

Daniel claims first Middleweight title

Daniel "Gaucho" Souza Pereira brutalizes Chad Hanekom to become first-ever BRAVE CF Middleweight champion | P15

THE DAILY tribune

Cody Simpson hints at music collaboration with Miley Cyrus

14 CELEBS

WORLD 5 Horrific Delhi factory blaze kills 43

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HM King declares holiday

TDT | Manama

Ministries, government departments and public establishments will remain closed today, marking the historic achievement of Bahrain National Team, as declared by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa.

HRH Crown Prince congratulates HM King

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa received a cable of congratulations from His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister on the historic achievement of Bahrain's National Team, which won the 24th Gulf Cup. HRH the CP took pride in the landmark victory which adds to other sports achievements, paying tribute to HM the King for his royal support.



Bahrain end 50 year wait
 Kingdom beat Saudi Arabia to lift historic first-ever Arabian Gulf Cup

TDT | Manama

Bahrain were last night finally crowned champions of the Arabian Gulf Cup! The Bahrainis claimed the coveted title after a wait of nearly 50 years. Mohammed Al Rumaihi scored the decisive goal in the national team's 1-0 victory against Saudi Arabia in yesterday's final, played at a rocking Abdullah bin Khalifa Stadium in Doha. The lanky striker tapped in the winner in the 69th minute off a brilliant cross from the right-wing by in-form midfielder Mahdi Humaidan. That was enough to separate the two sides at the final whistle and earn the Helio Sousa-coached Bahrainis their historic first-ever Gulf Cup trophy. Bahrain hosted the first-ever edition of the regional competition in 1970 but

had never won until last night. They finished as runners-up four other times, but can now be called champions of the tournament's hugely exciting 24th edition. After the match, both Bahrain and Saudi were presented their respective awards by the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. Asian Football Confederation president and former Bahrain Football Association (BFA) president Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa was also in attendance, as were BFA president Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa and high-ranking Bahrain officials.

Bahrain survived a couple of early scares in the match as the Saudis started off as the early aggressors. Saudi came close to breaking the goalless deadlock in the third minute when midfielder Salem Al Dawsari hit the crossbar with a dangerous shot just inches outside the box. Bahrain were then saved once again from disaster just seven minutes later, after Saudi team captain Salman Al Faraj missed a penalty. The Saudis were rewarded the spot-kick after Bahrain's Jassim Al-Shaikh took down Al Dawsari after his fine one-two with Abdullah Otaif in the penalty area. Al Faraj stepped up to

take the penalty but he hit his shot off the top-left corner of the goal frame, much to the relief of the Bahraini contingent. Bahrain then had their own chances to score but came just short. Humaidan was the first to go on target with a powerful low shot on the edge of the penalty area in the 13th minute, but his attempt was calmly collected by Saudi goalkeeper Fawaz Al Qarni. Five minutes before the half, Humaidan had a high header flicked over the crossbar by Al Qarni. The Bahrainis were then spared from conceding another penalty after Saudi striker Abdullah Al Hamdan appeared to be taken down by Humaidan in the box. Replays proved inconclusive and, even after using VAR technology, the match referee made no change to his non-call.

The match remained goalless at the interval. In the second half, Kumail Alaswad started things off with a shot on target that was easily saved by Al Qarni. That set the stage for the game-winner in the 69th minute. Following a long goal-kick from Bahraini keeper Sayed Mohammed Jaffar, the Bahrainis attacked from the right-wing. Humaidan was then unleashed with a short pass from Sayed Redha Isa, and he then sent in a precision low cross right in the face of goal, where Al Rumaihi was able to evade his marker and tap the ball into the bottom-left corner of the net. The Saudis tried valiantly to equalise from there and there were a few tense moments towards the end of the contest. The referee awarded more than eight minutes of second-half stoppage time, and just seconds before the final whistle, Jaffar tipped a short Saudi attempt over the crossbar. That was a crucial moment that saved the victory for Bahrain.

Score card

Bahrain 1 - 0 Saudi Arabia
 (M Al Rumaihi 69')



- 03 Bahrain gears up for National Day
- 04 Cardiac centre another milestone
- 10 Amazon wants to work more with the Pentagon

210 fils (includes VAT)



Bahrain captain and goalkeeper Sayed Mohammed Jaffar, right, along with star striker Ismaeel Abdullatif and fellow-keeper Hamad Aldoseri lift the Gulf Cup

Reinforce joint efforts to preserve human rights: PM tells world leaders

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday called on the international community to reinforce joint efforts to preserve human dignity and security in light of the current tension and disputes in the world.

“There is a need for the view to human rights to be broader and not confined to a narrow political angle,” HRH the PM stressed in his message citing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Premier reminded that everyone has a responsibility to listen to their conscience to



HRH the Prime Minister

achieve a peaceful and war-free world. “Supporting the efforts of

nations in the sustainable development area and raising the standard of living for their citi-

zens is the focus of noble values of human rights.”

HRH Prince Khalifa said this in a message marking the International Human Rights Day, which this year has the theme “Youth Standing Up for Human Rights”.

Bahrain, the Premier said, has made respect for human rights and their preservation as an essential pillar of its development process.

“This is done through an integrated vision and a modern system of legislation and laws that promote the rights of the individuals and provide them with the requirements of a decent life, the Premier pointed out.

The Premier further affirmed

that Bahrain, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, is rich with pioneering development and human rights accomplishments in ensuring human rights and public freedoms, supported by sustainable growth in human development indicators.

The Prime Minister pointed out that steps taken by Bahrain to protect human rights have received continuous international appreciation, citing its nomination to the Human Rights Council three times, most recently for the period from 2019 to 2021.

Praising this year’s theme, the Prime Minister said the youth enjoys the prime interest in all development plans adopted by

Bahrain, stressing that youth are “the real investment in the future.”

In this regard, HRH Premier praised the perseverance and strength of the youth of Bahrain in achieving the highest levels of creativity and excellence in various fields and making an outstanding contribution to serving the homeland.

The Prime Minister also hailed the efforts of the United Nations in building international partnerships that enhance security and stability in the world.

He reiterated Bahrain’s support for all international initiatives aimed at promoting human rights and ensuring a decent life for humanity.

Sacrifices of fallen servicemen will never be forgotten: HRH CP

Opens way for private companies, citizens to support Fund for Fallen Servicemen



HRH the Crown Prince chairing a meeting of the Supreme Commission for the Royal Fund for Fallen Servicemen at Riffa Palace.

TDT | Manama

HRH the Crown Prince yesterday hailed the significant role of Bahrain’s Defence forces in safeguarding the nation saying, “the sacrifices made by fallen servicemen represent the highest expression of loyalty and devotion, and as such will never be forgotten”.

Bahrain Defence Force, Ministry of Interior, National Guard and National Security Agency, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa said, “contributes significantly to the Kingdom’s development in line with the aspirations of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.”

In this regard, HRH the Crown Prince stressed that the Kingdom will always strive to provide due care to the families of

the fallen servicemen.

The Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, First Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Supreme Commission for the Royal Fund for Fallen Servicemen was chairing a meeting of the Supreme Commission for the Royal Fund for Fallen Servicemen at Riffa Palace.

HRH the Crown Prince went on to note the efforts of the Royal Fund for Fallen Servicemen in keeping close communication with the families of fallen servicemen to provide the necessary assistance and care they require.

During the meeting, the Supreme Commission for the Royal Fund for Fallen Servicemen reviewed the latest developments on the services and initiatives provided to the families of the fallen servicemen.

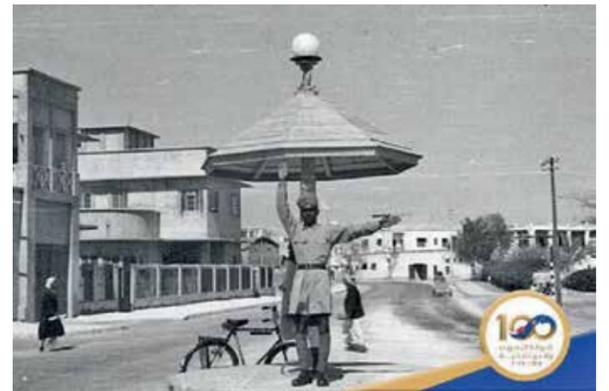
“**The sacrifices made by fallen servicemen represent the highest expression of loyalty and devotion, and as such will never be forgotten. The Kingdom will always strive to provide due care to their families**”

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA

Based on the principle of social solidarity, it has been decided to open the way for private companies and citizens to contribute to the Fund’s support. For this, Al-Razijiya flower batches will be sold in several locations across the Kingdom.

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Representative of HM the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, National Security Advisor and Vice Chairman of the Supreme Commission for the Royal Fund for Fallen Servicemen, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy and Lieutenant General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, Minister of Defence Affairs and the committee members were also present.

A glimpse from the past



A policeman regulates traffic. The first team to regulate traffic was formed in 1932



Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa with the President of the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, Ambassador Douglas A. Silliman. Chief of Public Security, Lt. General Tariq Al Hassan attended the meeting. The Interior Minister hailed the institute’s advanced level of contribution in reinforcing regional and international peace and security. The meeting reviewed cooperation and coordination and topics of common interest.



Foreign Affairs Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa with President of the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington Ambassador Douglas A. Silliman. The minister commended the historic strategic relations and the role of the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington in studying and analysing the various developments taking place in the region.



Gulf Air in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth & Sports and with the support of private companies and institutions, facilitated the travel of 1,900 Bahraini fans yesterday to attend and support the national team in the final match of the Arabian Gulf Cup against Saudi.

Bahrain gears up for National Day

BIC is bringing maximum thrills to fans both on and off the track

● Celebrations will feature four straight days of fun and enjoyment, while it will also include some racing action in the FIA WEC Bapco 8 Hours of Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Head of Bahrain's National Day celebrated each year on 16 December, festivities have started gathering pace all over the Kingdom.

Several unique initiatives have been undertaken to make the National Day celebrations vibrant and promote the rich cultural persist of the

country. Bahrain's National Day coincide with the day that former ruler Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa ascended to the throne in 1961. The celebration marks the Kingdom gaining independence from the British rule and the signing of a friendship treaty that ended the previous agreement between the two sides.

The move also follows a referendum in which "the overwhelming majority of the people of Bahrain wished to gain recognition of their identity in a fully independent and sovereign State free to decide for itself its relations with other States," according to the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General on the consultation.

Celebrations include fireworks displays, cultural shows, con-

tests, exhibitions and much more. As in the previous years, Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) has announced a slew of activities both on and off the track.

Maximum Thrills at BIC

Set to be a major part of the family entertainment from December 13 to 16 are the extreme acts. They include a High Dive Group, a Pirate Show, the Stannage International Stunt Team and the dynamic duo of Terry Grant and Lee Bowers.

The National Day celebrations will feature four straight days of fun and enjoyment, while it will also include some racing action in the FIA WEC Bapco 8 Hours of Bahrain, which will be open to the public on December 13 and 14.

Tickets are just BD1 per person per day. They can be purchased at the gate, online at BIC's official website www.bahrainicp.com, by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000 or at the BIC stand at City Centre Bahrain.

The extreme acts will be wowing the crowds as each will be showcasing their unique

brand of entertainment.

High Dive Group

The High Dive Group will deliver an electrifying, nerve-wracking, jaw-dropping and mind-blowing act for all seasons. Not only will they be diving from high platforms while twisting, turning, and tumbling into the water, they will be doing it two, three, and four at a time. But they will use flames, hula hoops and hi-jinks to give the audience a thrill and excitement like never before seen.

Pirate Show

The fantastic world of fearless Pirates packed with action and adventure is an experience one can never forget. This Columbian and South African team of Pirates joined together to showcase their amazing acrobatic skills with a smooth mesmerising story of good and bad. Pirates of the Colombian Caribbean Aerial High Wire Thrill Show is a never-ending battle of the treasure map. This takes place suspended on a thin wire cable 30 feet in the air over the top of a huge pirate ship.

Stannage International Stunt Team

Stannage International Stunt Team was established in 2000 and they have travelled worldwide and performed incredible stunts. Team leader Mark Stannage started his professional career in 1984 at the tender age of 14. Now, with over 30 years' experience specialising in car, motorbike, fire and high-fall stunts, he performs some of the most spec-



Celebrations @ Um Al Hasam



Capital Governor Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa during celebrations

TDT | Manama

Capital Governor Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa participated in celebrations marking the National Day held in Um Al Hasam area.

The celebrations featured traditional Ardha dance, a

mini-market for productive families and folkloric shows.

"The festivities are part of the drive to deepen patriotism and reinforce the sense of social community," Shaikh Hisham said. "We wholeheartedly support events and functions that consolidate national unity and promote allegiance to the nation."

Imran Khan to receive Bahrain's highest civilian honour

Islamabad

Bahrain's highest civilian honour, the King Hamad Order of the Renaissance, will be conferred on Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan during his upcoming visit, a Geo TV report said.

The report, also quoting Arab News, said the Pakistan Prime Minister will participate in Bahrain's National Day celebrations.

The visit, Geo TV said, follows an invitation by a senior Bahraini government official in August to visit the Kingdom. Imran Khan will also meet Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Majesty King



Imran Khan

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa during the visit. The meeting will be Khan's first one-on-one meeting with Bahrain's King.

Bahrain visit forms part of Imran Khan's three-country tour which starts on December 15. He will then travel to Geneva to attend a conference on refugees. Malaysia will be his last stop.

tacular stunts ever seen on film or TV. This world record-breaking stunt team have performed their shows all over Europe and the Middle East. Team member Aaron has performed on various TV shows and is fast becoming a superstar while also being a Guinness World Record Holder.

Terry Grant and Lee Bowers

International stunt driver and multiple world record holder Terry Grant was born to drive. Terry is devoted to bringing great stunt-driving and motor-

sport to crowds throughout the world. His accolades include the highest loop-the-loop in a car, the fastest two-wheel mile and the furthest barrel roll jump. Besides, Lee Bowers is the UK's premier professional stunt-rider. Touring all over the world, his control of his bike performing high and low-speed manoeuvres continue to impress crowds wherever he goes. Lee's signature aerobatics and an extensive list of tricks are guaranteed to turn any event into one to be remembered.



Bangladesh School to organise Victory Day fair, Bahrain National Day

TDT | Manama

Bangladesh School Bahrain announced it will organise a Victory Day Fair 'Bijoy Mela 2019' at the school land in A'Ali, Bahrain on 16 and 17 December 2019 to commemorate the Victory Day of Bangladesh and National Day of Bahrain.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the school, Shafqat Anwar, said this at a press conference held at school premises.

The fair will be organised with the active support of the Bangladesh Embassy in Bahrain and



Bangladesh school officials during a press conference held at the school premises to announce Victory Day programmes

various community organisations, professionals and business persons of the Bangladesh community in Bahrain.

Shafqat Anwar also announced the formation of a 51 member Mela Organising Committee headed by Mohammad Giasuddin and Fuad Taher Shunthono.

The event will feature cultural programmes, sports tournaments, exhibitions, food stalls and play attractions for children.

The entry fee for the fair will be BD 1. Proceeds will go towards the welfare activities of

the school in terms of improving infrastructure and enhancing logistical resources.

Bangladesh School Bahrain offers both Curriculum of Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dhaka and Cambridge International Curriculum. Present at the Press Conference were Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors M A Muiz Chowdhury, Finance Director M Zainul Abedin, Member of the Board of Directors Abul Kalam Azad, Mohammad Giasuddin and Fuad Taher Shunthono and Principal, Dr Shareeja Ali M C.

Cardiac centre another milestone in Bahrain-India ties

● Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha welcomed the initiative

● Facilities include third-generation state-of-the-art Cath Lab, Cardiac Critical Care Units and Intensive Care Unit

TDT | Manama

Abhitab Kumar

The Bahrain Specialist Hospital (BSH) Apollo Heart Centre, which was launched yesterday in Manama, has added another milestone in Bahrain-India bilateral relations, Dr Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director of Apollo Hospitals Group, told *Tribune* during an exclusive interaction.

The Heart Centre at Bahrain Specialist Hospital will be operated and managed by Apollo Hospitals and will provide treatment for all aspects of adult cardiology ranging from interventions to cardiac surgery.

With infrastructures such as third-generation state-of-the-art Cath Lab, Cardiac Critical Care Units and Intensive Care Unit, the centre will provide advanced comprehensive cardiac care. An experienced team of doctors, nurses, technicians, and paramedics have been deployed from the Apollo Heart Institute in Hyderabad to serve the people in the Kingdom.

“India has developed capabilities and skills set and teams



Lt General Dr Shaikh Mohammed inaugurates the centre in the presence of Dr Reddy, Mr Sinha, Mr Al Zayani, Dr Ardati and other dignitaries.

“The centre is well equipped for elective, urgent and emergency cardiac surgeries with facilities that keep up with technical progress and scientific knowledge and is suitable for the use of advanced medical equipment

HAMID RASHID AL ZAYANI, CHAIRMAN, BAHRAIN SPECIALIST HOSPITAL

“The BSH Apollo Heart Centre is a culmination of two years of discussions to identify the right speciality where Apollo’s expertise can contribute. Cardiac care is a discipline where Apollo Hospitals brings a wealth of experience and resources, such as established and clear protocols, operating manuals, human capital, and resources, to ensure successful delivery of world-class management and treatment of heart disease. Further specialists will be connected via telemedicine

DR SANGITA REDDY

who can deliver high-quality cardiac care and this skill set can help other countries. It is within the realm and goal of this ideology the partnership has been planned.”

“The BSH Apollo Heart Centre is a culmination of two years of discussions to identify the right speciality where Apollo’s expertise can contribute. Cardiac care is a discipline where Apollo Hospitals brings a wealth of experience and resources, such as established and clear protocols, operating manuals, human capital, and resources, to ensure successful delivery of world-class management and treatment of

heart disease. Further specialists will be connected via telemedicine,” Dr Reddy pointed out.

“Besides, Apollo’s network allows a natural back-up for services such as cardiac surgery and transplant for cases that require more advanced attention and care than what is locally available. We look forward to serving the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain and deliver to them cardiac care comparable to the best in the world,” she added.

Hamid Rashid Al Zayani, Chairman, Bahrain Specialist Hospital said, “Our collaboration with Apollo Hospitals in the form of the BSH Apollo Heart Centre will work to address a critical health issue in the Kingdom. The centre is well

equipped for elective, urgent and emergency cardiac surgeries with facilities that keep up with technical progress and scientific knowledge and is suitable for the use of advanced medical equipment.”

Dr Kasim Ardati, Managing Director, Bahrain Specialist Hospital, said that the centre will offer minimally-invasive treatments for cardiac and vascular diseases by using cutting-edge technologies that meet international standards for cardiac care.

Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha, who was also present on the occasion, welcomed the initiative and wished “Bahrain Specialist Hospital to emerge Bahrain Super Specialist Hospital in the years to come”.



Korean film festival “Korea Cinema Weeks 2019” opened yesterday in the Kingdom. In the picture, a screening held on the occasion

Sacred Heart School celebrates Annual Awards Day



TDT | Manama

Sacred Heart School held its Annual Awards Day at the School Auditorium recently.

A total of 415 students were awarded Certificates of Excellence in Academics and Exemplary Conduct.

Two school toppers and Outstanding Pearson Learning Award winners, Naheen Kabir and Crishelle Sophia D’Souza,

were felicitated for obtaining the highest marks in Mathematics, Chemistry and English Language.

School topper and High Achiever Awards were also distributed to students who appeared for the IGCSE June Examinations.

The Chief Guest of the function was Esam Hammad, Executive Director of the Partnerships & Customer Engagement



In pictures, highlights of the Annual Awards Day celebrations

Department at the Bahrain Labour Fund (Tamkeen) and Guest

of Honour Reverend Father Xavier Marian D’Souza, Parish

Priest of Sacred Heart Church

Students performed a skit ‘Freaky Friday’, dances and songs on the occasion.



WORLD

Horrific Delhi factory blaze kills 43

- Nearly 150 fire personnel carried out the rescue operation
- Pulled out 63 people from the building
- Two fire personnel also sustained injuries
- Many of those killed and injured were fast asleep when the fire broke out
- Most of the people died due to asphyxia
- PM Modi announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakhs each from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) for next of kin of those who have lost their lives due to tragic fire in Delhi. PM has also approved Rs 50,000 each for those seriously injured in the fire

AFP | New Delhi

At least 43 people have died in a factory fire in India's capital New Delhi, with the toll expected to rise, police said.

The blaze broke out in the early hours in the city's old quarter, whose narrow and congested lanes are lined with many small manufacturing and storage units.

"We... have since rescued at least 50 people," Sunil Choudhary, New Delhi's deputy chief fire officer, said.

They were "labourers and factory workers sleeping inside this four-or-five storey building," he said, adding that the fire had been extinguished but rescue operations were ongoing.

A senior Delhi police official said eight or nine people were carried out later, bringing the overall number rescued to at least 58.

Fire officials said it was very difficult to access the dark, poorly lit premises in the commercial hub of Sadar Bazar.

Local news channels aired footage of firemen carrying people out of the narrow lanes to nearby emergency vehicles.

The building was filled with school bags and packing material, fire officials said, but cautioned that they were still unsure about the cause of the blaze.

Monika Bhardwaj, the deputy police commissioner of Delhi's north district said that the death toll from the incident had jumped to "43, with 16 others still admitted at the local hospitals."

"Fire department has completed the rescue work. There are no more bodies at the site. We don't yet know the cause of fire but know that it was aggra-



Members of India's National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) head towards the site of a fire that swept through a factory where laborers were sleeping, in New Delhi



Firemen made their way through narrow lanes



A fire engine is seen at the site of the fire



The site of the fire



Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal met the injured

Fireman saves 11 people trapped

PTI | New Delhi

One of the first firemen to enter the blazing building in Anaj Mandi area, Delhi Fire Service personnel Rajesh Shukla saved 11 people from the inferno on Sunday.

Shukla injured his legs in the rescue operation and is recuperating in LNJP Hospital.

Delhi Home Minister Satyendra Jain met Shukla at the hospital.

"Fireman Rajesh Shukla is a real hero. He was the first fireman to enter the fire spot and he saved around 11 lives. He did his job till the end despite of



Delhi Home Minister Satyendar Jain visting Shukla

his bone injuries. Salute to this brave hero (sic)," Jain tweeted.

vated because of plastic packing pouches, bags and other such material there," Bhardwaj added. "Most who've died were sleeping when the fire broke out

and died due to asphyxiation," Sadar Bazar's assistant commissioner of police said.

Many factories and small manufacturing units in big Indi-

an cities are often located in old, cramped quarters of the cities, where the cost of land is relatively cheaper. Such units often also serve as sleeping quarters

for poor, mostly migrant labourers and workers, who manage to save money by sleeping overnight at their workplaces.

Lack of planning and lax en-

Narendra Modi @narendramodi

The fire in Delhi's Anaj Mandi on Rani Jhansi Road is extremely horrific. My thoughts are with those who lost their loved ones. Wishing the injured a quick recovery. Authorities are providing all possible assistance at the site of the tragedy.

Amit Shah @AmitShah

Tragic loss of precious lives in the fire accident in New Delhi. My deepest condolences with families of those who have lost their loved ones. I pray for the early recovery of the injured. Have instructed concerned authorities to provide all possible assistance on urgent basis.

Arvind Kejriwal @ArvindKejriwal

We have lost more than 40 innocent lives to the tragic fire. I've ordered a magisterial inquiry into its cause, no culprit will be spared. We can't bring back lost lives, but Delhi govt will provide 10 L assistance to families that lost their loved ones & 1 L for the injured.

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi

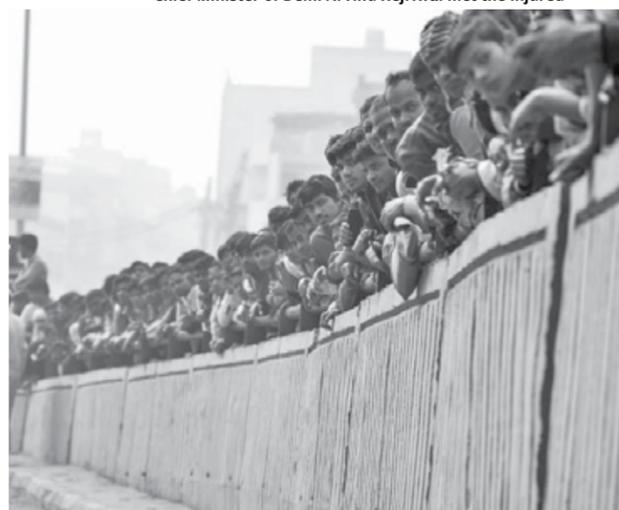
I am hurt with the deaths of several people and injuries to many in a major fire in Delhi's Anaj Mandi. I express my condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of those injured.

forcement of building and safety regulations often leads to such deadly accidents.

"The fire in Delhi's Anaj Mandi on Rani Jhansi Road is extremely horrific. My thoughts are with those who lost their loved ones," Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on Twitter.

"Wishing the injured a quick recovery. Authorities are providing all possible assistance at the site of the tragedy," he added.

Arvind Kejriwal, the chief minister of Delhi, described the incident as "very very tragic news."



Onlookers gathered waiting for news from authorities following the blaze

North Korea conducts 'very important test', says KCNA

● The statement did not provide further details on the test

AFP | Seoul

North Korea said yesterday it had carried out a "very important test" at its space launch centre, as Pyongyang ramps up pressure on Washington over stalled nuclear talks.

The announcement of Saturday's test at the Sohae satellite launch site came just hours after US President Donald Trump said he would be "surprised" by any hostile action from the North.

"A very important test took place at the Sohae Satellite Launching Ground on the afternoon of December 7, 2019," a spokesman for North Korea's Academy of the National Defence Science said.

The result of the latest test will have an "important effect" on changing the "strategic position" of North Korea, the spokesman said in a statement carried by the official KCNA news agency.

The statement did not provide further details on the test.

Soha, on North Korea's northwest coast, is ostensibly a facility designed for putting satellites into orbit.

But Pyongyang has carried out several rocket launches there that were condemned by the US and others as disguised long-range ballistic missile tests.

Satellite imagery taken on December 5 showed a large container box at the site that was "a decent indicator of an impending engine test", Jeffrey Lewis of the US-based Middlebury Institute of International Studies had said ahead of Pyongyang's statement.

Rocket engines are easily repurposed for use in missiles



The latest test comes as North Korea is ramping up pressure ahead of its end-of-year deadline for the US to propose a new offer to kickstart stalled nuclear talks



A very important test took place at the Sohae Satellite Launching Ground on the afternoon of December 7, 2019

A SPOKESMAN FOR NORTH KOREA'S ACADEMY OF THE NATIONAL DEFENCE SCIENCE

and the international community has called Pyongyang's space programme a fig leaf for weapons tests.

North Korea dismantled the test stand at Sohae amid a rapid rapprochement in 2018 but reassembled it this year, Lewis said, adding, "Still, we had not seen any activity at the test stand" until now.

"It is clear that this is one more sign that North Korea is conducting more missile-relat-

ed activities as Kim Jong Un's end-of-year deadline for sanctions relief approaches," he said.

End-of-year deadline

A senior US administration official said, "We have seen the reports of a test, and are coordinating closely with allies and partners".

It comes as Pyongyang is ramping up pressure ahead of its December 31 deadline for the US to propose a new offer to kickstart stalled nuclear talks.

Hours before North Korea announced its latest test, Trump had emphasised his "very good relationship" with North Korean leader Kim.

"Well, we'll see about North Korea. I'd be surprised if North Korea acted hostilely," he said on Saturday afternoon in Washington DC.

"(Kim) knows I have an election coming up. I don't think he wants to interfere with that. But we'll have to see."

Following his first summit with Kim in June 2018, Trump said Kim had agreed to destroy "a major missile engine test-

ing site" without naming the facility.

Kim then agreed to shutter the Sohae site during a summit last year with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in Pyongyang as part of trust-building measures.

Kim has held three meetings with Trump since June 2018 but little progress has been made in efforts towards denuclearisation.

On Thursday, the North's vice foreign minister warned of returning to a war of words with the US, threatening to resume referring to Trump as a "dotard" -- Pyongyang's nickname for the US leader at the height of tensions in 2017.

The comments came a day after it warned that if the US used military force against the North it would take "prompt corresponding actions at any level".

At the recent NATO summit, Trump boasted about Washington's "most powerful military", adding: "Hopefully, we don't have to use it, but if we do, we'll use it. If we have to, we'll do it."

Naughtiest sin?

PM Johnson admits cycling on the pavement



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson. (Courtesy of Irish Examiner)

Reuters | London

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said yesterday that the naughtiest thing he was prepared to admit to was breaking the law by cycling on the pavement.

When asked by Sky what the naughtiest thing he was ready to admit to was, Johnson initially asked advisers for suggestions before saying: "I think, I, you know, I may sometimes, when I was riding a bicycle every day, which I used to do, I may sometimes

have not always have obeyed the law about cycling on the pavement."

"I want you know how firmly and how strongly I disapprove of people who cycle on the pavement and I think it is wrong and I feel bad about it. But I might sometimes have scooted up onto the pavement rather than dismounting before."

Asked if he was nervous about narrowing polls, Johnson said: "Of course, we are fighting for every vote. I think that this is a critical moment for this country."

Thousands of protesters throng streets of Hong Kong

Reuters | Hong Kong

Thousands of black-clad protesters from all walks of life thronged the streets of Hong Kong on Sunday in a sign of broad support for anti-government demonstrations that have roiled the Chinese-ruled city for six months.

With chants of, "Fight for freedom, stand with Hong Kong," anti-government activists, young and old, marched from Victoria Park in the bustling shopping district of Causeway Bay to Chater Road near the heart of the financial district.

Authorities gave the green light to Civil Human Rights



Pro-Beijing supporters attend a rally in Hong Kong

Front (CHRF) to hold the rally, the first time the group has been granted permission for a protest since Aug. 18.

"I will fight for freedom until I die because I am a Hong Konger," said June, a 40-year-old mother dressed in black seated on the grass in Victoria Park. "Today is about standing with Hong Kong, and the international community."

Smoke haze settles over Australian capital as bushfires burn

● Australian fire season is more extreme this year due to a prolonged drought and the effects of climate change.

Sydney

Smoke haze from bushfires raging in Australia spread to the capital yesterday, as firefighters raced to contain more than 140 blazes ahead of a heat-wave forecast early this week.

Australia is experiencing a horrific start to its fire season, which scientists say began earlier and is more extreme this year due to a prolonged drought and the effects of climate change.

Residents of Canberra in the country's southeast woke up to see the capital shrouded in haze Sunday, joining those in Sydney who have endured weeks of toxic air pollution caused by bushfire smoke.

Officials said favourable



The scale of this year's bushfire devastation has been widely described as unprecedented

weather conditions had given them a chance to bring several blazes under control before the forecast return of strong winds and high temperatures Tuesday.

Among those is a "mega fire" burning across 250,000 hectares within an hour's drive of Sydney, Australia's largest city, where ash from the fires has occasionally fallen. Firefighters are now

bracing for Tuesday, when temperatures are expected to reach above 40 Celsius in parts of New South Wales state -- worst-hit by the bushfires -- and gusting westerly winds are likely to fan the flames.

"Today (fire) crews will be doing what they can to consolidate and strengthen containment lines, which in some areas



Nearly 50 reinforcements from the United States and Canada have been flown in to support fatigued firefighters

will include backburning," NSW Rural Fire Service spokesman Greg Allan said.

But the state's Bureau of Meteorology warned that the massive fires are "in some cases just too big to put out at the moment".

"They're pumping out vast amounts of smoke which is filling the air, turning the sky orange & even appearing like

significant rain on our radars," the department tweeted.

Nearly 50 reinforcements from the United States and Canada have been flown in to support fatigued firefighters in recent days, with the international contingent tasked with providing logistical assistance.

In neighbouring Queensland, the focus was also on managing

fatigue among frontline firefighters -- who in both states are almost all volunteers -- as weather there provided a brief reprieve from weeks of battling blazes.

"We're just looking to wind down and recover and prepare for the next round, whenever that may be," a Queensland Fire and Emergency Service spokesman said.

Since the crisis began in September, six people have been killed, more than 700 homes destroyed and an estimated two million hectares (almost five million acres) scorched.

Though the human toll has been far lower than the deadliest fire season in 2009 -- when almost 200 people died -- the scale of this year's devastation has been widely described as unprecedented, as Australians grapple with the impacts of a changing climate.

Official data shows 2019 is on track to be one of the hottest and driest years on record in Australia.

Suu Kyi set to make history in Hague

The Hague

Former democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi is set to make legal history when she defends Myanmar in The Hague this week against charges of genocide targeting the Buddhist



state's minority Rohingya Muslims.

The tiny west African state of Gambia, acting on behalf of the 57-nation Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, will ask the International Court of Justice to take emergency measures to halt Myanmar's "ongoing genocidal actions".

But in a highly unusual move, the office of Nobel Peace laureate and Myanmar civilian leader Suu Kyi has said she will lead a team to the UN's highest court, based in the turreted Peace Palace in the Netherlands.

Legal experts said Suu Kyi would be one of the first national leaders to personally address the tribunal since it was

set up in 1946 after World War II to rule in disputes between countries.

Her plan to appear before the court's judges for the three-day hearing starting Tuesday was "unprecedented and also very unwise", Cecily Rose, an assistant professor in international law at Leiden University, said.

"States never ever send politicians to lead legal teams at the ICJ," she said.

Although Oxford-educated Suu Kyi's background was "impressive, she has no legal qualifications and would be completely at sea before the court," Rose added.

'Defend' Myanmar's interests

Around 740,000 Rohingya were forced to flee into camps in Bangladesh after Myanmar's military launched a violent crackdown on the group in 2017, which UN investigators concluded amounted to genocide.

The case will be the first international legal attempt to bring Myanmar to justice over the crisis, and is a rare example of a country suing another over an issue to which it is not directly a party.

Muslim-majority Gambia's case alleges that Myanmar has breached the 1948 UN Genocide

Convention. It is seeking the special measures pending a future decision by the court on whether to take on the wider case.

Any final judgment could take years.

Suu Kyi has said she is heading to The Hague in order to "defend the national interests of Myanmar".

Myanmar is expected to argue that the court has no jurisdiction, that its military operation was targeting Rohingya militants and that its own investigations into alleged abuse are adequate.

However, Suu Kyi's international reputation has been tarnished by her response to the crisis, with critics saying she is acting as an apologist for the same military that kept her under house arrest for many years.

'Personally responsible'

Experts say Suu Kyi now risks being in the legal firing line herself.

"It's highly unusual for top leaders to go to the ICJ themselves to defend their countries," said Willem van Genugten, professor of international law at the Netherlands' Tilburg University.

"What you often see is that they come to The Hague when a case is launched to attract extra

publicity," he added, for example when then-Bolivian president Evo Morales came to The Hague for a ruling on a border dispute with Chile.

Myanmar faces other legal challenges, including an investigation by the International Criminal Court -- another Hague-based tribunal set up in 2002 to probe war crimes -- and a lawsuit in Argentina.

This week's case will be only the fourth in the ICJ's history invoking the genocide convention, after two involving the 1990s Balkans wars and another one between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda in 2002.

ICJ judges have only once ruled that genocide was committed: the 1995 Srebrenica massacre of 8,000 Muslim men and boys in Bosnia.

"What might be seen as unusual about Aung San Suu Kyi leading the Myanmar delegation is the fact that she is viewed as personally responsible at some level for Myanmar's alleged wrongdoing," Mike Becker, assistant international law professor at Trinity College in Dublin, said.

"Suu Kyi is not personally on trial at the ICJ... but her presence will be remarkable."

● Experts say Suu Kyi now risks being in the legal firing line herself

● States never ever send politicians to lead legal teams at the ICJ

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● Around 740,000 Rohingya were forced to flee into camps in Bangladesh after Myanmar's military launched a violent crackdown on the group in 2017

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● The case will be the first international legal attempt to bring Myanmar to justice over the crisis

30,000 monks attend mass alms-giving in Myanmar

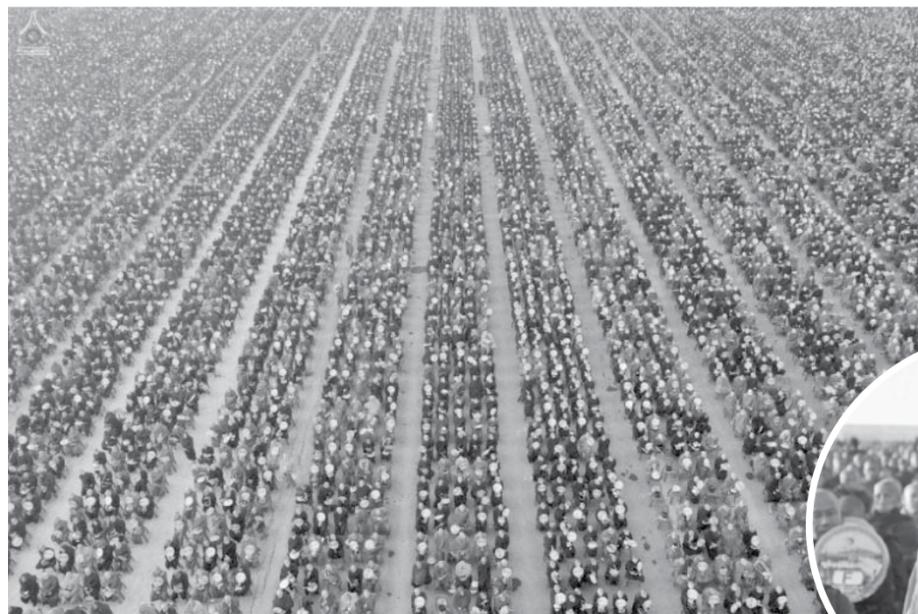
● The event was the third and largest of its kind since 2015

Mandalay | Myanmar

Thirty-thousand monks assembled in the early morning chill in Myanmar on Sunday for a spectacular alms-giving event, partly organised by a controversial mega-temple under scrutiny across the border in Thailand.

With many barefoot, Buddhist monks from Myanmar and Thailand and senior religious officials from a dozen countries collected alms next to an airport in the central city of Mandalay, that is also a heartland of the faith.

As the sun rose over the ancient town, a sea of saffron and maroon-robed monks assembled in an area the size of a football



As the sun rose over the ancient town of Mandalay in Myanmar, a sea of saffron and maroon-robed monks assembled in an area the size of a football field.

field.

They meditated, prayed and collected alms in an event meant to tighten the relationship of "monks and Buddhists between (the) two countries" and to "strengthen the monkhood" in the region, according to a statement.

"I hope we can continue to hold bigger events in the coming years," said U Thu Nanda, a 24-year-old Burmese monk.



The event was the third and largest of its kind since 2015 and comes as one of the organisers, the Thailand-based Dhammakaya foundation, attempts to bounce back from an embezzlement scandal more than two years ago.

The Dhammakaya temple's massive compound in northern Bangkok was under siege for two weeks in early 2017 as thousands of officers try to arrest the sect's spiritual leader.

Phra Dhammachayowho was accused of colluding in a \$33 million embezzlement scheme and was believed to be hiding somewhere on the temple's sprawling 1,000 acre grounds, an area twice the size of Monaco.

He was never found but the temple is still operational.

This year it also organized two large alms-giving events in Thailand in September and October attended by 10,000 monks to solicit donations for flood victims.

Russia not an enemy? Macron's Moscow strategy faces first test

Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron this week faces the first major test of his policy of directly engaging with Russia that has disturbed some European allies, as he hosts a summit seeking progress in ending the Ukraine conflict.

Joined by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Macron will bring together Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky for their first face-to-face meeting at an afternoon summit at the Elysee Palace in Paris today.

The stakes are high: this will be the first such summit in three years and while diplomats caution against expecting a major



French President Emmanuel Macron will host Russian leader Vladimir Putin in Paris today as part of his new strategy to directly engage with Moscow

breakthrough, a failure to agree concrete confidence-building steps would be seen as a major blow to hopes for peace and also Macron's personal prestige.

Macron, who is pressing ahead

with the summit despite crippling public transport strikes at home over contested pension reforms, has invested hugely in efforts to end the conflict in the east of Ukraine that has claimed

13,000 lives since 2014.

And he has also placed his bets on a risky strategy to deal directly with Putin, based on the assumption that one day Russia will understand it is in the national interest to see Europe as its long-term strategic partner.

"It is an important test for Macron and for the Europeans," said Michel Duclos, a former ambassador and senior fellow at the Institut Montaigne, a French think tank.

"He is already very isolated. And if he obtains nothing on Ukraine he is going to be even more isolated," he added.

'Threat but also a partner'

Macron has adopted an increasingly assertive presence on

the international stage in recent months, at a time when Germany is a less imposing diplomatic player as Merkel prepares to leave office.

His thoughts were summed up in an explosive interview with The Economist last month, when he declared NATO was brain dead and said Europe needed to have a strategic dialogue with Russia.

Examining Russia's long-term strategic options under Putin, Macron said in the interview that Russia could not prosper in isolation, would not want to be a "vassal" of China and would eventually have to opt for "a partnership project with Europe".

Macron notably described ex-

KGB agent Putin as a "child of Saint Petersburg", the former Russian capital built by Peter the Great as a window onto the West.

His comments disturbed newer EU members that want a tough line against their former master Russia like the Baltic States and, in particular, Poland.

But after a summit of NATO leaders in England earlier this month, Macron was unrepentant and categorical about his strategy of cultivating Russia.

"Who is NATO's enemy? Russia is no longer an enemy. It remains a threat but is also a partner on some subjects. Our enemy today is international terrorism and in particular Islamist terrorism," he said.

A great peril lurks in Iraq

So far, some 450 protesters have been killed and 20,000 injured in the two months since demonstrations began in early October



ABDULRAHMAN AL-RASHED

The masked and unidentified perpetrators now being described as the “third party” are, indeed, the Iranian-backed militias that receive their money — and the salaries of their tens of thousands of members — from the Iraqi government

Iraq, which is looking to get out of its crisis, could turn into another Syria unless politicians, parliamentarians and military agencies address the situation and block the road before the “third party.” The campaign to target unarmed protesters is getting bigger and more violent, and will push the latter to turn to violence themselves. The masked and unidentified perpetrators now being described as the “third party” are, indeed, the Iranian-backed militias that receive their money — and the salaries of their tens of thousands of members — from the Iraqi government. So far, some 450 protesters have been killed and 20,000 injured in the two months since demonstrations began in early October. The attack on demonstrators on Friday was the most daring and violent, when unknown assailants killed about 25 people in the capital Baghdad as the security forces stood neutral.

Because no one is identifying the killers by name, although it is a secret known by all, whether it

is Asa’ib Ahl Al-Haq or any of the other armed groups, organized violence will continue and the Iraqi state will continue to lose control day by day.

These militias are daring to engage in confrontations because nobody calls them by name; there is no public warning against them and they are exploiting their semi-official character. These militias live on the government’s own money and do not abide by its orders, despite numerous attempts to tame them. The army — the official military establishment — simply watches and does not intervene, even though it is able to curb the militias. It also whines about the militias’ adoption within the armed forces, although they are originally irregulars and act as if they belong to a foreign state.

No one, neither from the neighbouring countries nor the major powers, wants to push things in Iraq toward a clash; but everyone notes with concern how Tehran wants to control the country’s decisions and organs, because it

is experiencing serious financial, economic and internal security hardship at home, and sees in neighbouring Iraq the soft ground and weak regime.

What about those who promote the argument that civil protests are a project to change the Iraqi political system, and therefore must be suppressed?

In fact, those invoking fear for the regime from the protesters are the ones trying to impose change and take over the remaining state entities that represent Iraq, the homeland and the state. The protests, despite the chaos that has marred them and the unrealistic demands made by some, are in fact strengthening the legitimacy of government, because they call for change and correction from within, not for a coup d’etat. The protesters actually recognize state institutions and their maximum demands are early elections, accountability for those involved in corruption, establishing the rule of law, and activating the role of constitutional institutions that for years have been in a stalemate.



A protestor holds a blood-stained flag at the

The militias and some political forces, on the other hand, reject the protesters’ calls because they do not want to correct the faulty situations that benefit them.

Today’s culture wars in the V to tackle violent ext



DAMIEN MCELROY

Freedom of speech has been hijacked by the fashionable theory that words hurt. But it has also detracted from the struggle against hateful ideologies

From platforming to gaslighting, the lexicon of offences deemed unfit for public consumption is rapidly expanding. New labels or unfamiliar tags have been attached to whole generations, such as snowflakes, boomers and zoomers, to name but three.

There is no aspect of life that is deemed too trivial for the focus of a dispute. Last week, it was the Mr Men series of comics for children. A PhD student reported that in one book, Mr Clever had been disparaging towards his fellow character Little Miss Curious. Gaslighting.

There is a torrent of headline-making controversies fuelling support for bans and witch-hunts. But the trend is not as clearcut as the media coverage would suggest. When attitudes are rigorously analysed, what is exposed is that priorities have become dangerously skewed.

At one level, freedom of speech has been hijacked by the fashionable theory that words hurt. The flipside is that this has detracted from the



Radical cleric Anjem Choudary is seen leaving a probation hostel in London

vital struggle against hateful ideologies and the people who use these to radicalise recruits.

Two recent studies in the US and UK among high-school and university students found strong figures endorsing the overall principle of free speech. The results were nuanced but can be interpreted as demonstrating the resilience of basic principles.

More than 80 per cent of students

said that freedom of expression was more important than ever while just over half said it was under threat, according to the data published by the policy unit of King’s College London. Only a quarter of the 2,000 students surveyed said they were unable to express their opinions and 63 per cent said free speech and robust debate were well protected at their university.

Separately, a long-running Knight

Foundation survey of students from the biggest schools in the US found a rise in support for the First Amendment of that country’s constitution — which guarantees freedom of expression — over a 15-year period between 2004 and 2018. A report by the foundation said that this was important because attitudes generally prove durable over time. Strong support among the young for free speech is a positive signal for the

536

Byzantine General Belisarius enters Rome while the Ostrogothic garrison peacefully leaves the city, returning the old capital to its empire

1212

Frederick II (later also Holy Roman Emperor) crowned King of Germany in Mainz

1968

NLS (a system for which hypertext and the computer mouse were developed) is publicly demonstrated for the first time in San Francisco.



1990

Lech Wałęsa wins Poland's 1st direct presidential election in Poland



The site of a gunmen attack in Baghdad, Iraq

Thus, the protesters represent the power of the legitimate state, and represent an opportunity for the political system to take advantage of their calls to reform the overall situation. This duty is impossible to achieve without the pressure of the street; therefore, to protect protesters is to protect the regime and to deter the killing of protesters is to deter the greatest peril threatening the modern Iraqi state, which is those militias whose co-option into the armed forces has failed and who continue to be a source of massive financial waste and destruction.

West have failed remism

Despite years of promises from internet platforms, there is no framework to remove dangerous content. All available on YouTube are more than 100 propaganda videos from Anwar Al Awlaki, Al Qaeda's recruiting sergeant, eight years after he was killed on the Yemeni battlefield

constitutional principles are undercut and undermined by increment. It also demonstrates how much effort goes into sweating over minor changes in procedure. The problem, meanwhile, is that these fierce culture wars over language have done damage beyond the immediate feuds.

In the wake of the recent terror attack on London Bridge, it has become clear how much ground has been lost from tackling extremism.

Despite years of promises from internet platforms, there is no framework to remove dangerous content. Still available on YouTube are more than 100 propaganda videos from Anwar Al Awlaki, Al Qaeda's recruiting sergeant, eight years after he was killed on the Yemeni battlefield.

Extremism is not called out or excluded in the way that intellectuals are put in the crosshairs. Even when proponents are not making the direct arguments and calls to violence, they are able to use the public domain to advance their agenda and undermine ideas they see as a threat. To weaponise terror incidents, such as the one that occurred on London Bridge, all that is necessary is access to the public to put an alternative worldview. The spotlight is not focused on what lies behind their language.

Despite the attack, known hard-

liners have been able to access the television screens to put their own spin on the attack. Moazzam Begg, the founder of the controversial CAGE advocacy group that campaigns against Britain's anti-extremism policy, was on Good Morning Britain, the mainstream breakfast television show, following the attack that killed two. There, Mr Begg was not so much put on the spot about the atrocity as allowed to make arguments against the official counter-extremist Prevent programme. The former Guantanamo inmate argued that Prevent's programme was radicalising young Muslims.

Meanwhile, Anjem Choudary was back in the news when an old picture emerged of him posing with Usman Khan, the London Bridge killer. The British hate preacher, who was released from jail last year after being sentenced in 2016 for leading an extremist network linked to violent jihadists, had over the years used the freedoms of expression and association to radicalise a generation of men.

As the art of outrage took off during the past decade, the battle focused on principles of free speech. The problem with this was self-absorbed labelling and no-platforming arguments effectively gave a free pass to the forces of radicalisation to stay in the public domain.

Priorities cannot change soon enough.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



As a woman I have no interest in who celebrates birthdays or not. It's a trivialization of a structural issue. You want to be serious and substantive: spend a year on the streets galvanising the rage this country feels today. This is the moment. Everything else is ticker tape

@BDUTT

02



In Pune, I met former Union Minister Arun Shourie Ji. Enquired about his health and had a wonderful interaction with him. We pray for his long and healthy life.

@narendramodi

03



This past week, @realDonaldTrump led on the world stage at #NATO, 266K new jobs were created in November and unemployment hit a 50-year low. What did Pelosi and the Democrats do? Continue their political vendetta against @realDonaldTrump. Shameful!

@GOPChairwoman

04



“Where the President uses his foreign affairs power in ways that betray the national interest for his own benefit, or harm national security for equally corrupt reasons, he is subject to impeachment by the House,” Democrats wrote.

@kylegriffin1

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

Tidal waves can power Bahrain's future



KOTA SRIRAJ

Even though fossil fuels cater to approximately 80 per cent of the global energy needs it is also equally true that these non-renewable sources of energy are making the world an increasingly difficult place to live in. Easy to use and plenty of it around, these fossil fuels have a high cost attached to them, they have to be burnt to release the stored energy in them. This combustion leads to harmful emissions such as particulates, sulfur, nitrogen, and carbon dioxide gas. These elements react with the ambient water vapour and lead to the formation of acidic compounds that create acid rain as well. These adverse impacts of fossil fuel combustion precipitate rising temperatures and cause climate change.

Apart from environment, fossil fuels usages have an adverse impact on human life as well. According to the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, America, fossil-fuel-related emissions account for about 65 per cent of the excess mortality rate attributable to air pollution. In spite of sufferings meted out by fossil fuels, mankind still relies on the same for the majority of energy needs and this hapless dependency on fossil fuels is proving to be the Achilles Heel of mankind. Wind and solar power have long being hailed as the providential alternatives to fossil fuels and nations across the world have spent billions on the setting up wind and solar power farms and conducted enormous research and development projects as well. But still, these power sources have neither replaced fossil fuels nor have reached the scalability that is needed for an alternative source of energy to display before it can be considered as a practical replacement to fossil fuels.

Bahrain too is caught in the crosshairs of fossil fuel use. The nation is an important non-OPEC member oil and natural gas producer in the region and to cater to the growing energy requirements, the country imports fossil fuels. To reduce imports and cater to the rising domestic energy demand Bahrain is in the process of increasing energy output, but this too is fossil fuel fired. To counterbalance the increasing dependence on fossil fuels, the government is making commendable efforts to integrate more renewable energy in its energy mix, and aims to achieve 5 per cent of electricity generation from renewable energy resources by 2030. This a good move by the government but even in the renewable energy options the Government can ensure a variety of mix which can include wave or tidal power in a major manner.

Tidal power also popularly known as wave energy converts the kinetic wave movement into energy mainly electricity. Across the world, wave energy has not reached the potential it is capable of. Tidal wave energy has many benefits, as waves are more predictable than sun and wind. Many recent technological developments and improvements, both in design and turbine technology in the form of axial and cross flow turbines indicate that the total availability of tidal power may be much higher than previously assumed, and that economic and environmental costs may be brought down to competitive levels. World Bank data shows that the energy demand in Bahrain is expected to reach 19,706 Gwh by year 2020. Keeping this in mind it is crucial for Bahrain to add the latent potential of tidal wave energy to its portfolio of power resources. This will also help reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

According to estimates 40 per cent of world's population lives near coastlines, and therefore the energy requirements of this population can be easily met with the wave energy. Bahrain too can switch the energy supply of coast based residents and offices from fossil fuel powered to wave power at least for a part of a day in order to save the environment and reduce the green house gas emissions. But for this initiative to be successful, Bahrain must examine its coastlines for the shape of the land beneath the sea as this has a major bearing on power generation as the attributes of sea floor changes the size and shape of the waves.

In order to make the wave energy a reality, the technological expertise of Bahrain must come into play. Bahrain must engage its finest computer research and development teams to put together simulation programmes that can factor in the wave sizes, shape, speed the form of sea floor and so on. The simulation programmes can then provide a scientific estimate regarding which geographical locations along the Bahraini coastlines are suitable for setting up wave energy converters and power plants. These energy hotspots can then be rapidly developed into full-fledged power generating stations, which not only add to Bahrain's power bank but also provide yet another alternative to polluting fossil fuel derived power.

business

CBB launches new liquidity management tool

TDT | Manama

The Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) announced launching a Single binding Wa'ad based structure facility which is a Shari'ah compliant alternative to the Foreign Exchange Forward.

The move forms part of CBB's efforts towards the development of Islamic banking and promoting liquidity management for Islamic retail banks.

This tool is based on the "Single Binding Wa'ad based structure" agreement that has

been developed by the International Islamic Financial Market (IIFM) and the International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA).

It is considered the latest effort by the industry body to improve the available hedging practices in the Islamic banking sector.

The CBB emphasises that providing such a Shariah-compliant product contributes to the diversification of Islamic investment opportunities and enhances the Kingdom's position as a financial centre for Islamic banking.

In Islamic finance, Wa'ad, or promise, refers to an obligation issued by one counterparty, such as a potential purchaser or purchase orderer in Murabaha transactions, to another, and whereby the promisor undertakes towards the promisee to proceed with the contract. Shari'a considers a promise as binding on the issuer unless an excuse (force majeure) comes forth and prevents fulfilment. In law, a promise is binding if it is pending on a cause and incurring the promisee costs and expenses.



Murabaha refers to the selling of a commodity for a given price plus a certain profit margin as agreed upon by the seller and buyer. The profit margin can either be a percentage of the purchase price or a lump sum amount.

Courtesy of Investment&finance)

BCCI forum on E-payment

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) represented by its Technology Committee and in cooperation with the BENEFIT is holding a forum on electronic payment on Thursday at 10:00 am in Al Majlis Hall of Bait Al Tijjar.

The forum will shed light on the services offered by BEN-

EFIT including the payment gateway and Fawateer in addition to the services of Bahrain Credit Reference Bureau. The forum will also unveil the prospective trajectory of the company. BCCI calls on all members to attend and learn about the advantages of embracing the latest technologies and the implications of electronic payment and e-commerce on their businesses.

France ready to take Trump's tariff threat to WTO: Le Maire

Reuters | Paris

France is ready to go to the World Trade Organisation to challenge US President Donald Trump's threat to put tariffs on champagne and other French goods in a row over a planned French tax on internet companies, the finance minister said yesterday.

"We are ready to take this to an international court, notably the WTO, because the national tax on digital companies touches US companies in the same way as EU or French companies or Chinese. It is



French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire

not discriminatory," French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said on France 3 television.

Alba holds 'Re-invent yourself as a Leader' Workshop



Participants during the workshop

TDT | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) emphasised its commitment to the continuous development by holding a Workshop titled 'Re-invent yourself as a Leader' for the Executive Management, Directors and Managers on 5 December 2019 at Alba Club.

Based on the leadership book

'What happens now? Re-invent yourself as a leader before the business outruns you', the one-day Workshop was delivered by its co-author Mark Nevins. The session highlighted key concepts on leading high-performing teams, avoiding dysfunctionality, habits of effective leaders and principles of emotional intelligence along with many interactive team exercises.

On this occasion, Alba's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Ali Al Baqali said: "The last of the Executive Education Series of 2019, the 'Re-invent yourself as a Leader' Workshop helped the Executive and Management team to gain insights into the must-leadership strategies of tomorrow with a special focus on how to think differently to

master the changes and transform challenges into opportunities for Alba's future growth."

Mark Nevins has held leadership roles in strategy and management and is a consultant to executive teams at leading organizations around the world including American Express, Boeing, Ford Motor Company, Google, NBC Universal, Citibank, etc.

Waqf fund hosts workshop on whistleblowing



Participants posing for a group picture during the workshop

TDT | Manama

The Waqf Fund organised its 11th Corporate Governance workshop in Bahrain to discuss the various issues related to whistleblowing, responsibilities towards customers and the purpose of the corporation.

Twenty-four participants including Board members and CEOs of Waqf Fund member institutions attended the workshop.

Dr Nabil El-Hage, an expert on corporate governance and a former professor of Harvard Business School, led the workshop. He discussed various cases and facilitated

a lively discussion among the participants.

At the end the Chairman of the Waqf Fund, Khalid Hamad, encouraged the participants to continue to attend the workshops in the future (organized twice a year) which should help them carry out their responsibilities as Board members more effectively.

Ebrahim K. Kanoo, Lexus back BCICAI conference



Officials during the conference

TDT | Manama

Ebrahim K. Kanoo and Lexus were the automotive partners of the 11th Annual Inter-

national Conference of the Bahrain Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (BCICAI).

The conference was held under the patronage of the Minis-



Lexus displayed the 2020 Lexus RX and GX.

ter of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Zayed R. Al Zayani on the theme 'Disruption, A Catalyst for Growth'. The conference explored the technological advances and workplace struc-

tural progress that have disrupted traditional ways of thinking and doing business.

At this year's conference, Lexus displayed the 2020 Lexus RX and GX.

Jeff Bezos says Amazon wants to work more with the Pentagon

Reuters | Simi Valley, California

Amazon.com Inc founder Jeff Bezos said it would support the US Department of Defence as technology companies vie for more defence contracts and the Pentagon seeks to modernize itself.

"We are going to support the Department of Defence, this



Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon and Blue Origin

country is important," Bezos said at an annual defence forum at the Reagan Library in Simi Valley, California.

Tech companies have faced challenges when trying to work with the Pentagon. Last year a defence programme, named Project Maven, set off a revolt, as some employees opposed

Google technology being used in warfare. Those employees said it clashed with Google's stated goal of doing no harm and cited risks around using a nascent artificial intelligence technology in lethal situations.

While Bezos said he supported employees having passionately held views, he said it was up to

the senior leaders of companies to provide guidance on what projects they would and would not do.

"My view is that if big tech is turning their back on the Department of Defence, this country is in big trouble," Bezos said.

Amazon had competed to pro-

vide cloud computing capabilities to the Pentagon.

But last month the company filed a lawsuit in federal court contesting the Defence Department's September decision to award a cloud computing contract worth up to \$10 billion to rival bidder Microsoft Corp.

Fed to hold fire as US economy ends 2019 on a strong note

● US President Donald Trump has maintained a steady campaign to pressure the Fed to slash interest rates and pump up the economy, even as his trade wars create uncertainty that puts growth at risk

AFP | Washington

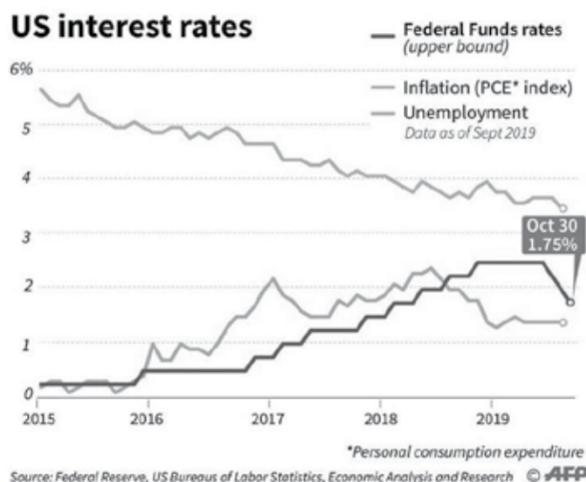


At this point in the long expansion, I see the glass as much more than half full

FED CHAIRMAN JEROME POWELL SAID IN A NOVEMBER SPEECH



US Federal Reserve publishes latest meeting minutes



US President Donald Trump

the situation and the uncertainty but at least you're not adding insult to injury which allows the consumer to move forward."

"The tipping point really is, you know whether or not we get some kind of phase one deal," she said.

Trump announced a deal in October but which still has not yet been signed, although more positive signals have trickled out.

As the summer came to an end, the Fed slashed lending rates, spooked by a slackening economy and the slow burn of a trade war that took several turns for the worse as the acrimony between Washington and Beijing mounted.

Those days were "far from dull," Powell said in the November speech, recalling queasy moments this year as manufacturing fell into recession, business investment tanked, exports sank and job creation figures were revised substantially downward.

Even amid more positive data, those dark spots in the economy have mostly persisted. Adjusted for inflation, consumer spending in October was the weakest since February.

Economists warned that pressure on the Fed to resume cutting could return.

Rubeela Farooqi, chief US economist at High Frequency Economics, told AFP she expected GDP growth could slip below two percent at the end of 2019 and into the first quarter of 2020.

"If that actually happens and you see other spillover effects, I think the FOMC will probably need to ease further in the first quarter of next year," she said.

September of next year, when another cut could occur.

The odds of a recession within the next 12 months, according to the New York Federal Reserve Bank, have also begun to decline (though they are still pretty high at about one in three).

The outlook could change dramatically depending on what happens to the trade conflict with China. If Washington and Beijing manage to seal a partial trade deal and at least cease hostilities, an end to uncertainty could give businesses a sharp boost.

A 'far from dull' summer

Economist Diane Swonk of Grant Thornton told AFP an apparent truce in the China trade war seemed to have lightened the mood among consumers and employers along with a helping hand from the Fed's stimulus.

"There has been this detente that's gone on for more than 50 days," she said. "It doesn't cure

omy performs early in the new year.

The rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee will release its decision at 1900 GMT on Wednesday, along with an updated quarterly economic forecast.

Since the last meeting in October, Fed members have made clear that monetary policy is in "good place." However a "material change" in their outlook could cause them to move again.

"At this point in the long expansion, I see the glass as much more than half full," Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said in a November speech.

Consumer spending and confidence are strong. The housing market has picked up. Unemployment is still very low as hiring continues. GDP growth slowed in the third quarter but was still better than feared.

Futures markets as of Friday predicted the Fed would leave rates untouched until at least

With the strength of the world's largest economy on display at year end, the US Federal Reserve is all but certain to leave interest rates untouched at its final policy meeting of 2019 this week.

While Latin America and Europe are stagnant and China has begun to sputter worryingly, November's blockbuster US jobs report -- which blew past economists' expectations -- underscored the resilience of American labor markets despite headwinds from President Donald Trump's grinding trade war and signs of slower consumer spending.

In that context, the Fed may feel it can take a bow for piloting a Goldilocks economy: one that is just right.

The signs of resilience validate the Fed's decision in October to pause policy after three cuts in the benchmark lending rate this year. Policymakers can now wait to see how the econ-

UK PM Johnson promises lower immigration if he wins



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson attends the launch of a general campaign poster at the Kent Showground in Detling, Kent, Britain

Reuters | London

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson promised lower immigration if he wins power in an election on Thursday, but said he was not hostile to allowing foreigners to work and live in Britain overall.

Britain votes on Dec. 12 in an election which will decide the fate of Brexit and the world's fifth largest economy with a stark choice between Johnson's pro-market Conservatives and the socialist-led opposition Labour Party.

"Numbers will come down because we'll be able to control the system in that way," Johnson

told Sky News. "And what I don't think is right is to have an uncontrolled and unlimited approach to that."

Johnson has promised a points-based approach to controlling immigration. He said his focus would be cutting down on unskilled migration, but that there would be scope for high skilled and other workers to come to Britain.

"I'm not hostile to immigration ... I'm a believer in allowing people to come to this country and I think if they have talents and they want to do things and make their lives in the UK and they can contribute to our country - fantastic."

IMF and Ukraine reach tentative \$5.5 bn aid deal

Washington

The International Monetary Fund said Saturday it had reached an agreement in principle with Ukraine on a new \$5.5 billion, three-year aid program for the war-scarred country.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva welcomed the deal, adding it was subject to IMF management approval.

Georgieva said she spoke by telephone on Saturday to President Volodymyr Zelensky and commended him on "impressive progress" on reforms and "sound economic policies."

"The President and I agreed that Ukraine's economic success depends crucially on strengthening the rule of law, enhancing the integrity of the judiciary, and reducing the role of vested interests," she said.

She added that it was "paramount to safeguard the gains



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky

made in cleaning up the banking system and recover the large costs to the taxpayers from bank resolutions."

The IMF and other international donors have repeatedly pressed Kiev to attract much-needed investment by addressing pervasive corruption and reducing the power of oligarchs.

But bankers and analysts said they fear the current authorities are targeting former bankers who have helped clean up the market instead of the oligarch owners of banks that go bankrupt.

French PM says he is determined to complete pension reform

Reuters | Paris

French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said he is determined to see through his government's planned pensions reform, but the leader of hard-line union CGT said he will fight until the plan is withdrawn, the two men said in interviews published yesterday.

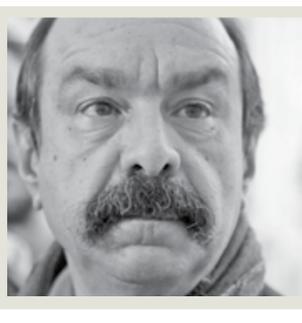
French transport systems were paralyzed for a fourth day on Sunday as unions at state railway SNCF and Paris public transport system RATP maintained their strike against the reform.

"I am determined to take this pension reform to its completion and I will do this respectfully and I will address people's concerns about it," Philippe told



French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe delivers a statement at the Hotel Matignon in Paris following a massive strike and protests against the government pensions reforms plan in France,

weekly *Le Journal du Dimanche*. "If we do not implement a



thorough, serious and progressive reform today, someone else will do one tomorrow, but really brutally," he added.

Philippe said on Friday that he will present a detailed outline of the pension reform plan on Wednesday.

We will continue until the plan is withdrawn. Let (Philippe) listen to people's anger. Let him say that only idiots never change their minds. Let him go back to square one

CGT LEADER PHILIPPE MARTINEZ

CGT leader Philippe Martinez said his union would keep up its protest until the government drops the plan. "We will continue until the plan is withdrawn," he told the JDD.

"Let (Philippe) listen to people's anger. Let him say that

only idiots never change their minds. Let him go back to square one," Martinez said, adding that "there is nothing good" in the government reform plan.

France has one of the most generous pension systems among OECD countries. Pres-

ident Emmanuel Macron was elected in 2017 on a platform to liberalize the economy and reform the pension system.

Macron wants to introduce a pension system with equal rights for everyone and to do away with a set of sub-systems under which some workers at SNCF, RATP and other institutions can retire in their early fifties, a decade ahead of others.

Unions are planning a second demonstration on Tuesday, following a first demonstration in Paris on Thursday, when 65,000 people marched in Paris and 806,000 took part in protests nationwide, according to police figures.

Realty expected to contribute 5-6pc to Bahrain's GDP

Deputy Premier Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa opens BIPEX 2019

- Around 45 local and foreign exhibitors are participating in this year's expo
- "Villamar" project may be resolved before the end of this year

● "Elegant City" development project has been referred it to the Ministerial Committee

● The two-day conference includes seven in-depth sessions, panels and practical seminars

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's real estate sector's contribution to the GDP is expected to reach 5-6 per cent by the end this year, with the sector continuing to demonstrate its ability to attract investments, said Deputy Premier Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa.

Shaikh Khalid, who is also the Chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Development and Infrastructure Projects, said the sector is among the top non-oil sectors that contribute to the Kingdom's GDP.

The Deputy Premier also attributed the sector's growth to the progress march spearheaded by His Majesty King Hamad



Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa opening BIPEX 2019



During a conference session on the Future of Real Estate in Bahrain

bin Isa Al Khalifa, the sound policies of the government

chaired by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and the support of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme

Commander and First Deputy Premier.

Shaikh Khalid was inaugurating the 12th edition of the Bahrain International Property Exhibition and Forum, BIPEX 2019, organised by the Bahrain Society of Engineers

(BSE).

Around 45 local and foreign exhibitors are participating in this year's expo which began on Saturday and concludes today. Around 1500 people visited BIPEX yesterday.

In his inaugural speech, Shaikh Khalid highlighted the regulatory and administrative stages undergone by the real estate sector in the kingdom, thanks to the establishment of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) and Benyat system inaugurated by HRH the Crown Prince

in 2018 to issue construction permits. Benyat, Shaikh Khalid said, has resulted in increasing the number of construction permits from 7092 in 2018 to 7465 in 2019, an increase of 5 per cent. The Deputy Premier also renewed his call for authorised engineering firms to continue submitting their remarks to improve the system. Regarding stalled projects, Shaikh Khalid indicated that the issue of the "Villamar" project may be resolved before the end of this year. On "Elegant City" development project, he said that the Cabinet had referred it to the Ministerial Committee for Development and Infrastructure Projects for further study, due to its categorisation as a stalled real estate project. Bahrain Society of Engineers President, Dr Dheya A. Aziz Towfiqi, expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to the Deputy Prime Minister for his unwavering support to the real estate sector. BIPEX also hosts a two-day conference to address a broad range of conceptual and practical issues relating to residential and commercial real estate. The sessions will act as a channel to facilitate interactive dialogue amongst all stakeholders of the real estate industry in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The two-day conference includes seven in-depth sessions, panels and practical seminars.

US debate on internet liability spills over to global trade deals

Washington

US lawmakers seeking to rein in Big Tech have been stepping up efforts to limit legal immunity for online services, and now are taking that fight global.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi this week backed a move by fellow lawmakers to carve out the so-called Section 230 protection -- which some activists say is a cornerstone of the open internet -- from a North American trade pact with Canada and Mexico, known as USMCA.

"There are concerns in the House about enshrining the increasingly controversial Section 230 liability shield in our trade agreements, particularly at a time when Congress is considering whether changes need to be made in US law," Pelosi spokesman Henry Connolly said.

Debate on Section 230, a clause in the 1996 Communications Decency Act, has been raging for months amid rising concerns about the failure of tech platforms to curb hate speech, extremist content, copyright infringement and other abuses.

The effort to modify the law -- which immunizes online services from third-party content on their sites -- has drawn support from both Democrats and Republicans.

Republican Senator Josh Hawley proposed legislation earlier this year that would end the immunity unless companies submit to an "external audit" which shows they are acting in



Some analysts say that anger at Big Tech platforms is the reason for a push to limit their immunity, but that a stricter regulatory system could backfire



The deadly mosque attack in New Zealand livestreamed around the world raised concerns about the responsibility of online platforms to remove violent and abusive content

a "politically neutral" manner.

"With Section 230, tech companies get a sweetheart deal that no other industry enjoys: complete exemption from traditional publisher liability in exchange for providing a forum free of political censorship," Hawley said in introducing the legislation. "Unfortunately, and unsurprisingly, big tech has failed to hold up its end of the bargain."

'Proxy' for tech missteps

Civil liberties activists said Hawley's bill is unconstitutional and would put the government in charge of regulating speech. Other analysts point out that Section 230 has enabled the internet to thrive and that modifying it could be devastating for the internet and online speech.

"The services that we enjoy the most exist because of Section 230," said Eric Goldman, director of the High-Tech Law Institute at Santa Clara University.

Goldman said Section 230 has become a "proxy" for the frustrations with Facebook and Google but that "American consumers would be the losers" if the law is weakened.

Corynne McSherry of the Electronic Frontier Foundation told a congressional hearing in October that Section 230 protects not only major tech platforms, but any online activity -- from forwarding an email to commenting in a news forum to sharing pictures and videos of friends -- from "third party liability."

McSherry said that without Section 230, tech firms such as Google, Facebook, and Twitter would not exist in their current form because they would not be able to host user content without fear of a lawsuit.

She argued that eliminating Section 230 would "cement the dominance" of these firms, because it would mean higher costs to filter and moderate content that new startups could not afford.

According to Katherine Oyama, Google's head of intellectual property policy, the internet would be a far different experience without the liability shield.

"Without Section 230, platforms could face liability for decisions around removal of content from their platforms," she told lawmakers.

"Review sites like Yelp, TripAdvisor or Angie's List might be sued for defamation claims brought by a restaurant, hotel or an electrician trying to suppress their negative reviews."

Oyama said the current law encourages sites to filter content, but that without the legal protection they might stop all content moderation or simply block anything potentially harmful.

'Healthier' internet?

Danielle Citron, a Boston University law professor specializing in online speech, said Section 230 has failed to live up to its promise and that modifying it could lead to a "healthier"

internet. "Section 230's overbroad interpretation means that platforms have little legal incentive to combat online abuse," Citron told the hearing.

She said that while it has allowed some platforms to moderate content, "they also have been shielded from responsibility even when they solicit illegal activities, deliberately leave up unambiguously illegal content that causes harm, and sell dangerous products."

Citron said the law should be revised "to condition the legal shield on reasonable content moderation practices."

It remains to be seen if lawmakers will move on the law, with a solid bloc of digital rights and industry groups opposing a change.

Ed Black of the Computer and Communications Industry Association, a trade group representing many tech firms, said that inserting these provisions in a North American trade pact "is critical to ensure that the agreement is updated to reflect the needs of the internet economy."

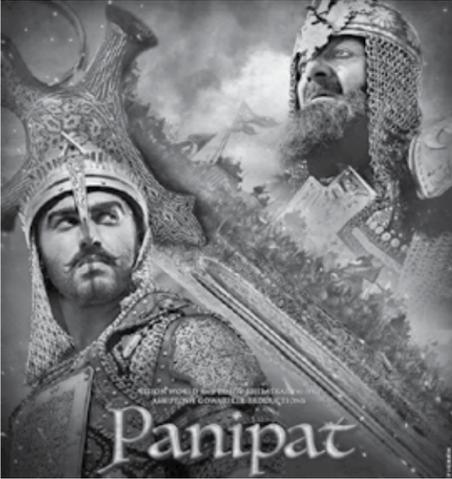
Goldman said the inclusion of the protection makes sense for both economics and free speech. "Section 230 is not just about free speech, it's about improving information flows in the marketplace," he said.

"It creates new opportunities for entrepreneurs to build businesses and also creates opportunities for marketplaces to be more efficient."

SHOW

PANIPAT (PG-15)(HINDI/WAR/DRAMA/HISTORICAL)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 10.30 AM + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
 SEEF (I): 10.45 AM + 2.00 + 5.15 + 8.30 + 11.45 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 10.30 AM + 1.30 + 4.45 + 8.00 + 11.15 PM
ARJUN KAPOOR, SANJAY DUTT, KRITI SANON



ARCTIC DOGS (PG)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 10.45 AM + 3.15 + 7.45 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM
 SEEF (II): 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 PM
JEREMY RENNER, HEIDI KLUM, JAMES FRANCO

HIGH STRUNG: FREE DANCE (PG-13)(DANCE/ROMANTIC/)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 2.30 + 7.00 + 11.30 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.15 + 4.45 + 9.15 PM
THOMAS DOHERTY, HARRY JARVIS, JULIET DOHERTY

PATI PATNI AUR WO (PG-15)(HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
 SEEF (I): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (II): (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
 WADI AL SAIL: 3.00 + 8.30 PM
KARTIK AARYAN, BHUMI PEDNEKAR, ANANYA PANDAY

DARK WATERS (PG-15)(DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 1.30 + 6.15 + 11.00 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 4.00 + 9.00 PM
 SEEF (II): 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.15 + 5.45 + 11.15 PM
KIM MOLINA, CAI CORTEZ, CHAD KINIS

CODE 8 (PG-15)(ACTION/THRILLER/DRAMA/SCI-FICTION)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.15 + 4.45 + 9.15 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 1.45 + 6.45 + 11.45 PM
 SEEF (II): 11.15 AM + 4.15 + 9.15 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN
STEPHEN AMELL, ROBBIE AMELL, KARI MATCHETT

A SCORE TO SETTLE (15+)(ACTION/DRAMA)

SEEF (II): 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
 WADI AL SAIL: 2.30 + 7.00 + 11.30 PM
NICOLAS CAGE, NOAH LE GROS, KAROLINA WYDRA

DANIEL ISN'T REAL (15+)(THRILLER/HORROR/DRAMA)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.30 AM + 4.15 + 9.00 PM
 SEEF (II): 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 2.15 + 7.00 + 11.45 PM
PATRICK SCHWARZENEGGER, MILES ROBBINS, SASHA LANE

UNBREAKABLE (PG-15)(FILIPINO/DRAMA)

SEEF (I): 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN
ANGELICA PANGANIBAN, BEA ALONZO, RICHARD GUTIERREZ

OMAR WA BISAT ELRIH (UP AND AWAY) (G)

SEEF (II): (ARABIC DUBBED): 11.15 AM + 1.00 + 2.45 + 4.30 PM



FROZEN II (PG)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 1.00 + 5.30 + 10.00 PM
 OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 10.30 AM + 3.45 + 9.00 PM
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM
 CITY CENTRE (ATMOS): 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN
 CITY CENTRE (IMAX 2D): 10.45 AM + 4.00 + 9.15 PM
 CITY CENTRE (VIP II): 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM
 SEEF (II): 10.45 AM + 11.45 AM + 1.00 + 2.00 + 3.15 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM
KRISTEN BELL, IDINA MENZEL, JOSH GAD

21 BRIDGES (PG-15)(CRIME/ACTION/THRILLER)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.45 + 6.00 + 11.15 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
 CITY CENTRE (VIP I): 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM
 SEEF (II): 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM
CHADWICK BOSEMAN, SIENNA MILLER, STEPHAN JAMES



LE MANS '66 (PG-13)(DRAMA/SPORT/BIOGRAPHY)

OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 12.45 + 6.00 + 11.15 PM
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 3.00 + 8.15 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 3.00 + 8.45 PM
 CITY CENTRE (IMAX 2D): 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (II): 12.00 + 5.45 + 11.30 PM
MATT DAMON, CHRISTIAN BALE, JON BERNTHAL

KNIVES OUT (PG-15)(CRIME/COMEDY/THRILLER)

CITY CENTRE: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
DANIEL CRAIG, CHRIS EVANS, ANA DE ARMAS

MALEFICENT 2: MISTRESS OF EVIL (PG)(ADVENTURE)

CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (II): 12.00 + 2.30 + 5.00 + 7.30 + 10.00 PM
ANGELINA JOLIE, TERESA MAHONEY, MICHELLE PFEIFFER

JOKER (15+)(THRILLER/CRIME/DRAMA)

CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN
JOAQUIN PHOENIX, ZAZIE BEETZ, ROBERT DE NIRO

MIRACLE IN CELL NO. 7 (PG-15)(TURKISH/DRAMA)

CITY CENTRE: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
 SEEF (II): 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 11.30 AM + 4.15 + 9.00 PM
ARAS BULUT YNEML, N SA SOF YA AKSONGUR, LKER AKSUM

CHARLIE'S ANGELS (PG-15)(ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (II): 9.45 + 12.00 MN
KRISTEN STEWART, NAOMI SCOTT, ELLA BALINSKA

PLAYING WITH FIRE (PG)(ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FAMILY)

CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM
JOHN CENA, KEEGAN-MICHAEL KEY, JOHN LEGUIZAMO

TERMINATOR: DARK FATE (PG-15)(ACTION)

CITY CENTRE: 12.15 + 6.00 + 11.45 PM
 SEEF (II): 3.00 + 8.45 PM
LINDA HAMILTON, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, MACKENZIE DAVIS

THE ADDAMS FAMILY (PG)(ANIMATION/COMEDY)

CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 PM
OSCAR ISAAC, CHARLIZE THERON, CHLO GRACE MORETZ

GEMINI MAN (PG-15)(ACTION/THRILLER/DRAMA)

CITY CENTRE: 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
WILL SMITH, MARY ELIZABETH WINSTEAD, CLIVE OWEN

KHAVAL MAATA (PG)(COMEDY/DRAMA)

CITY CENTRE: 10.45 AM + 3.45 + 8.45 PM
AHMAD HELMY, MINNA SHALABI, HASSAN HOSNEY

ANGEL HAS FALLEN (PG-15)(ACTION/THRILLER/DRAMA)

CITY CENTRE: 1.15 + 6.15 + 11.15 PM
GERARD BUTLER, MORGAN FREEMAN, JADA PINKETT SMITH

HELEN (PG-13)(MALAYALAM)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.00 AM + 4.00 + 9.00 PM
ANNA BEN, LAL, AJU VARGHESE, NOBLE THOMAS

KETYOLANU ENTE MALAKHA (PG-15)(MALAYALAM)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.45 AM + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 PM
 SEEF (I): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
 AL HAMRA: 9.00 + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)
ASIF ALI, VEENA NANDAKUMAR

PUZHICKADAKAN (PG-13)(MALAYALAM)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
 AL HAMRA: 3.00 + 6.00 PM
MAALA PARVATHI, CHEMBAN VINOD JOSE, JAYASURYA

IRANDAM ULAGAPORIN KADAISI GUNDU (TAMIL)

From Thursday 5th at 3.30 pm onward
 SEEF (I): 6.30 PM
DINESH RAVI, ANANDI

DHANUSU RAASI NEYARGALAE (TAMIL)

From Thursday 5th at 3.30 pm onward
 SEEF (I): 1.30 + 9.00 PM
DINESH RAVI, ANANDI

JADA (PG-13)(TAMIL)

From Friday 6th
 SEEF (I): 4.00 + 11.30 PM
 AL HAMRA: 12.00 NOON.
KATHIR, ROSHINI PRAKASH, SREEDHAR A.P, YOGI BABU, KISHORE

KAMALA (PG-15)(MALAYALAM)

SEEF (I): 11.00 AM
RUHANI SHARMA, AJU VARGHESE, ANOOP MENON

MOVIE REVIEW

Panipat: The Great Betrayal: Rewriting historical defeats with patriotic fervour

The film sticks to the tried-and-tested format, but falls short of its ambition

● Ashutosh Gowariker tweaks history into a Maratha fan fantasy sans Bhansali's insidious intent

The one interesting aspect about Ashutosh Gowariker's Panipat is the sneaking in of the female perspective and gaze in the thick of the macho arena of a war. In a hark back to Jodhaa Akbar, one of the better period pieces that he made, Gowariker gives some primacy and agency to the woman. The retelling of the third battle of Panipat of 1761, between the Marathas, under the command of Sadashiv Rao Bhau (Arjun Kapoor) and the Afghan king Ahmad Shah Abdali (Sanjay Dutt), is done by Parvati Bai (Kriti Sanon), the spunky and spirited wife of Sadashiv. Just like Jodhaa, Parvati here is crucial to the proceedings and Sanon does try to make the most of it, turning out to be a far more memorable presence than Kapoor, Dutt and co. Not only does



A scene from the movie

her Parvati take charge in the romance with Sadashiv, she is also very much around in the battlefield. Headstrong, although on the margins, she is the one to pitch in, in the lead up to the battle, by recreating a home in the moveable army tents and then balancing out her domesticity by contributing in the alliances with other kingdoms. In fact, it's the political planning and strategies, joining forces with the Holkars, Shindes, Bundelas, Rohillas, Rajputs, Mughals and what have you

against the bigger enemy — and the ensuing loyalty and betrayals — that form most of the film; the battle itself hardly amounts to much. The highs and lows of coalition politics is all and it turns out unwittingly resonant, relevant and contemporary given the recent turn of events, even though Gowariker may not have intended that way. Just as in his previous forays, Gowariker takes ample liberties with history. Only the subject, thrust and dominant narrative seems to change with the times.

Unlike the simplistic and a tad belaboured pop secularism of Jodhaa Akbar, where the protagonists, keeping religious differences aside, came together to build a unified nation, the "them" and "us" divide gets pretty pronounced here. The film is a celebration of the Maratha pride and valour, even in defeat. On one hand is the enemy Abdali, the founder of modern Afghanistan, who, in the introductory scene itself, comes across as a brutal, savage and rapacious invader. Always dressed

in frightening black, more a caricature than flesh and blood, he seems human only when he acknowledges the prowess of the Marathas.

On the other is the large-hearted, decent, dignified and inclusive Sadashiv. He recruits Ibrahim Khan Gardi (Nawab Khan), the general of the defeated Nizam of Hyderabad, in his own army, much against everyone's wish, reminding them that Shivaji's army also



Ashutosh Gowariker may not be able to do grandeur like Sanjay Leela Bhansali, but he can do war. Yet, a lacklustre cinematography and terrible CGI mars this solid attempt. It would have worked 10 years ago

included Muslims. "Kis quam mein gaddar nahin hote (Which community doesn't have traitors)," he thunders, taking the righteous upper hand as the saviour. The saviour tone continues even in the battlefield where he invokes Hindu-Muslim unity before launching "hamla". Gowariker may have taken liberties with history, but doesn't play around with the form. He sticks to the tried and tested, the long and languorous and old-fashioned. However, he is unable to achieve the epic sweep despite the declamatory dialogue, opulent costumes and the big song-n-dance set-pieces. In fact the spectacle gets marred by tacky, cardboard sets, artificial looking battle scenes and poor CGI, specially when it comes to the peacocks in Shanivar Wada and the raging Yamuna. In an interesting casting move, he manages to get veterans like Zeenat Aman, Kunal Kapoor and Padmini Kolhapure on board, but disappointingly leaves them with very little to do in the minuscule parts. They certainly deserved to more than mere historical props.

CELEBS

celebs



Chrissy Teigen

Chrissy Teigen shares an adorable picture with her 'stylist' daughter

ANI | Los Angeles

Looks like Chrissy Teigen has found a go-to stylist in her daughter. She shared an adorable picture of her daughter styling her.

Looking in awe, Chrissy shared a sweet mother-daughter picture on Twitter and captioned the post, 'working late with my stylist'.

The television personality also hopped to Instagram to share the same picture where the caption read 'on set with my stylist'.

Being an American model herself, she addressed her elder daughter a 'stylist' who has cautiously seen setting her mother's blazer in place sitting on the stairs.

Chrissy Teigen and husband-singer John Legend are also parents of their newborn who joined the family in June last year.

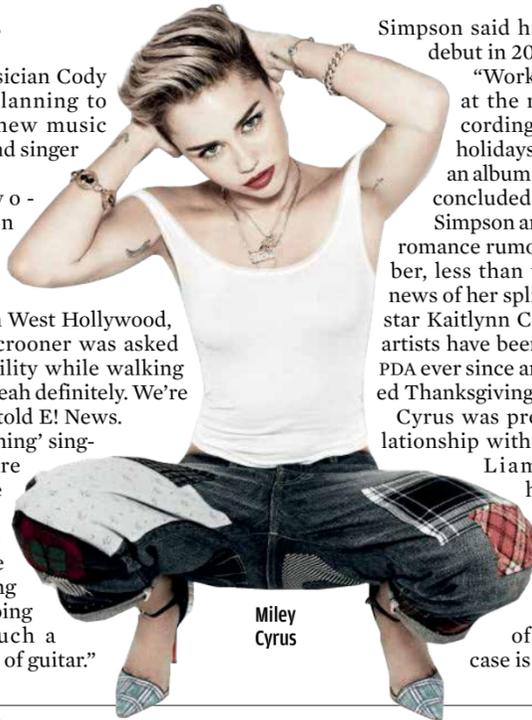
Cody Simpson hints at music collaboration with Miley Cyrus

ANI | Los Angeles

Seems like musician Cody Simpson is planning to collaborate on new music with girlfriend and singer Miley Cyrus.

Twenty-two-year-old Simpson weighed in on the possibility at the 2019 'GQ Men of the Year' party in West Hollywood, California. The crooner was asked about the possibility while walking the red carpet. "Yeah definitely. We're looking at it," he told E! News.

The 'Golden Thing' singer added, "We are getting all the songs down and then seeing who would make sense for what. It's going to be cool. It's going to be pretty much a rock album. A lot of guitar."



Miley Cyrus

Simpson said his album should debut in 2020.

"Working on a project at the moment and recording throughout the holidays and should have an album out next year," he concluded.

Simpson and Cyrus sparked romance rumors in early October, less than two weeks after news of her split from reality TV star Kaitlynn Carter broke. The artists have been packing on the PDA ever since and even celebrated Thanksgiving together.

Cyrus was previously in a relationship with American actor Liam Hemsworth; however, he filed for divorce after less than a year of marriage. Although, there's been a bit of a holdup and the case is 'not complete.'

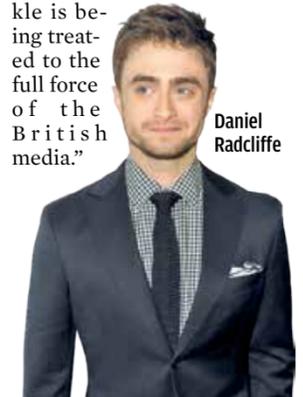
Daniel Radcliffe says he feels 'terrible' for Meghan Markle

Fox | London

Daniel Radcliffe is sharing his thoughts on the media scrutiny Meghan Markle has faced.

In an interview with People Now on Friday, the "Harry Potter" alum admitted that he feels "terrible" for the Duchess of Sussex.

"... I don't take a huge interest [in the royals]," Radcliffe noted, explaining that he's been "hearing bits and pieces" and from what he's heard, he's "picking up that Meghan Markle is being treated to the full force of the British media."

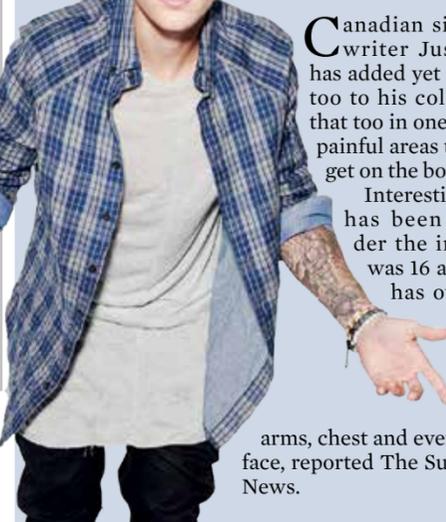


Daniel Radcliffe

Justin Bieber

Justin Bieber flaunts new neck tattoo

ANI | Los Angeles



Canadian singer-songwriter Justin Bieber has added yet another tattoo to his collection and that too in one of the most painful areas that you can get on the body, his neck.

Interestingly, Bieber has been going under the ink since he was 16 and now and has over 50 permanent markings all over his body, covering his arms, chest and even one on his face, reported The Sun, cited Fox News.

The 25-year-old star took to Instagram to share the new tattoo which is a swallow (bird) with the word "Forever." He captioned the snap: "Forever thanks @_dr_woo..." The newest addition to his collection is located on the left-hand side of his neck below the music note tattoo behind his ear.

The crooner's image has dramatically been changed from his beginning days and as he has now nearly covered the upper half of his body in ink. The star has a range of tattoos include religious symbols, animals, words and even a tattoo dedicated to his ex Selena Gomez.

Speaking to GQ Magazine he explained: "This is my ex-girlfriend so I kinda tried to cover her face

up with some shading but people still know."

The 'Baby' singer's tattoo journey initiated when he first stepped into a tattoo parlour on his 16th birthday and got it a bird in one of the most hidden places of his body so that nobody knew he was getting inked. On which the star stated, "So I wanted to make sure it wasn't visible so I put it down here."

Since then Tattoos have become a way of expression for Justin.

The 'Mistletoe' singer, tied the knot with American model and TV personality Hailey Baldwin in September 2018 and it was a matter of time before the singer dedicated a tattoo to her. Justin got the word 'grace' tattooed very faintly above his right eyebrow.

Kim recreates 'Jurassic World' at son Saint's 4th birthday bash

ANI | Los Angeles

Kim Kardashian West



American TV personality and businesswoman Kim Kardashian West along with her family on Saturday (local time) celebrated son Saint's fourth birthday with an epic dinosaur-themed bash. Saint, who is the oldest son of Kim Kardashian and Kanye West, turned 4 on Thursday.

According to People magazine, in addition to the rest of the reality star's children - 22-months-old daughter Chica-

go, 6-years-old North and 5-month old son Psalm - the party was also attended by Khloe Kardashian and her daughter True, who was filmed jumping along with her cousins in a large bouncy house in a sweet Instagram Story video shared by the 'Revenge Body' host.

The 39-year-old star also shared several snaps of her children playing together at the party, including one video that showed the birthday boy wearing a festive dinosaur mask.

In the video, Kardashian was calling out Chicago who was scared and began to move away. "Look at Saint as the dinosaur, Don't be scared. It's just your brother with a mask," she said.

Prior to the big party, Kardashian documented the set-up of the bright, candy-colored birthday cake,

in a series of videos on Instagram as a glance of the extravagant party. The mother of four said, "Look, guys! Saint's dinosaur party is today. How cute is everything? We are still setting up."

In the themed party, the treats were decorated with little dinosaur claws or eggs, and guests could stop to get 'Raptor Juice' after walking through the 'dinosaur cave.' There was also a dinosaur ball pit for children to play in as well as multiple DIY craft stations, Jurassic Jewellery stop, and also included 'Dino Domes,' where children could make their own dinosaur habitats.

Kardashian West also explained that the party also had a large dig site "where we are all going to hunt for fossils, and you have to put on all your gear,"

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BAHRAIN CENTRE

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MRF Challenge set for round two at BIC



Participants in action during MRF Challenge (file photo)

TDI | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is all set to host one of Asia's premier single-seater racing series as part of the support programme for this upcoming weekend's FIA WEC Bacpo 8 Hours of Bahrain.

The India-based MRF Challenge will be staging the second of three rounds in its 2019/2020 season at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" on December 13 and 14.

The MRF Challenge is India's only FIA-inscribed championship, conveniently slotted in the winter months. Over the past seven seasons, the MRF Challenge has proven to be a great platform for racing aspirants looking to not just keep themselves in competitive trim during the European off-season, but also bolster their racing credentials.

The event in Bahrain follows the first meeting of Season Eight, which took place last month in the UAE. Five races were held at Dubai Autodrome with nearly a dozen drivers taking part.

Belgian youngster Michelangelo Amendola won a triple crown after clinching the first, second and fifth sprints. Australian Dylan Young won race three, while race four was claimed by Indian-American Yuven Sundaramoorthy.

Another four races will be

held in Bahrain this weekend, while the final round of the season will take place in Chennai, India from February 13 to 16.

Heading into the events in Bahrain, Arun Mammen, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of MRF Tyres, commented: "It has been an exciting journey for us as we present the eighth edition of the MRF Challenge. We provide identical cars to all the drivers and so, the key differentiating factor is the driving ability.

"It has also been our constant endeavour to develop the car which is now among the fastest single-seaters in Asia. The MRF Challenge also offers us rich data that in turn helps us to develop further the MRF Z.L.O. slicks and wet tyres."

Over the years, the MRF Challenge has featured quite a few high-profile racers like Mick Schumacher, son of seven-time Formula 1 champion Michael Schumacher; Harrison Newey, son of Formula 1 design guru Adrian Newey; Manuel Maldonado, cousin of former Formula 1 driver Pastor Maldonado; female Formula 1 test driver with Alfa Romeo Racing Tatiana Calderon; and last season's champion Jamie Chadwick, who is also the first-ever champion of the W Series and the first-ever lady driver to win an international race at Bahrain International Circuit.

Daniel claims first Middleweight title

Daniel "Gaucho" Souza Pereira brutalizes Chad Hanekom to become first-ever BRAVE CF Middleweight champion

TDI | Manama

It was a night to remember for Daniel "Gaucho" Souza Pereira, who wrote his own name in the history books as the first-ever BRAVE Combat Federation Middleweight world champion. With a violent performance in the main event of BRAVE CF 31, in Durban, South Africa, he silenced the South-African fans by knocking out local hero Chad Hanekom in the second round.

With a sprawl-and-brawl tactic, Daniel was able to fend off submissions attempts by Hanekom in the first round, before hurting him in the last few seconds. Still stunned, Hanekom came out in the second round without being able to fight to the best of his abilities, which played into the Brazilian powerhouse's hand.

Showing a lot of patience by waiting for the right moment to attack, Daniel connected with a violent combination and kept on Hanekom until the referee stopped the fight, putting him amongst BRAVE CF folklore as the first-ever world champion in the Middleweight division.

Also on the incredible fight night, a great performance by both Djamil Chan and Amin Ayoub ended with the French debutant having his hand raised, as he locked in a surprise and quick guillotine choke in the third round.

Jeremy Smith and Mzwandile Hlongwa lived up to the hype and put on an unforgettable



Daniel 'Gaucho' Souza Pereira celebrates his win

BRAVE CF 31 Results:

MAIN CARD

Middleweight World Title: Daniel Souza def. Chad Hanekom by TKO - Round 2
Catchweight bout (58 kg): Dansheel Moodley def. Anton Larsson by unanimous decision
Catchweight bout (73 kg): Amin Ayoub def. Djamil Chan by submission (guillotine) - Round 3
Middleweight bout: Mizwandile Hlongwa def. Jeremy Smith by unanimous decision
Welterweight bout: Kevin Ruart def. Ibrahim Mane by KO - Round 3

PRELIMINARY CARD

Featherweight bout: Tariq Ismail def. Cedric Doyle by unanimous decision
Bantamweight bout: Abdul Hussein def. Martin Debeer by submission (ninja choke) - Round 1
Bantamweight bout: Nkosi Ndebele def. Ian Cleary by unanimous decision
Welterweight bout: Jason Culverwell def. Dimitri Fogg by submission (triangle choke) - Round 2
Welterweight bout: Eleizer Kubanza def. Matt Raynard by KO - Round 3

show for the Durban crowd, as both men kept swinging for the fences from the first to the last minute. In the end, the ef-

fectiveness of Hlongwa was too much for Smith.

Opening up the main card, another violent KO, as Kevin

Ruart put the lights out on Ibrahim Mane after the two men had an incredibly close first two rounds.

BTA Junior Tournament concludes

TDI | Manama

The final rounds of both the 12-and-under and 14-and-under categories were held at the Dilmun Club, Saar on what was the final day's play of the BTA Junior Tournament, organised by Bahrain Tennis Academy (BTA).

The top four players were due to return for both the 12-and-under and 14-and-under group stages returned to battle it out for the trophies.

In the 12-and-under category, Rohan Mukherjee was crowned the champion after receiving a walkover in both the semi-final and final due to the Saudi contingency of Haiyder Al-Fareed, Abdulrazzaq Al-Henabi and Ali Al-Ahmed being unable to return for their matches.

In the 14-and-under play-off for the third place medal, Raj Singh defeated Rohan Mukherjee 10-7, 9-10, 10-9. Then in



14-and-under finalists with the Tournament Director

the final, James Blair defeated Jaber Abdulaal 10-6, 10-5 to claim the title.

14-and-under results

Semi-finals: James Blair d. Rohan Mukherjee 10-4, 10-4, Jaber

Abdulaal d. Raj Singh 10-4, 10-1
3rd/4th play-off: Raj Singh d. Rohan Mukherjee 10-7, 9-10, 10-9

Final: James Blair defeated Jaber Abdulaal 10-6, 10-5

BraveCF to kick off 2020 with Slovenia debut

TDI | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation will keep landing in new territories in 2020, as the fastest-growing organization in the world will move on from its month of madness in December, with three events in three different regions, to its debut in Slovenia. BRAVE CF 34 will take place in Ljubljana, on January 19th, in an exclusive partnership with WFC, the leading promotion in the region.

The partnership was closed during the visit of Zlatko Mahic, the president of WFC, to the Kingdom of Bahrain during the BRAVE International Combat Week. While in Bahrain, Mahic had a meeting with Mohammed Shahid, president of BRAVE CF, when the two parties agreed to partner up and

help the development of the booming MMA scene in the Balkans.

In the coming weeks, BRAVE Nation fans can expect the full fight card to be announced, as Slovenia gears up to become the 19th nation to host a BRAVE Combat Federation show, as the organization keeps pushing for worldwide opportunities from fighters from all corners of the globe.

BRAVE CF 34 will mark the first time BRAVE Combat Federation lands in the Balkans, as well as the fourth show to take place in the continent of Europe. BRAVE CF has also hosted events in Africa, South America, North America, Middle East, South East Asia, and will make its debut in Central Asia on December 14th, with BRAVE CF 32 taking place in Kyrgyzstan.

Sri Lankan Stars to play Bahrain Red in Women's Cricket Tourney final

TDI | Manama

Sri Lankan Stars will play Bahrain Red in the final of the first ISB Mega Fair Softball Night Cricket Tournament 2019 for women at the Indian School Bahrain (ISB) ground in Isa Town.

The final will be played on Thursday, at 8pm. The qualifying rounds on Friday witnessed some interesting matches. Six teams participated in the tournament in two groups.

In one exciting match, Sri Lankan Stars scored 125 runs in just 5 overs which is the highest total in women's cricket tournament in the Indian School grounds. They scored these runs during their match against Karnataka Social Club.

Bahrain's win a crucial turning point: HM the King

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa congratulated the national team players on winning the 24th Gulf Cup in Qatar for the first time in the history of Bahraini football.

The victory, HM the King said, “represents a crucial turning point in the march of football in the Kingdom of Bahrain.”

“The achievement by the Bahraini champions has brought joy to all the people of Bahrain and expatriates as well,” said HM the King.

HM the King also congratulated the brotherly Saudi national team, hailing their outstanding performance and wishing them further success in the march.

His Majesty said Bahrain team’s high spirit and determination enabled them to honour the homeland and lift the coveted trophy with merit.

His Majesty said he hopes that the achievement would serve as a catalyst to look forward to more trophies in future championships.

HM the King extended thanks and appreciation to HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Representative of HM the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, National Security Advisor, and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, hailing his dedicated and strenuous efforts to motivate and en-



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa

courage the national team players to clinch the much-coveted GCC trophy.

He also commended the efforts exerted by the Bahrain Football Association, chaired by Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa for the team’s good preparation which ensured their success in winning the trophy.

HM the King praised all national efforts to support and encourage the national team to attain this landmark honourable achievement, hailing the administrative and technical staff.

His Majesty saluted Bahrainis and residents who supported the national team during the championship and encouraged the players to win the historic title, commending the press and the media for supporting the national team.

Meanwhile, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme



BFA president Shaikh Ali holds the Gulf Cup with BFA vice-president for technical affairs Shaikh Khalid bin Salman Al Khalifa alongside other BFA officials and team members

Commander and First Deputy Premier took pride in the landmark victory which adds to other sports achievements which, he said, reflect the visions and aspirations of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa.

HRH the Crown Prince praised the dedicated efforts of the Government, chaired by HRH the Premier, praying to Allah the Almighty to bless HRH the Premier with abundant health and happiness and long life and Bahrain with further achievements.

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, Representative of HM the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, National Security Advisor, and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, congratulated the leadership on the landmark achievement.



Bahrain's Alaswad looks to control the ball as they take on Saudi



Bahrain defenders Abdulla Al Hazaa and Rashed Al Hooti hug each other on the pitch in celebration after the final whistle in their victory over Saudi



Bahrain fans inside the stadium before the match

Sousa praises players for “heroic performance”



Helio Sousa

TDT | Manama

Bahrain head coach Helio Sousa was Bin jubilant mood last night following Bahrain’s historic Gulf Cup victory.

At his post-match Press conference, the Portuguese tactician was rushed by his players, who began chanting his name in unison as they celebrated their achievement.

“It is a great day in the history of

Bahraini football that deserves to be celebrated,” Sousa said after his players cleared the conference hall. “This day is the culmination of the tremendous work we started, to create a team that can compete for titles.

“We have fighters in every match. It is a unique moment that we must be proud of.”

Bahrain’s Gulf Cup triumph was already Sousa’s second trophy in just five

months with the squad. It adds to the title they won in mid-August of this year in West Asian Football Federation (WAFF) Championship held in Iraq.

“So far, we have won two championships – the WAFF and now the 24th Gulf Cup; I came here from Portugal to take on such challenges,” he said. “We work to compete for championships.

“We played against some of the most prominent teams in the continent, and

we achieved two important titles. I think everyone is a believer in this team and the players who made history.”

Sousa added: “I congratulate the Bahraini people on this achievement; congratulate our players on this heroic performance, and our goal is to continue to achieve good results, and to make our way in the double qualifiers for the World Cup 2022 and Asian Cup 2023.”