midfielder Sebastian Rudy and uncapped Freiburg defender Robin Koch to the squad that will host Argentina

on Wednesday and then travel to Estonia for a Euro 2020 qualifier four days later.

"I spent my Sunday on the phone and I didn't receive anything but bad news," said Loew, who will also be without injured midfielder Ilkay Gundogan for the friendly in Dortmund.

Toni Kroos, Jonas Hector and Matthias Ginter all withdrew from the squad on Sunday, with Schalke's Suat Serdar summoned as cover.

Loew is missing a dozen regulars with Manchester City's Leroy Sane a notable long-term absentee after he tore knee ligaments in August.



Timo Werner

Djokovic heaps praise on 'very complete' Medvedev



Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a return (file photo)

AFP | Shanghai

World number one Novak Djokovic hailed Daniil Medvedev as a "very complete player" yesterday, having lost to the young Russian in their last two matches.

The 23-year-old Medvedev is at a career-high fourth in the world and reached the final at the US Open, only to be on the end of an agonising five-set loss to Rafael Nadal.

Medvedev has won three titles this year including beating Djokovic on the way to claiming victory at the Masters in Cincinnati in August.

"The last several months he's been playing the tennis of his life," Djokovic said at the Shanghai Masters, where he is the defending champion.

"He's played finals at least in every event in the last what-ever, five, six events, which is amazing."

The 32-year-old from Serbia, who could again face Medvedev in Shanghai semi-finals,

said it was hard to find a weakness in the Russian's game.

"He's improved his movement, his fitness. He's got the big serve, he's got the height and he uses angles very well," said Djokovic.

"Backhand -- hard to break that backhand, it's very flat.

"He doesn't make many mistakes and he can hit anything he wants from that corner.

"Forehand maybe has been his weaker side, but now he's improved that, so he's a very complete player."

Nadal, ranked second in the world, pulled out of Shanghai because of a wrist problem.

But Djokovic is primed for a battle with the 19-time Grand Slam champion for the year-end number one spot.

"I have been in this position many times before, obviously," he said.

"Rafa has had an amazing year so far and I have to do well here in order to really have a chance or go toe to toe with him in the indoor season."

Murray to make Grand Slam return in Australia



Andy Murray speaks to Fabio Fognini after his defeat in the second round at the Shanghai Masters

AFP | Shanghai

Andy Murray will make his Grand Slam return at the Australian Open in January, a year after career-saving hip surgery, tournament organisers announced yesterday.

The British three-time major winner has been slowly working his way back to fitness and is now ranked 289th, up from 503rd just a week ago.

With his confidence seemingly growing by the day, Australian Open organisers said the former world number one had committed to extending his comeback into the majors in January.

"Confirmed: Andy Murray will return to compete at

the #AusOpen in 2020," they tweeted.

The official Australian Open website said Murray "will return to the main draw with a protected ranking of number two and restored physical powers".

World number one Novak Djokovic said he was "pleasantly surprising" to see Murray back following hip-resurfacing surgery.

"Regardless of his ranking currently, he is a great champion and one of the greats of this game," the reigning Australian Open champion said at the Shanghai Masters.

"If he's healthy, you can definitely expect him to play at the highest level very soon."

"If he's healthy, you can definitely expect him to play at the highest level very soon"

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

Federer avoids another Shanghai Stunner

Roger Federer Enters pre-quarterfinals with win over Albert Ramos-Vinolas

● Fognini edges Murray in tense three-set win in Shanghai

Reuters | Shanghai

Four years after a stunning second-round loss to Albert Ramos-Vinolas at this venue, No. 2 seed Roger Federer defeated the Spaniard 6-2, 7-6 (5) yesterday at the Shanghai Masters in China.

The Swiss star played aggressively throughout the 86-minute, second-round match, winning 81 percent of his points at the net. Federer won 91 percent of his first-serve points, never faced a break point and finished with eight aces and zero double faults.

"Serve was solid. I was hitting my spots and really was never in trouble there," said Federer, who came back from 4-1 down in the tiebreak.

Federer, seeking his 29th career ATP Masters 1000 title, admitted he was thinking about his 2015 loss to Ramos-Vinolas before the match.

"Watched highlights. Remember how it felt. I had my chances. I won many more points that time than I lost, so I should have actually won that match," Federer said. "... To play him again in the same circumstances, basically I knew (he) could be dangerous, and that's why I'm very pleased how I was able to control the match out there today."



Roger Federer of Switzerland hits a return against Albert Ramos of Spain

A two-time Shanghai champion (2014, 2017), the 38-year-old Federer will face either No. 13 seed David Goffin of Belgium or Kazakhstan's Mikhail Kukushkin for a spot in the quarterfinals. Goffin beat France's Richard Gasquet 6-2, 6-3 yesterday and Kukushkin eliminated Serbian Miomir Kecmanovic on Monday.

In other second-round play, Italy's Fabio Fognini knocked out three-time Shanghai champ Andy Murray of Scotland 7-6 (4), 2-6, 7-6 (2) in three hours and nine minutes.

Murray served for the match at 5-4 and 6-5 in the deciding set, but couldn't put away the 10th-seeded Fognini. Fognini



Federer is seeking his 29th career ATP Masters 1000 title

will face either No. 7 seed Karen Khachanov of Russia or Taylor Fritz in the third round.

No. 3 seed Daniil Medvedev improved to 25-3 in his last 28

matches with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over British qualifier Cameron Norrie in just 55 minutes.

"I'm trying my best to keep the form I have," said Medvedev, who leads the ATP with 55 wins in 2019. "It's really not easy, because as soon as you relax a little bit, the results will start to fall. That's why I'm trying not to relax."

Other winners yesterday included No. 11 seed Matteo Berrettini of Italy, No. 15 seed Nikoloz Basilashvili of Georgia, Australia's John Millman and Canadians Vasek Pospisil and Felix Auger-Aliassime. Poland's Hubert Hurkacz upset No. 9 seed Gael Monfils of France, 6-2, 7-6 (1).

Struggling Lyon plan to dismiss coach Sylvinho

AFP | Paris

Lyon have decided to sack Brazilian coach Sylvinho just 11 matches into the season after a dreadful run of form, the Ligue 1 club said on Monday.

The former Arsenal and Barcelona full-back only took over at the Groupama Stadium in May to replace Bruno Genesio.

"OL have decided to implement a procedure which can lead to the termination of the contract of Sylvio Mendes Campos Junior (Sylvinho)," read a Lyon statement.

It was the 45-year-old's first role as a head coach, having previously been assistant to Tite for the Brazil national team.

Despite losing several key players, including Ferland Mendy, Tanguy Ndombele and Nabil Fekir, in the close-season, Sylvinho made a dream start as Lyon won 3-0 at Monaco and thrashed Angers 6-0 in their first two games.

But they have not won a league match since and have



Sylvinho looks on during a match

slipped to within a single point of the bottom two.

Sylvinho's surprise exit comes even though Lyon have claimed four points from their first two Champions League group-stage outings, after a draw with Zenit Saint Petersburg and a 2-0 win at RB Leipzig last week. He was hand-picked by Juninho, a former Lyon star midfielder, who took over as sporting director in May.

Asked at the end of September if his future was linked to

his compatriot's, Juninho said: "Not 100 percent but I chose the coach. I'm taking responsibility."

Juninho also said that when it comes to firing staff on a struggling team, "the coach is first because it's the law of football. He's on the bench and he has the last word".

The club said that Gerald Baticle, who was an assistant coach under Genesio, will take training yesterday under Juninho's direction.

Espanyol fire head coach Gallego and bring in Machin



Pablo Machin

AFP | Madrid

Espanyol, in the bottom two in La Liga with just one win eight matches, fired manager David Gallego on Monday and hired Pablo Machin.

Gallego, who played much of his career for lower-division teams in Catalonia, joined Espanyol as a youth coach in 2013 and became head coach in June.

"The club has decided to dismiss the Catalan from his responsibilities as coach of the first team," said Espanyol on their website.

"The club has taken this decision as a result of the performance of the first team and with the clear idea to redirect the current situation of the white and blue team in La Liga."