

Emma Corrin to play Lady Diana in 'The Crown'

Newcomer Emma Corrin has bagged the role of Lady Diana Spencer in the show "The Crown".
P14

THE DAILY tribune

Green light for John Abizaid
Washington

The US Senate voted overwhelmingly yesterday to confirm retired General John Abizaid as the US ambassador to Saudi Arabia, filling a vital position vacant since President Donald Trump took office more than two years ago.

The Senate voted 92 to seven for the 68-year-old retired four-star Army general, who led US Central Command during the Iraq war.

Trump nominated Abizaid for the position in November 2018.

Gantz concedes defeat
Tel Aviv

A day after Israel's general election, Benny Gantz's Blue and White party conceded defeat against incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party yesterday.

"We didn't win in this round. We will make Likud's life hell in the opposition," Yair Lapid, number two in the centrist party led by former military chief Mr Gantz, said in a televised statement.

Mr Netanyahu's right wing Likud looked set to be able to stay in power after Tuesday's national ballot with the support of religious and rightist parties, although both Likud and Blue and White won the same number of seats in the 120-member parliament.

The victory, despite corruption allegations against Mr Netanyahu, 69, puts him on a path to win his fifth term in office and become Israel's longest-serving prime minister later this year.



03 Psychiatrist 'spread false' news by accusing girls of consuming drugs

04 Trio accused of not rescuing woman who attempted suicide, wins appeal

05 Battle for Tripoli escalates



Citizens' welfare 'prime objective'

His Majesty praises the role of legislature in implementing citizens' welfare schemes



His Majesty receives legislators at Sakhir Palace.

● **HM the King praised the role of Bahraini women members at the Shura and Representatives' councils in promoting the development.**

● **House members welcomed the the royal commendation, stressing to work under HM the King's directives for the progress of Bahrain.**

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa paid tribute to the sincere efforts of the legislative branch to take on constitutional duties to practise its supervisory and legislative role and promote democracy that stem from the genuine national culture.

This came as HM the King received at Sakhir Palace Council of Representatives Speaker Fawzia Zainal, Shura Council Chairman Ali Al Saleh, deputies of the two councils and members of the re-

ply committee to the royal speech delivered at the Representatives and Shura councils marking the opening of the first session of the fifth legislative term.

HM the King expressed appreciation of the two councils' role in supporting the comprehensive national development, reinforcing the national unity and safeguarding the homeland and citizens' interests.

"Together, we are looking forward to a bright future of progress and development, especially with the promising oil discovery that would benefit the homeland and citizens," HM the King said.

HM the King pointed the loyal citizens, who are renowned for their consciousness and enthusiasm for serving their country and its development.

HM the King praised the role of Bahraini women members at the Shura and Representatives' councils in promoting the development, highlighting the efforts of the fresh blood who joined the Council of Representatives to follow in the footsteps of their predecessors in support of the reforms and construction process.

HM the King also commended the Representatives' and Shura's reply to the royal speech, which contained constructive ideas to

“Together, we are looking forward to a bright future of progress and development, especially with the promising oil discovery that would benefit the homeland and citizens.”

HIS MAJESTY

serve performance improvement and democracy promotion, welcoming the national aptitudes for maintaining Bahrain's advanced standing in various fields, wishing the legislative branch success in assuming their duties.

Members of the Representatives and Shura councils present welcomed the royal commendation, stressing to work under HM the King's directives for the progress of Bahrain.

The Shura had highlighted the acute visions of HM the king, which are guiding the Council to push on with the blessed march led by HM the King. It underlined commitment to continue developing the parliamentary work based on the Bahraini democratic process.

It shared the royal commenda-

tion for the success of the general elections that reflected the people's political consciousness and its adherence to the royal reforms to practice its constitutional right in voting and nomination and to actively contribute to the development and democratic march.

The Council of Representatives' reply to the royal keynote speech comprised a praise for the democratic experience and the people's will to cast their votes, which reflected the citizens' solid cohesion and political awareness and the success of the royal reforms.

The Representatives pointed out the firm fundamentals and values contained in the royal speech supportive to patriotism and the progress of the country.

The parliament members underscored commitment to enact legislation to serve the national values, develop the current legislation to promote the national economy and revenue diversification, in addition to setting a time plan to limit the public depth, hailing the huge efforts of HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, in this regard.

Pompeo says Iran tied to Al Qaeda
Washington

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo yesterday accused Iran of ties to Al Qaeda and declined to say whether the Trump administration had legal authority to invade the country.

Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Pompeo hedged on whether the authorisation of force by the US Congress days after the September 11, 2001 attacks would allow the United States to strike Iran.



“There is no doubt there is a connection between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Al Qaeda.”

POMPEO

"I would prefer just to leave that to lawyers," Pompeo told Senator Rand Paul, a Republican who is critical of US foreign interventions.

"The factual question with respect to Iran's connections to Al Qaeda is very real. They have hosted Al Qaeda, they have permitted Al Qaeda to transit their country," he said.

"There is no doubt there is a connection between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Al Qaeda. Period, full stop," he said.

But Pompeo denied Paul's suggestion that President Donald Trump's designation Monday of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards was aimed at making a legal case for war.

First black hole image



Astronomers have taken the first ever image of a black hole, which is located in a distant galaxy. It measures 40 billion km across - three million times the size of the Earth - and has been described by scientists as "a monster". The black hole is 500 million trillion km away and was photographed by a network of eight telescopes across the world. Details have been published yesterday in Astrophysical Journal Letters. It was captured by the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT), a network of eight linked telescopes. See Page 7

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received at Sakhir Palace yesterday Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Nasser Bourita who conveyed to him a letter from Moroccan Monarch King Mohammed VI. He also conveyed to HM the King the greetings and respect of King Mohammed VI. HM the King asked the Moroccan minister to convey his greetings to the Moroccan Monarch. The meeting was attended by Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Work and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Royal Court Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Royal Court Minister of Follow-up Shaikh Ahmed bin Atiyatallah Al Khalifa and Moroccan Ambassador to Bahrain Ahmed Rashid Khatabi.



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday held his weekly majlis at Riffa Palace. Members of the royal family, senior government officials, members of the Shura Council and Council of Representatives, members of municipal councils, religious and community leaders, journalists, and diplomats attended the majlis. His Royal Highness welcomed the broad range of visitors at the weekly majlis, which demonstrates Bahrain's commitment to rooted traditions and values, that are underpinned by His Majesty's aspirations to maintain a strong bond amongst Bahrain's society.

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Bahrain Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (BCICAI) organised a technical seminar at The Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel. MP Vijay Kumar, Central Council member of ICAI and Dr Elavarasan, Chairman of ASPA Management Consultancy, delivered the keynote speeches. Chapter Chairperson C A Sridhar thanked all attendees. The event was attended by over 150 Indian Chartered Accountants in the Kingdom, representing various industries.

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Psychiatrist spread false news by accusing girls of consuming drugs

HRH the Premier has ordered a high-level probe into the incident

● **Capital Governorate Chief Prosecutor Nawaf Al Awadhi confirmed that the Public Prosecution has completed its investigations into the case.**

● **The psychiatrist is accused of defaming the complainants, spreading false news and misusing means of communication.**

TDT | Manama

A Bahraini female psychiatrist, who stirred a countrywide controversy over the alleged drugs abuse and

sexual activities at public girls' schools, was yesterday accused by the Public Prosecution of defamation and spreading false news.

The psychiatrist made headlines and the topic became the most trending discussion online, after she broadcast an interview with a seventh grader who was apparently expelled from Hamad Town Intermediate School for consuming and peddling prescription pills in school.

The doctor's 50-minute recording included serious revelations, accusations and claims of organised drug peddling and immoral activities among teenage girls in the school, alerting the highest authorities in the Kingdom to take action.

This led to the formation of a high-level committee, as per the directives of the Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, to probe the claimed



The use of social media to address this issue and discuss it in this way without resorting to the competent authorities is a breach of law.

MR AL AWADHI

incident.

Several authorities also commented on the matter, including the Education Ministry, the Interior Ministry, the Public Prosecution and a number of MPs and legislators.

In a press statement issued yesterday, Capital Governorate Chief Prosecutor Nawaf Al Awadhi confirmed that the Public Prosecution has completed its investigations into the case.

He said the investigations included looking into the complaints received by the people mentioned in the footage against the psychiatrist, interrogating the individuals heard speaking in the video including the psychiatrist and reviewing the results of the investigations launched into the alleged incident by the Education Ministry and the Interior Ministry.

Mr Al Awadhi mentioned in

the statement that "the drug that was said to be traded is not among the narcotics listed, but is a medicine forbidden to be sold unless prescribed by a doctor" adding that "the drug was not caught from any of the students at any time".

The official confirmed that it accuses the psychiatrist of defaming the complainants, spreading false news and misusing means of communication.

"The use of social media to address this issue and discuss it in this way without resorting to the competent authorities to verify the authenticity of what has been raised, is in fact an act of abuse and contrary to the law, especially since it has affected people's reputation.

"What the main accused (the psychiatrist) has committed by broadcasting the video and the dialogues included in it through her personal channel on social

media networks is an action that's contrary to the nature, traditions and values of her profession," Mr Al Awadhi said.

He also emphasised the responsibility of the psychiatrist of preserving the confidentiality of individuals and "not behaving lightly and recklessly in the affairs of those who resort to her as such".

Mr Al Awadhi added that the psychiatrist should have committed to the law by reporting to the concerned authorities that are responsible of investigations.

During the conversation between the psychiatrist, the expelled student and her family, several names of students accused of peddling drugs in the school and carrying out sexual activities in its restrooms, were mentioned, an act that's considered defamation as per the Kingdom's laws.

Mentally-ill patient 'assaults health centre staff'



Many equipment at the centre were allegedly damaged by the patient.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

A patient suffering from a mental disorder allegedly assaulted a health centre staff member yesterday after 'losing control', it emerged.

The incident occurred at Hoora Health Centre, according to sources.

The centre was closed for the day after the incident as the accused allegedly broke many equipment there.

According to sources, he stormed into the reception area and began throwing and breaking various equipment.

He also attacked the workers at the centre and attempted to break the doors, the sources added.

"Though the security guard tried to bring the situation under control, he was beaten up

by the patient and sustained injuries."

"Soon afterwards officers from the Ministry of Interior arrived and handled the situation. They began their investigations and took the necessary measures," the Ministry of Health said in a statement issued.

Subsequently, the patient was transferred to the psychiatric hospital.

Health centre officials said that the patients undergoing treatment at the centre were transferred to Naim Health Centre "following chaos".

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry confirmed that the Hoora Health Centre will function as normal.

"The Ministry of Health deeply regrets the occurrence of such an incident. The safety of the patients and medical staff is a priority," the ministry stated.

Traffic jam after school bus collides with two vehicles

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

A school bus collided with two other vehicles yesterday, causing a huge traffic jam on a major highway at around 11 am.

The accident occurred on the turn between Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Highway and Shaikh Isa bin Salman Highway, according to the Interior Ministry. No injuries were reported.

Another traffic jam was reported after a truck rammed into a traffic signal on Shaikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah Street. No injuries were reported.

Many accidents were reported



Traffic jam on Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Highway.

ed this week from across the Kingdom.

An 18 years old boy died in a tragic accident a few days ago after the car he was driving

rammed into a cement barrier.

The boy had obtained his driver's licence only a few days before the accident occurred.

In another development, the

General Directorate of Traffic said that it had arrested six individuals for performing motorbike stunts on roads in Hunainiya Area.

Career expo showcases 1,150 opportunities

Manama

The Labour and Social Development Minister yesterday opened a career expo organised by the Labour and Social Development Ministry at the ministry's building.

The event was attended by members of the Representatives Council, social and economic personalities and representatives of the business community.

The exhibition is part of the National Employment Programme to carry out the directives of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier to showcase suitable job opportunities in the private sector and speed up integration of jobseekers in attractive sectors with rewarding salaries.

A total of 50 private sector establishments are taking part in the expo while the total number of exposed job vacancies reached 1,150 in various specialties, including 650 offered by participating



Mr Humaidan with other Labour Ministry officials tours the expo.

parties and 500 by the Labour and Social Development Ministry's Vacancies Bank.

The fair also showcased quality training opportunities for jobseekers from various disciplines and with different academic qualifications.

The Labour and Social development Minister stressed the ministry's continuous initiatives to provide suitable job opportunities for citizens, accelerate integration of newly recruited workers in the job market and promote citizens' employment in the private sector. He pointed out the efforts to

50 companies from the private sector are taking part in the career expo.

keep the employment rate at its secure level, describing the expo as a platform to accelerate the employment movement.

He also emphasised vitality of the job market in Bahrain and its capability to generate job opportunities for citizens thanks to the facilities provided by the government for the private sector.

The Labour and Social Development Minister toured the exhibition and met with exhibitors and jobseekers.

He listened to their views and remarks on the ministry's expos and ways of upgrading the employment mechanisms according to the job market needs for qualified competencies in various specialties.

Scientific Forum for People with Disabilities opens

Manama

His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and Honorary President of Bahrain Sports Federation for Disabilities deputised Jameel Humaidan, Minister of Labour and Social Development, to open the 19th Scientific Forum for People with Disabilities, at the Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel, Residence and Spa.

Themed "Disabilities Sports: Challenge and Ambition", the forum is organised under the patronage of His Highness by the Gulf Disability Society in co-operation with the National Institute for the Disabled.

The opening ceremony was attended by Shaikh Duaij bin

Khalifa Al Khalifa, Honorary President of the Gulf Disability Society and President of National Institute for the Disabled, as well as a number of community figures and institutions, concerned local and Gulf associations and individuals, people with disabilities and their families, individuals working in the field of the education and rehabilitation of people with disabilities, community service activists, academics and specialists in the field of psychology and education of people with disabilities.

On the occasion, HH Shaikh Khalid stated: "The Kingdom of Bahrain is a role model in the field of supporting and caring for people with disabilities through the leading strides it took to provide decent living



Mr Humaidan along with other dignitaries at the opening ceremony.

of this category and its efforts dedicated to their integration with the community as active role-players in the development of the homeland."

His Highness also said: "Un-

der the prosperous rule of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Bahrain has successfully achieved many accomplishments in the fields of supporting people with disabilities in

education, health, sports and other areas."

HH Shaikh Khalid highlighted the selected slogan of the forum, focusing on the important role of encouraging the disabled to take part in sports activities, which have positive impacts on their lives and at the same time serve the efforts dedicated to discovering and supporting talented individuals of this category in different sports.

"We are proud of them, and their determination and confidence of their abilities to continue excelling in all fields. We wish them success and to achieve more accomplishments," His Highness commented, while praising the Gulf Disability Society for its keenness on annually organising the forum, which benefits people with disabilities

on all levels."

On his part, the Minister of Labour and Social Development underscored the remarkable steps taken by the Kingdom in caring and supporting people with disabilities and ensuring their protection and social equality.

The Labour and Social Development Minister thanked HH Shaikh Khalid for His Highness's endless care and support to this category of the Bahraini community. He also mentioned that the ministry is concerned of providing multiple services to people with disabilities such as financial support, provision of education, training and employment opportunities, and other rehabilitation, social, entertainment, psychological and healthcare services.

Trio accused of not rescuing woman who attempted suicide, wins appeal

Chinese woman had jumped off the Juffair building in bid to end her life

TDT | Manama

Three defendants, including a female doctor, who were charged with not rescuing a woman who attempted to commit suicide, were yesterday acquitted by the Third High Criminal (Appeals) Court.

The details of the case show that the incident occurred in an apartment in Juffair back in August, 2013. It initially involved two of the defendants, a Bahraini and an Asian national, who

were at the apartment along with a Chinese female friend, who jumped out of the window in an attempt to kill herself.

According to defendants, they were shocked when the woman stood on the edge of the window and tried to jump to the ground floor.

The woman fell on the road and they said that they rushed downstairs, where they saw the woman lying in a pool of her own blood, but she was still alive.

The men then took the woman to a private hospital, which refused to admit her.

Both took her to another private hospital in Manama, where the third defendant, the female doctor, worked.

The third defendant examined the woman but refused to treat her, as she feared legal accountability because she doubted that a criminal act was behind the accident.

The doctor advised the men to take the injured woman to Sal-

maniya Medical Complex (SMC). The men told the prosecutors that they feared legal accountability, so they drove to the woman's house and left her bleeding on the doorsteps. The bleeding victim then called a female friend, who rushed her to SMC. She had already fainted by the time they reached the hospital. She was taken inside the Intensive Care Unit, where she was announced dead after she succumbed to her wounds.

The Public Prosecution accused the three defendants back in 2013 of neglecting the woman's condition and refusing to rescue her. The trio were referred to the criminal court, which sentenced each of them to one month of imprisonment and to pay a bail amount of BD100 to suspend the execution of the verdict. The defendants appealed against the verdict and won the case yesterday, as they were ac-



We feared legal accountability, so drove to the woman's house and left her bleeding on the doorsteps.

DEFENDANTS



The man told judges that he tortured the dog because it attacked his cattle.

PROSECUTORS

Dog torturing case adjourned to hear witnesses' statements

TDT | Manama

The Third Minor Criminal Court has adjourned the case of a Bahraini man accused of brutally torturing a dog to April 16 to hear witnesses' testimonies.

The court also ordered to extend the detention of the suspect, who has been behind bars since March 23, 2019.

The man confessed to the prosecutors during his interrogation last month and he told the judges that he had tortured the dog because it attacked his cattle.

As reported by Tribune last month, the man was arrested a few hours after he appeared in a footage while heartlessly torturing a dog at a residence in the Northern Governorate.

The man was secretly filmed by an unknown individual while on the rooftop of a building.

There, he was seen beating a dog that was tied by its neck to a clothesline. The man was also seen filming the stran-



A screenshot of the video which went viral.

gling dog while beating it using a stick.

The footage was widely shared by animal activists and netizens on local social

media pages and groups, in a bid to publicise the man's face and eventually nab him.

Few hours later, the Northern Governorate Police Directorate confirmed that the incident took place in Bani Jamrah village and that the person seen in the video has been arrested and referred to the Public Prosecution.

However, no further details were revealed on the fate of the dog. Additionally, animal activists in the country demanded to introduce more deterrent punishments to curb the recent rise in the number of cruelty against animals cases, especially stray dogs.

Some even suggested imposing high fines on animal abusers.

Man to learn fate after found guilty of running over lover's dad with car

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court announced yesterday that it would issue the verdict against a man found guilty of running over his girlfriend's dad with car on April 30, 2019.

The defendant, in his twenties, is said to have ran over his victim with a car after the latter discovered that "he took his 16-year-old daughter on a romantic night out".

According to court files, the father came to know from his second daughter that the 16-year-old left the house at 3:00 am with her boyfriend.

Therefore, he stood in front of the house until 6.00 am awaiting their return.

When they arrived he tried to stop the defendant's car, but his 16-year-old daughter instructed him to not stop.

Thus, he ran over him, fracturing his skull and causing several other injuries to him.

He was admitted to Salmaniya Medical Complex.

"I was in a relationship with him for three years. I was dating him," the 16-year-old daughter told prosecutors.

The accused told judges that he was obeying his girlfriend's instruction to not stop the car.

'Darkness Into Light' event to tackle increasing suicides

TDT | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

The Kingdom will host its annual 'Darkness Into Light' walk on Nurana Beach on May 11, 2019.

The walk aims to tackle increasing number of suicides across the world

while promoting specialised treatment programmes for people, who have suicidal ideation.

The event was first held by Pieta House, a non-profit organisation, in Ireland.

Speaking to Tribune, Mary Murphy, organiser of Darkness Into Light Event



'Darkness Into Light' is very much about hope and hope is something we endeavour to give people who come to us in their time of need.

MS MURPHY

Bahrain, said: "Our flagship fundraiser, the phenomenon that is Darkness Into Light, an event that is almost entirely organised by our amazing volunteers continues to go from strength to strength.

"This unique event takes place just as we're coming into summer and our spirits are being lifted.

"Darkness Into Light is very much about hope and hope is something we endeavour to give people who come to us in their time of need.

"We help them feel more hopeful about the future as we continue to tackle the grave issue of suicide and self-harm."

WORLD
world**British PM voices regret over 1919 India massacre**

London, United Kingdom

British Prime Minister Theresa May yesterday expressed regret for a massacre by British troops in India in 1919 but stopped short of a full apology.

"We deeply regret what happened and the suffering caused," May told the British parliament, as India prepares to mark the 100th anniversary of the killings.

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the main opposition Labour Party, called for "a full, clear and unequivocal apology".

The April 13, 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre, in which British troops opened fire on thousands of unarmed protesters, remains an enduring scar from British colonial rule in India.

Colonial-era records show about 400 people died in the northern city of Amritsar when soldiers opened fire on men, women and children in an enclosed area, but Indian

figures put the toll at closer to 1,000.

Former British prime minister David Cameron described it as "deeply shameful" during a visit in 2013 but also stopped short of an apology.

A ceremony was due to take place at the site of the massacre on Saturday.

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We deeply regret what happened and the suffering caused

MAY TOLD THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT

Erdogan says S-400s delivery could be earlier

Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrive for a meeting on Russia-Turkey Cooperation at the Kremlin in Moscow

Ankara, Turkey

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the delivery of Turkey's disputed Russian S-400 missile defence systems could be earlier than initially planned, Hurriyet daily reported yesterday.

Ankara's purchase of the S-400s risks US sanctions and has further strained already tense relations with Washington.

US officials are concerned over the incompatibility of the S-400s with NATO military hardware as well as Ankara's increasingly close relationship with Russia.

"The S-400 missile defence system was to be delivered in July, maybe we will bring this forward," Erdogan told Turkish journalists on board his plane after a Russia visit, the newspaper said.

Erdogan was in Moscow on Monday for talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, with the S-400 purchase and joint coordination in Syria on the agenda.

"This step that we have taken for our country's security neither targets a third country

nor does it give our sovereign rights over to a third country," Erdogan said.

In a bid to stop Turkey purchasing the S-400s, the US has offered to sell the US Patriot system but Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said this was not guaranteed.

"If the United States does not want to sell the Patriot, tomorrow we can buy a second S-400, or another defence system," he said during an interview with NTV broadcaster.

He said Turkey did not only need the S-400s but also "other defence systems".

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov later on Wednesday said Russia was "open" to a second purchase.

"Russia has the relevant capabilities, technological skills," he said.

"And of course Russia seeks to expand military and technical cooperation. It's a completely normal process."

Last week, Washington put a freeze on its joint F-35 fighter jet programme with Turkey in protest over the S-400 deal. Turkey planned to buy 100 F-35A fighter jets, with pilots already training in the US.

Battle for Tripoli escalates

Gun-mounted vehicles belonging to fighters loyal to the internationally recognised Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) are pictured near a military compound in a suburb of the capital Tripoli

AFP | Tripoli, Libya

The battle for Libya's capital intensified as the UN Security Council prepared to meet yesterday to discuss the crisis gripping the North African country, where armed rivals are locked in a deadly power struggle.

The closed-door talks in New York come a day after the United Nations postponed a Libyan national conference aimed at drawing up an election roadmap because of fighting raging on Tripoli's doorstep.

Libya has been riven by divisions since the NATO-backed overthrow of dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011, with various armed groups and two parallel governments vying for territory and oil wealth.

Heavy arms fire was heard during much of the night in the Ain Zara district on the southeastern outskirts of Tripoli as strongman Khalifa Haftar's forces pressed an assault aimed at taking the capital from the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA).

"The clashes have intensified. We're afraid to leave the house," a resident said by telephone from the area, where roads were reported to have been blocked, hindering people's efforts to flee.

The violence has already displaced thousands and left several dozen people dead.

The UN warned that nearly half a million children in Tripoli were "at immediate risk".

Haftar's self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA), which controls swathes of the country's east, said it had seized a barracks in the Aziziya area around 50 kilometres (31 miles) south of Tripoli after "ferocious clashes".

It said several fighters loyal to the UN-backed government had been detained and their weap-

ons seized.

The internationally recognised government carried out several air raids against LNA positions south of Tripoli, and also hit supply lines in central Libya, GNA spokesman Colonel Mohamed Gnounou said Tuesday.

Haftar's forces appear to be advancing on two fronts, from the south and southeast of Tripoli, while coastal roads to the east and west of the city are defended by fighters loyal to the GNA.

'Spare civilians'

Haftar has defied international calls, including from the UN Security Council and the United States, to halt the surprise offensive launched on Thursday.

The UN's high commissioner for refugees, Filippo Grandi, called for the warring parties to "spare civilians, including refugees and migrants trapped in the country".

The UN children's agency (UNICEF) urged all parties "to refrain from committing grave violations" against children, including the recruitment of child soldiers.

"Nearly half a million children in Tripoli and tens of thousands more in the western areas are at a direct risk due to the intensification of fighting," it said.

The GNA's health ministry on Monday put the death toll in the fighting at 35. Haftar's forces have said 14 of their fighters have died.

The UN said the clashes have displaced some 3,400 people.

Led by Fayeze al-Sarraj, the GNA's authority is not recognised by a parallel administration in the east of the country, which is allied with Haftar.

LNA spokesman Ahmad al-Mesmari accused the unity government of "allying itself with Islamist militias" from the city of Misrata 200 kilometres (120 miles) east of the capital.



A burning vehicle outside the 4th Brigade camp in al-Aziziyah, located some 40 kilometres south of the Libyan capital Tripoli



A tank and members of the LNA outside the 4th Brigade camp in al-Aziziyah



Fighters from a Misrata armed group loyal to the internationally recognised Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) prepare their ammunition before heading to the frontline

Netanyahu on path for victory in Israeli election

Jerusalem, Undefined

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was on path for victory in Israel's election yesterday after nearly complete results put him in position to form a right-wing coalition and further extend his long tenure in office.

The results from Tuesday's vote came despite corruption allegations against the 69-year-old premier and put him on track to become Israel's longest-serving prime minister later this year.

His Likud party looked set to finish with a similar number of seats in parliament to his main

rival, ex-military chief Benny Gantz's centrist Blue and White alliance, Israeli media reported.

But with 97 percent of the votes counted, results showed the Likud and other right-wing parties allied to him with some 65 seats in the 120-seat parliament. The results would seem to leave President Reuven Rivlin, whose task it is to ask one of the candidates to form a government, with little choice but to pick Netanyahu.

Intensive coalition negotiations will follow and could drag on for days or even weeks.

Final results were expected



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (C) greets supporters at his Likud Party headquarters in the Israeli coastal city of Tel Aviv

by Thursday afternoon, with ballots for soldiers and other special categories of voters yet to be counted.

The close race between the two main parties had led to uncertainty after polls closed on Tuesday night and exit surveys were released.

Both Netanyahu and Gantz claimed victory after the initial exit surveys that gave Blue and White the most seats.

But even then Netanyahu appeared best placed to form a coalition, with both parties in any case falling far short of an outright majority.

New Zealand gives final okay to gun laws

Sydney, Australia

New Zealand lawmakers have almost unanimously passed sweeping gun reforms, paving the way for a ban on military-style semi-automatic weapons to enter into force as soon as Friday.

Lawmakers passed the legislation on final reading, less than a month after a gunman entered two mosques in Christchurch killing 50 people.

During the debate

Wednesday Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern told parliamentarians she "vividly" recalled the moment after the massacre when she, without consulting widely, decided the government had to act.

Ardern, her voice filled with emotion, said it was during a briefing with the police commissioner when she was told about the "nature of the attack", the weapons used and how they were notified but had been obtained legally.

"I could not fathom how weapons that could cause

such destruction, and large-scale death could have been obtained legally in this country. I could not fathom that," she told lawmakers.

She could not, she said, face the public or "the victims that had been left behind from this terror attack and tell them hand-on-heart that our system and our laws allow these guns to be available and that was okay. Because it was not."

The new rules amend permissive 1983 gun laws that had the subject of multiple reform attempts.



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern (R) speaks during a meeting

Wreckage of missing Japan fighter jet found

Tokyo, Japan

Wreckage from a Japanese F-35A stealth fighter jet has been found a day after it disappeared off the radar over the Pacific, the country's defence minister said Wednesday.

There was no word yet on the fate of the one pilot on

board the jet, Defence Minister Takeshi Iwaya said.

It was the first reported case of a crash by an F-35A, according to Japan's Air Self-Defence Force.

"We have collected part of its tail" in search operations at sea with planes and vessels, Iwaya told reporters.

"We believe it crashed,"

he added.

The fighter jet went missing around 7:30 pm (10:30 GMT) Tuesday as it was flying some 135 kilometres (85 miles) east of Misawa, northeastern Japan, on a training mission.

The plane lost contact about

30 minutes after taking off from Misawa Air Base with three other aircraft.

An F-35A fighter aircraft of the Japan Air Self-Defence Force



New blackout hits Venezuela

Caracas, Venezuela

A new blackout across large parts of crisis-hit Venezuela, including the capital Caracas, forced many to spend another night in the dark on Tuesday.

The electricity shortage -- the biggest in a week -- hit a large section of the capital, with social media posts from residents across the country suggesting significant areas in at least 20 of the 23 states of Venezuela were also affected.

An hour after the lights went out, some areas of the capital regained power.

No reason for the blackout was immediately given by the government or the state electricity company Corpoelec. The company set up to confront the crisis "is working to reestablish the service", said state TV channel VTV.

Opposition leader Juan Guaido -- whose claim to be interim president is supported by around

50 nations -- had previously called for protests against public service failures to be held Wednesday.

Power cuts have occurred sporadically since the massive blackout of March 7 left the country in the dark for five days, with electricity being rationed outside of Caracas.

Water supplies have also been interrupted, along with transport and communications, forcing many people to trim their work days to six hours.

The government of President Nicolas Maduro has blamed US-backed sabotage for the massive blackouts that have deprived millions of power, blaming "electromagnetic, cyber and physical" attacks against the Guri hydroelectric power plant, which produces 80 percent of the country's energy.

The opposition blames a failure to maintain critical infrastructure and Guaido on Saturday launched what he promised will be a "definitive" escalation of pressure to force the country's embattled leftist leader from office.

Young entrepreneur aims to send 3D-printed rockets to space

● **Relativity Space has raised \$45 million so far, Canadian satellite operator Telesat has entrusted it with the launch of part of its future 5G satellite constellation and the US military has given it a launch pad at Cape Canaveral**

Colorado Springs, United States

To see Tim Ellis hunched over his laptop, alone in a room at a major space industry conference in Colorado, you can hardly imagine that he might be the next Elon Musk.

But Relativity Space, the company he co-founded in December 2015 with the vision of launching 3D-printed rockets, has grown from 14 to 80 employees in one year and will recruit another 40 this year.

At age 28, Ellis has lured several industry veterans, including from SpaceX, the US market leader for launches that was

founded by billionaire entrepreneur Musk.

Relativity Space has raised \$45 million so far, Canadian satellite operator Telesat has entrusted it with the launch of part of its future 5G satellite constellation and the US military has given it a launch pad at Cape Canaveral.

And Ellis, who six years ago was still studying for his masters in aerospace engineering at the University of Southern California, now sits on the White House's National Space Council along with former astronauts and the heads of the largest American aerospace groups.

"I'm the youngest person by more than 20 years, and we're the only venture capital backed start-up," Ellis told AFP during



Tim Ellis founder and CEO of Relativity Space

the 35th annual Space Symposium in Colorado Springs, a major annual event for the space industry that will welcome 15,000 participants from 40 countries.

Dozens of start-ups have announced plans in recent years to build small and medium rockets to launch small satellites. Many will probably fail before having made their first rocket, but that's the game, Ellis explained.

"The notion in Silicon Valley is you're going to take tons of big bets, where lots of them will totally lose money. But the ones that succeed will pay for all of the losers -- and in a huge outcome, if it's the next Google or

the next SpaceX," he said.

Relativity Space, which like SpaceX is based in Los Angeles, has so far printed nine rocket engines and three second stages for its rocket model, called Terran 1, whose first test flight is scheduled for the end of 2020.

Small satellites

With its large 3D-printing machines, the startup claims that its rockets will require 100 times fewer parts than traditional rockets.

"We'll only be experts in like two or three (technological) processes," he said, compared to traditional manufacturing with complex supply chains. "It's far easier."

Only the electronics are not 3D-printed.

"It's much cheaper, because of the labor reduction in the automation with 3D-printing," said Ellis, who will charge \$10 million for a launch, at least at first.

"Also, it's more flexible," he said:

eventually, Relativity Space will adapt

the

size of the fairings of the rockets to the requirements of individual customers, depending on the size of their satellite.

Speed is the other advantage: "Our target is to get from raw material to flight in 60 days," Ellis said.

If Relativity Space succeeds in this feat -- which it has not yet demonstrated -- it would revolutionize the launch industry. Today, a satellite operator can wait for years before having a place in the large rockets of Arianespace or SpaceX.

The Terran 1 will be 10 times smaller than the SpaceX Falcon 9, able to place a 1,250 kilogram (2,755 pounds) payload into very low orbit (185 kilometers or 115 miles above the Earth's surface).

This could be suitable for a constellation of small satellites for telecommunications or imaging the Earth, but also for one of the largest customers in space: the US military.

This is another reason for the young executive's arrival in Colorado Springs: meeting senior Pentagon officials.

"I rarely wear a suit, but I will for the military," Ellis said.

US returns ancient artifacts from Mexico



Anthropomorphic clay figures belonging to the Teotihuacan culture are displayed at the US Embassy in Mexico City

Mexico City, Mexico

The United States returned two ancient figurines to Mexico Tuesday, seized from the home of an amateur archeologist who died in 2015 with a collection of 42,000 artifacts, many of them taken illegally.

The small clay sculptures date from the Mesoamerican classical period, around 1,300 to 1,800 years ago, archeologists said at a ceremony at the US Embassy in Mexico City, where the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) handed back the figurines.

The long, strange story of their return "started with a police investigation, and concludes today with this ceremony, in which Mexico is recovering two artifacts that are part of its cultural heritage," said Mexican foreign ministry lawyer Sergio Estrada. The artifacts were found in the US state of Indiana in the home of a collector named Don Miller, officials told journalists.

Miller, who died four years ago at age 91, spent his life traveling the world, participating in archeological digs and collecting rare artifacts, which he displayed in his basement.

But near the end of his life, the FBI -- acting on a tip -- raided his home and seized more than 7,000 of those artifacts, which appear to have been removed illegally from their countries of origin, said special agent Edward Gallant.

On US-Mexico border, militia vow to patrol until wall is up

Sunland Park, United States

In the southeasternmost pocket of the US state of New Mexico, with El Paso, Texas, to the east and Mexico a stone's throw south, there is a small camp: a few tents and a weathered trailer.

It is home to the half dozen or so members of the United Constitutional Patriots (UCP) -- a small but well-armed militia dipping their toes into the US border vigilante movement.

In recent months, thousands of migrants have arrived in Mexico, primarily Central Americans fleeing poverty and violence at home.

US President Donald Trump has described them as a threat to national security, demanding billions of dollars from Congress to build a wall on the southern border.

The resignation of Trump's Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen on Sunday, reportedly over the president's push to restart family separations at the border, has under-

scored his failure to get to grips with the issue.

And until the wall is built, the UCP insist they will be there.

"We're here to assist the border patrol because they are so short handed," the group's leader, 70-year-old "Striker," said.

"We have a good work rapport with them," he said. "Our goal was to be here until we're not needed. And when we're not needed is when that wall is up."

Based out of Flora Vista, New Mexico, the group -- made up mostly of older veterans -- enjoys an enthusiastic social media following. Striker can be heard fielding calls during lengthy radio broadcasts streamed online several times a week.

And if you want to sign up to "uphold and defend the constitution?" Just give pick up the phone.

Out in the field -- with tactical gear, rifles and even custom patches -- the UCP say their duties include watching the border, standing guard over people who want to hand themselves in to border patrol and pursuing those who don't.

'Fantasy world'

"It's kind of no different than if you were to have citizen's arrest powers, if you will," Jim Benvie, a 43-year-old from Minnesota, said.

Benvie explains that they use the term "surrender" because border patrol rules only allow them to "observe and report."

In a statement, the US Border Patrol said it "does not endorse private groups or organizations taking enforcement matters into their own hands."

And according to the Anti Defamation League's Mark Pitcavage, an expert on right-wing extremism, the UCP's bark is much bigger than its bite.

"These guys, even more than some other militia or vigilante groups, seem to be living in a fantasy world of their own," he told AFP, adding that they have been active for around two and a half years.

"They have this grandiose vision of themselves as protecting America from the drug cartels," he said.

However, he added: "It's ironic that the areas where they seem to have chosen to

focus ... is a very highly guarded stretch of border."

Pitcavage points to the rights to bear arms and assemble peacefully enshrined in the US Constitution.

"And if this is a simply a combination of those, can the government actually prohibit this seemingly constitutionally protected activity?" he said.

The border vigilante movement is well-established, with the Southern Poverty Law Center documenting "questionable apprehensions of migrants by private citizens" from as far back as 1999.

Pitcavage acknowledges that the movement is grounded in anti-immigrant sentiment but says white supremacy among followers is actually minimal -- and he sees no such elements within the UCP.

"Countries having borders is not racist," was member Jim Benvie's take.

"It's not about race. We have Latinos that work on our team with us."

A group of about 30 Brazilian migrants, who had just crossed the border, get into a US Border Patrol van, taking them off the property of Jeff Allen, who used to run a brick factory near Mt. Christo Rey on the US-Mexico border in Sunland Park, New Mexico



Facebook enhances memorialized user accounts



chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg

San Francisco, United States

Facebook on Tuesday improved features of social network accounts kept as memorials to deceased members of the online community.

Memorialized accounts are intended to serve as venues for friends and family to share memories and thoughts of those who have passed away, and are secured to prevent anyone from logging in, according to Facebook.

Updates included addition of a separate tributes section where people can share posts, while not changing the original timeline of an account.

"We know the loss of a friend or family member can be devastating -- and we want Facebook to be a place where people can support each other while honoring the memory of their loved ones," chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg said in a post.

Facebook added controls for people who manage memorialized accounts, and improved artificial intelligence to prevent profiles of people who have died from appearing in "painful ways," such as sending birthday reminders to friends, according to Sandberg. "These changes are the result of feedback we heard from people of different religions and cultural backgrounds as well as experts and academics," Sandberg said.

The real deal: astronomers deliver first photo of black hole

Paris, France

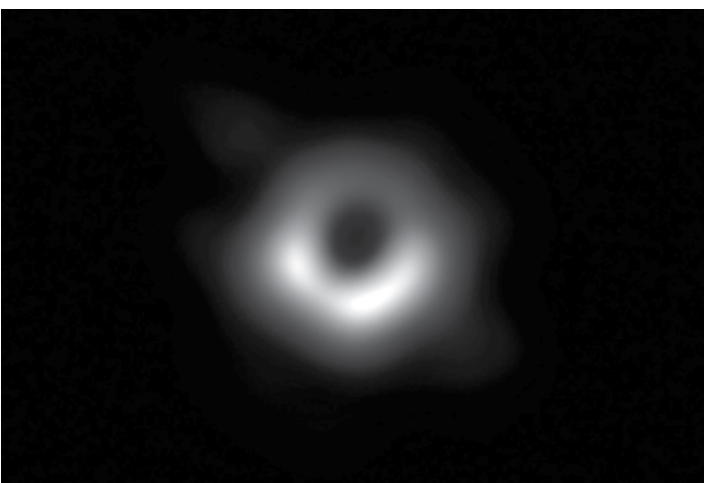
Astronomers yesterday unveiled the first photo of a black hole, one of the star-devouring monsters scattered throughout the Universe and obscured by impenetrable shields of gravity.

The image of a dark core encircled by a flame-orange halo of white-hot gas and plasma looks like any number of artists' renderings over the last 30 years.

But this time, it's the real deal. Scientists have been puzzling over invisible "dark stars" since the 18th century, but never has one been spied by a telescope, much less photographed.

The supermassive black hole now immortalised by a far-flung network of radio telescopes is 50 million lightyears away in a galaxy known as M87.

"It's a distance that we could have barely imagined," Frederic Gueth, an astronomer at France's



The first photograph of a black hole and its fiery halo, released by Event Horizon Telescope astronomers (EHT)

National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and co-author of studies detailing the findings, told AFP.

Most speculation had centred on the other candidate targeted by the Event Horizon Telescope

-- Sagittarius A*, the black hole at the centre of our own galaxy, the Milky Way.

By comparison, Sag A* is only 26,000 lightyears from Earth.

Locking down an image of M87's supermassive black hole

at such distance is comparable to photographing a pebble on the Moon.

European Space Agency astrophysicist Paul McNamara called it an "outstanding technical achievement".

It was also a team effort. "Instead of constructing a giant telescope that would collapse under its own weight, we combined many observatories," Michael Bremer, an astronomer at the Institute for Millimetric Radio Astronomy (IRAM) in Grenoble, told AFP.

Earth in a thimble

Over several days in April 2017, eight radio telescopes in Hawaii, Arizona, Spain, Mexico, Chile, and the South Pole zeroed in on Sag A* and M87.

Knit together "like fragments of a giant mirror," in Bremer's words, they formed a virtual observatory some 12,000 kilo-

metres across -- roughly the diameter of Earth.

In the end, M87 was more photogenic. Like a fidgety child, Sag A* was too "active" to capture a clear picture, the researchers said.

"The telescope is not looking at the black hole per se, but the material it has captured," a luminous disk of white-hot gas and plasma known as an accretion disk, said McNamara, who was not part of the team.

"The light from behind the black hole gets bent like a lens."

The unprecedented image -- so often imagined in science and science fiction --- has been analysed in six studies co-authored by 200 experts from 60-odd institutions and published Wednesday in *Astrophysical Journal Letters*.

"I never thought that I would see a real one in my lifetime," said CNRS astrophysicist Jean-

Pierre Luminet, author in 1979 of the first digital simulation of a black hole.

Coined in the mid-60s by American physicist John Archibald Wheeler, the term "black hole" refers to a point in space where matter is so compressed as to create a gravity field from which even light cannot escape.

The more mass, the bigger the hole. At the same scale of compression, Earth would fit inside a thimble. The Sun would measure a mere six kilometres edge-to-edge.

A successful outcome depended in part on the vagaries of weather during the April 2017 observation period.

"For everything to work, we needed to have clear visibility at every [telescope] location worldwide," said IRAM scientist Pablo Torne, recalling collective tension, fatigue and, finally, relief.

Latin America is already Trump's 2020 presidential campaign testing ground

The US president needs to keep co-operating closely with Mexico and refraining from bullying partners in the region



MICHAEL SHIFTER

The 2020 United States presidential campaign is already in full swing in Latin America. Four hot-button issues that helped propel President Donald Trump to the White House in 2016 are already coming into play in his approach with the region, and they are being driven by two parallel electoral strategies: appeals to his political base nationwide on immigration, drugs and trade, and a hard sell directed at South Florida on Cuba and Venezuela.

Since he announced his candidacy in 2015, Trump has treated Mexico as a proxy and scapegoat, particularly on immigration and trade, two issues on which he promised a radical policy shift. Calls to build "the wall" on the United States-Mexico border became shorthand for a tough, aggressive stance on these issues that reliably rallies and excites Trump's hard-core supporters.

But closing down the border, as the president threatened to do recently, would hurt both countries and cause irreparable damage to what is arguably the United States' most crucial relationship. On April 4, under pressure from Republicans in Congress, he backed off that threat, only to issue another one: "We're going to give them a one-year warning, and if the drugs don't stop or largely stop, we're going to put tariffs on Mexico and products, particularly cars."

Until now, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico has done a great deal to accommodate Trump, including working out an updated NAFTA agreement and allowing Central American refugees to remain in Mexico while their asylum claims are being adjudicated. The move to close the border will test the limits of López Obrador's forbearance. On March 29, the Mexican foreign minister, Marcelo Ebrard, said on Twitter: "Mexico does not act on the basis of threats. We are a great



Trump at one of his campaign rallies in 2015.

neighbour."

Perhaps just as outrageous, Trump also announced that he would cut aid to the three countries of Central America's so-called "Northern Triangle" — Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras — citing their failure to curb the continuing mass outflow of migrants headed for the United States.

This move has led some to speculate that Trump is seeking to deepen the crises in these countries, which could result in exploding migration flows and that could pose a "real" national security crisis on the United States-Mexico border, thus justifying the president's hard-line policies and providing a powerful campaign issue.

It remains to be seen whether Trump even has the authority to cut off congressionally appropriated funding, or if he'll follow through on these threats. But the announcement understandably left the governments of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador bewildered, having done everything to accommodate the United States.

The Guatemalan and Hondu-

ran governments sought to curry favour with the Trump administration by moving, or considering moving, their embassies in Israel to Jerusalem. Trump's announcement is particularly insulting to El Salvador's incoming president, Nayib Bukele. On a recent visit to Washington, Bukele unveiled a much tougher policy on Venezuela and pledged to review the outgoing government's decision to break with Taiwan and recognise China — both diplomatic wins for the Trump administration. Moreover, there is evidence that United States assistance is helping reduce migration from El Salvador.

On the drug question, too, the president is posturing to shore up his political base for the campaign. The Colombian president, Ivan Duque, recently met with Trump and vowed to pursue a United States-backed strategy to bring down rising levels of coca production. But that wasn't enough. Duque was reportedly taken aback when Trump told reporters, "he (Duque) said how he was going to stop drugs. More drugs are coming out of Colombia right now than before he was

The Trump administration's approach towards Venezuela and Cuba should be distinguished from issues of nationwide concern such as immigration, drugs, and trade.

States-Colombia ties are in danger of becoming "re-narcotised," which would undermine efforts in recent years to broaden the bilateral agenda.

The Trump administration's approach towards Venezuela and Cuba should be distinguished from issues of nationwide concern such as immigration, drugs, and trade. Still, there is little question that domestic politics, largely focused on South Florida, is a key element helping to shape policy. More ideological factors, advanced less by Trump himself and more by his national security adviser, John Bolton, and Marco Rubio, the Florida senator, are also relevant.

The Trump administration's sustained pressure on the Venezuelan dictatorship, carried out in concert with hemispheric and European allies, has rightly provided badly needed support for a democratic transition to a beleaguered Venezuela. But the United States' agenda in Venezuela is tightly linked to the administration's pursuit of regime change in Cuba, as Bolton has repeatedly made clear. Though in Latin America there is no love

lost for the Cuban regime, the region is more cautious about Cuba than Venezuela. Most Latin Americans consider the past six decades of United States policy toward Cuba (aside from the two-year opening under Obama) to be a failure and strongly oppose any new threats and punishments.

To be sure, infelicitous phrases by Trump and other senior administration officials like, "All options are on the table," and "I wish Nicolás Maduro and his top advisers a long, quiet retirement, living on a nice beach somewhere," may draw cheers to help deliver votes, and generate money in a critical swing state in 2020. But they also evoke possible military action and, as a result, risk weakening or dividing the broad coalition that has been forged on Venezuela.

To preserve this coalition — a major asset for the United States Venezuela policy — the Trump administration needs to keep it posturing for electoral purposes in check. Invoking the "socialism" boogeyman in Venezuela as a way to attack the Democratic Party for its health care and New Green Deal proposals shows how the hemisphere's worst crisis could be used in the presidential campaign.

It would be naïve to call for a moratorium on theatrics as November 2020 looms. Playing on domestic politics with Latin American issues may work for Trump as he pursues a second term. Still, it is crucial not to completely lose sight of the national interest, which means investing wisely in Central America and cooperating closely with Mexico. Trump needs to stick with the broad coalition on Venezuela, eschew any suggestion of military action there and any reference to regime change in Cuba. These issues should command bipartisan support. If not handled well, they could have consequences for the United States policy in the region for decades to come.

(Michael Shifter is the president of the Inter-American Dialogue, a Washington-based think tank focused on Western Hemisphere affairs)

CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

How can we forget Chernobyl, Fukushima?

With reference to Joshua Goldstein's "Nuclear Power can save the world", while the premise and the factors supporting it are quite convincing, the two disasters, Chernobyl and Fukushima, by themselves provide as strong a reason as ever not to consider expansion of nuclear power until the risks are mitigated.

Fukushima is still contaminating the Pacific ocean at an unbelievable level, and this is impacting not only the environment, but the surrounding community, and thousands around the world consuming products subject to the contamination.

To simplify the disaster and say no one died is overly simplistic and reckless, as the long term im-

pact of the disaster which has yet to be stopped, controlled or mitigated in any fashion, will not be fully known for generations.

At a basic starting point, the Fukushima disaster must be resolved, and the risks associated with it must be mitigated substantially to warrant an expansion of nuclear power.

Omar Haydar



Excavators piling nuclear contamination at a temporary place in Tomioka, Fukushima prefecture.

Brazilian Marshal **Humberto de Alencar Castelo Branco** is elected President by the National Congress.

The Palm Sunday tornado outbreak of 1965: Fifty-one tornadoes hit in six Midwestern states, killing 256 people.

President **Lyndon B. Johnson** signs the Civil Rights Act of 1968, prohibiting discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing.



Assassination attempt on **Rudi Dutschke**, leader of the German student movement.

My daughter's America — and mine

This country will be a homeland for her in ways it never could be for an immigrant like me



BORIS FISHMAN

For my entire adult life I've been trying to get back to the Europe I left in 1988 as a nine-year-old refugee from the Soviet Union. Get back there formally, once more with European passport in hand. No more statelessness for me, please.

This feels like a rare form of ingratitude. America not only took my family in, but also gave us all the opportunities we couldn't have as Jews in the Soviet Union. Despite all the ways the United States has abandoned its citizens in recent decades — this is no longer the America we immigrated to — I admire it beyond measure for those opportunities. But I have never been able to make myself fall in love with America. I have never genuinely felt at home here.

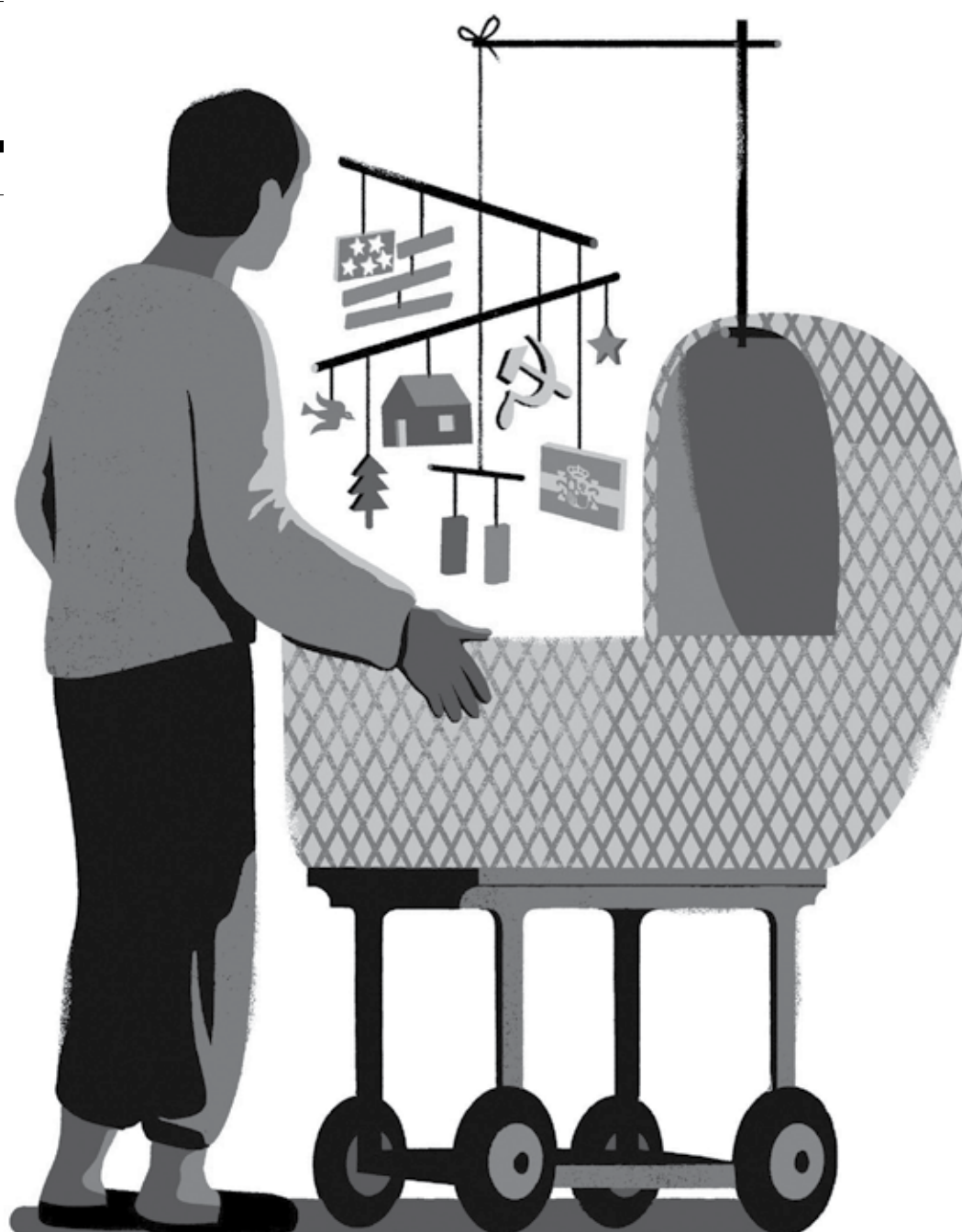
Europe, however, has seemed not to want me. An attempt last year to secure European Union citizenship through my wife — her mother has roots in Ireland — fell through because someone somewhere failed to fill out the right paperwork. And my fantasies of the citizenship that Spain offers to those who have Sephardic Jewish ancestry had no influence on the 23 and Me test that found me to be 99.8 per cent Ashkenazi. Even my home country, Belarus, took away my citizenship when my family left — not that I want to go back to Minsk.

Then, this winter, my wife and I had a daughter. I knew she'd be special because whereas most babies look like Winston Churchill, mine was a copy of Nikita Khrushchev.

She even liked throwing her right arm into the air, as if she were about to bang a United Nations podium with a shoe.

Now, however, she seems to be transitioning from Soviet premier to ... Irish lad. It would be startling enough if she were blond — given my side of the family, its dark-complexioned percentile surely as high as its Ashkenazi provenance. But she's red-haired. And her skin is as pale as the County Cork sky between September and May.

Without effort, Agnes — my daughter even carries an Irish spinster's name, or so my mother-in-law reminded me endlessly when we named her — will feel a sense of belonging in America of the kind re-



served for those who live in the place where they were born. I want her to. It's the thing I've missed most sorely in my life, and surely part of the reason I married an American woman free of the complexes bequeathed by my home culture.

But it's the first division between me and my daughter, and it has made me wonder whether we can heal it.

I want Agnes to know what exile is. For all its discomfort, firsthand experience of being an outsider is a shorter route to empathy than even the most well-meaning imagination. And the rejection I've experienced has fostered the resilience that's one of my most valued possessions.

So I read to Agnes in Russian: fairy tales, Marina Tsvetaeva, Vladimir Nabokov, Sergei Dovlatov. But you can't fake your way to otherness. Besides, it's a little soon to start drawing up identity plans for my

And if she is lucky, America will remain sane enough for her childhood to last exactly as long as it should. I will be ferocious in making sure that it does.

child. Instead, I've spent some of my sleepless hours at her side looking in my own mirror, wondering why I continue to feel so foreign in America and whether I've come to depend on that feeling.

Exile has been very good to me — three books and counting. But somewhere between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. the other

night, I reread the first 50 pages of a book I started writing in the fall, and was consumed with shame: There I was at the old game once again. Joseph Brodsky warned against this: "A writer in exile is, by and large," he writes, a "retroactive being" who asks, "Why not push the good old stuff around a bit more?" But "a free man, when he fails, blames nobody."

In other words, without the past, you really have to use your imagination. But what if yours seems to work only there? What if you can't connect to most of the epochal issues roiling this country and animating so much of its current art? All this time after I came here, is my adopted homeland really such a bad match? Or have I failed it instead?

I barely remember my Soviet childhood. I've always assumed this was because it was sweet and unremarkable; the

Soviet Union was often unkind to my Jewish family, but my parents were ferocious in sheltering me. (I think of that fairy tale in which the knight swings his saber over the princess so quickly that not one raindrop reaches her head.) The tempting Freudian revision is that something darker festered underneath — there was no shortage of bigger boys who came to the yard in front of my apartment building to demand last names so that the Jews among us could get a beating. But perhaps I've needed my childhood to remain hazy not because of anything that happened in Minsk but because of the painful vividness of what followed.

When we got to America, my parents' shielding powers dissolved. Their cape, and the responsibilities that went with it, passed to my shoulders: I learned English and gained the cultural fluency that my family now came to depend on to answer all the questions that they had answered for me in the Soviet Union.

America is responsible for the abrupt end of my childhood, for my sudden consignment, at 10 or 11, to an existence filled with constant worry and fear — something that took me a long time to realize, considering that we moved from repression to freedom. My family is more settled now, but the worry has never left. And so I continue to nurse the illusion that this American life has a nobler, more secure antidote somewhere east of Lisbon.

Embarrassingly, it has taken me 30 years in the States — though only a few months since my daughter's birth — to accept that no greater home awaits me in Europe, that my fantasy of something more whole has its fulfillment somewhere within me rather than in a physical place. It's time to grow up in America, alongside Agnes.

But how to undo a false estrangement that, over the years, has come to feel like a home of its own? I don't know. Even if I succeed, America will never be the homeland for me that it is for Agnes, and I hope she will be more forgiving of her father's disorientation than I was of my parents'.

And if she is lucky, America will remain sane enough for her childhood to last exactly as long as it should. I will be ferocious in making sure that it does.

(Boris Fishman is the author, most recently, of "Savage Feast: Three Generations, Two Continents, and a Dinner Table".)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Today is the day the shoe moved to the other foot. This is a big deal. For two years, the media breathlessly covered, and acquiesced to, allegations against Trump, no matter how absurd. Now the allegations are against the Obama Admin. Why do I think the coverage will be different?

@AriFleischer

02



A college girl made unfounded allegations that she was targeted because of her religion. Her story was found to be untrue. Now she has been suspended from college. Before she is further disgraced, ask: did she act this way because she saw mileage in victimhood? Was she a copycat?

@swapan55

03



In the richest country in the world, when you are sick, you should be able to see a doctor. If your child needs to go to the hospital, you should not end up in bankruptcy. That is not a radical idea. It is an issue of basic justice. #MedicareForAll

@BernieSanders

04



Everybody is now acknowledging that, right from the time I announced my run for President, I was 100% correct on the Border. Remember the heat I took? Democrats should now get rid of the loopholes. The Border is being fixed. Mexico will not let people through!

@realDonaldTrump

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

business

Al Wedaei wins Al Waffer prize



Mazen Salman Sater, Assistant General Manager of Retail Banking (second from right) greeting the winner

TDT | Manama

Sayed Isa Nabeel Al Wedaei has been named as the first grand prize winner of the 2019 "Al Waffer" edition, by winning the February Grand Prize worth BD 50,000 in cash with Khaleeji Commercial Bank (KHC).

Mazen Salman Sater, Assistant General Manager of Retail Banking, received Al Wedaei at the Bank's headquarters in Bahrain Financial Harbor. The 2019 "Al Waffer" edition has increased its monthly grand prizes to BD 50,000 in cash. Cash prizes for BD 100,000 and

BD 200,000 will be drawn in June and December respectively.

"We are happy with this successful beginning for Al Waffer. KHC has always been on the lookout for putting together life-changing prizes for Al Waffer's clients," said Sater.



From left, Simon Bromyard (OAK Group Projects Director), keynote speaker Norman Sheppard with Mark Gravener (BBBF Head of SIGs) and Derrick Rodney (OAK Group COO) during a meeting hosted at Bacpo Club in Awali by Bahrain British Business Forum's (BBBF) Special Interest Group (SIG) for Oil, Gas and Energy sector professionals. Norman Sheppard presented his views on the current challenges and opportunities in the fossil fuel industry and the emerging era of renewable energy advancements and climate change. The meeting concluded with a Q&A session



Roteract Bahrain announced Ahli United Bank as the platinum sponsor of its annual Against-the-Clock (ATC) event. The event will raise funds for Omneyat Foundation for Autism to support children with autism and learning disabilities. Above, from left: Jalal Aqelah, President of Roteract Bahrain and Bassam Al Tattan, Senior Relationship Manager, Private Banking, at Ahli United Bank.

Venezuela, Saudi oil output slumps: OPEC



Venezuelan opposition leader and self-proclaimed interim president Juan Guaido (C) gestures during a demo at El Marques neighborhood in Caracas

AFP | Paris, France

OPEC's oil output dropped sharply last month as a result of steep production cuts in Venezuela and Saudi Arabia, OPEC said yesterday.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries' combined oil production plunged by 534,000 barrels per day in March, it said in a report citing secondary sources.

OPEC does not release its own production data.

Venezuela, in the throes of political troubles, sanctions and repeated power blackouts, pumped 289,000 fewer barrels per day than the previous month, taking production to 732,000 bpd.

This compares to the more than a million barrels per day Venezuela was pumping at the start of the year, and its production capacity of nearly two mbpd in 2017.

Saudi Arabia's production, meanwhile, fell by 324,000 bpd, according to OPEC's sources, the

report said. This, analysts say, is a result of the kingdom's determination to support oil prices in line with a production cut deal between OPEC countries and non-member Russia that is to run until June.

These efforts appear to be paying off. Oil prices rose at their fastest pace in 14 years over the first quarter of the year.

Yesterday, the WTI futures contract, the benchmark for US production, stood at \$64.42 and its European counterpart, Brent, at \$70.95.

LuLu celebrates British summer fest

TDT | Manama

LuLu Hypermarket's British Week festivities will be inaugurated in the hypermarket's outlet in Saar's Atrium Mall by British Ambassador Simon Martin on Sunday.

Till April 21, shoppers will be able to make the most of the British summer treats from a range of juices and bottled cordials to a wide selection of British cheeses, organic milk, flavoursome yoghurts, chocolates, biscuits, tea brands and speciality bread, a LuLu statement said.

The inaugural event will also offer glimpses of quintessential British culture, with music by members of the Royal Marine Band's Corps of Drums. LuLu Hypermarket will also be decorated in the colours of the Union Jack and with replicas of famous British monuments.

Many British products will be specially flown in to fill the aisles of LuLu, the largest hypermarkets in Bahrain, for this promotion.

In the food section, there will be a special emphasis on fresh British meat, fish, cheeses, bread and fruit and veg. One can easily whip up a traditional British meal, such as the fish and chips or Sunday roast, by



The inaugural event will feature music by members of the Royal Marine Band's Corps of Drums

choosing from the classic British dishes offered in both the hot and cold food sections.

The stores will also showcase beauty and hygiene brands such as soaps, detergents and home cleaning products.

"At LuLu Hypermarket, we are proud of our long and delicious list of British products.

We are delighted to showcase the best of Britain at this festival. Besides special promotions on British products, LuLu Hypermarket will turn a tasty spotlight on British food and cheeses and food and drink from the UK Home goods will also be showcased," said Director Juzer Rupawala.

European stocks climb before EU summit

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Eurozone stock markets rose yesterday ahead of a key EU summit, with the smart money on Britain winning a Brexit delay which analysts said would be welcomed by equity investors.

But there was some nervousness about a possible US-EU trade war after a tariff threat by Washington.

Meanwhile, the European Central Bank held key interest rates at historic lows at a regular policy meeting yesterday.

At a news conference, bank chief Mario Draghi warned of risks weighing on eurozone growth prospects but dismissed fears of a recession. He also said it was too early to take steps to help out banks whose profit margins have been squeezed by negative interest rates.

The next big item on the monetary policy agenda is Wednesday's release of minutes from the US Federal Reserve's latest meeting.

The London stock market lagged behind its eurozone peers as the pound strengthened, typically eating into profits of London-listed multinationals with major earnings in other currencies.

Sterling benefited from the view that a Brexit delay would reduce the chances of a "hard" British exit from the European Union which would be expected



Traders work ahead of the closing bell on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)

to have dire economic consequences.

The currency shrugged off news that the UK economy grew by just 0.2pc in February from a month earlier.

'Anything but boring'

Analysts have dubbed the combination of the EU summit, the ECB decision and the Fed minutes "Super Wednesday", making for "anything but a bor-

ing day in the markets", as Oanda analyst Craig Erlam put it.

"Today is the day we have all been waiting for; the reason why markets have been so subdued at the start of the week," he said.

European leaders will gather for a summit showdown to decide how long a Brexit delay to grant British Prime Minister Theresa May -- and under what conditions.

Without a postponement,

Britain is due to crash out of the European Union at midnight on Friday under a "no-deal" Brexit that could trigger economic chaos.

May has embarked on a last-ditch battle to postpone Brexit from April 12 to June 30 to arrange an orderly departure -- but European leaders are expected to offer her a longer delay of up to a year.

"All eyes are on the EU27

Key figures around 1345 GMT

London - FTSE 100:	▲ at 7,426.92 points
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▲ 0.6pc at 11,919.97
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.4pc at 5,460.20
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ 0.4pc at 3,431.54
New York - Dow:	▲ 0.1pc at 26,173.37
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.3075 from \$1.3052 on Tuesday
Euro/pound:	▼ at 86.00 pence from 86.29 pence
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1245 from \$1.1263
Dollar/yen:	▲ P at 111.07 yen from 111.14 yen
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 0.5pc at 21,687.57 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▼ 0.1pc at 30,119.56 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.1pc at 3,241.93 (close)
Oil - Brent Crude:	▲ 24 cents at \$70.85 per barrel
Oil - West Texas Inter:	▲ 32 cents at \$64.30

meeting which has the potential to force the UK to choose between no-deal or no-Brexit," said IG analyst Joshua Mahony.

"Meanwhile, US trade wars are back on the agenda," he added.

European and US equities had fallen Tuesday amid a flare-up in trade tensions between Washington and Brussels.

'Wrath of Trump'

US President Donald Trump has threatened to impose tariffs on billions in European imports in retaliation over subsidies to aviation giant Airbus.

The warning from Trump's administration that it would im-

pose levies on more than \$11 billion of European imports jolted investors.

Airbus stock was steady in the European afternoon on the first day under new chief executive Guillaume Faury.

The stock had dived 1.86pc lower on Tuesday.

The development stoked concerns about the White House's hardline protectionist agenda that has taken aim at its biggest trading partners.

"Friend or foe, the latest headline suggests no country is exempt from the wrath of President Trump's trade agenda," warned Stephen Innes at SPI Asset Management.

IMF warns rising debt makes economy more vulnerable

● The IMF's semi-annual Global Financial Stability Report found vulnerabilities are on the rise across advanced and emerging market economies

AFP | Washington, United States

Rising corporate and government debt levels and the sharp increase in more risky lending could leave the global economy vulnerable to another severe downturn, the International Monetary Fund warned yesterday.

While the concerns "aren't all setting off alarm bells just yet," governments will face challenges in balancing the need to tighten up oversight of the financial sector, at a time when the global economy is slowing, said Tobias Adrian, head of the Monetary and Capital Markets Department.

The IMF's semi-annual Global Financial Stability Report found vulnerabilities are on the rise across advanced and emerging market economies, and they will need "the right mix of policies (to) sustain growth while keeping vulnerabilities in check," he said.

"In the United States, the ratio of corporate debt to GDP is at record-high levels. In several European countries, banks are overloaded with government bonds," Adrian said.

The stock of lower-rated



International Monetary Fund Financial Economic Counsellor and Director of the Monetary and Capital Markets Department Tobias Adrian

In the United States, the ratio of corporate debt to GDP is at record-high levels. In several European countries, banks are overloaded with government bonds

TOBIAS ADRIAN
HEAD OF THE MONETARY AND CAPITAL MARKETS DEPARTMENT

bonds -- ranked BBB -- have quadrupled since the last report in October, while the amount of more risky debt, known as "speculative grade," has doubled, according to the IMF report.

And in China, "authorities face a difficult trade-off between supporting near-term growth, countering adverse external shocks, and containing leverage through regulatory tightening," the report said.

Investors could get spooked quickly if there is a sharper-than-expected econom-

ic slowdown, if central banks like the Federal Reserve decide to start raising rates again, or if there is a renewed flare up of trade tensions or a no-deal Brexit which could push the British economy into recession and further slow growth in Europe, the report said.

The IMF urged countries to take proactive steps, including limiting the amount of risky credit, boosting bank reserves and lowering government debt in the euro area, while China should continue to crack down on "shadow banking" by non-bank lenders.

Energy costs bump US consumer inflation higher

Washington, United States

A jump in US gasoline and electricity costs drove consumer prices higher in March but underlying trends still pointed to tame inflation pressures, according to government data released yesterday.

The fresh sign that inflation remains subdued -- despite steady job creation and falling unemployment -- will likely comfort Federal Reserve policymakers who have made clear they will be patient before considering raising interest rates again. The consumer price index, a broad measure of changes in costs for household goods and services, rose 0.4 per cent compared to February, according to the Labor Department's monthly report.

It was the biggest increase in more than a year and came in a notch higher than economists had been expecting after energy prices jumped 3.5pc in the month, as did costs for food.

But excluding these volatile categories, the "core" CPI measure was held down by falling prices for clothing, used autos and airfares, rising just 0.1pc, the same as the increase for February.

Compared to March of last year, the index rose to 1.9pc, the highest level in four months, also due to a sudden jolt from food prices which jumped 2.1pc, the biggest increase in three years.

But core CPI for the latest 12 months, fell to 2.0pc, down from 2.1pc in February, for the smallest gain in 13 months and the second decline in a row.

ECB's Draghi warns of 'risks'

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi yesterday warned of risks weighing on growth in the eurozone, describing current economic indicators as "weak".

"The risks surrounding the euro area growth outlook remain tilted to the downside, on account of the persistence of uncertainties related to geopolitical factors, the threat of protectionism and vulnerabilities in emerging markets," said Draghi in Frankfurt.

However, the ECB chief echoed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecast for the eurozone by saying there



European Central Bank President Mario Draghi

is currently little risk of recession.

"The estimated probability of recession remains low," added the Italian banking boss.

US urges IMF reforms, rejects funding increase

Washington, United States

The International Monetary Fund, like governments around the world, has to learn to do more with less and needs to be more effective, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said yesterday.

Key among the needed reforms is a focus on conditions for financial aid, and evaluation of countries' ability to manage debt, Mnuchin said in his statement to the IMF's steering committee.

The calls for "debt transparency" have been increasing in volume in the run up to this week's spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank, amid concern that a surge in lending by China to developing nations could sow the seeds of financial strife.

"Debt owed to emerging creditors is at a critical juncture, with debt levels rising among both low income/emerging and advanced economies," Mnuchin said in the prepared statement.

"Increasingly, opaque or unsustainable lending practices weaken investor confidence, erode governance and accountability and create a drag on economic growth."

The IMF has cited high debt levels as a key risk to the glob-



Steven Mnuchin

al economy, which is slowing down.

Mnuchin said the fund must "continue to evolve to respond to the challenges ahead" and improve its effectiveness.

He stressed the need for strengthened surveillance of member countries, including tighter conditions for lending, "to assure its members that it is delivering effectively on its core mission."

He cited the case of Argentina -- which has an IMF aid program worth about \$56 billion -- and said the requirements "addressing weaknesses in monetary and fiscal policies helped to stabilize financial markets, putting the economy on track to return to growth."

Lending should "address parsimony and criticality of conditions," he said.

And Mnuchin said the IMF currently has enough resources to fulfill its mission, so does not need increased contributions from members.

Dubai nears 5-month high

● Saudi Basic Industries drops after going ex-dividend

● Nine of 10 Saudi banks gain

● National Agriculture Marketing up on capital increase plan

Reuters

Dubai's stock market rose for the tenth straight session yesterday, lifted by its financial shares, while Abu Dhabi was pulled lower by its top lender First Abu Dhabi Bank.

The Dubai index gained 0.2 per cent, hovering around five-month high, with Emaar Properties adding 1.2pc and Mashreq Bank jumping 5.3pc.

This month, the latter's retail banking head said it would close 12 of its branches by June as it shifts some of its business online.

Emirates NBD said it would sell 127.5 million shares in Network International for a total of 554.5 million pounds (\$725.2 million) through a secondary listing of the shares on the London Stock Exchange.

The bank continues to hold a 25.5pc stake in the payments processor. The stock was flat.

Saudi Arabia's index in-



Traders on the floor of Saudi Stock exchange

Closing Bell

SAUDI ▲ 0.3 pc » 9,077 pts

ABU DHABI ▼ 0.4 pc » 5,058 pts

DUBAI ▲ 0.2 pc » 2,808 pts

QATAR ▲ 0.2 pc » 10,236 pts

EGYPT ▲ 0.1 pc » 15,107 pts

BAHRAIN ▲ 0.1 pc » 1,443 pts

OMAN ▲ 0.3 pc » 3,984 pts

KUWAIT ▲ 0.2 pc » 6,117 pts

creased 0.3pc, with most of its banking shares gaining. Riyadh Bank was up 2.2pc and Al Jazira Bank increased 1.3pc.

National Agriculture Market-

ing Company jumped 6.8pc. Its board proposed a rights issue to raise 150 million riyals (\$40 million).

On Wednesday, the company was fined 20,000 riyals by the Capital Markets Authority for a regulatory rule violation.

But market heavyweight Saudi Basic Industries dropped 1.4pc as it traded ex-dividend.

The Abu Dhabi index fell 0.4pc, led by 1.1pc fall in First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB) and 1.6pc slide in Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank.

Last week, the banks denied they were in merger talks after a news report said the emir-

ate was considering combining them. On Monday, Qatar filed lawsuits against three banks including First Abu Dhabi Bank, accusing the trio of overseas currency manipulation which caused billions of dollars of damage to Qatar's economy.

Qatar's blue-chip index edged up 0.2pc, lifted by a 1.9pc gain in its largest sharia-compliant lender Qatar Islamic Bank.

The Egyptian index moved 0.1pc higher, partly on back of its blue-chip stock Talaat Mostafa Group Holding. The realtor was up 1.2pc.

May says wants Britain to leave EU soon



Theresa May



I want us to be able to leave the European Union in a smooth and orderly way as soon as possible. I've asked for an extension to June 30 but what is important is that any extension enables us to leave at the point at which we ratify the withdrawal agreement

PRIME MINISTER THERESA MAY

● Merkel says backs longer Brexit delay than London seeking

● Macron says long Brexit delay not a given

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

Prime Minister Theresa May insisted yesterday she wants Britain to leave the EU as soon as possible even as she prepared to agree a potentially long delay to Brexit at an emergency summit in Brussels.

Without a postponement, Britain is due to end its 46-year membership of the European Union at midnight on Friday with no deal, risking economic chaos.

May had wanted to be given until June 30 to try once again to

get her EU divorce deal through parliament, but her fellow leaders are expected to offer her a longer delay, of up to a year.

"I want us to be able to leave the European Union in a smooth and orderly way as soon as possible," the prime minister said as she arrived for talks in Brussels.

She added: "I've asked for an extension to June 30 but what is important is that any extension enables us to leave at the point at which we ratify the withdrawal agreement."

Under intense pressure from Brexit supporters at home, May said she still hoped to leave the EU on May 22, the last day before Britain must hold European Parliament elections.

But in Berlin earlier, Chancellor Angela Merkel said the EU leaders might back a delay "longer than the British prime minister has requested".

She said it should be "as short as possible" but said she believed British politicians should be given "a reasonable amount of time" to reach an agreement.

"It should be long enough to create a certain calm so we don't have to meet every two weeks to deal with the same subject," Merkel told the German parliament.

EU Council President Donald Tusk has also suggested there is "little reason to believe" the British parliament can ratify the deal by June 30.

MPs have rejected the plan three times, and May has already been forced to delay Brexit once, from March 29 to April 12. She reluctantly opened talks last week with the opposition Labour party, but those are moving



Britain has already reluctantly begun preparations for the polls, setting the date for May 23, although officials insist they could still cancel it at the last minute.

slowly.

"One possibility would be a flexible extension, which would last only as long as necessary and no longer than one year," Tusk said.

According to a draft copy of the summit conclusions that EU leaders were to negotiate later in the day, they were to agree to an extension to allow May time to ratify the withdrawal agreement.

EU elections in doubt

"Such an extension should last only as long as necessary and, in any event, no longer than [XX.XX.XXXX]," the draft reads. The other 27 EU leaders will thrash out what date to fill in the blanks on Wednesday.

"If the withdrawal agreement is ratified by both parties before this date, the withdrawal will take place on the first day of the following month," the draft, seen by AFP says.

Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis said he expected EU lead-

Long Brexit delay not 'decided'

Brussels, Belgium



Emmanuel Macron

French President Emmanuel Macron warned yesterday as he arrived at Brexit crisis talks in Brussels that EU leaders have yet to agree on how long to delay Britain's departure.

"For me, nothing is decided, nothing, and in particular, since I hear rumours, not a long extension," he said, as leaders met to consider Prime Minister Theresa May's request for a postponement.

May has asked for Brexit to be delayed from Friday to June 30, to allow her more time to ratify Britain's orderly divorce, and other EU leaders arriving in Brussels suggested she could have even longer.

But Macron has been keen to project a tougher stance, insisting May must provide more

guarantees that the delay would serve a purpose and that London's crisis will not disrupt EU business.

"For me, nothing is given," he said. "We need to understand why this demand is being made, what is the political plan behind it and what proposals are clear. For my part, I'll hold to that."

"I'm looking forward very much to hearing Theresa May," he said. "The time for decisions is now."

ers to delay Brexit for "much more time" than May asked, on condition that it holds European elections.

"That is why we can agree -- I speak for myself -- the prolongation," he said as he arrived in Brussels.

Britain has already reluctantly begun preparations for the polls, setting the date for May 23, although officials insist they could still cancel it at the last minute.

The draft conclusions say that if Britain fails to take part, it will leave the bloc on June 1.

If an extension is agreed, Brussels will portray it as a concession to Britain, with some members -- particularly France -- not

keen to see the disruptive Brexit drama drag on much longer.

EU members want to ensure that a semi-detached Britain does not seek leverage in Brexit talks by intervening in choosing the next head of the European Commission or the next multi-year EU budget.

May will make her case to her colleagues before leaving them to discuss the length of the Brexit delay -- and any conditions -- without her.

Britain was originally due to leave the EU on March 29. But Brussels agreed an extension after the British parliament rejected the withdrawal agreement negotiated with May.

show

OASIS JUFFAIR

1-HELL BOY (18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY) NEW

⊗ DAVID HARBOUR, MILLA JOVOVICH, AND IAN MCSHANE
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM
DAILY AT (VIP): 3.00 + 8.15 PM

2-DRAGGED ACROSS CONCRETE (18+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW

⊗ MEL GIBSON, JENNIFER CARPENTER, VINCE VAUGHN
DAILY AT: 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 PM

3-LITTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY) NEW

⊗ REGINA HALL, ISSA RAE, MARSAI MARTIN
DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM

4-AFTER (15+) (ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW

⊗ JOSEPHINE LANGFORD, HERO FIENNES TIFFIN, KHADIJHA RED THUNDER
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 4.00 + 9.15 PM

5-MASHA AND THE BEAR THE NEW ADVENTURES (G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

* DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 10.30 AM + 12.00 + 4.00 PM

6-MADHURA RAJA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW

* MAMMOOTTY, JAI, ANUSREE, SALIM KUMAR, RAMESH PISHARODY
FROM FRIDAY 12TH

DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM

7-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)

⊗ ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
DAILY AT (3D): 12.00 + 5.00 + 10.00 PM
DAILY AT (VIP): 12.15 + 5.30 + 10.45 PM

8-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)

⊗ COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO
DAILY AT (3D): 2.45 + 7.45 PM
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 1.45 + 5.45 + 8.00 + 10.15 PM

9-KESARI (15+) (HINDI/ACTION/DRAMA)

⊗ AKSHAY KUMAR, PARINEETI CHOPRA, BHAGYASHREE
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 3.45 + 8.45 PM

10-LUCIFER (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)

⊗ MOHANLAL, MANJU WARRIER, VIVEK OBEROI, TOVINO THOMAS
DAILY AT: 1.15 + 4.30 + 7.45 + 11.00 PM

CITYCENTRE

1-HELL BOY (18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY) NEW

⊗ DAVID HARBOUR, MILLA JOVOVICH, AND IAN MCSHANE
DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 12.00 + 5.15 + 10.30 PM
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
DAILY AT (VIP I): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM

2-DRAGGED ACROSS CONCRETE (18+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW

⊗ MEL GIBSON, JENNIFER CARPENTER, VINCE VAUGHN
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

3-LITTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY) NEW

⊗ REGINA HALL, ISSA RAE, MARSAI MARTIN
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN

4-AFTER (15+) (ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW

⊗ JOSEPHINE LANGFORD, HERO FIENNES TIFFIN, KHADIJHA RED THUNDER
DAILY AT: 2.30 + 7.00 + 11.30 PM

5-MASHA AND THE BEAR THE NEW ADVENTURES (G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

* DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 10.30 AM + 12.00 + 4.00 PM



DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.00 + 2.45 + 4.30 PM

6-CAPTIVE STATE (PG-15) (THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW

⊗ JOHN GOODMAN, ASHTON SANDERS, JONATHAN MAJORS
DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.15 + 11.00 PM

7-MADHURA RAJA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW

⊗ MAMMOOTTY, JAI, ANUSREE, SALIM KUMAR, RAMESH PISHARODY
FROM FRIDAY 12TH

DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM

8-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)

⊗ ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL
DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 2.30 + 7.45 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN
DAILY AT (ATMOS): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN
DAILY AT (VIP II): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM

9-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)

* COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.15 + 3.30 + 5.45 + 8.00 + 10.15 PM
DAILY AT (3D): 12.15 + 4.30 + 8.45 PM

10-PET SEMATARY (18+) (HORROR/THRILLER)

* JASON CLARKE, AMY SEIMETZ, JETE LAURENCE
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM

11-CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)

⊗ BRIE LARSON, GEMMA CHAN, SAMUEL L. JACKSON
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

12-US (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER)

⊗ LUPITA NYONG'O, ELISABETH MOSS, ANNA DIOP
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM

13-ESCAPE ROOM (PG-15) (THRILLER)

⊗ TAYLOR RUSSELL, LOGAN MILLER, DEBORAH ANN WOLL
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN

14-WONDER PARK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

⊗ BRIANNA DENSKI, JENNIFER GARNER, KEN HUDSON CAMPBELL
DAILY AT: 1.30 + 5.30 + 9.30 PM
DAILY AT (ARABIC DUBBED): 2.30 + 6.45 + 11.00 PM

15-THE UPSIDE (PG-15) (COMEDY/DRAMA)

⊗ KEVIN HART, BRYAN CRANSTON, NICOLE KIDMAN
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 3.45 + 8.30 PM

16-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA)

⊗ LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN
DAILY AT: 1.45 + 6.45 + 11.45 PM

17-GLASS (PG-15) (THRILLER)

⊗ JAMES MCAVOY, BRUCE WILLIS, SAMUEL L. JACKSON
DAILY AT: 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM

18-NADI ELREGAL EL SERI (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)

* KARIM ABDULAZIZ, GHADA ADEL, MAJDE ALKIDDAWI
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 4.45 + 9.15 PM

19-JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN (PG) (COMEDY/ACTION/ADVENTURE)

* ROWAN ATKINSON, OLGA KURYLENKO, EMMA THOMPSON
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 3.30 + 7.30 + 11.30 PM

20-THE PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN (PG-15) (DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY)

⊗ MEL GIBSON, SEAN PENN, NATALIE DORMER
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 4.15 + 9.15 PM

SEEF (II)

1-HELL BOY (18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY) NEW

⊗ DAVID HARBOUR, MILLA JOVOVICH, AND IAN MCSHANE
DAILY AT: (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

2-DRAGGED ACROSS CONCRETE (18+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW

⊗ MEL GIBSON, JENNIFER CARPENTER, VINCE VAUGHN
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM

3-LITTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY) NEW

⊗ REGINA HALL, ISSA RAE, MARSAI MARTIN
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM

4-AFTER (15+) (ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW

⊗ JOSEPHINE LANGFORD, HERO FIENNES TIFFIN, KHADIJHA RED THUNDER
DAILY AT: 2.15 + 7.00 + 11.45 PM

5-MASHA AND THE BEAR THE NEW ADVENTURES (G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

* JOHN GOODMAN, ASHTON SANDERS, JONATHAN MAJORS
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM

6-CAPTIVE STATE (PG-15) (THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW

⊗ JOHN GOODMAN, ASHTON SANDERS, JONATHAN MAJORS
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM

7-THE WIND (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER) NEW

⊗ CAITLIN GERARD, JULIA GOLDANI TELLES, MILES ANDERSON
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM

8-MADHURA RAJA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW

⊗ MAMMOOTTY, JAI, ANUSREE, SALIM KUMAR, RAMESH PISHARODY
FROM FRIDAY 12TH

DAILY AT: (12.30 MN FRI)

9-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)

⊗ ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)

10-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)

⊗ COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO

DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM

11-PET SEMATARY (18+) (HORROR/THRILLER)

⊗ JASON CLARKE, AMY SEIMETZ, JETE LAURENCE
DAILY AT: 8.45 + 11.00 PM

12-CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)

⊗ BRIE LARSON, GEMMA CHAN, SAMUEL L. JACKSON
DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.15 + 11.00 PM

13-US (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER)

⊗ LUPITA NYONG'O, ELISABETH MOSS, ANNA DIOP
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 2.45 + 7.00 + 11.15 PM

14-WONDER PARK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

⊗ BRIANNA DENSKI, JENNIFER GARNER, KEN HUDSON CAMPBELL
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 PM

15-NADI ELREGAL EL SERI (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)

* KARIM ABDULAZIZ, GHADA ADEL, MAJDE ALKIDDAWI
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 4.00 + 8.45 PM

16-BADLA (PG-15) (HINDI/THRILLER/CRIME)

⊗ AMTABH BACHCHAN, TAPSEE PANNU, TONY LUKE
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 PM

SEEF (I)

1-HELL BOY (18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY) NEW

⊗ DAVID HARBOUR, MILLA JOVOVICH, AND IAN MCSHANE
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM

2-THE TASHKENT FILES (PG-15) (HINDI/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW

⊗ NASEERUDDIN SHAH, MITHUN CHAKRABORTY, PANKAJ TRIPATHI
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 5.45 + 11.45 PM

3-MANJE BISTRE 2 (PG-13) (PUNJABI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC) NEW

⊗ GIPPY GREWAL, KARAMJIT ANMOL, BHAVKHANDAN
DAILY AT: 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

4-SHERDIL (PG-15) (URDU/ACTION/DRAMA) NEW

⊗ MIKAAL ZULFIQAR, ARMEENA RANA KHAN, BELAL SHAHID
DAILY AT: 2.45 + 8.45 PM

5-THE LAST PRINCE OF ATLANTIS (PG-13) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE) NEW

⊗ NIKOLAY DROZDOV, STANISLAV DUZHNIKOV, ARMEN DZHIGARKHANYAN
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 PM

6-MADHURA RAJA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW

⊗ MAMMOOTTY, JAI, ANUSREE, SALIM KUMAR, RAMESH PISHARODY
FROM FRIDAY 12TH

DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN

7-LUCIFER (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)

⊗ MOHANLAL, MANJU WARRIER, VIVEK OBEROI, TOVINO THOMAS
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM

8-MADHURA RAJA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW

⊗ MAMMOOTTY, JAI, ANUSREE, SALIM KUMAR, RAMESH PISHARODY
FROM FRIDAY 12TH

DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

9-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)

⊗ ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM

10-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)

⊗ COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.15 + 9.45 PM

11-HELL BOY (18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY) NEW

⊗ DAVID HARBOUR, MILLA JOVOVICH, AND IAN MCSHANE
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

2-DRAGGED ACROSS CONCRETE (18+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW

⊗ MEL GIBSON, JENNIFER CARPENTER, VINCE VAUGHN
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM

3-LITTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY) NEW

⊗ REGINA HALL, ISSA RAE, MARSAI MARTIN
DAILY AT: 2.15 + 6.45 + 11.15 PM

4-AFTER (15+) (ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW

⊗ JOSEPHINE LANGFORD, HERO FIENNES TIFFIN, KHADIJHA RED THUNDER
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.30 + 9.00 PM

5-CAPTIVE STATE (PG-15) (THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW

⊗ JOHN GOODMAN, ASHTON SANDERS, JONATHAN MAJORS
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 3.00 + 7.30 PM + 12.00 MN

6-MADHURA RAJA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW

⊗ MAMMOOTTY, JAI, ANUSREE, SALIM KUMAR, RAMESH PISHARODY
FROM FRIDAY 12TH

DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

7-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)

⊗ ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM

8-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)

⊗ COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.15 + 9.45 PM

SAAR

1-HELL BOY (18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY) NEW

⊗ DAVID HARBOUR, MILLA JOVOVICH, AND IAN MCSHANE
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + (11.00 PM THURS/FRI)

2-DRAGGED ACROSS CONCRETE (18+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW

⊗ MEL GIBSON, JENNIFER CARPENTER, VINCE VAUGHN
DAILY AT: 5.00 + 8.00 + (11.00 PM THURS/FRI)

3-MADHURA RAJA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW

⊗ MAMMOOTTY, JAI, ANUSREE, SALIM KUMAR, RAMESH PISHARODY
FROM FRIDAY 12TH

DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + (11.00 PM FRI)

4-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)

⊗ ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + (11.30 PM THURS/FRI)

5-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)

⊗ COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.45 PM

AL HAMRA

1-MADHURA RAJA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW

⊗ MAMMOOTTY, JAI, ANUSREE, SALIM KUMAR, RAMESH PISHARODY
FROM FRIDAY 12TH

DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + (12.00 MN FRI)

2-LUCIFER (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)

⊗ MOHANLAL, MANJU WARRIER, VIVEK OBEROI, TOVINO THOMAS
ONLY ON THURSDAY 11TH

DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.45 + 9.00 PM + (12.15 MN THURS)

WADI AL SAIL

1-HELL BOY (18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY) NEW

⊗ DAVID HARBOUR, MILLA JOVOVICH, AND IAN MCSHANE
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

2-DRAGGED ACROSS CONCRETE (18+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW

⊗ MEL GIBSON, JENNIFER CARPENTER, VINCE VAUGHN
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM

3-LITTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY) NEW

⊗ REGINA HALL, ISSA RAE, MARSAI MARTIN
DAILY AT: 2.15 + 6.45 + 11.15 PM

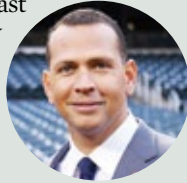
Jennifer Lopez



Jennifer Lopez doesn't believe Alex Rodriguez cheated on her

Los Angeles

Jennifer Lopez is standing by her man. The superstar sat down Wednesday with "The Breakfast Club" at New York radio station Power 105.1 to promote her new music. Of course, talk turned to her engagement with baseball great Alex Rodriguez. Host Charlamagne tha God noted that shortly after the pair got engaged last month, they had a "hater" in former baseball player Jose Canseco. Canseco tweeted three days after the engagement was announced: "Watching World of Dance watching J.Lo text Alex Rodriguez little does she know that he is cheating on her with my ex-wife Jessica poor girl she has no idea who he really is."



Alex Rodriguez

celebs

Scarlett Johansson



Scarlett Johansson seeks police following paparazzi scare

Los Angeles

Real life Marvel super hero Scarlett Johansson had to take refuge at police station following a dangerous paparazzi chase on Monday. The incident took place after 'The Avengers: Endgame' star featured on Jimmy Kimmel Live! along with three of her famous co-stars, Robert Downey Jr, Paul Rudd and Chris Hemsworth. Following the shoot, the actor headed out in a car with two people. According to USA Today, an LAPD spokesperson confirmed the actress alleged that paparazzi were following her "in a dangerous fashion" on her way back from the American talk show. Johansson stopped at the Hollywood station to alert police of the incident but did not file a police report, the report mentioned. With the much anticipated Marvel film just around the corner, the actor has been making the press rounds promoting the film in which she will reprise her role as Black Widow.

Milla Jovovich said yes to 'Hellboy' for this reason

Los Angeles

Actress Milla Jovovich says she fell in love with the complicated nature of her role of Nimue in "Hellboy". "What got me right away was that I thought she was right-on with what she stands for -- and she was immediately challenged and betrayed. Her points are valid, but she's defeated. So I was fascinated and I wanted to know where her story was going," Jovovich said in a statement. "It was totally fascinating. I loved all the characters, especially mine, Nimue, the blood Queen. She is a very complicated woman which I loved. She is trying to bring two worlds together really hoping that they could live in peace. Trying to make that happen." As part of her preparation for her role, Jovovich went out and bought hard-bound editions

of several collections. "The illustrations are phenomenal," she said.



Milla Jovovich

When Taylor Swift sent gifts to an ailing fan in hospital

Los Angeles

American singer and songwriter Taylor Swift just made a fan's day when she sent a beautiful bouquet along with a handwritten note to one of her fans. Lindsay Sizemore who is recovering from a "bad car accident" injury that left her with a neck brace and arm and leg casts was on cloud nine when she received a small gesture from the singer, E-News reported. Lindsay tweeted photos of the gifts from the 29-year-old star and wrote, "I finally stopped crying long enough to post that Taylor Swift just sent me flowers and handwritten note... I'm still in complete utter shock. @taylorswift13 @taylornation13 thank you so much. I love you endlessly, you have NO IDEA how much this meant to me. see u on tour bb" About the surprise gifts Swift sent over, the fan told E! News "it was the sweetest thing ever."

Emilia Clarke compares 'Game of Thrones' season 8 with 'Meet the Parents'

Los Angeles

Actor Emilia Clarke says she considers the upcoming eighth and final season of her hit HBO series "Game of Thrones" a bit like "Meet the Parents". The 2000 romantic comedy, featuring Ben Stiller, Robert De Niro and Teri Polo, is about a man meeting the parents of his girlfriend for the first time. In the upcoming eighth season, Clark's Daenerys Targaryen arrives at Winterfell, the home of her new lover, Jon Snow (Kit Harington), where she is set to meet his sisters, Arya (Maisie Williams) and Sansa (Sophie Turner), and his brother Bran (Isaac Hempstead-Wright).



Emilia Clarke

Camila Cabello to star in new 'Cinderella' movie

Los Angeles

Singer Camila Cabello is set to star in writer-director Kay Cannon's new version of "Cinderella". Cabello will be involved in the music for the project, which grew out of an original idea from actor James Corden. The film will be produced by Corden and Leo Pearlman through their Fulwell73 banner, reports variety.com. The new "Cinderella" will be a music-oriented version of the traditional tale of the orphaned girl with an evil stepmother. Sony Pictures is putting the project on the fast track for production.

The best-known "Cinderella" movies have been Disney's animated drama, released in 1950, and two live-action remakes: 1997's version starring Brandy and Whitney Houston, and the 2015 film with Lily James. Cuban native Cabello, who was part of Fifth Harmony before going solo, hit superstar status last year with her single "Havana" and her debut album "Camilla", which debuted at No. 1 on 110 different iTunes charts around the world.

Emma Corrin to play Lady Diana in 'The Crown'

Los Angeles

Newcomer Emma Corrin has bagged the role of Lady Diana Spencer in the show "The Crown". Honoured to be a part of the Netflix show, Corrin said in a statement: "Beyond excited and honoured to be joining 'The Crown' for its fourth season. I have been glued to the show since the first episode and to think I'm now joining this incredibly talented acting family is just surreal." Corrin considers Lady Diana her "icon" and she hopes to do "justice" to the role. "Princess Diana was



Diana and Emma Corrin

an icon, and her effect on the world remains profound and inspiring. To be given the chance to explore her through Peter Morgan's writing is the most exceptional opportunity, and I will strive to do her justice." Creator Peter Morgan described Corrin as a "brilliant talent" who "immediately captivated" the casting director.



Camila Cabello

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SPORTS
sports

Son shines for Spurs

Son Heung-Min's solo effort secures win for Spurs after Hugo Lloris saves Man City penalty

Tottenham joy at City win overshadowed by Kane injury

AFP | London

Tottenham ignored Harry Kane's latest injury woes as Son Heung-Min sealed a priceless 1-0 win over Manchester City after Hugo Lloris saved Sergio Agüero's penalty in a dramatic Champions League quarter-final first leg on Tuesday.

Mauricio Pochettino's side earned a slender advantage thanks to Son's clinical strike late in the second half at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

Son scored the first goal in Tottenham's posh new abode against Crystal Palace last week and now the South Korea forward has bagged their maiden European strike in the arena.

While Son soaked up the plaudits, much-maligned keeper Lloris also enjoyed a sweet moment of redemption in a troubled campaign when he kept out Agüero's first-half spot-kick. Tottenham's victory was an unexpected twist to an enthralling encounter, especially after Kane injured his left ankle in a tackle on Fabian Delph early in the second half.

But City had only themselves to blame for failing to earn an advantage for the second leg in



Son Heung-min of Tottenham scores the only goal against Manchester City

Manchester on April 17.

Having won the League Cup, reached the FA Cup final and kept the destiny of the Premier League title in their own hands, this was City's next hurdle in the race for an unprecedented quadruple.

But City boss Pep Guardiola is adamant it is "almost impossible" to achieve a clean-sweep of all four major trophies.

He might be right on the evidence of a City display that lacked the cutting edge and intensity required to keep Tottenham at bay.

City's first defeat since a January 29 setback at Newcastle is not fatal to their European ambitions, but they will have to



Manchester City faced first defeat since a January 29 setback at Newcastle

improve on this tired effort to stop Tottenham reaching their first European semi-final since 1984.

This was City's 52nd competitive match of a draining season

and Guardiola made four changes from the team that laboured to a 1-0 win over Brighton in the FA Cup semi-final on Saturday.

Fernandinho was selected instead of Kevin De Bruyne, the defensive-minded Brazilian lining up in midfield in a move that showed Guardiola was willing to sacrifice a little of his attacking philosophy in deference to Tottenham's quality.

Tottenham have been riding a wave of excitement in their new £1 billion, 62,062-capacity stadium, while City wilted in the red-hot atmosphere at Anfield in the Champions League quarter-finals against Liverpool last season.

If Guardiola was concerned

about subduing Tottenham and their boisterous crowd, his side were handed a golden opportunity in the 12th minute.

Raheem Sterling cut in from the left and left three Tottenham defenders in his wake before unleashing a shot that struck Danny Rose's raised arm as the Tottenham left-back slid in to block.

There were no penalty appeals from City, but after consulting VAR, Dutch referee Bjorn Kuipers awarded the spot-kick.

However, Lloris plunged to his left to keep out Agüero's penalty with a superb save.

Son rises

Kane was embroiled in a physical battle with City defence's but his attempt to fight fire with fire proved his downfall in the 55th minute.

Crunching into a late challenge on Delph on the touchline, Kane appeared to twist his ankle before immediately signalling he would have to come off.

The sight of the England captain limping badly down the tunnel could have been fatal for Tottenham.

Kane, who has scored 24 times for Tottenham this season, is no stranger to ankle problems.

Yet Tottenham thrived in his absence for seven matches with left ankle ligament damage earlier this season.

And once again they rose to the challenge to snatch the lead in the 78th minute.

Diploma chapter concludes

TDT | Manama

The second chapter of the Sports Management Diploma, organized by the Olympic Academy of the Bahrain Olympic Committee in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee's Olympic Solidarity, came to a close yesterday at K Hotel in Juffair.

The first chapter discussed financial management and focused on good financial management methods, financial planning, budget preparation, accounting processes, evaluation and reporting.

The second chapter focused on initiating a series of workshops and applications with a special presentation on the first chapter in regards to sports and Olympic institutions management.

BOC General Assembly set

TDT | Manama

The ordinary general assembly of the Bahrain Olympic Committee is all set to take place today at Swiss-Belhotel in Seef area.

During today's meeting, Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa will be officially elected unopposed president of the committee for a fresh four-year stint. Shaikh Khalid was the sole candidate for the BOC presidency campaign, replacing former president Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Bahrain Martial Arts Association member Faisal Kanoo has also won the only available seat in the BOC board of directors after the withdrawal of opposing candidates - Bahrain Swimming Association president Mohammed Mejbel and Bahrain Triathlon Association general secretary Mai Al Haji.

Shaikh Salman AFC win reflects continued success: Shaikh Isa

TDT | Manama

Shaikh Isa bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Second Vice chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, and Honorary President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, has congratulated the leadership on Shaikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa's recent re-election as AFC president and vice-president of FIFA.

In an official statement, Shaikh Isa said Shaikh Salman's victory reflects his distinguished efforts and contributions during his stint at the helm of the AFC, during which he has made a string of achievements for the game

Sheraton rally past Wyndham Garden

TDT | Manama

Sheraton defeated Wyndham Garden by 14 runs in the Eighth Inter Hotel Charity Cricket Tournament match held on Tuesday. Ajay was declared man of the match.

Score: Sheraton(53/5 in 6 overs) defeated Wyndham Garden(39 for all out in 5 overs) by

14 runs.

Man of the Match: Ajay

In other matches
Match 2: Downtown Rotana (52/5 in 6 overs) defeated Royal Phoenixia(50 for all out in 6 overs) by 2 runs.

Man of the Match: Kassim

Match 3: The Domain Hotel(67/4 in 6 overs) defeated Wyndham Grand(52/3 in 6 overs) by 15 runs.

Match 4: Intercontinental Regency (63/3 in 6 overs) defeated Art Rotana Amwaj (46/3 in 6 overs) by 17 runs.

Man of the Match: M. Naem

Match 5: Diplomat Radisson Blu (98/2 in 6 overs) defeated Majestic Arjaan by Rotana (36/6 in 4.5 overs) by 62 runs.

Man of the Match: Saurav

Klopp pleased with Henderson's contribution

Reuters | London

Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp hailed the performance of his skipper Jordan Henderson in Tuesday's 2-0 Champions League win over Porto, with the England midfielder delivering another impressive display in a more advanced role.

Henderson recently said he had been badgering Klopp to allow him more freedom to break into the final third and, after scoring as a second-half substitute at Southampton on Friday, he started and delivered a killer pass for Liverpool's second goal.

"Hendo is a brilliant player.



Juergen Klopp and Jordan Henderson celebrate at the end of the match

He obviously likes the position. We've not used him there for 3.5 years - sorry about that!" grinned Klopp.

"I'm glad he can show it. There were a lot of good indi-

vidual performances," he said.

Henderson has often played in a defensive midfield role but with Fabinho taking care of that responsibility, he is now able to push into advanced areas.

Young Blasters edge Rising stars



Antony - COLTS

TDT | Manama

Young Blasters beat Rising stars in a super over in the CBA Division D T-20 Knockout Tournament.

Batting first, Blasters scored 106 runs at the end of 20 overs, with Rishabh (32) becoming the top scorer as Alan took three wickets for Rising stars.

Chasing the target Rising tied the score with Blasters. Vinoy (45) became the top scorer for Rising stars while Rishabh took three wickets for Blasters.

In super over Rising stars could score only three runs on Rishabh's balls while Blasters reached the target in 3 balls to win the match.

Other Match Results

Kooheji Contractors 200/7 in 20 overs (Region 68, Vaseem 47, Abdullah 4/56) beat Friends XI 122/10 (Jaison 62 Region 3/13) by 78 runs



Sheraz - Spartans

Infonas 137/6 in 20 overs (Musaib 41, Reji 4/13) beat Tornado Riders 87/10 (Vijesh 21, Rashid 3/14) by 50 runs

Colts 151/2 in 19.4 overs (Antony 75, Disbin 47, Waqar 2/22) beat Brave Warriors 150/10 (Waqas 55, Diljo 4/20) by 8 wickets

Spartans 179/9 in 20 overs (Sheraz 73, Farhan 26, Jabbar 2/15) beat ETS 117/10 (Hamza 28) by 62 runs

Alpha Fire Bahrain 162/6 in 20 overs (Amila 48, Thilina 34, Ashwani 2/24) beat Indian Super Kings 120/10 (Ashwani 53, Ajay 35, Lalit 3/20) by 42 runs

CBA Division D 25 overs league
Suha Travels 164/10 (Zohaib 59, Waseem 4/24) beat Fateh Curtain 160/10 (Nomi 51, Zohaib 3/27) by 4 runs

Royal Blasters 128/7 in 16 overs (Diju 35, Meharan 2/12) beat Santy Excavation 127/10 (Shinu 41,) by 3 wickets

Leclerc aims for a first in a thousand

Young star Charles Leclerc eyes victory in Formula One's 1,000th race

AFP | Shanghai, China

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc is gunning for his first win this week in China after cruelly missing out in Bahrain as Formula One's 1,000th race coincides with the emergence of a bright new star.

The supremely talented 21-year-old upstaged five-time world champion Lewis Hamilton in Bahrain but ultimately limped home third when his Ferrari lost power with 10 laps left.

The Chinese Grand Prix is replete with sub-plots: can Hamilton win the race for a sixth time? Can Sebastian Vettel silence the doubters? How much faster are Ferrari?

But the focus in Shanghai will be on Leclerc, the Ferrari rookie from Monaco who fully deserved victory two weeks ago but had to settle for the first podium of his career.

In just his second season in F1, it is widely assumed that it is just a matter of time until Leclerc tastes victory.

"Usually the Chinese race is good fun because the weather can be unpredictable and rain can arrive when you least expect it," said Leclerc.

"It's the 1,000th race in the



Ferrari's Monegasque driver Charles Leclerc celebrates on the podium after placing third at Bahrain Grand Prix

history of Formula One and I hope the car will be as good as it was in Bahrain (until late on) so that I can continue to go for the results we deserve."

Shanghai has one of the longest straights in the 21-race championship and should be perfect for Ferrari's searing pace, with reliability the main concern for the Italian marque.

While there has been fulsome praise of Leclerc, particularly the mature way he handled the Bahrain disappointment, his Ferrari team-mate Vettel is facing criticism.

It seems absurd for a four-time world champion to have to defend his ability and temperament, but the German is having to do just that after a series of

unforced errors stretching back to last season.

Former F1 driver Jolyon Palmer, who left Renault during the 2017 season, called Vettel's spin in Bahrain -- where he was dueling with Hamilton -- "amateur".

Vettel finished fifth and was comfortably eclipsed by Leclerc, who is a decade younger.

"If a backmarker rookie had

It's the 1,000th race in the history of Formula One and I hope the car will be as good as it was in Bahrain (until late on) so that I can continue to go for the results we deserve

CHARLES LECLERC

spun in the manner Vettel did, they would have been a laughing stock after the race," Palmer told the BBC.

"For a four-time world champion to do so should be unthinkable."

'Daunting'

With all the talk about Ferrari, it is easy to forget that Mercedes won the opening two races.

Valtteri Bottas claimed a dominant victory in the season-opening Australian Grand Prix with world champion Hamilton second.

It was the other way round in Bahrain, leaving the Finn a point ahead of the Briton in the early drivers' standings after picking

up the fastest-lap bonus point in Melbourne.

However, Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff is under no illusions about the challenge posed by Ferrari.

"The truth is that we weren't as quick as our direct competitors throughout qualifying and the race in Bahrain," he said.

"The Ferrari was considerably faster on the straights and this added up to several tenths around one lap.

"Nevertheless, the saying goes that 'in order to finish first, first you have to finish'..."

"The challenge we are facing doesn't daunt us, it's uplifting," he added.

Being able to say they triumphed in the 1,000th race is added incentive for all drivers and teams.

F1's first championship race was at Silverstone, England, in 1950 and it says much about how the sport has grown that its milestone grand prix is in China.

The country, which has a swelling number of motor sport enthusiasts, is a key market for F1's US-based owners Liberty Media.

Liberty Media say they are interested in holding a second grand prix in the world's most populous country.

Liverpool cruise to victory over Porto

AFP | Liverpool

Liverpool closed in on a Champions League semi-final meeting with Barcelona or Manchester United after sweeping aside Porto 2-0 in the first leg of their quarter-final tie at Anfield.

Far from the late drama that has accompanied the Red's Premier League title bid of late, Naby Keita and Roberto Firmino struck inside the first 26 minutes to put the hosts in command.

"2-0 is a really good result, I would have taken it before the game and I take it now," said Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp.

"It was a good game, a controlled game. We deserved the win 100 percent and scored two wonderful goals."

Liverpool's only regret may be not building a more emphatic lead to take to Portugal for next week's second leg.

However, a fourth clean sheet in five home Champions League games this season means an away goal at the Estadio do Dragao on April 17th will leave Porto needing four to progress.

"We have to go there, we have to fight, Porto will do everything to strike back but that's how it should be in the Champions League quarter-finals," added Klopp.

Liverpool thrashed the Portuguese giants 5-0 in the first leg of their last-16 tie last season and the scoreline could have been just as embarrassing for Sergio Conceicao's men had the hosts been more accurate in front of goal.

It took the hosts just five minutes to open scoring as Keita got his second goal in as many games having waited nine months to open his account.



Naby Keita scores to put Liverpool in control and on their way to a 2-0 home victory over Porto



Liverpool had thrashed Porto 5-0 in the first leg of their last-16 tie last season

The Guinean got the benefit of a big deflection off Oliver Torres as his strike from the edge of the area left veteran goalkeeper Iker Casillas helpless.

Mohamed Salah ended his eight-game goal drought as Liverpool returned to the top of the Premier League table with a 3-1 win at Southampton on Friday, but the Egyptian got his angles wrong when he failed to double the hosts' lead with just Casillas to beat moments later.

Porto's slack defending

Conceicao was visibly furious with his side's slack defending, but Porto could easily have got back into the tie when Alisson Becker saved well with his feet from Moussa Marega.

Liverpool then had to survive a VAR review for a potential handball against Trent Alexander-Arnold as Alisson palmed the ball into his full-back.

Soon, though, Alexander-Arnold was helping twist the knife into Porto at the other end with his eighth assist of the season. Jordan Henderson, playing in a more advanced midfield position than normal, cut the visitors' defence open for the England international to square for Firmino to tap into an empty net.

"Hendo is a brilliant player and I'm really happy he can show that again," said Klopp.

"He likes that position so it is my fault he played for one-

and-a-half years as the holding player, but we needed him there."

Only a matter of centimetres denied Liverpool a third early in the second half when another excellent Henderson allowed Sadio Mane to volley home, but the Senegalese was flagged offside.

The fine balance Liverpool must strike in maintaining their quest for European glory while also trying to end a 29-year wait for a league title was in evidence as Klopp withdrew Mane and Firmino in the final quarter with one eye on Sunday's Premier League visit of Chelsea.

However, that proved a luxury that Liverpool could afford to take as they look set for a second Champions League semi-final in as many years.

Kohli named among Wisden's Cricketers of the Year

AFP | London

Virat Kohli was yesterday named as one of Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year and also became the first player to win the award for leading cricketer in the world in three successive years..

The India captain put to bed questions over his ability to thrive in English conditions last year, topping the Test run charts with 593 runs and two centuries even though his side lost the series 4-1.

Kohli, who is top of the Test and one-day international rankings, scored 2,735 runs in all formats in 2018, outstripping nearest rival, Eng-

land's Joe Root, by more than 700 runs.

"His struggles in English conditions were consigned to history, and Kohli banished any doubt about being regarded as the outstanding player of the era," Wisden said in a statement announcing its awards.

The other cricketers of the year were England's Sam Curran, Jos Buttler and Rory Burns, plus prolific England women's player Tammy Beaumont.

Players can only receive Wisden's cricketer of the year award, given primarily for feats achieved during the preceding English domestic season, once in their career.

Kohli was also named as the leading men's player in the world for a third straight year.

"In making hundreds in South Africa, England and Australia, as well as at

home, he showed a mastery of all conditions and bowling attacks," Wisden said. "The pressure never cowed him."

India's Smriti Mandhana scooped the women's award, with Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan retaining his title as leading Twenty20 cricketer in the world.

The latest edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, considered the "Bible" of the game, is published on April 11.



Virat Kohli