Canadian politicians aren’t cute. They’re corrupt

The previous government brought new life to various industries, the government decided to focus on the oil and gas sector, and the new prime minister, Mohammad Shtayyeh, took over. The new government is determined to continue its policies.

Qatar is accused of offering FIFA $880m in secret World Cup payments

Al Jazeera executives made a $400m offer in TV contract, UK newspaper reveals.

The revelations posed a risk to both FIFA and companies currently working on Qatar World Cup projects. "It is not about individuals but about institutions on both sides: FIFA itself and Qatar channel Al Jazeera. FIFA will now need to decide on how it will investigate itself, rather than individuals connected to it. The reputation of FIFA risks permanent irreversible damage," Nuseibeh was quoted by Arab News.

This also carries substantial risks to companies currently working on Qatar 2022 projects. "With a real increase in risk in Qatar not hosting 2022, businesses involved will want reassurances from Qatari authorities on what could happen to them if Qatar is indeed stripped of the right to host," a leading analyst told Arab News on Sunday.

Mid-air disaster

People walk past a part of the wreckage at the scene of the Ethiopian Airlines Flight ET 302 plane crash, near the town of Bishoftu, southeast of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Seven Brits and one Irish citizen were among 157 killed after Boeing 737 crashed on way to Nairobi. Full story on page 6

Bahrain's oil industry holds great promises

In Shtayyeh to replace outgoing prime minister Rami Hamdallah as part of Abbas's efforts to further isolate his political rivals from Hamas, the Islamist movement that runs Gaza Strip. Shatayah, born in 1958, is a long-term Abbas ally, while Hamdallah was politically independent.

His Royal Highness Prince Minister Khalifa bin Hamad Al Khalifa has asserted that Bahrain boasts a long history in the oil industry, adding that the government is still interested in developing such a promising sector and encouraging investment in it, being a key tributary to the national economy, and a vital and strategic resource to boost all fields of development.

The Prime Minister stressed the government's keenness to take advantage of the steady growth of the oil sector to serve various development sectors on which the kingdom's economic structure is based, which will contribute to diversifying incomes and enhancing Bahrain's ability to face various global economic challenges.

The Prime Minister received Shaikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al Khalifa, who extended to him sincere thanks and appreciation for laying the foundation stone for the Bapco Modernisation Programme (BMP), which is the largest industrial project in the kingdom’s history.

Mr. Premier asserted that a promising future lies ahead for the oil industry in the kingdom, in light of the use of modern technology in the production and exploration, leading the efforts exerted by the Ministry of Oil and Gas in developing the oil industry in the kingdom and preparing distinguished national capabilities in this regard.

The Prime Minister expressed pride in the progress and prestigious international reputation reached by the Bahraini oil industry.
His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday paid a visit to Saifddin Mohammed Al Baharna at his residence in Saar. HM the King exchanged cordial talks and praised Al Baharna’s contribution to Bahrain’s economic and commercial growth. HM the King took pride in Al Baharna and other business men’s achievements and contributions in economic, commercial and investment fields since the beginning of last century. His Majesty pointed out the Bahraini businessmen’s honesty and integrity, which were the key for their successes at regional and international levels.

Prince affirmed that the Kingdom has brought about numerous achievements in the prosperous era of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, underlining development at all political, economic and social levels. They stressed fast-paced and meet citizens’ present and future aspirations.

HRH the Crown Prince lauded the efforts of the Bahraini people, their awareness and aspiration to serve their homeland. He said, “we all yearn for a bright future and work hand in hand to attain the ambitious national goals and serve our nation and people”. HRH the Prime Minister paid tribute to yesterday’s events and citizens’ present and future aspirations.

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received yesterday a letter from the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. On behalf of His Majesty King Hamad, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday received a letter from the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Bahrain’s identity. She pointed out the need to inform the youth about their rich folkloric heritage and boost their sense of belonging. She said, “we are proud of our rich heritage, culture, and identity. Our youth must know and understand the importance of preserving our traditions and customs.”

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa lauded the efforts of the Bahraini people, their awareness and aspiration to serve their homeland. He said, “we all yearn for a bright future and work hand in hand to attain the ambitious national goals and serve our nation and people”. HRH the Prime Minister paid tribute to yesterday’s events and citizens’ present and future aspirations.

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received at Gudaibiya Palace yesterday members of the Representatives Council and the Council of Representation. He discussed with them issues of interest to citizens. He stressed the government’s keenness to cater to citizens’ needs and boost their welfare in a secure and stable environment. He lauded the government-parliamentary partnership to serve Bahrain and its people, stressing growing cooperation between the executive and legislative branches to better serve the nation and citizens. He described this co-operation as an approach for the government to serve Bahrain and meet citizens’ present and future aspirations.

Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan yesterday received MPs Dr Hisham fan, an interactive session stressed the importance of family in creating gender equality in the society and addressed the role of women in the business world. CA Sripriya Kumar, past Central Council Member of ICAI (parent body of BCICAI) spoke about the various aspects of the changes in the audit world. CA Sripriya Kumar, past Central Council Member of ICAI (parent body of BCICAI) spoke about the various aspects of the changes in the audit world. CA Sripriya Kumar, past Central Council Member of ICAI (parent body of BCICAI) spoke about the various aspects of the changes in the audit world. CA Sripriya Kumar, past Central Council Member of ICAI (parent body of BCICAI) spoke about the various aspects of the changes in the audit world. CA Sripriya Kumar, past Central Council Member of ICAI (parent body of BCICAI) spoke about the various aspects of the changes in the audit world.
New plan to address issues faced by maids, employers

New system built with features to protect domestic workers, says LMRA

Under the new contract, employers seeking to hire a domestic worker must declare, among other things, the nature of the job, work and rest hours and weekly days off.

"Under the new contract, employers seeking to hire a domestic worker must declare, among other things, the nature of the job, work and rest hours and weekly days off."

Mr. Al Kooheji

"The new system will issue a CPR (national identity number) prior to the entrance to the Kingdom, which will provide faster and direct access to facilities that need the presence of identification in places like banks, hospital, telecom services," Mr. Al Kooheji said.

"The system is built with features to highly protect the domestic workers wherever it will be mandatory for all employers to use the tripartite domestic contract, which is a contract that regulates the relationship between the agency, the employer and the domestic worker."

"Under the new contract, employers seeking to hire a domestic worker must declare, among other things, the nature of the job, work and rest hours and weekly days off. In addition to mandating a commitment to employment and wage contract for those domestic employees, who are employed through direct employment arrangements such as transfer from an employer to another inside the Kingdom where recruitment office is not a part of the employment process.

Bahrain is set to announce a new system for expat salary protection, which will require every transfer to all expatriate salaries through local banks. "This will ensure that the payment of salaries fulfills contractual obligations and can be tracked."

"Since the last quarter of 2014, the authority has worked on creating a database for domestic workers, in order to optimise these services, the LMRA is adding new facilities for the beneficiary. The authority will inaugurate a new system to issue permits this March. These developmental steps are in line with the Government Action Plan to use electronic operations to streamline procedures."

Meanwhile, the LMRA has warned of dealing with unlicensed agencies or mediators, the list of accredited agencies can be found on LMRA's website www.lmra.bh or by calling the authority's contact centre on 17506055.

Govt refers State budget to House

Manama

The Government has referred the general State Budget for the fiscal year 2019-2020 as per article 109 of Bahrain's Constitution to the House of Representatives.

The Council of Representatives Speaker Fahad Al Za'aital said that the budget plan had been referred to the Financial and Economic Affairs to be scrutinised.

"The council will be updated about the budget referral the coming weekly session," she said, adding Bahrain's national interests would be a priority in co-operation with the Shura Council and the Government.

She underlined keenness on achieving the goals of the Fiscal Balance Programme, implementing the Government Action Plan through the budget endorsement to bolster Bahrain's development and progress.

She cited in this regard the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa in his keynote address at the opening of the first session of the fourth legislative term.

The Speaker announced that joint meetings between the parliamentary and Shura Financial and Economic Affairs Committees to discussed the law on the general state budget with the Government.

Royal decree establishes Sustainable Energy Centre

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday issued Royal Decree-22/2019, establishing a Sustainable Energy Centre (SEC).

The SEC will be affiliated to the Cabinet, and supervised by the Minister of Electricity and Water Minister.

The Centre shall undertake all tasks and responsibilities related to providing technical support for the relevant sides regarding the preservation of all kinds of sustainable energy sources, as well as enhancing the effective use, ensuring their secure use and encouraging investment in them, in co-operation with the relevant authorities.

The Sustainable Energy Centre will have a Chief Executive Officer, with the rank of assistant undersecretary, who will report to the minister in charge.

The CTO will be appointed as per a Royal Decree, based on a proposal by the minister, for renewable four-year terms.

The Prime Minister and ministers – each in their capacity – shall implement the Royal Decree, which will take effect one day after its publication in the Official Gazette.

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Moroccan inmate died after suffering multi-organ failure, SIU probe reveals

Probes refutes allegations of torture, mistreatment at the hands of other inmates, prison staff

Interior Ministry promptly issues a statement denying the claims posted online and clarifying that the inmate died at Salmaniya Medical Complex.

The SIU took the necessary procedures and assigned an official coroner to examine the body of the deceased.

Several details were revealed in the case of the Moroccan inmate who passed away last month while in prison.

This comes as the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) issued a statement on Saturday, clarifying that it has completed its investigation into that case and denied any torture allegations.

In the statement, Deputy Attorney General and STU member Mohammed Youssif Al Zubari said the unit detected, on February 22, 2019, video footage of a woman posted on social media networks, claiming that her son, an inmate in the Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation Centre in Jau area, was subjected to torture and maltreatment.

Mr Al Zubari stated that the unit initiated intensive investigations into the case. The inmate was identified as Naajeb Mahfoudh Ibn Al Shajji, a Moroccan national who was serving a 15-year imprisonment sentence issued against him on November 11, 2013, after being convicted in a number of crimes.

The unit’s investigations also indicated that the inmate passed away at Salmaniya Medical Complex on February 19, 2019, and that the woman seen in the video is his mother, in addition to the fact that the footage was filmed in Morocco.

He said: “In its efforts to reveal the truth behind the torture claims and determine the responsible individuals, the STU took the necessary procedures and assigned an official coroner to examine the body of the deceased.”

Further investigations proved that the deceased’s body was autopsied as per a request from the Moroccan Embassy in Bahrain, adding that the autopsy report proved that he died because of the illness and the accompanying malfunction in the performance of several crucial organs including the heart.

As reported earlier by Tribune, the inmate’s story surfaced after a video of a televised interview with his mother, claiming that her son died as a result of mistreatment and abuse he received from other inmates and some guards at the Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation Centre in Jau, went viral online.

Interior Ministry promptly issued a statement denying the claims posted online and clarifying that the inmate died at Salmaniya Medical Complex after a long battle with a severe illness.

The minister also said that the deceased was asked in 2014, in the presence of the representative of the Moroccan Embassy, if he wanted to be transferred to Morocco to serve his sentence there, but he refused.

It was also revealed in the minister’s statement that the deceased’s mother filed a complaint to the centre about maltreatment she received from some inmates and that he was shifted to another building.

Mr Al Zubari added on Saturday that the deceased’s cellmates were interrogated and denied that if he was tortured or mistreated in any way.

Tourism ties in focus

AGU launches first GCC copy of International Autism Diagnosis Scale

The scale is the first of its kind not only in diagnosing ASD, but also in determining the severity of the disorder in high and low functioning people with autism.

Dr El Khamisi

The Arab University of the Gulf (AGU) has announced that it has successfully completed the regulation of the third edition of the Gilliam Autism Rating Scale in GCC States, as an approval was obtained from the publisher to translate the scale to Arabic and apply it on a sample from GCC States including Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom, the UAE and Kuwait.

The third edition of the Gilliam Autism Rating Scale is considered to be one of the international scales that is widely utilised across the world to diagnose Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and to determine the severity of the disorder.

It was designed in line with the recent changes to the diagnosis of disorders mentioned in the fifth edition of the Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5).

Assistant Professor in the Learning Disabilities and Developmental Disorders Department in AGU’s College of Graduate Studies Dr El Sayed El Khamisi, who is also in charge of the translation and regulation project of the scale, said that the project was applied before two years and that the initial results were demonstrated during an international conference held in Bali, Indonesia, last year. The results included translating and regulating the scale welcomed by the participants in the conference.

Dr El Khamisi added that the procedure was continued and resulted in issuing a scale based on the GCC standards. The scale is the first of its kind not only in diagnosing ASD, but also in determining the severity of the disorder in high and low functioning people with autism, in addition to the provision of GCC diagnosis standards for Arab and non-Arab speaking patients with autism.

The academic said an electronic form of the scale is being developed to enable users of instantly detecting the severity of autism. Specialists in GCC States will be soon trained on the use of the scale in both formats: paper and electronic.

Link Atelier hosts Japanese Tea Ceremony

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Link Atelier hosts Japanese Tea Ceremony

Link Atelier, the Kingdom’s largest design centre, hosted a Japanese Tea Ceremony for many guests and dignitaries.

The Japanese Tea Ceremony, also called the Way of Tea, is a Japanese cultural activity involving the ceremonial preparation and presentation of matcha, powdered green tea.

Link Ateliers founder and principal designer Nahed Elshaq welcomed Hidetsuki Itou, the newly appointed ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom and other guests. Tea master and tea sommelier Hiroyuki Oku gave a special session on preparing and serving authentic Japanese tea.
India announced yesterday a general election to be held over nearly six weeks starting on April 11, when hundreds of millions of voters will cast ballots for a government on its second-most populous nation. Some 900 million votes from the Himalayan peaks to the deserts and tropical shores are eligible to vote for a new government for the next five years in an enormous democratic undertaking.

From April 11 to May 19, voters will elect 543 lawmakers to India’s lower house of parliament, the Lok Sabha, which governs the Asian nation of 1.25 billion people from the capital New Delhi, the world’s second-most populous city. The poll will see Prime Minister Narendra Modi run for a second term against Rahul Gandhi of the Gandhi-Nehru dynasty to lead the world’s second-most populous nation.

Some 900 million voters from the Himalayan peaks to the deserts and tropical shores are eligible to vote for a new government for the next five years in an enormous democratic undertaking. 

Opinion polls have suggested ebbing support for the BJP, and even that it may fall short of the 272 seats it needs to form a government on its own. 

Election observers have long accused Islamabad of backing forces. 

PM Modi has been able to bolster his nationalist credentials in India’s most serious standoff with Pakistan in years, sparked by a suicide bombing in the disputed Kashmir region on February 14 that killed 40 Indian paramilitaries. 

The deadliest attack on Indian forces in a 30-year-old insurgency in the part of Kashmir that New Delhi controls was claimed by a militant group based in Pakistan, one of many that India and others have long accused of harbouring. 

Living proof of the disasterous way Modi has been handling national security is the Indian air force bombing of a militant group’s hideout in Pakistan on February 27, which killed 40 Indian paramilitaries and wounded more than 40 people, forcing former transport minister Hisham Arafat to resign. 

The revelation follows a row over the terror group and US-backed forces. 

The pair, who are of Pakistani heritage, reportedly married a Dutch IS fighter, was located by journalists in a refugee camp after fleeing fighting between the terror group and US-backed forces. 

The crash triggered rare calls for protest online against the government’s record on rail safety.
An Ethiopian Airline Boeing 737-700 aircraft takes off from Felix Houphouet-Boigny Airport in Abidjan.
Tens of thousands of women poured out of the last campment some 10 days ago as US-backed forces pushed into the ragged tent encampment some 10 days ago as IS fighters and civilians for shelter. The charred and twisted remains of a truck’s freight trailer lie on the ground. On the outskirts of the Redout, it was hit during the most recent spurt of fighting, sending a pillar of black smoke jetting into the sky for days.

“When the sun comes up, civilians come towards us... but they soon paused to allow more civilians to leave,” said Hasakeh.

“They were stashing weapons in this area I’ve personally seen to it that all of us would use it. We’ve managed to pull some civilians out of the camp,” he added.

“Today, an Emirati (fighter) tried to speak up on us, but we managed to capture him,” he said.

The US-backed fighters have been hoping for weeks that the final day has come for IS’s “caliphate.”

“Everywhere we go we find stocks of ammunition and the bodies of dead jihadists. With jets from the US-led coalition rubble heaps, two young IS fighters fiddle with the scope on a sniper rifle, joking easily between each other before falling into song for a far-away sweetheart. "If my heart sways, how will I embrace you," the two belt out, their comrades looking on with broad smiles.

“They have all fought for years against IS, losing friends and family along the way. But with hopes high that the end of the long battle is near, the mood among those surrounding the holdout jihadists is triumph.

"They only have the camp, they've lost," said Hasakeh.

A Syrian fighter of the Turkish-backed Hamza Division mans a turret mounted in the back of a pickup truck firing a Turkish flag at a position in the village of Izilah in the northeast of Aleppo province.

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The scandal surrounding prime minister Justin Trudeau shows just how cozy the country’s elite really is

JEN GERSON

There is a particularly quaint element to Canada—our smallness, our politeness, our insularity—that makes many people, including many Canadians, assume the best about our country and ourselves. As if these qualities make us inherently purer than other, more populous countries. It’s true that Canadians are a trusting, generous lot who generally believe in the greater good, institutions and the rule of law. Consequently, the country is prone to imagining itself more bound by a mythology of its own goodness than it actually is. But there’s a darker side to Canada’s smallness. Our tiny network of political, business and intellectual elite is insular and concentrated.

The scandal now enveloping Prime Minister Justin Trudeau—a bilingual, feminist, pro-multicultural liberal who embodies much of what we like to celebrate in our national character—should put an end to this. At its heart, the SNC-Lavalin scandal that threatens Trudeau’s leadership is about political interference in our judicial system. The Globe and Mail first reported in early February that last fall, the prime minister and his office pressured Jody Wilson-Raybould, then the justice minister and attorney general, to seek a Deferred Prosecution Agreement, which is equivalent to a plea bargain, for SNC-Lavalin, a politically well-connected civil engineering firm based in Montreal. SNC-Lavalin has been at the centre of corruption scandals for decades. (In 2013, the World Bank debarred the company and more than 100 of its affiliates for 10 years, single-handedly putting Canada at the top of the bank’s corruption list.) In this latest scandal, the company faces criminal charges for helping Libyan officials, including Moammar Gadhafi’s son, with millions of dollars to secure contracts in Libya. The Deferred Prosecution Agreement would permit SNC-Lavalin to avoid criminal prosecution, allowing it to continue to bid for domestic government contracts. Without this, the company might face an existential peril.

The only person in Trudeau’s cabinet who seemed to push back was Wilson-Raybould. In January, she was put in charge of the Veterans Affairs Ministry, effectively a demotion. Last week, she went public, speaking before a House of Commons committee about the pressure she’d been under to cut a deal with SNC-Lavalin. For hours, she delivered extensive testimony, citing notes and texts, detailing inappropriate levels of political interference in a criminal proceeding. Her account was impossible to reconcile with Trudeau’s previous flat denials. The prime minister and his defenders have come across as weak and dishonest, more interested in protecting a Quebec-based corporation than in the independence of the judiciary. His government is now in chaos. On March 4, one of his key cabinet ministers, Jane Philpott, resigned, saying she had “lost confidence in how the government has dealt with this matter and in how it has responded to the issues raised.”

Trudeau came to power in 2015 on the promise of a new, revitalised Liberal Party, removed from the stale old boys’ club of yore. The party, though, it imagines itself as representing the quintessential ideals of Canadiana, has a long track record of corruption and chicane, particularly in Quebec. With an electoral base in the country’s most heavily populated region, like Quebec, the Liberals have enjoyed many decades in power. It is not without merit that they are referred to, derisively, as Canada’s Natural Governing Party. Power brings with it certain habits. This is true everywhere, but in a democratic country with a population the size of California spread across a gigantic landmass, influence runs in a geographic network that we describe in shorthand as the Laurentian Elites, after the St Lawrence River that runs through eastern Canada. Trudeau, the son of former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, is very much a creature of this elite. And so is SNC-Lavalin. Not just any company gets its calls taken by the prime minister’s office. Founded in 1911, SNC-Lavalin is a crown jewel in the Quebec corporate firmament. The company’s lobbyists have long ties in both Conservative and Liberal governments. Its lawyers include a former Supreme Court justice. A retired senior federal official is on its board. One of its corporate directors also sits on the board of the Trudeau Foundation. Quebec’s public pension funds own about 20 per cent of SNC-Lavalin’s shares.

The decision about SNC-Lavalin’s case was being made in the lead-up to Quebec’s Oct 1 provincial election—and that was apparently on the prime minister’s mind. According to Wilson-Raybould’s testimony, senior staff members from Trudeau’s office said the company was threatening to relocate to London if it did not get the plea deal. One such staff member, she said, told her “if they don’t get a deal, they will lose Montreal, and it’s the Quebec election right now, so we can’t have that happen.”

Wilson-Raybould recounted a conversation with Trudeau: “At that point the prime minister jumped in, stressing that there is an election in Quebec and that I am an MP in Quebec—the member for Papineau,” she said. When she asked if he was trying to override her independence as attorney general, she said, the prime minister replied, “No, no, no, we just need to find a solution.”

Wilson-Raybould was the first First Nations person to be appointed justice minister. She is a member of Parliament from Vancouver, British Columbia, to boot. By virtue of this background, she is not someone who has been historically well-represented in the cozy corridors of Canadian power. Why should she care about SNC-Lavalin? Why would she stake her independence and her reputation on the company’s survival? It’s no coincidence that she was replaced at the justice ministry by David Lametti, a member of Parliament from Montreal who even now has not ruled out saving SNC-Lavalin with a Deferred Prosecution Agreement.

The rule of law is a very grand Canadian virtue until, it seems, it proves to be a barrier to Liberal electoral prospects in Quebec.
A bout a decade ago, I stopped sending flow- ers on Mother’s Day for political reasons. My mom, a high-school-educated Najeb Yacob, with a soft spot for Hallmark holidays, was not pleased: “But I don’t want to celebrate you only as a mother,” she tried to explain.

A resilient woman who once copped two jobs after my father abandoned her with three young children, two kids and no child support, she was not about to be my personal cheerleader. She was a super mother, we want to acknowledge every thing that you are, I told her. “The whole person” I start sending my mom flowers on March 8 instead. It didn’t go over well the first year. The date meant nothing to her. “It’s International Women’s Day, and it’s celebrated all over the world,” I persisted. “The United Nations declared it an official holiday in 1975.”

“I’ve never seen a card for that,” she said. “Well, it’s not celebrated in the United States,” I said.

At this, my mom harrumphed. “That’s complicated, I told her. Although a National Women’s Day was first proposed by the socialist Party of America and endorsed in New York in 1909, it was Clara Zetkin, a German Marxist feminist, who formally instigated an international day to celebrate working women at the Second International Congress of Socialist Women in Copen- hagen in 1910. Millions began marking International Women’s Day annually after March 8, 1911. On International Women’s Day 1972, Russian women demonstrated for bread and an end to World War I, and sparked a revolu- tion that forced the Czar’s abdication. After the Bolshevik Revolution, Vladimir Lenin and his newly appointed commissar of social welfare, Alexandra Kol- lontai, declared International Women’s Day an official holiday in the Soviet Union. From Europe, I explained to my mom, the celebration of March 8 spread across the globe. The early socialists yearned for a world where men and women were equal. They understood the inherent misogyny and sexism that underpin patriarchal cul- tures. By explaining a special day to recognise women, they called attention to the obstacles women face the other 364 days in a year. Socialists embraced the radical idea that a woman is more than a mother, though she may be that, too. They fought to create a world where all valued women as workers, as citizens, and as fully equal members of society.

They devised an economic system in which a woman need not be dependent on a man, where she would not have to be a su- perhero to successfully raise two kids after her father abandons them.

Of course, 20th-century so- cialist states did not create the world they wanted, it was not for lack of trying. Different countries implemented different policies to further women’s full equality they had promised. Over a century after socialists expressed their goals, women still earn only 63 per cent of what men earn. For 25 years, women will still be the subject of physi- cal violence; women, and divorce often still means financial ruin. More than 25 countries mark International Women’s Day as an official holiday, and it is observed unofficially at least a dozen more.

In some countries, women receive flowers and gifts, while in others it is a day of parade and protests for women’s rights. But Americans have ignored it, largely because of its socialist origins and its historical assoca- tion with the Eastern Bloc. A resilient woman like me would have acknowledged the sacrifices mothers made for their children.

For my part, I despise that Mother’s Day values women only as mothers. It reinforce- es the idea that this is our most important role.

Have you wished your mother a happy international women’s day yet?

Forget mother’s day, today we celebrate women as friends, sisters, workers, and comrades, too.
Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) has announced the official launch of its first fully-fledged digital branch, located in Galleria Mall, Zinj. The launch was held yesterday in the presence of representatives from the Central Bank of Bahrain and the Board Members of BisB.

BisB said its digital branch will allow customers to perform a multitude of transactions without the need for human intervention, such as cardless cash withdrawals or deposits, chequebook printing, as well as instant card issuance through the use of a dedicated self-service kiosk.

Customers, BisB said, can also open accounts, apply for financing, maintain or update their records and even speak to a bank representative, if they wish, through a video screen. "Simplifying customer experience is a top priority at BisB. Our new digital branch will provide an exceptional digital experience where almost every task is easily accomplished online or via video conferencing," said the Chief Executive Officer of BisB, Hassan Jarrar.

"We look forward to enabling such self-service and digital services across all BisB branches to facilitate our customers’ daily banking transactions and simplify their lives," he added.

Trump to ask Congress for $8.6bn for border wall

Members of BisB.

BisB launches digital branch

Representatives from the Central Bank of Bahrain and the Board Members of BisB during the official launch of BisB first fully-fledged digital branch in Galleria Mall, Zinj.

Azm Terminals Bahrain, the operator of Khalifa bin Salman Port (KBSP), said the share price of its company jumped 53pc closing at 995 fils on Sunday from its offer price of 660 fils on 9 December 2018. Approximately 6.75 million shares have been traded reflecting a staggering share movement pattern.

APMT CEO, Susan Hunter said the share price is driven by continuous efforts to increase the shareholders’ returns while responsibly serving the community at large.

Savills to manage World Trade Centre

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China will not devalue renminbi: central bank

China has gone to great lengths to support its currency and would not devalue the renminbi to spur exports or combat trade frictions, the governor of the central bank said yesterday.

Speaking on the sidelines of China’s annual parliamentary session, Yi Gang said Washington and Beijing had discussed exchange rate changes in recent trade talks and reached a consensus on many “critical” issues.

President Donald Trump has long accused Beijing of manipulating its currency to gain a trade advantage and Washington has been seeking assurances on the exchange rate in the ongoing trade talks between the two nations.

“Let me stress here we will never use the exchange rate for the purpose of competition, nor will we use the exchange rate to increase China’s exports or as a tool in handling trade frictions,” Yi said.

Chinese banks’ regulator told reporters earlier this week that the two sides would reach a consensus on the exchange rate and indicated it would not be a sticking point in the way of a larger trade agreement.

“China’s efforts and achievements in maintaining the basic stability of the renminbi exchange rate at a reasonable and balanced level are recognised by the whole world,” Yi said.

In the past three to four years the exchange rate had been under market pressure to depreciate, Yi said, adding that Beijing had used up $1 trillion of China’s foreign currency reserves to stabilise the currency.

There have been conflicting comments from Washington and Beijing on the progress of negotiations.

Beijing is hopeful about its next round of trade talks with the US, its vice minister for commerce Wang Shouwen said Saturday, after revealing that top negotiators had tried to hammer out a deal over a lunch of burgers and eggplant chicken in a recent round of talks.

Donald Trump on Friday said he remains optimistic but will not sign a pact unless it is a “very good deal”, and a top economic advisor said the US president could walk away from a bad deal.

The two sides were thought to be readying for a Trump-Xi meeting at the end of March, but the US ambassador to China said Friday that the two countries were not yet ready to bring together the two leaders for a summit and deal signing.

Main points of draft Brexit

It oversees the EU’s withdrawal from Britain, the EU treaty on economic and monetary union, the euro and the single market, and energy and protects intellectual property, including trademarks as well as more than 3,000 geographical indications.

The latter cover regional goods such as Welsh lamb, Parma ham, Cheddar cheese, Feta cheese, Tokaj wine, and Jersey quinces.

• Irish ‘backstop’
• Transition period
• 2-year, 2-stage departure
• A transition period lasting until December 31, 2020 would follow by a transition period that could last until 2022.

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Cuba taps into high-end luxury tourist market

The opening of a luxury hotel means Cuba has turned a corner on Washington’s blacklist. The largest single group of visitors to the Gran Hotel Manzanillo -- one-fifth of the total -- are tourists from the United States. The hotel terrace offers stunning views over Havana’s historic neighborhood, where many Cubans live in dilapidated buildings that have fallen into disrepair or have vegetation sprouting from them. They are owned by Gaviota, the Cuban army’s branch dedicated to tourism.

**Feels like Miami**

The hotel offers to Cuba, clearly not -- it feels like being in the United States. When I first entered the hotel, I thought I was in a European hotel. The employees’ uniforms will be designed by Spanish fashion designer Agatha Ruiz de la Prada. The employees’ uniforms will be designed by Spanish fashion designer Agatha Ruiz de la Prada. The opening of a luxury hotel means Cuba has turned a corner on Washington’s blacklist. The largest single group of tourists from Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

The Kempinski group, which hopes to open two or three more hotels in Cuba, is of course not the only chain to show interest in the ultra-luxury market. In September 2018, Spanish luxury hotel chain Fincantieri opened its second five-star hotel, the Grand Park. The hotel opened its doors in February.

**New Engineer**

That category currently accounts for 75 percent of the 70,000 hotel rooms on offer in Cuba. And those who rent them usually don’t spend much money.

**Tourists are technically banned from staying in the hotels -- but the restriction can be easily circumvented by either paying in cash or booking through travel agents.**

**“There’s a plan to build golf courses in partnership with real estate groups,” said industry expert Jose Luiz Perello.**

**The rally in Moscow and thousands of people rallied against Russia’s increasing isolation.**

**Thousands of people called against Russia’s increasingly restrictive internet policies yesterday which critics say will eventually lead to "total censorship" and isolate the country from the world. The rally in Moscow and smaller events in other cities were called after the Russian lower house of parliament backed a bill to stop Russian internet traffic from being routed on foreign servers, in a bid to boost cybersecurity. Critics say this is the latest attempt to control online content under President Vladimir Putin, with some fearing the country is on track to completely isolate its network, as in North Korea. We are here because an anesthesia is being liquidated in Russia," said 23-year-old student Nikita Ushakov. **“Authorities are adopting laws that permit them to put people in jail for no reason, block online resources, block access to information,” he said. Activists said more than 15,000 people had turned up to listen to internet and media rights campaigners as well as to musicians, who have complained of government pressure in recent months.**

**“The government is battling freedom, including freedom on the internet,” said one speaker, Sergei Bolshik. “I can tell you this as someone who spent a month in jail for a tweet,” he added.**

**“You need darkness to steal a kiss, in all these cases you need light. In our day, light is the internet,” said protestor Viktor Timoftey.”**

**A protetor holds a placard reading “Putin out!” during an opposition rally in central Moscow.**

**Stocks hit by global weakness**

- Abu Dhabi stocks hurt by selling in banks
- Saudi loses early gains amid lower oil prices
- Egyptian stocks up, supported by IPOs
- Russell emerging market index next week, which could bring billions of dollars of fund inflows.

**Closing Bell**

- Saudi: 0.2pc, 6,466 pts
- Dubai: 0.6pc, 4,278 pts
- Qatar: 1.1pc, 1,576 pts
- Abu Dhabi: 0.5pc, 4,872 pts
- Egypt: 0.5pc, 14,979 pts
- Kuwait: 0.4pc, 5,577 pts
- Oman: 0.6pc, 5,090 pts
- Bahrain: 0.6pc, 1,456 pts

**Cuba taps into high-end luxury tourist market**

- **Where the average wage is $30 a month. But the hotel isn’t exactly looking for locals to buy in -- it attracts “a clientele of private airplanes... prices and celebrities,” according to general manager Xavier Destrubats.**
- **“It’s the first hotel with a 1,000-square-meter spa,” he said. All the rooms are at least 40 square meters ($430 square feet), with prices ranging from $370 for a basic room in low season to $1,900 for the presidential suite.”**
- **“There’s a plan to build golf courses in partnership with real estate groups,” said industry expert Jose Luiz Perello.**
- **“Since it opened up to international tourism more than 20 years ago, Cuba has focused all its plans and strategies on “sun and beach tourism” for the masses,” Perello said.**
- **“Thousands protest Russia’s ‘internet isolation’”**

**Moscow, Russia**

**Thousands of people called against Russia’s increasingly restrictive internet policies yesterday which critics say will eventually lead to “total censorship” and isolate the country from the world. The rally in Moscow and smaller events in other cities were called after the Russian lower house of parliament backed a bill to stop Russian internet traffic from being routed on foreign servers, in a bid to boost cybersecurity. Critics say this is the latest attempt to control online content under President Vladimir Putin, with some fearing the country is on track to completely isolate its network, as in North Korea. We are here because an anesthesia is being liquidated in Russia,” said 23-year-old student Nikita Ushakov. **“Authorities are adopting laws that permit them to put people in jail for no reason, block online resources, block access to information,” he said. Activists said more than 15,000 people had turned up to listen to internet and media rights campaigners as well as to musicians, who have complained of government pressure in recent months.**

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**A protetor holds a placard reading “Putin out!” during an opposition rally in central Moscow.**
Pete Davidson Breaks Silence on Kate Beckinsale relationship

Los Angeles

Pete Davidson is finally speaking out about his romance with Kate Beckinsale, and has something in particularly to say to anyone criticising their 20-year age difference.

The 25-year-old Saturday Night Live star and comedian made his comments about the 45-year-old British actress on the SNL Weekend Update.

After talking about people’s reactions to the recent R. Kelly sexual abuse case and the revisted molestation accusations made against Michael Jackson in the tmnt documentary Leaving Neverland, co-host Colin Jost asked Davidson if there was anything else he wanted to talk about.

“Not like a new girlfriend situation at all, Pete?” he asked.

“Oh yeah,” Davidson said. “Appreciate everyone having a crazy fascination with our age difference. But it doesn’t really bother us. But then again, I’m new to this.”

“So if you have questions about a relationship with a big age difference, just ask Leonardo DiCaprio, Jason Statham, Michael Douglas, Richard gere, Jeff Goldblum, Scott Disick, Dane Cook, Derek Jeter, Bruce Willis, Harrison Ford, Tommy Lee, Alex Baldwin, Sean Penn, whoever the president of France is, Mel Gibson, Billy Joel, Mick Jagger, Sylvester Stallone, Edie Murphy, Kelsey Grammer, Larry King, Larry King, Larry King, Rod Stewart and Donald Trump.”

Davidson said, referring to male celebs who whose wives and girlfriends, past or present, have been younger than them by 10 to 40 years.

Justin Bieber feels disconnected, weird

Los Angeles

Singer Justin Bieber says he is struggling with a lot of issues and that he feels weird.

He is reportedly been battling to make his marriage with Hailey Baldwin work. And though he didn’t address his relationship, Bieber opened up about some of his personal struggles in a post on Instagram.

“Be a friend to yourself. A soulmate is someone who inspires you to complete yourself. A soulmate is someone who loves you so much conviction, and so much heart, that it is nearly impossible to doubt just how capable you are of becoming exactly who you have always wanted to be,” the message read.

Justin Bieber and Hailey Baldwin are working through the recent Tristan Thompson cheating drama over a plate of breakfast. An eyewitness tells TMZ News that the makeup mogul and her childhood friend were at the Calabasas restaurant Papparich on Friday morning.

A photo of Kylie and a woman resembling Jordyn was circulated on Facebook.

The engagement comes just a day after Rodriguez posted a message on his Instagram story about soulmates.

“If a soulmate isn’t someone who completes you, No soulmate is someone who inspires you to complete yourself. A soulmate is someone who loves you so much conviction, and so much heart, that it is nearly impossible to doubt just how capable you are of becoming exactly who you have always wanted to be,” the message read. 

Notice

With Regard to BMI Bank B.S.C. (c) Ceasing the provision of all Services Regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 15 of the Central Bank of Bahrain and Financial Institutions Law No. 64 of 2006 as amended, BMI Bank B.S.C. (c) registered under 55436, a Retail Bank, licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain (RBB/021), hereby declares its intention to cease providing all services regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain, subsequent to its acquisition by Al Salam Bank-Bahrain B.S.C.

Written representations regarding the aforementioned cessation must be submitted to the Director of Islamic Financial Institutions Supervision Directorate at the Central Bank of Bahrain within 30 days of the date of publishing this notice to the following address:

Fahad Abdulla Yateem
Director – Islamic Financial Institutions Supervision Directorate
Central Bank of Bahrain
P.O. Box: 27
Manama-Kingdom of Bahrain
Tel: 17547464
Fax: 17537554
Djokovic dispatches Fratangelo
Novak Djokovic concedes nerves after making winning return since Australian Open

World number one Novak Djokovic shook off a nervy start to dispatch US qualifier Bjorn Fratangelo in straight sets Saturday to reach the third round of the ATP Indian Wells Masters.

Djokovic, playing his first match since winning a record seventh Australian Open title in January, was less than sharp in conceding an early break to his 128th-ranked rival.

He broke back as Fratangelo served for the set to knot it at 5-5, and then raced to a 4-4 lead in the tiebreaker.

Djokovic had to dig deep, however, when Fratangelo had bludgeoned back to lead the tiebreaker 5-4.

After a double fault and a forehand error from the 25-year-old American, Djokovic suddenly had a set point, and once he’d pocketed the set, the second went all his way.

“To be honest, I was just nervous in the beginning,” admitted Djokovic, who is going for a record sixth Indian Wells title.

Djokovic, currently tied with Roger Federer on five wins in the California desert, can also tie the world number two Rafael Nadal’s record of 33 Masters 1000 titles.

“I haven’t really had a problem getting up. I just didn’t play well today,” he said.

Ashton Turner hit an unforced error from Australia beat India by 4 wickets

Peter Handscomb top-scored with 69 as Australia beat India by four wickets to level the series at 2-2 in the fourth one-day international in Mohal yesterday. Ashton Turner hit an unbeaten 84 to anchor Australia’s 299-run chase as they achieved the target with 13 balls to spare and take the five-match series into the final ODI in Delhi on Wednesday.

A second-wicket partnership between Handscomb, who registered his maiden ODI ton, and Marcus Harris, who made 95, was key to Australia’s best ever ODI chase against India.

Osaka turns tables on Mladenovic

Osaka turns tables on Mladenovic

Osaka defeated Mladenovic 6-4, 6-4, to reach the quarter finals of Indian Wells Masters.

The match was a rematch of the 2016 final, which Osaka won. This time, however, Osaka was the favorite and she lived up to expectations.

In the final set, Osaka broke Mladenovic’s serve in the third game and held her lead to win the match.

Sparta retains Tennis Challenge Cup title

Sparta Tennis players with their certificates

Defender Joel Matip needed surgery for a knee injury and has been ruled out for the season to 11 and ending a six-game goal drought as his side reacted impressively to goading a goal down in the sixth minute.

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Roberto Firmino of Liverpool FC scores his goal

Roberto Firmino of Liverpool FC scores his goal

Roberto Firmino returned to Liverpool goal, with Firmino having opened the scoring against Burnley.

The match was a crucial one for Liverpool, who were required to respond to falling a goal behind against Sean Dyche’s struggling side.

And with City having opened a four-goal gap over Liverpool, batting the net twice in a 4-2 victory over Burnley that bailed them back within a point of Premier League leaders Manchester City.

Sadio Mane was also on the scoresheet twice in a game in which Liverpool were required to respond to falling a goal behind against Sean Dyche’s struggling side.

Replays suggested Alisson had a strong point, with defend- er James Tarkowski leaving on the Brazilian from behind and Jack Cork making contact in front of him. The goalkeeper’s furious reaction, sprinting 40 yards to remonstrate with ref- eree Andre Marriner, earned him a booking.

Shaikh Nasser steps down as BOC chief

Hi Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Chairman, and Bahrain Olympic Committee President, received a copy of the PhD thesis from Abdulrahman Askar, secretary general of the BOC, titled “Psychological stress and its relation to decision making ability at sports federations employees”, presented to him at the Mohammed V University in Morocco.

HH Shaikh Nasser commended the research efforts of Askar in obtaining the degree, which would increase his experience as well as the practical and academic abilities at the same time.

Hitting the pitch was also the moment for Jurgen Klopp’s team captains, Dalal Kazazoni (84U) and Abdalaziz Al Betairi (104U).

‘Player of the Match’ medals were also awarded to most out- standing players, RTA’s Barrie, Dan Barrie, awarded medals to Sparta players Lukas Bhiotlo (84U) and Faisal Maseeh (104U), while Sparta Senior Coach, Simon Bourner, award- medals to RTA players Mar- gaux Ehrmann (84U) and Jean- Paul Santiago (104U).

A database of 35-200 to 287-378

Monday, March 11, 2019

Liverpool rally past Burnley

Liverpool rally past Burnley

AFP | Liverpool

Robert Firmino returned to the scoresheet in form at the perfect moment for Jurgen Klopp’s Liverpool, hitting the net twice in a 4-2 victory over Burnley that bailed them back within a point of Premier League leaders Manchester City.

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Fresh Deals

- **Apple Fuji Jumbo China Kg**: 0.490
- **Orange Valenda Egypt Kg**: 0.195
- **Pear Rosemary South Africa Kg**: 0.595
- **Carrots Australia Approximate Kg / pack**: 0.195
- **King Coconut Sri Lanka**: 0.445
- **Fresh Sea Bass Kg**: 3.490
- **Fresh Farmed Sea Bream Kg**: 2.990
- **Indian Mutton Whole Kg**: 2.790
- **Chicken Garlic & Butter Kebab Kg**: 2.990
- **Chicken Tandoori Bone in Kg**: 2.090
- **Tonnlah Fresh Chicken Bag 1Kg**: 1.250
- **Frozen Creme Dory Fish Fillet Kg**: 1.150
- **Sinora Mortadella Assorted Plain Kg**: 2.690
- **Spanish Black & Green Pitted Olives Kg**: 1.400
- **Anchor Colored Cheddar Cheese Kg**: 3.950
- **Arabic Chicken Mshawli Combo**: 2.200
- **Chicken Biryani Kg**: 1.790
- **Vanilla Buttercream Cake Medium**: 3.390
- **Fresh Greek Salad Bowl**: 0.750
- **Orange Juice 500ml**: 0.750

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