

**Belgium outclass Scotland**

Belgium manager Roberto Martinez believes a fresh Kevin De Bruyne will be even better for club and country this season after the Manchester City midfielder tore Scotland apart in a 4-0 win for Martinez's men on Monday. **P16**

# THE DAILY tribune



Jessica Biel keen on working with husband Justin Timberlake

14 CELEBS

WORLD 5 US extracted spy from Putin's Kremlin: report

**Bolton is out**  
Washington, DC

US President Donald Trump has announced he fired his hard-line National Security Adviser John Bolton, saying he disagreed "strongly" with him. "I asked John for his resignation, which was given to me this morning," Mr Trump tweeted, adding he will appoint a replacement next week. But Mr Bolton insisted he had quit, and vowed to have his say "in due course". He had disagreed with the president on a number of foreign policy challenges from Afghanistan to Iran. Mr Bolton, who had served since April 2018, was Mr Trump's third national security adviser after Michael Flynn and HR McMaster.

**Pope versus critics**  
Rome

Pope Francis has accused his critics of stabbing him in the back, and said he is "not afraid" of the Catholic Church splitting. Speaking after a trip to Africa, the Pope took issue with conservative clergymen who have criticised him. Those men do not "want good for the Church", but only care about "changing popes, changing styles, creating a schism", he said. US Catholic leaders have attacked the Pope in the past for his views. It is the first time he has spoken so openly about the chance of a split in the Church, which has more than one billion followers worldwide.

**New iPhone unveiled**



Apple Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook talks about the latest iPhone during an event to announce new products yesterday, in Cupertino, California. Apple revealed that its new iPhone 11 will come with two 12 megapixel back cameras, including an ultra wide-angle lens and the next generation of microchips, the A13, but few big apparent changes. The Apple 11 Pro will have three cameras on the back. The long-awaited Apple TV+ streaming television service will be available in over 100 countries, starting in November. Buyers of an iPhone, iPad or Mac will get a free year of streaming TV, potentially drawing hundreds of millions of viewers to the service.

**Arab League raps Iran's intervention in Bahraini affairs**

Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, participated in the 12th meeting of the Arab Ministerial Quartet Committee on the follow-up to the crisis with Iran, comprising the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States. The meeting was held yesterday at the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States' headquarters, on the sidelines of the 152nd regular session of the Arab League Council at the ministerial level in Egypt. The Ministerial Committee discussed the latest developments concerning the crisis with the Islamic Republic of Iran and its existing Arab relations as well as ways to address Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab countries. The Committee also noted that this constitutes a blatant interference in internal affairs, which further adds up to the



**The Al Ashtar Brigades have been designated as a terrorist organisation by the governments of Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and the United States.**

dangerous role played by this party, which helps in facilitating Iran's role in destabilizing the security and stability in the region. The Committee stressed that this party creates a major source of tension, which necessitates deterring and confronting those supporting it, and obliging him to immediately stop these statements and all practices that impede the efforts to bring peace to the region.

# Karbala stampede horror

31 killed after walkway collapse triggers stampede at Iraqi Shi'ite shrine

● Tuesday's commemorations were peaceful until the walkway collapsed, triggering the chaos.

● In recent years, Ashoora processions have been attacked by extremist militants.

**Baghdad**

A walkway collapsed and set off a stampede in the holy city of Karbala yesterday as thousands of Shi'ite Muslims marked one of their holiest days of the year.



Relatives of one of the victims of a stampede at the Shi'ite religious ritual of Ashoora carry a coffin during a funeral in Karbala.

At least 31 people were killed and about 100 were injured. It was the deadliest stampede in recent history during Ashoora commemorations, when

**Leadership condoles with Iraqi president**

His Majesty, HRH the Crown Prince yesterday sent cables of condolences to Iraqi President Barham Salih, over the tragedy in the governorate of Karbala, leaving several people dead and injured. HM the King prayed to Allah the Almighty to bless the souls of the victims, wishing the injured a quick recovery.

ward the end of the Ashoora procession, causing a panicked rush among worshippers near the gold-domed Imam Hussein shrine, according to two offi-

cialists who spoke to The Associated Press from Karbala. In recent years, Ashoora processions have been attacked by extremist militants. In 2004, at the height of Iraq's sectarian violence, 143 people were killed in near simultaneous suicide and other bombings at shrines in Baghdad and Karbala during the Ashoora procession. In 2005, rumours of a suicide bomber among worshippers crossing a bridge during a different religious holiday caused a massive stampede killing more than 950 people, many of whom jumped, in their panic, into the Tigris River. Tuesday's commemorations were peaceful until the walkway collapsed, triggering the chaos.

**POLL TRICK**

## Netanyahu sparks anger with vow to annex Jordan Valley

**Jerusalem**

The United Nations yesterday warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that his plan to annex the Jordan Valley in the occupied West Bank if re-elected would have no "international legal effect." Netanyahu issued the deeply

controversial pledge as he gears up for September 17 elections. He also said Israel would move to annex Israeli settlements throughout the West Bank. Such moves could effectively kill any remaining hopes for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, long the focus of international diplomacy.



Benjamin Netanyahu

"The secretary-general's position has always been clear: unilateral actions are not helpful in the peace process," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. "Any Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdictions and administration in the occupied West Bank is without any international legal effect," the

spokesman added. "Such a prospect would be devastating to the potential of reviving negotiations, regional peace, and the very essence of a two-state solution." "There is one place where we can apply Israeli sovereignty immediately after the elections," Netanyahu said in a televised speech.



02 Qatar's attempt to incite sectarian divide during Muharram slammed

03 'Synergy among ministries led to success of Ashoora season'

04 Trio on trial for forging child's birth certificate

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# Qatar's attempt to incite sectarian divide during Muharram slammed

● **Mr Al Romaihi said that the Qatar regime preaches what it does not practice through its media rhetoric when it comes to discussing topics related to democracy, human rights and sovereignty.**

● **Bahrain, along with Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt launched a boycott of Qatar two years ago over Doha's support for extremist groups.**

Manama

Information Minister Ali Al Romaihi said that Qatari media has become redundant in its campaign against the Kingdom and has reached a state of despair in which it regurgitates false allegations and footage from over eight years ago.

The minister criticised the timing chosen by Qatari Al Jazeera channel to broadcast programmes

that provoke sectarian divide in the month of Muharram, adding that such practices were not surprising from the Qatari channel.

The awareness of the people of Bahrain will continue to counter any Qatari attempts to destabilise the national unity of Bahrain, he said.

"The Qatari media has been trying for three decades to target national unity and destabilize security in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Its attempts are doomed and will fail in light of the Bahraini people's awareness, unity and rallying around their leadership," Mr Al Romaihi said.

The unprofessional media approach followed by Al Jazeera further proves that the channel is indeed a representation of the Qatari regime and not a private and independent media outlet as it claims, the minister added.

Mr Al Romaihi said that the Qatar regime preaches what it does not practice through its media rhetoric when it comes to discussing topics related to democracy, human rights and sovereignty.

He added that these were mere tools to attract attention after it had failed in gaining traction due to embedding extremism and hate speech through its various media channels.



**The unprofessional media approach followed by Al Jazeera further proves that the channel is indeed a representation of the Qatari regime.**

MR AL ROMAIHI

The minister said Qatar has repeatedly launched media offensives against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Egypt, the Kingdom of Bahrain and other Gulf, Arab and Islamic countries over the last three decades.

He said that Qatar had embraced contradicting media messages in dealing with the consequences of its adverse policies. It uses reassuring narrative in addressing the local situation, claiming that Qatar was faring

well and was not affected by its isolation resulting from its policies in the region.

However, the Qatari media voices victimhood to the international community, whereas its discourse aimed at the Islamic world continues instigating extremism and hatred, the minister pointed out.

Bahrain has many a time lashed out at Al Jazeera after the Qatari network keeps on airing documentaries attempting to undermine the Kingdom.

The programme broadcast was filled with "lies and fallacies against the state of Bahrain," Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa had said.

It is just a "new episode in a series of conspiracies from a rogue state against the kingdom of Bahrain, and against the stability of the entire region," he added.

"This state has become the biggest threat to the Gulf Cooperation Council."

Bahrain, along with Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt launched a boycott of Qatar two years ago over Doha's support for extremist groups.

They also accused Qatar of interfering in the internal affairs of other GCC countries and having close ties to Iran.

Earlier, Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa had slammed

Qatari and Iranian designs targeting the Kingdom.

"Qatari and Iranian conspiracies to subvert national unity and spark chaos are doomed to fail," he said in a statement to Al Hayat newspaper.

He said the unity of loyal people of Bahrain will always be a bulwark that protects the homeland and strengthens the nation to confront challenges.

He said that Qatar and Iran have long been plotting to target Bahrain's security, stability and national unity.

"If Iran targets the Shi'ite sect, Qatar preys on the Sunnis and Shi'ites," he said, describing Qatari and Iranian conspiracies as being systematic.

He said that Iran relies on fanning the flames of sectarianism to interfere in Bahrain's internal affairs blatantly, while Qatar seeks to undermine social cohesion and damage family bonds, which represents an affront to authentic Arab and Islamic values and customs.

"Our national identity is strong, inclusive and difficult to infiltrate or erode," he said, adding that the patriotic identity strengthens Bahrain to thwart all plots and attempts to fuel sectarianism.

"These desperate conspiracies will only make us united and strong more than ever," said the Minister of Interior.

## Kingdom attends GCC judicial meeting Muscat

The Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Justice Ministries' undersecretaries yesterday held a meeting in Muscat, the Sultanate of Oman.

Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry Undersecretary Rashid Bouallay attended the meeting, which was held at the headquarters of the GCC Consultative Commission.

The delegations discussed issues related to cooperation between the GCC justice ministries, including the meeting of the committee of directors and heads of legal and judicial training institutes.

They also discussed a draft unified law on combating extremism, racism, hatred and discrimination, in addition to a draft agreement on extraditing convicts between the GCC member states and the enforcement of the law on confronting the sponsor of terrorist activities.

The undersecretaries referred the recommendations to the upcoming 29th meeting of the GCC Justice Ministers, scheduled to be held late this month in Muscat, Oman.

## A special gift from Indian PM Modi!

TDT | Manama

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sent an embroidered wall painting of Lord Shreenathji, made out of cotton fabric and silk thread, as a gift to Manama Sree Krishna Temple.

The gift symbolises the community craft of folk communities living in Southern Rajasthan and Northern Gujarat.

The image depicts Lord Shreenathji in all his ceremonial glory, standing in front of an elegantly structured background of peacocks, leafy vine and a border of cows, a statement issued by the temple management committee said.

"The colorful yet earthy tones of Shreenathji or Thakurji, as he is reverently known in Nathdwara, adorn the ceremonial spaces of many Indian homes and symbolism the beautiful and timeless confluence of art and lore in India," the statement added.

Sushil Muljimal, the chairman of the Thattai Hindu Community (THC), which manages the temple, revealed: "The gift will be framed and placed prominently at the temple. This is a matter of pride for all of us, and we invite all devotees to come and have a glimpse of this very special offering from Indian Prime Minister Shree Narendra Modi Ji."



Indian Embassy officials P K Chowdhury and Renu Yadav hand over the gift to Bhagwan Asarpota and other temple managing committee members.



The gift presented by PM Modi.

## Wider co-operation key focus of talks

Manama

Agriculture and Marine Resources Undersecretary at the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Dr Nabeel Mohammed Abu Al Fateh, said that the Agriculture and Marine Resources Undersecretariat is interested in enhancing joint programmes with the

Royal Charity Organisation (RCO), in line with its strategy based on partnership with various sides.

This came as Dr Abu Al Fateh received here RCO's Secretary-General, Dr Mustafa Al-Sayed, in the presence of Assistant Undersecretary for Agricultural Affairs, Dr Abdulaziz Mohammed Abdulkareem.

Dr Abu Al Fateh stressed that

the training programme organised by the Agriculture and Marine Resources Undersecretariat for 11 RCO's affiliates on the soil-free farming system should pave the way for wider cooperation with RCO.

The two sides discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the Agriculture and Marine Resources Undersecretariat and RCO for the benefit of Bahrain.



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# 'Synergy among ministries led to success of Ashoora season'

All government departments carried out best co-ordination to ensure safety, sources said

● The Shura Council expressed its thanks and appreciation for providing all facilities for "the success of the events in the framework of promoting love and respect among the people of Bahrain".

● The Public Security Chief got informed about all procedures taken to secure the religious occasion and ensure its successful organisation.

TDT | Manama  
Pradeep Puravankara

This year's Ashoora season was a remarkable success as a result of intensive efforts made by authorities concerned and related organisations, it emerged.

The co-operation between different ministries, mainly the Interior and Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, and Health also contributed to the success of the religious occasion.

The administrations of four governorates also worked along the ministries to secure the conducting of Hussainiya processions.

Sources said there was a high-level of co-ordination between community police, the General Directorate of Traffic, Civil Defence and National Ambulance services, which ensured the safety of all during the season.

"Co-ordination meetings were also held between the head of ma'atams and senior officials of security and service departments to establish necessary mechanisms for ensuring safety."

The Shura Council expressed its thanks and appreciation for providing all facilities for "the success of the events in the framework of promoting love and respect among the people of Bahrain".

The council stressed that the guidance of the wise leadership and the great care it has given to religious rituals have paved the way for the success of the



Maj-Gen Al Hassan at the centre, where security operations were being co-ordinated.

Ashoora season.

"Through its history of co-existence, national unity, and community harmony, which has been strengthened in the atmosphere of freedom and openness experienced by the Kingdom of Bah-

rain under the bright era of His Majesty the King, people have been observing religious practices in accordances with regulations and laws," the council said.

It commended the continuous efforts of Interior Minister Gen-

eral Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, and all members, various departments and sections of the ministry, who contributed towards the success of the Ashoora season.

Public Security Chief Ma-

jor-General Taraq Al Hassan yesterday paid inspection visits to a number of police directorates to get updated on the security preparations during Ashoora season.

He thanked the directorates' personnel for their tireless efforts to maintain national security, stressing their outstanding professional role in preserving public order on such occasions.

He also underlined the Interior Ministry's keenness, in line with the directives of the Interior Minister, to provide support to religious occasions, including Ashoora.

The Public Security Chief got informed about all procedures taken to secure the religious occasion and ensure its successful organisation.

He also underlined commitment to legal regulations in dealing with violations, calling on all to cooperate with the police officers to maintain security and order.

The Public Security Chief was accompanied during the visits by his Deputy and Assistant for Operations and Training as well as senior officers.



A policeman in action as he secures the Ashoora procession.

## 39-year-old arsonist held

TDT | Manama

The General Department of the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation yesterday announced in a statement the arrest of a 39-year-old Bahraini man after he robbed a vehicle and set it on fire.



Evidences extracted from the crime scene helped in identifying the suspect.

POLICE

The statement revealed that the department investigated the arson incident and discovered that the accused set it on fire.

"Evidences extracted from the crime scene helped in identifying the suspect," investigating officers said.

The 39-year-old man, revealed to officers that he stole the vehicle from its owner following a dispute between them, the statement added before concluding that the defendant will be referred to the Public Prosecution.

## Lawyer jailed for withholding staff salary

TDT | Manama

The Lower Criminal Court has sentenced a female lawyer to one month behind bars for withholding the salary of a staff, who was serving her office.

The court also fixed BD50 in bail amount to suspend executing the sentence.

The lawyer was put on trial after her former employer provided pieces of proof confirming that she was on a salary of BD400 per month and her employer failed to pay her for two months.

Therefore, the Lower Criminal Court decided to sentence her for a month in prison.

## 'Partnership with private sector key to achieving food security'

Manama

Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Essam Khalaf, yesterday stressed that partnership with the private sector is essential for enhancing food security in the Kingdom.

This came as the minister visited the premises of Dar Aqua Company in Hoarat A'ali, along with Undersecretary of Agriculture and Marine Resources, Dr Nabeel Mohammed Abu Al Fateh, and a number of officials.

Mr Khalaf was briefed about the company and its work progress and mechanisms by its Director-General, Abdulla Al Fahal.

The minister affirmed that the government's strategy is based on support-



Mr Khalaf being briefed on Dar Aqua Company's efforts to produce healthy food products.

ing the initiatives of the private sector that constitute an added value for the national economy.



The gov't strategy is based on supporting the initiatives of the private sector to implement development projects that constitute an added value for the national economy.

MR KHALAF

He pointed out that Dar Aqua Company represents a unique Bahraini experience in providing fish and vegetables that are produced in a safe environment, which enjoys the government's interest, as such projects aim to provide food products to consumers.

The minister discussed with the compa-

ny's officials the government's provision of the necessary infrastructure to support the company and ensure its success.

Undersecretary, Dr Abu Al Fateh praised the company's efforts to produce healthy food products that meet part of the local market's needs.

He said that the Agriculture and Marine Resources Under-secretariat would harness the necessary potentials to support the company's work as its ultimate goal is consistent with its strategy aimed at achieving food security in the kingdom.

He pointed out that the Agriculture and Marine Resources Under-secretariat would encourage the private sector to launch projects aimed at ensuring food security, at the agricultural level or regarding fisheries.

## Al Jazeera rapped for violating rights laws

● **During the meeting, the Assistant Foreign Minister welcomed Ambassador Ahmed Al Jarman, noting the Kingdom's pride of its deep-rooted brotherly and friendly relations with the United Arab Emirates.**

**Geneva**

Assistant Foreign Minister, Abdullah Al Doseri, met with UAE Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights

Ambassador Ahmed Al Jarman, on the sidelines of the 42 Human Rights Council in Geneva.

During the meeting, the Assistant Foreign Minister welcomed Ambassador Ahmed Al Jarman, noting the Kingdom's pride of its deep-rooted brotherly and friendly relations with the United Arab Emirates.

He affirmed the enhancement of these relations on various levels for the common interests of the two countries and their friendly peoples.

He asserted that the State of Qatar, through its media, namely Al-Jazeera, violates all norms, values as well as the international human rights law to spread hatred and ignite sectarian strife



Mr Al Doseri with Mr Al Jarman.

in societies and countries, while Doha embraces terrorist elements and fugitives.

He added that Qatar uses Al Jazeera as a platform for extremists and blacklisted terrorists who are wanted internationally, and allows them to spread extremist ideologies, encourage lawlessness and ignite conflicts and strifes between different cultures and races.

He also added that while Al Jazeera talks about the importance of freedom of opinion and opinion of others, it's turning a blind eye to human rights violations in the State of Qatar, including the lack of public, civil and democratic freedoms, restrictions on fundamental freedoms, includ-

ing freedom of opinion and expression in Qatar, and increasing violations against foreign workers, which has been confirmed by international reports.

For his part, Ambassador Ahmed Al Jarman expressed his pleasure to have met with the Assistant Foreign Minister, hailing the deep-rooted relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the UAE. He also stressed the UAE's keenness on enhancing said relations for the common interests of both countries, wishing the Kingdom of Bahrain further progress and prosperity.

Further issues of common interest were further discussed during the meeting.

# Trio on trial for forging child's birth certificate

Bahraini man allegedly falsified information in his daughter's birth certificate

**TDT | Manama**

The High Criminal Court has begun hearing the forgery case involving a Bahraini man, his mother and his second Arab wife.

The trio are implicated over falsifying the birth certificate of a girl and they were put on trial after their act was exposed by the first wife of the first accused, also an Arab national.

It's said that the Bahraini man was married to both women when the girl was born and he had not legalised his marriage contract with his second wife.

He mentioned his first wife as the biological mother of the girl in all official documents to avoid complications, according to prosecutors.

However, it was done without the approval of the first wife, which led to her filing a complaint against him as well as separating from him.

She told police officers that the Bahraini man had been beating her regularly as well as insulting her, which led to the divorce.

A DNA test was conducted to approve her claims and it was found out that she wasn't the biological mother of the child,

**“**  
**The first accused mentioned his first wife as the biological mother of the girl in all official documents to avoid complications.**

PROSECUTORS

confirming her allegations that her then-husband provided false information when registering the birth of the child.

“I got married to him in 2016 and were trying to register the

marriage in my country,” the second wife, aged 27, told prosecutors when she was summoned for questioning.

“I got pregnant and Salmaniya Medical Complex refused to admit me because I didn't have a certified marriage contract.

“I contacted my father and he informed me that I had to go with my husband to my country to complete the formalities.

“That wasn't possible because I was already on my seventh month of pregnancy and airlines refused to allow me to travel,” the 27-year-old added.

The pair didn't have an option

but to have the the first wife recorded as the biological mother of the child and the father's mother signed as a witness.

However, the second wife told prosecutors that the first wife was the one who offered her this plan and help.

The mother, meanwhile, told prosecutors that the papers were written in English and she didn't understand anything.

“I was only asked to sign and thought that was for the approval of conducting the surgery to take the child out,” she said.

The trio were charged with forgery.

**KSRelief continues health drive in Comoros**

The volunteer medical team of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief) held paediatric and general surgeries in Moroni, the capital of Comoros, as part of its medical campaign.

On Sunday, 60 patients were screened and 15 operations were conducted, six on children and nine on adults.

The surgeries covered inguinal and umbilical hernias, hydrocele, retractile testicle, water cysts, appendectomy, and radical inguinal orchiectomy for a 14-year-old boy.

This medical campaign is part of the voluntary work carried out by KSRelief to fulfil the Kingdom's Vision 2030.

It is also part of a series of voluntary campaigns funded and implemented by KSRelief in many countries around the world, under the generous guidance of King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

## 'BRCS training new group of volunteers for relief work'



A training session in progress for volunteers.

**TDT | Manama**

The Secretary-General of the Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS), Dr Fawzi Amin has welcomed the newly joined volunteers in the society, expressing his happiness over their motivation, determination and determination to serve humanity and extend a helping hand to those in need.

BRCS carries out projects, programmes and objectives of the Bahrain Red Crescent, as an integral part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Speaking at the society's headquarters in the Diplomatic Area in Manama, Dr Amin stressed the importance of exploration and knowledge in all areas of humanitarian work, referring to the non-profit projects, programmes and initiatives offered by Bahrain Red

Crescent as part of the diverse humanitarian work system, so that each member can choose the appropriate field of work to achieve his goals.

The Secretary-General pointed out that the Bahrain Red Crescent offers its volunteer members many new areas and opportunities for development and improvement in humanitarian work, which qualifies them to work directly with the relevant committees.

“Each member will receive sufficient training and qualification by certified trainers with long experience and practise in accordance with the basic rules and principles of humanitarian action in the Bahrain Red Crescent Society in accordance with the general rules adopted internationally.”

In a related context, Dr Amin pointed out that the status of the Bahrain Red Crescent as an

international and regional association among 192 international societies in the world.

“The BRCS members can communicate directly with other individuals working in the same field from the Arab world and the rest of the world to see the ideas, experiences and experiences that contribute to the development of individual and collective capabilities alike.”

He expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the newly-joined young people, who, despite their busy schedules in personal and professional lives, were able to devote part of their time to serving the community and the world through the Bahrain Red Crescent.

He welcomed all new ideas, initiatives and activities offered by the new volunteers, especially those contributing to the advancement of humanitarian work and community service.

## BTECH to strengthen Bahraini ICT presence at GITEX 2019

**TDT | Manama**

Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH) Chairman, Ubaydli Ubaydli, said that preparations are underway for 'Bahraini National Pavilion' participation at GITEX 2019.

Mr Ubaydli stressed BTECH's commitment to support national efforts to boost advancement of ICT industry in the Kingdom of Bahrain via programmes, initiatives, events, and the participation in the Bahraini national pavilion at GITEX hosted in Dubai from 6-10 October 2019.

“BTECH is keen to maximize Bahraini ICT companies and entrepreneur's exposure and participation in the Bahrain National Pavilion at GITEX, one of the key international ICT events where technology leaders, enterprises and startups from around the world come together to showcase the latest developments and share experience on the future of ICT business and industry,” said Mr Ubaydli.

Mr Ubaydli pointed out the important role of the Labour Fund “Tamkeen”, BTECH's strategic partner in Bahraini pavilion at GITEX, to encourage ICT companies and entrepreneurs to participate at this strategic event, including private sector's institutions and ICT companies to benefit from this opportunity, bringing 40 ICT companies and 20 start-ups at the



Mr Ubaydli

Bahraini pavilion.

The Bahraini National Pavilion, jointly organised by BTECH and Work Smart for events management, set up to keep pace with the exhibition developments, helping pavilion's participants to achieve their aspirations for new job opportunities, learn from the biggest tech minds to debate and discuss major trends including 5G, Healthcare, Marketing & more.

Mr Ubaydli noted that GITEX offers global suppliers a unique opportunity to enter fast-growing markets, which are expected to reach \$168.8 billion by 2020.

He added: “At GITEX last year,

**100,000**  
visitors from 140  
countries are expected  
to attend the event.

we saw the unveiling of a host of exciting technological innovations such as the world's first drone firefighter, the first self-driving electric truck, the latest innovations of artificial intelligence from Microsoft, and many more, while the 2019 version promises to be bigger and broader with a range of creative exhibitors will provide networking opportunities and sessions on high-tech.”

He further pointed out the importance of attending GITEX Future Stars featuring a combined conference programme, bringing the best of both worlds' tech titans and startups in one truly empowering agenda.

This platform provides attendees to learn from 250 of the biggest tech minds on stage, hear the inspiring stories of entrepreneurs who beat the odds to make it big, and participate in power-packed keynote sessions and 9 sector-focused conferences.

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WORLD  
world

## Fourth death after Dutch policeman shoots family



Police investigate after three people were killed at a house (EPA)

## The Hague

A woman has died of her wounds in hospital after her estranged Dutch policeman husband shot her and his two young daughters before turning the gun on himself, prosecutors said Tuesday.

The shooting happened on Monday night at a home in the Dutch city of Dordrecht, a river city about 25 kilometres (15 miles) southwest of the port of Rotterdam.

Police said the 35-year-old officer, identified only as Wendell C. in Dutch media, shot dead his two daughters aged 12 and eight, and left his partner seriously wounded before taking his own life.

The 27-year-old woman "died of her wounds in hospital this (Tuesday) morning," Rotterdam public prosecution service spokeswoman Rubinia Tjon-A-Sam told AFP.

"We are still investigating

but we believe that it had to do with a family drama."

A police statement said that "the dead man is a policeman of the Rotterdam police unit."

The man and his wife were in the process of separating but were still living together in the same home, Dutch media reported.

The incident has shocked the country of over 17 million people where firearm-related deaths are relatively low.

Gun laws were tightened up after a 2011 mall shooting in the town of Alphen aan de Rijn in which six people were killed by a gunman whom a court said should never have been granted a gun licence.

However the Netherlands was again rocked in July when four people died in a shooting on a tram in the city of Utrecht. A Turkish-born suspect has been charged with "multiple murders with terrorist aims."

## Archbishop of Canterbury apologizes for massacre in India



The Archbishop of Canterbury Rev. Justin Welby, prostrates as he pays respect at the Jallianwala Bagh memorial in Amritsar, India

● The massacre took place at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar on April 13, 1919

AP | New Delhi

The archbishop of Canterbury has said he regrets a massacre by British colonial forces of hundreds of Indians participating in a peaceful demonstration for independence 100 years ago.

Archbishop Justin Welby was speaking at a memorial for victims of the attack in north-west India in 1919.

Welby said yesterday that he couldn't speak for the British government, but as a religious leader, he said he was "so ashamed and sorry for the impact of this crime."

The massacre took place at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar on April 13, 1919, when the British Indian Army opened fire at unarmed protesters, killing more than 300 and injuring 1,200.

## US extracted spy from Putin's Kremlin: report

Washington

US agents extracted a high-level Russian government source who had confirmed Vladimir Putin's direct role in interfering in the 2016 presidential election, American media reported.

The individual had been providing information to US intelligence for decades, had access to Putin and had sent pictures of high-level documents on the Russian leader's desk, CNN said.

But the spy was pulled out of Russia, both CNN and the New York Times reported late Monday.

The Times reported that the CIA initially offered to extract the source in late 2016 over fears about media exposure, after officials revealed the severity of Russia's election interference in extensive detail.

The informant initially refused -- citing family issues and prompting fears the individual had become a double agent, the Times said.

Months later, the agent relented as media inquiries about a mole continued.

CNN, citing an unnamed person it said was involved in discussions on the asset, said the 2017 extraction was over concerns that Trump and his cabinet could expose the agent after repeated mishandling of classified intelligence. The CIA vehemently denied this charge.

The network cited the intelligence community's particular concern after Trump confiscated a translator's notes following a 2017 private meeting with Putin.

The CIA's director of public affairs, Brittany Bramell, told CNN: "Misguided speculation



The individual had been providing information to US intelligence for decades, had access to Putin (file)

”  
CNN's reporting is not only incorrect, it has the potential to put lives in danger

WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY  
STEPHANIE GRISHAM

that the President's handling of our nation's most sensitive intelligence -- which he has access to each and every day -- drove an alleged exfiltration operation is inaccurate."

White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham told the network: "CNN's reporting is not only incorrect, it has the potential to put lives in danger."

The individual was key in providing information that led US intelligence to conclude Putin directly orchestrated Russian interference in favor of Trump and against his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton in the 2016 elec-

tion, the Times said.

The informant was also directly linked to the hacking of the Democratic National Committee, resulting in the release of a flood of embarrassing messages, the newspaper reported.

According to the Times, the agent was the CIA's most valuable Russian asset.

The extraction "effectively blinded" American intelligence to the Kremlin's inner workings during the 2018 US midterm election, the Times report said, as well as the upcoming 2020 presidential election.

Yesterday, Russian media named the alleged spy, reporting that he had worked at the Russian embassy in Washington before moving to Moscow.

Meanwhile, US network NBC claimed to have found a man living in the Washington area who -- according to two FBI sources -- matched the descriptions of the man in the CNN report.

When the NBC correspondent approached the home two men

## "Pulp fiction"

Reuters | Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday played down US media reports of a CIA spy inside Russia's presidential administration, calling them "pulp fiction", but said a low-level official who Russian media suggested was the agent had worked there before being fired.

Russian daily newspaper *Kommersant* said yesterday the official may have been a man called Oleg Smolenkov, who is reported to have disappeared with his wife and three children while on holiday in Montenegro in 2017 and is now reported to be living in the United States.

-- who identified themselves as friends of the Russian -- suddenly appeared and questioned why he wanted to speak to the occupant.

## Man accused of stealing 1,020 pastries worth \$90,000 from New York bakery

The Guardian

A deliveryman in New York has been accused of stealing \$90,000 worth of cake. David Lliviganay, an employee of Lady M Confections, is said to have smuggled 1,020 of their cakes out of their Long Island City warehouse on dozens of occasions over the course of a few months.

The confections, like their popular Rabbit Stamp Signature Mille Crêpes, retail for \$90 apiece, and have been raved about by the likes of Martha Stewart and Oprah. The *New York Times Magazine* once called that item in particular "at least the second-best cake in the city".

Much like with any other high-priced luxury item, there was apparently a robust second-



The confections, like popular Rabbit Stamp Signature Mille Crêpes, retail for \$90 apiece

ary black market for crêpes with little rabbits on them, a market opportunity that Lliviganay is alleged to have jumped on, according to a lawsuit filed by the

company. Lliviganay, who has pleaded guilty to petit larceny according to the New York Post, was captured on surveillance cameras

walking in and out of warehouse freezers multiple times, smuggling the cakes in bags to his waiting car. The company said they did not notice the cakes had gone missing until they were made aware of them being sold for a discount outside of their normal business operations.

"Lady M takes great responsibility and pride when shipping our cakes to you," the company says on its website. "Every order is hand-packed and handled with care so that it will arrive to your door in mint condition."

"Lady M is not responsible for lost or stolen packages," they note.

The company is seeking a return on the value of the purloined cakes, plus interest, and punitive damages.

# Japan may dump radioactive water into the sea

Reuters | Tokyo

Japan's Tokyo Electric Power will have to dump radioactive water from its destroyed Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean as it runs out of room to store it, the environment minister said yesterday.

Tokyo Electric, or Tepco, has collected more than 1 million tonnes of contaminated water from the cooling pipes used to keep fuel cores from melting since the plant was crippled by an earthquake and tsunami in 2011. "The only option will be to drain it into the sea and dilute it," the minister, Yoshiaki Harada, told a news briefing in Tokyo. "The whole of the government will discuss this, but I would like to offer my simple opinion."

The government is awaiting a report from an expert panel before making a final decision on how to dispose of the radioactive water.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secre-



Storage tanks for radioactive water are seen at tsunami-crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Okuma town, Fukushima prefecture

tary Yoshihide Suga, in a separate press briefing, described Harada's comments as "his personal opinion".

Tepco was not in a position to decide what to do but would follow the policy once the government made a decision, a spokesman for the utility said.

The utility says it will run out of room to store the water by 2022. Harada did not say how much water would need to be dumped into the ocean.

Any green light from the government to dump the waste into the sea would anger neighbours such as South Korea, which summoned a senior Japanese embassy official last month to explain how the Fukushima water would be dealt with.

"We're just hoping to hear more details of the discussions that are under way in Tokyo so that there won't be a surprise announcement," a South Korean diplomat told Reuters, requesting anonymity due to the sensitivity of bilateral ties.

South Korea's foreign ministry said in a statement said it had asked Japan "to take a wise and prudent decision on the issue".

Relations between the East Asian nations are already frosty following a dispute over compensation for Koreans forced to work in Japanese factories in World War Two.

Coastal nuclear plants commonly dump into the ocean water that contains tritium, an isotope of hydrogen that is hard to separate and is considered to be relatively harmless.

Tepco, which also faces opposition from fishermen, admitted last year that the water in its tanks still contained contaminants beside tritium.

"The government must commit to the only environmentally acceptable option for managing this water crisis which is long term storage and processing to remove radioactivity, including tritium," Shaun Burnie, senior nuclear specialist with Greenpeace Germany, said in an email.

## Bahamas Dorian toll climbs to 50, as thousands evacuated



A woman walks by destroyed cars in The Mudd neighborhood of Marsh Harbour

Nassau, Bahamas

Bahamas authorities have updated the death toll from Hurricane Dorian to 50 with the number expected to climb, local media reported, as thousands are evacuated from the archipelago's hardest-hit islands.

Police Commissioner Anthony Ferguson said 42 deceased persons on the island of Abaco and eight on Grand Bahama had been recovered as of Sunday, in an article published in The Nassau Guardian.

"We anticipate the discovery of more deceased persons, as the process of search and

recovery progresses," he said.

The news comes as the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported "particularly startling" devastation in places like Marsh Harbour in the Abacos, particularly in its shantytowns.

"Communities such as The Mudd and Pigeon Pea, where 70 percent of informal housing in Abaco existed, and where an overwhelming majority of Haitian migrants resided, has been decimated," it said in a statement.

"The Mudd is gone," said IOM's Brian Kelly, who is leading the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination team in the area.

## HK leader tells US not to 'interfere'



Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam has warned Washington not to 'interfere' as the city battles a major political crisis

Hong Kong

Hong Kong's embattled leader warned the United States yesterday not to "interfere" with her government's response to the city's pro-democracy movement, after fresh protests called on Washington to ramp up pressure on Beijing.

Millions of people have demonstrated over the last 14 weeks in the biggest challenge to China's rule of the financial hub since its handover from



Millions of people have demonstrated over the last 14 weeks in the biggest challenge to China's rule of Hong Kong since its handover from Britain in 1997

Britain in 1997.

Protesters took to the streets again on Sunday, marching to the American consulate to call on Congress to pass a bill expressing support for the pro-democracy movement.

The proposed law could undermine Hong Kong's special US trade privileges by mandating regular checks on whether authorities were respecting the Basic Law that underpins the city's semi-autonomous status.

But Hong Kong's pro-Beijing Chief Executive Carrie Lam said

that any change to its economic relationship with Washington would threaten "mutual benefits".

"It's extremely inappropriate for any country to interfere in Hong Kong's affairs," she told reporters.

"I hope that no more people in Hong Kong actively reach out to tell the United States to pass the act."

Beijing on Tuesday echoed Lam's remarks, with foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying saying: "We hope that

they can withdraw their black hands in Hong Kong as soon as possible."

While some American politicians on both sides of the aisle have expressed support for the democratic goals of the protesters, President Donald Trump's administration has maintained a more hands-off approach while it fights a trade war with China.

Trump has called for a peaceful resolution to the political crisis and urged Beijing to not escalate with a violent crackdown.

But he has also said it is up to China to handle the protests.

Washington has rejected Beijing's allegations that it is backing the demonstrators and China has provided little evidence to back its claims beyond supportive statements from some US politicians.

Separately, more than 150 lawmakers in Britain have called on Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab to offer second citizenship and the right of abode to residents of Hong Kong.

That would "send a strong message to China that the people of Hong Kong are not alone", the open letter said.

## France moves to lift secrecy on deadly 1968 plane crash

Marseille

French authorities are working to declassify military files linked to a mysterious crash more than 50 years ago of an Air France plane that plunged into the Mediterranean just minutes before it was due to land, killing all 95 people aboard, families said.

French President Emmanuel Macron pledged to open up military records in a letter to an association of victims' families as they prepare to mark the 51st anniversary of the disaster near the southern city of Nice.

Many relatives have long suspected the Caravelle en route from Ajaccio on the island of Corsica was downed by a missile



A mausoleum at the Ajaccio cemetery in Corsica dedicated to the victims of the 1968 Caravelle plane crash that killed all 95 people on board.

on September 11, 1968, during French military exercises in the area.

The official version blamed a fire on board that prompted pilots to lose control.

In March 2018, an investigating magistrate requested access to the secret files, saying the theory of an accidental missile launch needed to be taken "very seriously".

In a letter to Mathieu Paoli, president of the victims' association, which was seen by AFP, Macron wrote that he "understands your search to uncover the truth".

It added that he had asked Defence Minister Florence Parly to declassify documents if neces-

sary and that the ministry was "pursuing its research to identify documents that might have been overlooked in previous investigations".

Paoli, whose parents were aboard the flight, has long sought to prove the authorities covered up a missile strike, citing claims from an ex-military officer and others.

Paoli and his brother also found the ship's log for the French Navy's Suffren missile launching ship, which was in the waters near Nice at the time, but discovered that the entry for September 11, 1968, had been torn out.

Ceremonies marking the disaster are scheduled in both Nice and Ajaccio this week.



# Jack Ma eases out of a thriving Alibaba

*His departure marks a new era for a company that tapped into China's deep reservoir of consumer spending, creating new opportunities for countless businesses large and small, and helping cement the internet's central role in Chinese daily life. Ma's departure comes not only on his birthday but, fittingly, on Teacher's Day in China. Alibaba also staged its 20th-anniversary bash yesterday evening*

## The incredible journey of

### Jack Ma

Born: October 15, 1964 – Hangzhou, China



Offers city tours to foreigners as a teenager



Fails in his university exams – twice!



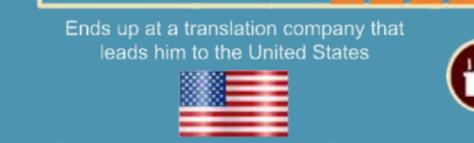
1988 - Graduates from Hangzhou Teacher's Institute

Applies for 30 jobs – rejected!



Applies for KFC along with 23 other people. Everyone selected except him

Gets hired as an English teacher for a local university for \$12 a month



Ends up at a translation company that leads him to the United States

1995 - Gets exposed to the World Wide Web



Starts China Pages – an online portal for information on Chinese beers. Fails due to lack of funding

Gets an idea for an idea for a B2B marketplace for exporters to list their products



1999 - Gathers 17 of his friends to invest in Alibaba. The same year gets funding from Goldman Sachs and SoftBank

2005 – Yahoo invests \$1 billion for 40% stake in the company



2013 – Breaks the record for the biggest IPO in the US history by raising \$150 billion

Today – Alibaba is the largest retailer in the world



### ● Ma plans to put his vast fortune -- among China's biggest at \$41 billion -- into initiatives serving his first love, education

#### Shanghai

Jack Ma stepped down yesterday as chairman of Alibaba, ending a spectacularly successful 20-year run, but the startup he built into an online retail behemoth is expected to keep thriving into a new era thanks to a culture of innovation he helped nurture.

A former English teacher whose often playful image shattered the stereotype of the drab Chinese executive, Ma officially leaves on his 55th birthday.

Ma plans to put his vast fortune -- among China's biggest at \$41 billion -- into initiatives serving his first love, education, following the footsteps of a fellow tech innovator he admires: Bill Gates.

The departure of charismatic founders from big tech companies typically causes hand-wringing and wobbling share prices, but not at Alibaba.

The company's operational reins have for a couple of years now been in the hands of a respected team of executives who have kept it on e-commerce's cutting-edge.

Ma was Alibaba's driving force and a frequently irreverent ambassador for the company, known for stunts like a Michael Jackson-inspired dance at an Alibaba anniversary celebration two years ago and starring in his own kung fu short film.

#### 'Gold standard'

He is expected to retain some advisory functions.

But the transition to figures like CEO Daniel Zhang, and co-founder and executive vice chairman Joseph Tsai -- announced exactly a year ago -- may prove to be the "gold standard" for tech-company succession, said Jeffrey Towson, an equity investor and professor at Peking University.

"He's succeeded at what Steve Jobs, Bill Gates and (Yahoo co-founder) Jerry Yang failed at, which is making themselves redundant," said Towson, who has authored books on China's leading companies.

"He built a really robust culture at Alibaba and they are still just innovating like crazy."

Ma was a cash-strapped Chinese entrepreneur when he convinced friends to give him

\$60,000 to start Alibaba in the eastern city of Hangzhou in 1999.

With monthly active users of more than 750 million today, Alibaba helped to unlock China's massive consumer power, coincidentally a key objective of the government today as it seeks to fuel domestic demand to lessen the reliance on fickle foreign trade.

Its Taobao and Tmall platforms have helped countless businesses grow.

"(Ma) has been the driving force for the development of China's internet industry and economy. He is (China's) entrepreneurial godfather," said furniture maker Cheng Huaibao.

Cheng, 30, is one of millions of small businessmen, often located in so-called "Taobao villages" -- communities whose economies are oriented towards Alibaba's vast market -- who leapt into commerce thanks to the company.

Cheng started making bunk beds in 2010 in eastern Jiangsu province with 10 staff. Today his thriving operation has 100 employees.

"Without Teacher Ma, I wouldn't have come out and started my own business," Cheng said, using a common Chinese term of respect.

#### Continuing to innovate

There have been criticisms. Alibaba and its imitators are accused of fostering rampant commercialism and materialism and the selling of counterfeit goods.

Chinese e-commerce today also produces mountains of packaging material, contributing to a rising national garbage problem.

And some of Ma's comments have drawn barbs, including recently dismissing concerns that Chinese workers were toiling excessive hours, as did the news last year that he was a Chinese Communist Party member.

But Alibaba has continued to expand its ecosystem, pushing into cloud computing, entertainment, and a "new retail" concept -- combining online ordering with bricks-and-mortar stores -- while its Alipay finance unit has pioneered cashless digital payments.

De-



# Sharpiegate: a bellwether of Trump's attempts to strip institutions of their authority

*As a storm brews over an apparently doctored map showing the path of Hurricane Dorian, why can't the US president admit when he gets it wrong?*

HUSSEIN IBISH

Last week a new word entered the Washington lexicon: Sharpiegate, named after the marker pen that generally sells for less than \$1.

That's because it's the writing instrument of choice of US President Donald Trump, who spurns the \$120 rolling ballpoint pens preferred by his predecessors.

The president likes Sharpies because they write smoothly and boldly in thick, indelible strokes, perfectly conveying his now-familiar signature, which has been compared to an electrocardiogram reading.

And since so much of his presidency has been based on imprinting his ECG signature on declarations and executive orders, Sharpies are now closely associated with him. His campaign team is even selling Sharpies decorated with his signature now for \$15.

The Sharpie became an issue when, following the trauma of Hurricane Dorian, what should have been a minor mistake turned into a prolonged political struggle over truth and reality.

Just over a week ago, the president, who had extensively tweeted news and advice about the impending hurricane, had mistakenly warned the people of Alabama, together with the Carolinas and Georgia, that they were in its destructive path and were "most likely to be hit harder than anticipated". The National Weather Service, however, said no such thing, and in an immediate response reiterated that Alabama faced no risk at all.

So far, no big deal. Everybody makes mistakes.



Trump with the apparently doctored map of Hurricane Dorian that appears to have been extended with a black line to include parts of the Florida coast.

But not this president. What should have been a minor hiccup became a seemingly endless tug-of-war over whether Mr Trump is capable of error.

The Trump administration issued numerous statements by senior officials backing up his claims, all completely unconvincing, as the president angrily insisted that he, and not the government's scientists, had been correct.

Last Wednesday, the president summoned reporters into the Oval Office and brandished a map purporting to show the projected trajectory of the hurricane. It

had been crudely altered with a Sharpie to show the storm winds reaching Alabama.

According to the Washington Post, senior unnamed officials confirmed that the president had made the alteration himself. While Mr Trump denied knowing who had doctored the map, his inability to admit a simple human error and move on has been obsessive and perturbing.

For several years in these pages, I have been tracking the progress of deinstitutionalisation in the US under Mr Trump. This recent incident, however seemingly absurd, constitutes a new

The Federal Election Commission has been allowed to dwindle below a quorum, so there will apparently be no referee for accountability in the forthcoming election.

# Orban's demography conference shows mainstream

SHOLTO BYRENES

In the US, rumours such as the claim that Barack Obama had been born in Kenya, not America – the birther conspiracy – can sometimes enter the mainstream swiftly.

In modern Europe, insidious ideas tend to take longer to creep in and be taken seriously. But creep in they do: which is why news of a demography conference held by Hungary's Viktor Orban last week is so disturbing.

It is not just what the prime minister himself said, although that was worrying enough.

"If Europe is not going to be populated by Europeans in the future and we take this as given, then we are speaking about an exchange of populations, to replace the population of Europeans with others," he said.

"There are political forces in Europe who want a replacement of population for ideological or other reasons."

This was a reference to the "great replacement" theory, which posits that white populations with low birth-rates on the continent are being systematically substituted by non-white immigrants, specifically Asian and Arab Muslims, whose tendency to have more children means that they will one day end up as the majority.

Naturally, as with many scare-mongering far-right plots, this involves the complicity of "evil

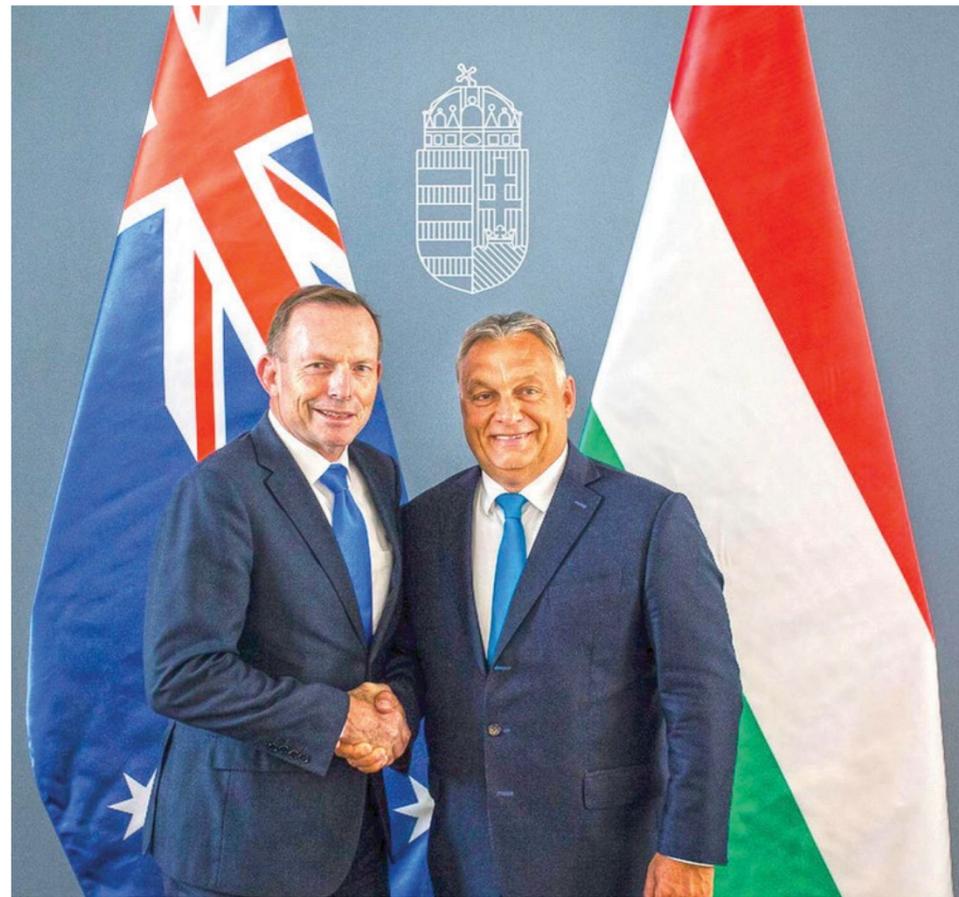
elites" who are supposedly scheming to undermine their own indigenous cultures.

We are used to hearing this kind of ethno-nationalist message from Mr Orban and his ideological fellow travellers. What made this instance of it even more unfortunate was that Mr Orban was applauded by a guest at the conference – the former Australian prime minister Tony Abbott, who praised his host for having "the political courage to defy political correctness".

In his own speech Mr Abbott said: "The problem with the people who have been swarming across the borders in Europe in very recent times is that you don't get any impression that they come to join. They are not there to be grateful, they are there with a grievance."

The language was ugly. Insects swarm, people do not.

Further, while no one doubts that large-scale immigration can pose problems of integration, there is plenty of evidence that new or more recent arrivals are not only grateful but seek to demonstrate it. A survey by the UK-based Policy Exchange think tank in late 2016 found, for instance, that Britain's Muslims (only some of whom are immigrants of course) were "amongst the country's most loyal, patriotic and law-abiding citizens". They were also more likely to oppose terrorism and take part in elections than the population as



Tony Abbott, the former Australian prime minister, praised Hungarian PM Viktor Orban for having 'the political courage to defy political correctness'.

a whole.

All this seems to have been

lost on Mr Abbott, who warned darkly of "the implications of the

shrinking West". This is so troubling because Mr

*It is deeply troubling to find such leaders as former Australian PM Tony Abbott effectively endorsing extremist views like the 'great replacement' theory*

1978

**Janet Parker**, a British medical photographer, became the last recorded person to die from smallpox.



1982

The international forces that were guaranteeing the safety of Palestinian refugees following Israel's 1982 Invasion of Lebanon leave **Beirut**.

1989

**Hungary** announces that the East German refugees who had been housed in temporary camps were free to leave for West Germany.

2001

The September 11 attacks, a series of coordinated suicide attacks killing 2,996 people using four aircraft hijacked by 19 members of Al Qaeda.



...rida panhandle and the state of Alabama.

threshold in an alarming process. It is unlawful for anyone to tamper with an official US government meteorological map. It is also a perfect example of how Mr Trump is more comfortable with a psychologically affirming narrative than objective, quantifiable reality, and the extent he will go to assert the primacy of myth, politics and ego over fact.

Government scientists and meteorologists have now been formally warned to "only stick with official National Hurricane Centre forecasts if questions arise from some national level social media posts", which has been

interpreted as a reprimand for criticising Mr Trump, even if he is misleading the public on a matter as serious as the path of a hurricane.

Time and again, it has not mattered to him what relevant and qualified authorities say about crowd size, voting patterns, immigration, terrorism, economic trajectories, climate change, scientific findings, or any number of other measurable, objective realities. These cases constitute a clear pattern of this administration batting facts aside in favour of a narrative that is more emotionally satisfying, ideologically buttressing and politically empowering.

In recent weeks deinstitutionalisation has taken a qualitative leap forward in several crucial ways.

The attack on fact-based reality and the scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is one example.

Another is Mr Trump's ongoing war with the Federal Reserve Bank and its chairman in maintaining that, even though the economy is strong, the bank should lower the prime interest rate anyway, presumably because that might help secure his re-election.

Mr Trump has amplified his attacks on the press, the FBI, Congress, courts, his own bureaucracy and, seemingly, anyone and anything that might provide an alternative source of authority and information.

The prime target remains the media, ever the low-hanging fruit in democratic politics, with Mr Trump now even turning on Fox News, which is split between entirely supportive and moder-

ately supportive programming, as insufficiently "working for us anymore" and, as a consequence, "we", meaning his political support base, "need a new network".

Deinstitutionalisation is even targeting the electoral process itself.

The Federal Election Commission has been allowed to dwindle below a quorum, so there will apparently be no referee for accountability in the forthcoming election. And Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell, now commonly referred to as "Moscow Mitch" because of his refusal to do anything to stop Russian meddling in US elections, has blocked every effort to create a national set of election standards.

Deinstitutionalisation has also come to the Republican primaries, given that three relatively minor candidates are standing against Mr Trump. Caucuses and primaries within the party have been cancelled in South Carolina, Nevada, Arizona and Kansas, ostensibly to save money.

And Mr Trump, who is sworn to uphold and enforce the law, allegedly told his officials to disregard laws and simply seize land to build his wall along the southern border, promising them pardons if needs be, according to the Washington Post and New York Times, although administration officials claimed he was merely joking.

American deinstitutionalisation is rapidly accelerating. Many hope all this will be easily reversed when Mr Trump leaves office. But as any parent of young children will tell you, it's incredibly hard to remove ugly stains left by a misused Sharpie.

## ...ming of racist ideas in Europe

Abbott cannot be dismissed as either an eccentric or an extremist. He is the former leader of a highly developed country, a regional power with the 10th-highest per capita income in the world. Mr Abbott may have run a very tough anti-immigration policy when in office, but the Liberals - the party he once led - are one of Australia's two major parties, and are the local equivalent of mainstream centre-right groups such as Germany's Christian Democrats or Conservative parties in the UK and Canada. So for him to provide support for Mr Orban's replacementism is truly shocking.

Ten years ago, such ideas were little aired in mainstream discussions because their proponents were mainly either crackpots or members of the extreme right. True, a few fundamentalist atheists and militant secularists gave some credence to the Eurabia thesis of Gisele Littman, an Egyptian-born writer who under the pen name of Bat Ye'or promoted the notion that the European Union and Arab countries had a decades-long secret plan to "Islamise" the continent.

Reviewing one of her books in these pages in 2011, however, I still felt confident that her views were so self-evidently preposterous that all I had to do was quote her.

When she wrote that "the blind termites in the chancelleries of Europe and America are

**This is so troubling because Mr Abbott cannot be dismissed as either an eccentric or an extremist. He is the former leader of a highly developed country, a regional power with the 10th-highest per capita income in the world.**

working assiduously" to "bring a worldwide caliphate to power", it seemed to me that no one could take such propositions seriously. Although the British historians Niall Ferguson and Sir Martin Gilbert had a curiously soft spot for her, they appeared to be outliers, misled in an area outside their expertise.

But today Bat Ye'or's views have moved from the margins.

The Alternative for Germany - a far-right organisation, yes, but also the third-largest group in the country's parliament - ran a poster campaign in elections this year with the caption: "Europeans, vote for AfD, so that Europe will never become 'Eurabia'."

The British author Douglas Murray, who regularly writes for mainstream publications such as the Spectator magazine and the

Daily Mail, has praised Bat Ye'or as "a great scholar".

His book, *The Strange Death of Europe*, is described by his publishers as an "account of a continent and culture caught in the act of suicide" due to "declining birth-rates, mass immigration and cultivated self-distrust and self-hatred".

Mr Murray is a highly intelligent man who is considered to be part of the respectable right. His views are not identical to Mr Orban's, but the Hungarian prime minister has endorsed his book, and far-right wingers from whom Mr Murray may wish to disassociate himself will find much they agree with in it.

This is a poison that is entering the mainstream. Never mind that there is no evidence whatsoever for Mr Orban's claim that "there are political forces in Europe who want a replacement of population for ideological or other reasons". If enough people believe it, that is good enough in our post-truth world.

You could dismiss Mr Abbott as a has-been. Or you could say that it was incumbent on a former leader of a great country who represented an honourable conservative tradition to say: Stop. The facts matter. And there is a boundary beyond which the respectable right will not go. There is a barrier between us and the far right.

For if people like Mr Abbott will not man it, who will?



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



India at the UN Human Rights Council meet: "Kashmir is internal to India; restrictions being eased, democratic processes initiated; temporary preventive measures were needed because of threats of cross border terrorism." Says "fabricated charges by epicentre of terrorism"

@Nidhi

02



ABC/Washington Post Poll was the worst and most inaccurate poll of any taken prior to the 2016 Election. When my lawyers protested, they took a 12 point down and brought it to almost even by Election Day. It was a Fake Poll by two very bad and dangerous media outlets. Sad!

@realDonaldTrump

03



A significant % of Trump's false claims are needless exaggerations - turning the first overdose-death drop in 28 years into "nearly 31 years," China's worst quarter in 27 years into "57 years," the lowest women's unemployment in 66 years into "72 years."

@ddale8

04



Corbyn and his friends in Parliament want to delay Brexit and surrender billions more to Brussels. We cannot allow this to happen. The referendum result must be respected #Leave-Oct31

@BorisJohnson

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

### Wide Angle

## Fortune 500 Global: Which nations did well?



JOEL INDRUPATI

When the 2019 'Fortune 500 Global' was released at the end of July this year, it was clear that for the first time ever, Chinese companies have outnumbered US companies.

This time, the list had 129 Chinese companies in it, and 121 US companies - which also means that half of the world's best 500 companies are now in only these two countries.

That gives us the reason why the latest US-China Trade Wars have been dominating the headlines in the various media channels lately.

But, I thought it would be pertinent for us to look at how various other countries also have been faring on the number of companies they contributed to this prestigious annual listing.

After all, these top business firms - in their respective countries - are the driving factors, when it comes to each nation's economic growth.

Globally, these 500 companies alone generated \$32.7 trillion in revenues (up by 9 per cent from the last year). And they made \$2.15 trillion in profits (up by 15 per cent from the previous year).

To put it into perspective, let me say that the total revenues of these companies together is about one and half times the GDP of the country with the highest GDP in the world - the US.

The top 10 companies in 2019 list are: Walmart (United States), Sinopec Group (China), Royal Dutch Shell (Netherlands), China National Petroleum (China), State Grid (China), Saudi Aramco (Saudi Arabia), BP (United Kingdom), Exxon Mobil (United States), Volkswagen (Germany), and Toyota Motor (Japan).

And, as we can see, four out of the top 10 companies in the list are from China, and three out of those four companies are actually state-owned companies.

Whether state-owned companies perform better than privately-owned companies is not currently our discussion. However, we can see that since most natural resources are controlled by the governments, state-owned oil and energy companies are among the top.

The top ten nations with the most number of companies listed in the Fortune 500 Global list are: China (129 companies), United States (121), Japan (52), France (31), Germany (29), United Kingdom (17), South Korea (16), Switzerland (14), Canada (13), and the Netherlands (12).

I looked for companies from the nations of the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region, and found only two companies from two countries; one company at the top and one at the end of the list.

Saudi Aramco at No 6 from Saudi Arabia, and Emirates Group at No 496 from UAE, from the oil and the airlines sectors respectively, have shown the region in good light; both from the GCC nations.

What should be a matter of pride for the region is that Saudi Aramco was listed as the most profitable company. And it was followed by Apple, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, and Samsung.

However, the region needs to do a lot, if it wants to put some of its companies on the list.

While the MENA region cannot boast of huge natural resources, except for perhaps oil and gas, the countries must look at other ways and means to upgrade the economic statuses.

Only an amalgamation of local education with international expertise to exploit natural resources; and only a drive towards creativity and innovation in products with economic structures promoting entrepreneurship, can we see effective growth. Examples of the US and China are perhaps too far and too high, for local companies to emulate. But, technology can help.

China's Xiaomi Corp, for example, is the youngest company among the Global 500. It started just nine years ago. When will we see some young companies from the MENA region, in the Fortune 500 Global list? Let us hope it will be sooner than we think.

(The writer's twitter handle: @joelindrupati)

# BUSINESS

## Aramco ready for two-stage IPO

● The actual date would be a “government decision”

● Aramco considering a domestic debut and a subsequent international listing -- possibly in Tokyo

● Aramco is the world's most profitable company.

### Abu Dhabi

Saudi energy giant Aramco is ready for a two-stage stock market debut including an international listing “very soon” but the timing is up to the government, its CEO said yesterday.

Aramco has said it plans to float around five percent of the state-owned company in 2020 or 2021 in what could potentially be the world's biggest stock sale.

The mammoth Initial Public Offering (IPO) forms the cornerstone of a reform programme envisaged by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to wean the Saudi economy off its reliance on oil.



Saudi Aramco CEO Amin H. Nasser (Courtesy of Reuters)

It aims to raise up to \$100 billion based on a \$2 trillion valuation of the company.

“We have always said is that Aramco is ready for listing whenever the shareholders make a decision to list,” Aramco CEO Amin Nasser told reporters

on the sidelines of the World Energy Congress.

“And as you hear from His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz yesterday, it is going to be very soon. So we are ready -- that is the bottom line,” he said, referring to the newly appointed



**We have always said that Aramco is ready for listing whenever the shareholders make a decision to list. And as you hear from His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz yesterday, it is going to be very soon. So we are ready -- that is the bottom line**

AMIN NASSER, ARAMCO CEO



Aramco's accounts, opened for the first time in April, show it is the world's most profitable company

energy minister.

With the low oil price believed to be a factor weighing on their decision-making, he added however that the actual date would be a “government decision”.

The government has not given any explanation for the delays, but apart from holding out for the big-ticket valuation they are also said to be concerned the IPO could bring intense legal scrutiny of the secretive company's finances and corporate inner workings.

### Tokyo option

The *Wall Street Journal* reported last week that Aramco was considering a two-stage process with a domestic debut and a subsequent international listing -- possibly in Tokyo.

“One of the primary listings is going to be local but we are also ready for listing outside,” Nasser confirmed.

A Tokyo listing would be a setback for London, New York and Hong Kong, which have all vied for a slice of the business.

Political uncertainty in Britain over its plan to exit the European Union and mass protests in Hong Kong have diminished their prospects, the *Journal* cited Saudi officials as saying.

Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman was promoted Sunday to the pivotal role of energy minister, replacing veteran official Khalid al-Falih, as the top crude exporter accelerates preparations for the much-anticipated IPO.

The appointment of Prince Abdulaziz, one of the sons of Saudi Arabia's King Salman, marks the first time a royal family member has been put in charge of the all-important ministry.

In his first comments since taking up the role, the minister on Monday endorsed oil supply cuts, saying in Abu Dhabi that they would benefit all producing nations amid an oversupplied market and sagging prices.

Crude prices are currently moving around levels of \$60 a barrel, compared with more than \$75 a year ago, but were given a boost Monday by the comments.

### Prices in decline

The OPEC petroleum exporters' cartel and key independent producers are deliberating how to halt a slide in prices that has persisted despite previous cuts and US sanctions that have squeezed supply from Iran and Venezuela.

Abu Dhabi is also hosting this week a meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMCC) of the OPEC+ alliance for a supply cut deal reached last year.

The ministers will consider fresh reductions, even though analysts are doubtful such a move would succeed in bolstering crude prices which have been badly dented by the US-China trade war.

The Aramco listing is key to Saudi's economic future. Its GDP grew by 2.4 per cent last year but the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said growth would fall to 1.9pc in 2019 due to substantial oil output cuts.

The IMF said Monday that fiscal reforms, including a consumption tax and higher energy prices, have started to yield results but that more is needed to plug a chronic budget deficit.

Earlier this month, Aramco said its first half net income for 2019 slipped nearly 12pc to \$46.9 billion on lower crude prices.

It was the first time the company has published half-year financial results and comes after Aramco opened its secretive accounts for the first time in April, revealing itself to be the world's most profitable company.

## British Airways pilots' strike enters second day

● BA has offered a salary increase of 11.5pc over three years

● Union wants a bigger share of the company's profits

### London

A landmark strike by British Airways pilots entered its second day yesterday with more travel chaos -- and no end in sight to the long-running dispute over pay.

BA has decided to cancel almost all its flights for the second day in a row, it announced in a statement identical to the one issued Monday.

The carrier, which is owned by London-listed International Air-



Representative picture

lines Group, said it has cancelled nearly 100 percent of its 850 daily flights, affecting the travel plans of more than 100,000 passengers.

However, the pilots' trade union stood firm in its demands for greater salary and benefits.

The industrial action by pilots, which is the first in BA's 100-year history, has seen flights axed for approximately 200,000 travellers, mostly from London Gatwick and Heathrow airports.

In advance of the strike, BA offered full refunds, or bookings on alternative dates or flights with a different airline.

The walkout over pay by members of the British Airline Pilots Association (BALPA) trade union follows around nine months of failed talks.

With no talks scheduled, pi-

lots will also stage another one-day strike on September 27.

“Pilots are standing firm and have shown just how resolute they are,” BALPA boss Brian Strutton said in a brief statement.

“British Airways needs to start listening to its pilots and actually come up with ways of resolving this dispute.”

BA has offered a salary increase of 11.5pc over three years, which it argues would boost the annual pay of some captains to £200,000 (\$246,000 or 220,000 euros).

However, the union has rejected the proposal that was made in July, arguing that its members want a bigger share of the company's profits.

BALPA estimates that the 48-hour strike is costing the airline a total of £80 million but BA has yet to give an estimate.

# Johnson vows to pursue Brexit after new blow

● Johnson slammed the opposition for voting against his call for a snap election

● The opposition said it will not allow an early election

● House of Commons speaker John Bercow earlier in the debate announced he would be stepping down

● Britons voted in 2016 to leave the EU

● Johnson took office in July promising to deliver on the 2016 referendum vote for Brexit



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says he will not request any delay to Brexit, even in the face of a law that would force him to

London

**B**eleaguered British Prime Minister Boris Johnson vowed to continue his attempts to strike a new Brexit deal with Brussels, after losing yet another vote yesterday during a chaotic parliamentary session.

Johnson slammed the opposition for voting against his call for a snap election in the final minutes of a stormy late-night debate ahead of a controversial suspension of parliament called by the prime minister.

He said he would “strive to get an agreement” at a summit in Brussels next month -- the alternative being a “no-deal” departure that critics warn would

“This government will not delay Brexit any further

BORIS JOHNSON

spark economic chaos.

Johnson accused his opponents of shirking their duty by blocking an early election.

He held a cabinet meeting later yesterday to plot his next move after a series of defections and expulsions left him far short of a parliamentary majority and unable to garner enough votes from MPs to hold an early election.

He was also due to meet with Arlene Foster, leader of Northern Ireland’s Democratic Union-

ist Party (DUP), amid rumours that he may be softening his negotiating demands over the key issue of the Irish border and associated trade conditions after Brexit.

Foster, whose party wants Northern Ireland to remain part of Britain, warned Johnson that the province must not be sacrificed in talks.

“What people are talking about is the break-up of the United Kingdom,” she told Sky News.

“That is not something that any prime minister in the United Kingdom is going to in any conscience go along with.”

‘Will not delay Brexit’

There were dramatic scenes in parliament as the current session drew to a close early yes-

terday.

Opposition Labour MPs waved signs reading “silenced” and shouted “Shame on you!” at government lawmakers during a ceremony for the suspension of parliament.

The move is normally a simple formality but Johnson was accused of acting high-handedly by calling an extended suspension as the Brexit date looms.

House of Commons speaker John Bercow earlier in the debate announced he would be stepping down in a strongly-worded speech in which he warned the government against trying to “degrade” parliament.

Johnson also lost a separate vote, calling on the government to publish confidential papers about the potential impact of a no-deal Brexit.

The opposition has said it will not allow an early election, which under British law requires a two-thirds majority in parliament in favour, until Johnson has either struck a deal or delayed Brexit beyond October 31.

But the prime minister insisted he would not delay, despite a bill being rushed through parliament in the past few days that could force him to do so if he fails to reach an agreement with the EU.

“This government will not delay Brexit any further,” he insisted.

‘Significant gaps’ remain

Britons voted in 2016 to leave the EU, but after three years of political wrangling, parliament still cannot decide how to implement that decision.

Johnson took office in July promising to deliver on the 2016 referendum vote for Brexit, even if that means leaving without exit terms agreed with Brussels.

But many MPs have rejected a

no deal divorce and supported new legislation forcing Johnson to request a three-month delay if he fails to strike a deal.

His last chance to reach an agreement is at the two-day EU summit starting on October 17.

Some commentators have said Johnson may be forced to resign if he does not want to make the delay request. Ministers have also hinted at a potential legal challenge against the law.

MPs have already rejected a draft deal agreed by Johnson’s predecessor Theresa May three times, in large part because of its provisions to keep open the border between British Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland.

Johnson wants to scrap the so-called “backstop” plan, which would keep Britain aligned to EU trade rules long after Brexit, to avoid any checks at the frontier.

But the EU accuses him of offering no alternative.

At a meeting with Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar on Monday, the two sides agreed that “significant gaps” remain.



An emotional House of Commons speaker John Bercow announced that he will step down by October 31 at the latest

## US sets duties of up to 222pc on Chinese ceramic tile

Reuters | Washington

**T**he US Commerce Department said yesterday that it found that imports of ceramic tile from China are unfairly subsidised and imposed pre-

liminary duties on them ranging from about 104 per cent to 222pc. The decision affects tile imports worth about \$483.1 million in 2018, the Commerce Department said in a statement.

## Cost of India refinery project with Aramco to rise: oil minister

Reuters | Abu Dhabi

**I**ndia’s planned giant refinery and petrochemical project, which is being built with Saudi Aramco and Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (ADNOC), will cost more than the originally planned \$45 billion, India’s oil minister said yesterday.

The 1.2 million barrels-per-day (bpd) giant coastal project is part of India’s plans to raise its refining capacity by 77 per cent to 8.8 million bpd by 2030. It is being built at Roha, around 100 km (62 miles) south of Mumbai.

“The primary plan was around \$45 billion, it will be more than that,” Dharmendra Pradhan told reporters at the World Energy Congress in Abu Dhabi, declining to say by how much.

Sources said last month that India had increased the cost estimate of the project by more than 36pc after protests by farmers forced its relocation.

The project is expected to



Dharmendra Pradhan

cost \$60 billion, sources said at the time, but is still expected to be commissioned in 2025.

Pradhan confirmed the commissioning date and said other issues are progressing, without elaborating.

Global oil producers are vying to gain entry into India to establish a stable outlet for their output and to earn profit from the South Asian nation’s strong gasoline and petrochemical demand prospects due to the rising disposable income of its 1.3 billion population.

## India, ASEAN agree to review decade-old free trade pact

● The free trade pact, which initially excluded software and information technology, was signed in 2009

● A panel of officials from India and ASEAN countries will work on the “details

Reuters | New Delhi

**I**ndia and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have agreed to review their decade-old free trade pact, they said yesterday, as India’s deepening trade deficit prompts local industries to demand changes to trading arrangements.

Their joint statement, issued after a trade ministers’ meeting in Bangkok, did not spell out any details of the review but said it aimed to make the agreement more “user-friendly and simple”.

Hit by cheaper imports, small- and medium-scale industries in India, such as textile manufacturers and small farmers, have demanded the government take a fresh look at trade with ASEAN, which groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philip-



From left to right: Indonesian President Joko Widodo, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at a meeting on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership in Singapore in November. (Courtesy of Reuters)

pines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

A panel of officials from India and ASEAN countries will work on the “details of the review and submit an update” at the next meeting, the statement said.

India’s trade minister Piyush Goyal said in a tweet that the review will “help protect the interests of our industry & farmers, create jobs & boost ‘Make in India’”.

India’s trade deficit with ASEAN nations widened to \$12.9 billion in 2017-18, from about \$5 billion seven years ago.

The free trade pact, which initially excluded software and information technology, was signed in 2009 after more than six years of negotiations.

A powerful nationalist group tied to Prime Narendra Modi, which has long opposed a China-backed Asia-Pacific trade pact due to India’s trade deficit with ASEAN, said a review would “help in going towards a more equitable and balanced trade”.

The ministers also agreed to speed up the process of ratification of an ASEAN-India trade services agreement signed last year, the statement said.

The goods trade between India and ASEAN grew 9.8% to \$80.8 billion in 2018 from the previous year, while foreign direct investment inflows to India from ASEAN members rose to \$16.48 billion, nearly 37 per cent of total inflows.

## Italy offered key EU budget job



Paolo Gentiloni

Brussels

**F**ormer Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni was nominated yesterday to take the key role of European Commissioner for Economic Affairs, where he will oversee public spending in member states, most notably in Italy.

The choice of Gentiloni was a surprise move by Ursula von der Leyen, the incoming head of the European Commission, who named her new team of top officials from a list of nominees proposed by all EU member states apart from Britain.

Gentiloni will take over from Pierre Moscovici, a former French finance minister who spent most his five-years as commissioner in battle with Italy over its colossal debt and chronic overspending.

The EU has strict rules on public spending, with countries expected to deliver national budgets with deficits that do not exceed three per cent of GDP with debt not over 60pc. Italy’s public debt currently stands at a daunting 132pc of GDP.

# Property lifts Dubai market

- Saudi Enaya falls as accumulated losses increase
- Arriyadh Development, Leejam drop on trading ex-dividend
- Dubai Arabtec surges on potential merger
- Egypt's blue-chip index rises after inflation data

Reuters



An investor watching stock movements at the Saudi Stock Market (AFP)

Saudi Arabian stocks dropped sharply yesterday as banking and petrochemical shares weakened, while builder Arabtec Holding posted its sharpest single-day rise in two and half years after announcing a potential merger, helping to lift the Dubai index. Saudi's index was down 1.1 per cent. Al Rajhi Bank dropped 2pc and petrochemical maker Saudi Basic Industries shed 2.8pc. Saudi Enaya Cooperative Insurance lost 4.9pc after its accumulated losses reached 40pc of its capital. Real estate firm Arriyadh Development and gym network operator Leejam Sports shed 3.3pc and 2pc respectively as the stocks traded ex-dividend. Yesterday's losses have left the index trading at meagre gains of 1.5pc for the year. It jumped as much as 20pc in

May, led by foreign investors who have been net buyers every month this year as Saudi stocks joined the MSCI and FTSE Russell emerging market indexes. The market remains under pressure with the kingdom's economy at risk of contraction and Middle East funds planning to reduce investment in Saudi Arabia. In Dubai, the index rose 0.4pc, with its largest listed developer Emaar Properties gaining 0.6pc. Arabtec Holding soared 11.3pc, its biggest single-day gain since February 2017. The firm said on Tuesday it had begun a review to explore the possibility of merging its construction business with Abu Dhabi's private rival Trojan Holding. The builder's shares traded at 1.77 dirhams, down from 28.73 dirhams at their mid-2014 peak when property prices began to head downwards.

### Closing Bell

SAUDI	▼ 1.1pc	» 7,965 pts
ABU DHABI	▲ 0.4pc	» 5,096 pts
DUBAI	▲ 0.4pc	» 2,892 pts
QATAR	▲ 0.7pc	» 10,376 pts
EGYPT	▲ 0.5pc	» 14,956 pts
OMAN	▲ 0.3pc	» 3,998 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.1pc	» 6,424 pts

Bahrain closed for a public holiday

Dubai property prices have tumbled 25-35pc since mid-2014, and are expected to decline further this year and next amid a slowing economy and an oversupply of housing units. The Abu Dhabi index was up 0.4pc with Aldar properties adding 1.8pc. The firm this week said it was launching a residential project on Saadiyat island that would be open to all

nationalities. This is the first development on Saadiyat island since April, when Abu Dhabi amended its real estate law to allow all foreigners to own land and property in investment areas on a freehold basis. Qatar's index traded 0.7pc higher lifted by gains in financials with Qatar National Bank adding 1.2pc. Egypt's blue-chip index closed 0.5pc higher after its inflation rate declined to 7.5pc in August, the lowest in years as the country approaches the end of International Monetary Fund-backed economic reform programme that during 2017 saw inflation rise to a high of 33pc. The inflation data clears the way for further rate cuts when the central bank meets later this month after having delivered a rate cut in August.

# Pound reverses weakness as Brexit plot thickens

### Key figures around 1335 GMT

Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.2365 from \$1.2346 at 2100 GMT
Euro/pound:	▼ at 89.31 pence from 89.49 pence
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1042 from \$1.1048
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 107.34 yen from 107.24 yen
London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.1 percent at 7,228.13 points
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▲ 0.3 percent at 12,267.31
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ at 5,586.55
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ at 3,495.82
New York - Dow:	▼ 0.2 percent at 26,788.65
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 0.4 percent at 21,392.10 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▲ at 26,683.68 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 0.1 percent at 3,021.20 (close)
Brent North Sea crude:	▲ 67 cents at \$63.26 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 57 cents at \$58.42

London

The pound strengthened against both the dollar and the euro yesterday, reversing earlier weakness, as investors took heart from legislation blocking a no-deal Brexit. Sterling also received a boost from stronger British economic growth than markets had been expecting and statistics showing unemployment at a 45-year low. European stock markets, meanwhile, drifted sideways awaiting a key European Central Bank meeting this week, while US markets were soft at the New York open. The British parliament is now suspended, which could lead to a period of relative Brexit calm, analysts said. "With no more parliamentary sessions due for five weeks the focus now turns to the prospects of a new deal being negotiated between the UK and the EU," said XTB analyst David Cheetham.

Brexit or any sense of control returning to UK politics, the pound could struggle to keep its head above water in the coming sessions," she said. Just before Westminster lawmakers broke up for five weeks, lawmakers inflicted yet another defeat on the new premier, who has been thwarted in his attempts to call an early poll. ECB-watching Europe's main stock markets meanwhile struggled as investors mulled speculation that the ECB could deliver economy-boosting measures on Thursday. Asian equities also wobbled after last week's rally, with hopes building that the ECB could push eurozone interest rates deeper into negative territory. "Traders are playing the wait and see game in relation to the ECB meeting," noted CMC Markets analyst David Madden. "To a certain extent, some form of monetary easing from the ECB has been priced in."

### 'Any sense of control?'

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson failed again late on Monday to get MPs to back a snap election, handing a brief boost to sterling. The latest defeat on calling an election saw the pound briefly rally more than one percent against the dollar from as low as \$1.2234 to as much as \$1.2385, its highest level since the end of July. City Index analyst Fiona Cincotta cautioned that the pound remains fragile. "With no resolution to

Oil prices meanwhile rose after Saudi Arabia's new energy minister, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, said output cuts would benefit all exporting nations. The remarks suggested he would support reductions to address an oversupplied market and sagging prices.

# India and Nepal open South Asia's first cross-border oil pipeline

- The cost of the pipeline was entirely borne by the Indian oil Corporation
- The pipeline will substantially cut down on transit costs
- India and Nepal, share a 1,751-km (1,094 miles) border

Reuters | Kathmandu



The 69 km Motihari-Amlekhgunj petroleum pipeline is the 1st cross-border pipeline in South Asia

India and Nepal officially opened South Asia's first cross-border oil pipeline yesterday, a project seen as part of New Delhi's efforts to increase its influence in the Himalayan nation where China is also making deep inroads. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepal counterpart K.P. Sharma Oli joined the inauguration ceremony by video link from their respective capitals. India funded the 3.24 billion rupee (\$45 million) pipeline project, which has an annual capacity of 2 million metric tonnes and will enable Nepal to import fuel from India at a lower cost. India is Nepal's sole supplier of oil which is currently carried

on tankers via road to the landlocked country. The 69-km (43 miles) pipeline, built by state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) in cooperation with Nepal Oil Corporation, was completed 15 months ahead of schedule, officials said. "This is a matter of satisfaction that South Asia's first cross-border petroleum pipeline has been completed in record time. This has been completed in about half of the expected time," Modi said. The pipeline will supply oil from Motihari in the eastern

Indian state of Bihar to Amlekhgunj in Nepal. The implementation of India-funded projects in Nepal gained momentum following talks between Modi and Oli last year, officials said. India and Nepal, which share a 1,751-km (1,094 miles) border, have close religious and cultural bonds and tens of thousands of Nepalis work in India. The pipeline is the "best example of connectivity in the field of trade and transit ... between Nepal and India," Oli, flanked by his cabinet ministers, said in a televised video address.

Oli said Nepal's government had cut the cost of petrol by about two US cents a litre from Tuesday to benefit consumers as the pipeline would cut oil transport costs. Nepal consumes about 2.66 million tonnes of oil and about 480,000 tonnes of cooking gas, currently carried in trucks from half a dozen Indian depots to different points in Nepal. The pipeline will save Nepal about \$8.7 million a year in transport costs for fuel, Birendra Goit, a spokesman for Nepal Oil Corporation, said.



The pound rose as MPs once again defeated Boris Johnson, but then it fell back again

# CAMPUS



Education Minister, Dr. Majid Al-Nuaimi during a meeting with MPs Dr. Hesham Al-Asheeri, Fadhel Al-Sawad and Ammar Al-Abbas. They discussed the services delivered by the Ministry of Education in the lawmakers' respective constituencies, as well as the development projects to be implemented in the coming period



Education Minister Dr. Majid Al-Nuaimi during a meeting with Bahrain Teachers College Dean Dr. Ted Purinton with whom he discussed matters regarding the cooperation with the Directorate of Training and Career Development. He stressed the importance of enhancing teachers' professional development to replace retired staff. The meeting also focused on the programmes of the Bahrain Teachers College, including the teaching professional programme, the high diploma in education, and the leadership in education programmes for principals, assistant principals and senior teachers. The meeting was attended by Assistant Undersecretary for Human Resources Dr. Kawther Al-Maawda and Training and Career Development director Widad Al-Sulaiti

## ISB renovates football ground

TDT | Manama

The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) has wrapped up a massive renovation of the school's football ground in Isa Town campus.

The renovated football field was dedicated to the Indian School at a ceremony in the campus on Saturday. The total cost of the project is estimated to be around BD 26,000 and the work was fully taken over by Santy Excavations and Construction Company based in Bahrain who did it as a sponsorship to the school.

For years the football field has been a dustbowl which hindered sports and other activities. All the work to make the surface a play worthy area in the past yielded limited success. With the help and support of the parents and community



School officials during the sponsorship hand over ceremony

members, the school has now accomplished the renovation of the football ground.

In a simple thanks giving function held in the Isa Town campus, Santy Excavations and Construction Company Managing Director R Ramesh handed over the sponsorship document to the school.

ISB Chairman Prince S Natarajan received the documents

from R Ramesh. ISB Secretary Saji Antony, Executive Committee Members Binu Mannil Varughese, Rajesh MN, Ajayakrishnan V, Saji George, Principal VR Palaniswamy, Riffa Campus Principal Pamela Xavier, Staff Representative Johnson K Devassy, community leaders Muhammad Hussain Malim, Vipin PM, Boban Idiculla, Vice-Principals, staff of Physical Education Department, Head Teachers, HoDs and Coordinators attended the ceremony.

The well-constructed football field is now connected with the main drainage system which prevents flooding on the ground during rainy season. R Ramesh is a parent of the school who voluntarily came forward and agreed to renovate the entire football ground as part of his Corporate Social Responsibility and his keenness to support the school.

Football coach R Chinnasamy and Physical Education HoD Saikat Sarkar coordinated the work during the summer holidays.

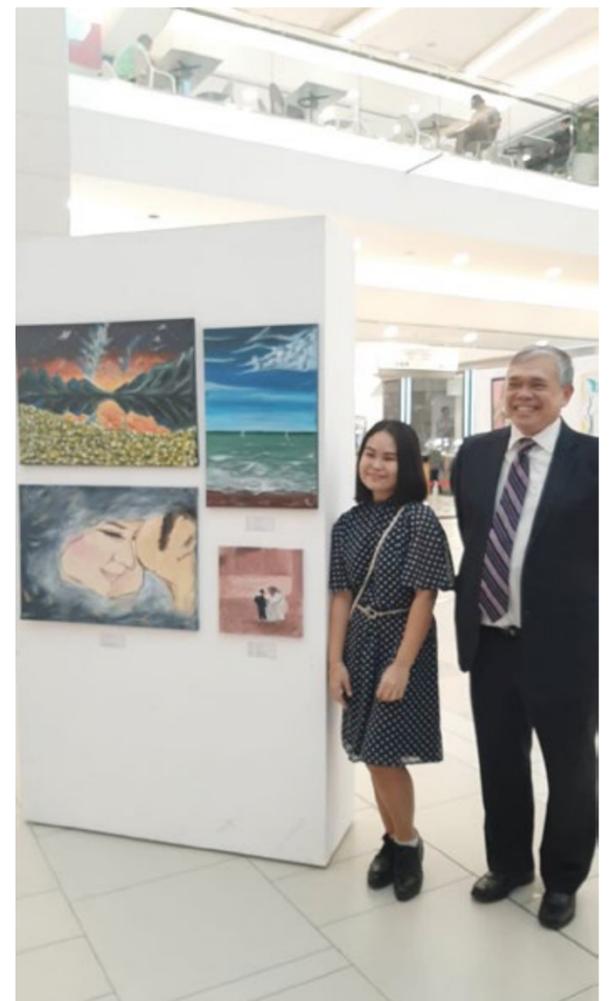
Expressing gratitude to Santy Excavations and Construction Company Managing Director R Ramesh who made the renovated football ground possible, ISB Chairman Prince S Natarajan said the new facility will bring better results for the school in sports arena.

"We are excited to move forward with other renovation works of the school auditorium and the walkway thanks to other contributors. The football field renovation will have positive impact both for our school students and the community," said Prince.

"The upgrades will also allow for expanded use of the football field by the school's physical education department, school band and other sports teams."



ISB's renovated football ground



University of Bahrain (UoB) student Maria Carmella along with Philippine Ambassador Alfonso A Ver during an exhibition at the Filipino Creatives Ma'arte Exhibit which began yesterday at Oasis Mall Juffair. Carmella is one of the exhibitors at the event organised by a group of Bahrain-based Filipino Visual Artists and Photographers showcasing their talent and passion internationally

## NMS-DPS Bahrain celebrates Teachers' Day

TDT | Manama

Teachers' Day was celebrated at New Millennium School, DPS Bahrain, on September 5.

To acknowledge the selfless contribution of the teachers in shaping an intellectually bright society, the junior and the senior Students' Council put up a spectacular show.

The special assembly commenced with a prayer recited by the students to glorify the paramount role of teachers in the society, followed by a pledge taken up by the students on being respectful and obedient to the teachers. The foot tapping songs and dances, the inspiring skit, and the fun-filled activities



Teachers perform in front of the students

organized for the teachers, created an enthralling atmosphere.

The staff members of the school were felicitated on this

occasion. In his address, Principal Arun Kumar Sharma, appreciated the effort of the students in putting up such an

entertaining programme and extolled them on their performance.

He wished the teachers on

behalf of the management and self and also expressed his gratitude to them for their selfless dedication and commitment

through these years, which enabled the NMS students to emerge as bright shining stars around the world.



Teachers during a photocall as part of the celebrations

# celebs

Lana Del Rey, Miley Cyrus and Ariana Grande



## Here's when Ariana, Lana, Miley's track from 'Charlie's Angels' reboot will be out

Los Angeles

After piquing the curiosity of fans with cryptic posts earlier in June, Ariana Grande, Miley Cyrus and Lana Del Rey have finally revealed the release date of their collaborative song in 'Charlie's Angels' reboot which will be out on September 13. The trio's collaborative project titled 'Don't Call Me Angel' will be out in just three days. The singers took to their social media handles to announce the same on Sunday. "I'm thrilled that three of my favourite artists ended up doing a song for the film," People

quoted film's director Elizabeth Banks as saying. "It's really exciting. I can't wait for people to see it, actually in full, in the film and to hear it when the single drops," she added. While sharing the inspiration behind the much-anticipated song, Banks told that drew inspiration from the first Charlie's Angels film starring Drew Barrymore, Cameron Diaz and Lucy Liu.

"We were inspired by 'Independent Women' and Destiny's Child with the last set of movies," Banks said. "I feel really grateful that this incredible group of artists took inspiration from these films as well and felt like working together as women, and [it] thematically matched up with the exact movie that we were making," she expressed. Charlie's Angels, starring Kristen Stewart, Naomi Scott, and Ella Balinska along with Sir Patrick Stewart, Jonathan Tucker, Noah Centineo, Sam Claflin and Djimon Hounsou.



Britney Spears and Sam Asghari

## She inspires me, says Sam Asghari about girlfriend Britney Spears

Los Angeles

Despite the ups and downs in her life, Britney Spears has become a motivation for her boyfriend Sam Asghari. Sam believes that she inspires him when it comes to his health. During a recent appearance on 'The Doctors,' reported People, the 25-year-old, raved over the singer while cooking her favorite meal -- peachy steak.

In addition to expressing his love for Spears in the kitchen, Asghari explained that working out together is also a special moment for them. "I think couples should definitely work out together," he said while sharing the video of the duo hitting the gym together. Apart from Sam, the 'Toxic' singer is also seen frequently sharing clips of the two in the gym, which shows them even skillfully using each other as props.

## Jessica Biel keen on working with husband Justin Timberlake

Los Angeles

Actor and model Jessica Biel recently revealed her wish to work with her husband and singer Justin Timberlake as long she gets to play his boss. The 37-year-old actor opened up about the possibility of working with her 38-year-old husband in an interview with Extra, reported People, while at the Toronto International Film Festival. "I would love to produce him in something -- I would love to be his boss," Biel said while promoting her new Facebook Watch series, 'Limetown.' The upcoming show is based on the hit 2015 podcast and also stars Stanley Tucci. The series is based on Lia Haddock (Biel), a journalist for American Public Radio, as she untangles the mystery behind the disappearance of over 300 people at a neuroscience research community in Tennessee, reported People.

On the other hand, the singer hasn't shied away from expressing his pride in Biel's success. In March, the singer shared a sweet Instagram tribute on Biel's birthday.

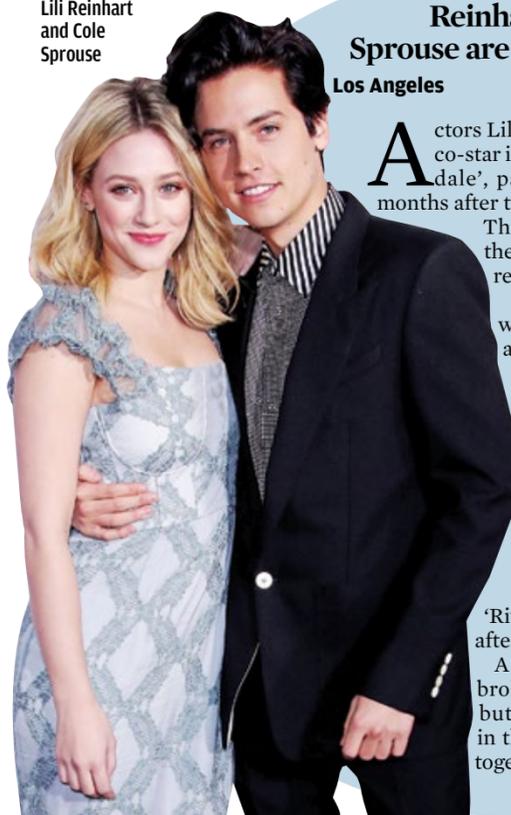
Justin Timberlake Jessica Biel



## Lili Reinhart, Cole Sprouse are back together!

Los Angeles

Actors Lili Reinhart and Cole Sprouse, who co-star in the American drama series 'Riverdale', parted ways in July and nearly two months after their break-up, they are back together. The 22-year-old actor suggested this was the case during an interview with Coveteur, reported E! News. At one point during the interview, which was conducted recently, Reinhart opened up about her plans for Halloween. "I think I'm leaning in towards a character for Halloween," Reinhart said. While revealing her plans for Halloween, she referred to Sprouse as her "boyfriend." "I think I'm going to do it with my boyfriend, Cole. I don't want to spoil it if it's not going to happen, but it's a TV duo," she added. That's right! She said "boyfriend." Back in July, reports spread that the 'Riverdale' co-stars had called it quits after two years of dating. A source told E! News the two broke up earlier in the summer but "could be heading back in the direction of getting together."



Lili Reinhart and Cole Sprouse

## Here's why Akshay Kumar got emotional while thanking fans!

Mumbai

Bollywood's most versatile actor Akshay Kumar got emotional while thanking fans, who did something special on his birthday. The actor, who ringed in his 52nd birthday on Monday, uploaded a video on the micro-blogging site Twitter, thanking his fans and several fan clubs for showering their blessings on him. Apart from this, the actor who got emotional while thanking them also mentioned that his fans did something unique on his birthday that he will cherish for years.



Akshay Kumar

## Hrithik, Tiger fight on ice-breaker ship in the Arctic



Hrithik Roshan and Tiger Shroff

Mumbai

Bollywood action heroes Hrithik Roshan and Tiger Shroff have filmed a jaw dropping sequence on the biggest cargo ice-breaker ship that plies in the Arctic Circle. "War" has been hugely mounted to give audiences a film that is the biggest in terms of an action spectacle. Yes, it took months but we managed to secure the permission to shoot on a massive ice-breaking ship and filmed a visually stunning action sequence with Hrithik and Tiger. I hope audiences will love what we have shot!" Director Siddharth Anand said. Anand said his wife Mamta was in the Arctic six years ago and she filmed an incredible video of an ice-breaking ship ploughing through frozen ice, breaking them.

## Katharine McPhee, David Foster make first red carpet appearance after marriage

Los Angeles

Newly-married couple Katharine McPhee and David Foster recently grabbed eye-balls as they made their first red carpet appearance as husband and wife at the Toronto International Film Festival. The couple who have been busy zipping across the globe for various appearances, va-

cations, and gatherings, are now in Toronto, reported E-News. It's been hardly months since the duo got hitched in a quaint wedding ceremony in London, and somehow they've only just now crossed this major item off their to-do list. But the long wait was worthwhile as it bought David's three daughters, Amy, Erin, and Jordan Foster together. The three posed with their new mother at the Toronto International Film Festival, where a documentary about David is making its premiere.



## Kelly Clarkson's advice to Taylor Swift

Los Angeles

Singer Kelly Clarkson has opened up about encouraging fellow singer Taylor Swift to re-record her songs. Clarkson sat with host Jimmy Fallon and dished about her suggestion, which she posted to Twitter in July, that Swift re-record her old songs to take back ownership of her masters amid the "Lover" singer's feud with Scooter Braun and Big Machine Records, reports "etonline.com". "We saw each other actually, after I did that," Clarkson shared. "I wasn't really trying to defend or offend anyone.



Taylor Swift and Kelly Clarkson

It was more like, singer Reba (McEntire) told me she did that. That was it. That was all. She wanted to own her masters. And I was like, 'Well if it's that important to you, like find a way'. And she recut all of her music and did it with the same musicians, the same everything. That's where I got the idea."

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## SPORTS

## Brave CF returns to Abu Dhabi with the most anticipated rematch of the year



TDI | Manama

**B**RAVE Combat Federation has announced its return to Abu Dhabi for October 4th, when the most anticipated rematch in Arab MMA history will take place, as former Welterweight champion Jarrah Al-Selawe gets an immediate shot at reigning titleholder Abdoul Abdouraguimov.

The duo fought for the first time back at BRAVE 23, in Amman, Jordan, and will run it back after one of the most evenly-matched fights in BRAVE CF's history.

Abdoul got his shot at the title after two crushing victories against Sidney Wheeler and Rodrigo Cavalheiro last year. He travelled to Jarrah's hometown of Amman for his title shot and came out victorious after five gruelling rounds, in which he dominated early on, but was almost finished in the later frames. Abdouraguimov held on to win the title in a split decision and will look to erase any doubts in the rematch.

Jarrah has campaigned extensively for the another crack at "The Conqueror" as he felt he won the first fight between them, and will now have the

chance to prove himself as the best Welterweight in the world at BRAVE 27.

The Abu Dhabi return comes on the back of two events in South America, as BRAVE Combat Federation continued with its promise to further develop the scene of mixed martial arts in Brazil, the spiritual home of the sport, and Colombia, a country with some of the most passionate fans and fighters in the world.

Further bouts will be announced in the coming days, as fans can expect yet another amazing fight card to hit Abu Dhabi, as BRAVE CF continues to showcase the best mixed martial artists in the Arab World, with its third event in the emirate in three years, always featuring at least one title fight.

For Jarrah, the return of BRAVE CF to Abu Dhabi brings good news, as he first captured the Welterweight world title at BRAVE 16, which took place in the emirate, back in September of last year. Abdoul, on the other hand, will be making his Abu Dhabi debut, as the French-Russian world champion has fought in Morocco, Pakistan, and Jordan before for BRAVE Combat Federation.

## Michael Schumacher admitted to Paris hospital

Reuters | Paris

**F**ormer Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher was admitted to a Paris hospital for "secret treatment" earlier on Monday, Le Parisien newspaper reported.

Schumacher turned 50 on Jan. 3 but has not been seen in public since a skiing accident in the French Alps five years ago that left him with severe head injuries and in a medically-induced coma for several months.

Schumacher was taken to the Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital in southwest Paris on Monday



Michael Schumacher

afternoon, Le Parisien said, without citing its sources.

The French newspaper said the former champion would undergo treatment based on stem-cell transfusion by French surgeon Philippe Menasche.

A spokeswoman for Schumacher did not immediately return a request for comment.

# Germany edge closer to Euros with crucial win

Relief for Germany after the narrow win over 'brave' Northern Ireland

● Marcel Halstenberg scored the opener in Germany's 2-0 win

Reuters | Belfast

**G**ermany beat hosts Northern Ireland 2-0 on Monday with two goals in the second half to get their Euro 2020 qualification on track as they bounced back from last week's loss to the Netherlands to take over top spot in Group C. Defender Marcel Halstenberg drilled the ball in three minutes after the restart following a lacklustre first half by the Germans, who lost 4-2 at home to the Dutch on Friday.

Serge Gnabry continued his impressive scoring run for Germany, netting in second-half stoppage time for his ninth goal in his 10th international, completing Germany's eighth consecutive win over Northern Ireland.

The win put Germany on 12 points from five games, ahead on goal difference of second-placed Northern Ireland, who suffered their first loss of the campaign as captain Steven Davis became their most capped outfield player with 113 appearances.

The third-placed Netherlands, 4-0 winners away to Estonia on Monday, are on nine points from four matches.

"We were under pressure to win after Friday's result and we had to overcome some obstacles in the first half," Germany coach Joachim Loew told reporters. "The Northern Irish attacked early and disrupted our game.



Germany's Marcel Halstenberg scores their first goal

After the break we did it better."

The Germans, missing half a dozen injured players, seemed to lack a clear game plan in the first half with plenty of passing but struggling to find ways to open up the Irish defence.

Loew's young team, looking to recover from last year's shock first-round World Cup exit and Nations League relegation, have not had enough match practice and it showed.

"We had never played before with this line-up," Loew said. "So we will need some patience because this a learning process."

Conor Washington had a golden chance to put the hosts ahead in the seventh minute when he pounced on a rare Toni Kroos mistake but fired straight at charging goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.

Timo Werner had the visitors'



**Germany flirted with defeat for a second straight European Championship qualifier before Marcel Halstenberg's first international goal lifted the team to a 2-0 win over Northern Ireland**

best chance before the break but his close-range effort was saved by Bailey Peacock-Farrell.

Germany looked to be feeling the effects of Friday's loss with the Irish working hard to stifle their attacks early.

"We managed to stop them building the game and got joy off pressing and winning the ball higher up the pitch," the hosts' coach Michael O'Neill told Sky.

"It's very difficult to do that against this level of opposition. I'm proud of what they gave."

Halstenberg eventually settled German nerves, timing his half-volley to perfection as he angled Julian Brandt's cross into the far corner just after the break.

They should have scored again in a scintillating start to the second half but instead had to wait until deep into stoppage for Gnabry to make sure of the three points.

## Root under 'no pressure' despite Ashes failure: Bayliss

AFP | London

**J**oe Root is under "no pressure" as England captain despite failing to wrest the Ashes from Australia's grasp, outgoing coach Trevor Bayliss said yesterday.

Australia lead the five-match series 2-1 with one Test to go, meaning they are certain to retain the urn because they are the Ashes holders.

England's failure has led to questions over Root's position, particularly given his inconsistent batting throughout the series.

But Australian Bayliss, who leaves his role after four years following this week's final Test at the Oval, said there were no issues with his skipper.

"He's not come under question from anyone making any decisions," Bayliss said. "He's under no pressure at all."

Root, sixth in the world rank-



Joe Root during nets

ings, averages less than 31 in the series so far and has been dismissed for nought three times.

Speaking about Root's form with the bat, Bayliss added: "Everyone goes through periods where they don't score as many

runs as they'd like.

"I think the Australian team have bowled pretty well to him, so we'll see how things go further down the line.

"From my point of view, he was our premier batter and

**He's not come under question from anyone making any decisions. He's under no pressure at all**

TREVOR BAYLISS

the Australians always try and target the opposition captain. He's played well when he's got starts and I don't see too many problems."

After winning at Old Trafford to go 2-1 up in the series, Australia's players celebrated on the field and were accused by some of mocking England spinner Jack Leach while doing so.

"Fake news, like Donald Trump says," said Bayliss. "No one has mentioned it or spoken about it. It's all talk from you guys (the media)."

# Belgium outclass Scotland

Toothless Scotland crumble in face of Belgium's superior attacking class

● Kevin De Bruyne assisted three goals and scored the fourth for Belgium

● Romelu Lukaku scored Belgium's opener

AFP | Glasgow

Belgium manager Roberto Martinez believes a fresh Kevin De Bruyne will be even better for club and country this season after the Manchester City midfielder tore Scotland apart in a 4-0 win for Martinez's men on Monday.

De Bruyne set up Romelu Lukaku, Thomas Vermaelen and Toby Alderweireld to score inside the first 32 minutes before capping a brilliant individual display by rounding off the scoring.

Belgium and City had to cope without the 28-year-old for most of last season due to two major knee injuries.

But De Bruyne has started the season like a man keen to make up for lost time.

"He has started the season in a fresh manner and you can see his exceptional quality. For me he is the best playmaker in world football," said Martinez.

"Playmakers used to stop the play to make the pass, he can execute that pass on the move. You saw him fresh, full of responsibility and he's having a very influential role."

De Bruyne will be a key figure



Scotland's midfielder Kenny McLean (L) stretches to try to block the shot of Belgium's midfielder Kevin De Bruyne (C)

for the Red Devils if Belgium are to deliver on their enormous potential by winning next year's European championships.

Victory maintained their 100 percent record in Group I of qualifying after six games.

By contrast, Scotland boss Steve Clarke admitted his side's hopes of automatic qualification are already over after a fourth defeat in six matches left them fifth in the group, behind Cyprus and Kazakhstan.

Scotland now have to rely on a playoff next March, earned via winning their Nations League group under former manager Alex McLeish.

"The group is over in terms of qualification," said Clarke with Scotland nine points behind second-placed Russia.

"We have to target third position. There are 12 points up for grabs and we have to make sure we finish third in the group.

"If we finish third in the group

it means we will have performed well and give us confidence going into the playoffs in March."

## Gulf in class

Martinez showed no complacency with his team selection by naming his strongest available side with captain Eden Hazard sidelined by injury.

The gulf in class quickly told, but Clarke was bitterly disappointed with the generous defending his side could ill afford

against the number-one ranked team in the world.

Belgium's opener originated from a Scotland free-kick in a dangerous area, but in a flash Dries Mertens released De Bruyne down the left on the counter-attack and his low cross was swept home by Lukaku for his 32nd goal in his last 30 international appearances.

Clarke was handed the Scotland job in May after making his Kilmarnock side notoriously



Kevin De Bruyne became the first player to register a hat-trick of assists in a single UEFA Euro 2020 qualifier during Belgium's comprehensive 4-0 win over Scotland

hard to beat during two seasons in charge.

That defensive resolve has so far been found wanting at the step up to international level as Belgium extended their lead thanks to slack marking at corners.

Firstly, De Bruyne's wicked low cross was turned home by Vermaelen.

And eight minutes later Alderweireld was afforded a free header from De Bruyne's delivery to head in off the underside of the bar.

"We have to improve defensively," added Clarke. "We shot ourselves in the foot."

"We spoke before the game, they are capable of scoring from open play, but from three set plays we find ourselves 3-0 down at half-time."

Belgium showed some measure of mercy on their embarrassed hosts after the break.

## Everton's Mina fined after betting charge

AFP | London

Everton defender Yerry Mina has been fined £10,000 (\$12,338) after admitting a Football Association misconduct charge in relation to betting rules, English football's governing body said yesterday.

In a statement, the FA said that Mina was fined for "participating in an advertisement for betting activity which he is prohibited from engaging in", a television advert for gambling company Betjuego in his home country of Colombia earlier this year.

The FA Regulatory Commission revealed all the money Mina received for the advert was donated to his charitable foundation, which was set up by the former Barcelona centre-back in 2016 to help disadvantaged young people back home.

It was also confirmed the 24-year-old requested the advert to be removed as soon as he was informed he was in breach of FA rules, while he ended his association with the betting company in May.

Stringent rules are in place over sports betting in order to prevent match-fixing and

spot-betting.

Earlier this year, former Liverpool striker Daniel Sturridge, now playing for Trabzonspor, was fined £75,000 (\$94,000) and handed a six-week suspension after being found guilty of breaching different betting rules.

Meanwhile, Leeds midfielder Jordan Stevens has been given a six-week ban and a £1,200 fine after placing 59 bets on football between August 2018 and May 2019 -- including five games involving his own team.

The ban is on all footballing activity which means Stevens is unable to train with Leeds during that period or interact with players or coaching staff -- a move the second-tier Championship club called "excessive" and a "disproportionate punishment".



AFP | Tallinn

Ryan Babel's first international brace helped the Netherlands ease to a 4-0 victory over Estonia in Tallinn on Monday which boosted their Euro 2020 qualifying hopes.

Ronald Koeman's men sit third in Group C, albeit with a game in hand, three points adrift of leaders Germany and second-placed Northern Ireland after the visitors won 2-0 in the meeting of the top two in Belfast.

"Before the match we realised that if we didn't get the focus right from the beginning it could be a difficult evening," the 32-year-old Babel told NOS TV.

"It was great to score the first two goals -- I'm a player who runs on confidence.

"I'm no longer one of the younger players in the team, so I try to compensate for the loss of speed by using my experience."

Memphis Depay starred on his 50th Netherlands appearance with a goal and two assists, while Georginio Wijnaldum scored for the second time in four days after also netting in Friday's 4-2 triumph over the Germans in Hamburg.

The visitors grabbed the lead

14 minutes later as Babel met

## Babel double boosts Netherlands Euro hopes



Netherlands' forward Ryan Babel scores a goal

The Netherlands, Euro 1988 winners, are attempting to return to Europe's top table after missing out on qualification for Euro 2016 and last year's World Cup.

Buoyed by their stunning win in Germany, the Dutch wasted little time in getting on the front foot, with Virgil van Dijk stepping into midfield and drilling a long-range strike narrowly wide in only the third minute.

The visitors grabbed the lead

14 minutes later as Babel met

left-back Daley Blind's low ball to slot home his ninth international goal and first since netting exactly a year ago in the Nations League against France.

Galatasaray forward Babel, on his 60th Netherlands appearance, secured his first international double less than three minutes into the second half by nodding home Depay's deep cross at the back post.

Lyon winger Depay scored his 17th Netherlands goal to wrap up the three points with 14 min-

utes to play, firing a left-footed strike into the bottom corner following a neat turn on the edge of the box.

Liverpool midfielder Wijnaldum rounded off an excellent day for the away side in the 87th minute, climbing highest to nod in Depay's free-kick.

"We played better in the second half, switching the ball from flank to flank and creating more chances with, ultimately, more goals as a result," said captain Van Dijk.