

Bangladesh-Sri Lanka washout sets record

Sri Lanka's World Cup match against Bangladesh was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to rain in Bristol yesterday. **P16**

Aung San Suu Kyi's unholy alliance with Viktor Orban, a new low

THE DAILY tribune



Britney Spears, Sam Asghari having great time in Miami

14 CELEBS

WORLD 6

More bodies found as Hungary lifts sunken boat

Minister inaugurates innovation festival

Manama

Under the patronage of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, "the Bahrain Festival for Innovation and Creativity, from Manama to Matera" organised by the Bahrain International Federation of Business and Professional Women was held yesterday at the Federation's premises.

In his inaugural speech, the Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed his pleasure to attend this important festival, which reflects the constant care accorded by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to Bahraini youth and women to boost their status.

Saudi forces intercept two Houthi drones

Jeddah

Saudi Arabia's air defence forces shot down two weaponised drones launched by Houthis from Yemen towards the city of Khamis Mushayt, a spokesman for the Arab Coalition supporting Yemen's legitimate government said early Tuesday.

In a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), Colonel Turki Al Maliki said the attack was part of the continuing attempt by "Houthi terrorists" to target civilian installations in Saudi Arabia.

The statement gave no further details.

Houthi-run Masirah TV reported earlier on Monday that the Iran-aligned Houthi movement had carried out attacks on an airbase near Khamis Mushayt.

The attack was part of the continuing attempt by Houthi terrorists to target civilian installations in Saudi Arabia.

COL TURKI AL MALIKI

Meanwhile, in Yemen, coalition fighters intensified overnight air strikes on Houthi positions in the districts of Abes and Haradh in the northwestern province of Hajjah.

According to the Yemeni Ministry of Defence website, September Net, the air raids targeted the Houthi concentrations west of Haradh city and destroyed the vehicles of the militia.

New tourism hope



As part of launching the largest underwater theme park in the world, a decommissioned Boeing 747 has been lowered into the sea off Bahrain coast. The aircraft will be joined by other massive structures to act as artificial reefs, according to Tourism Ministry officials. The decommissioned aircraft was reportedly purchased from the UAE for \$100,000.

Accused Russian reporter freed

Moscow

A Russian journalist has been freed after drug-dealing charges against him were dropped following a public outcry.

Russian newspapers had rallied round freelancer Ivan Golunov in a rare public show of support.

Mr Golunov cried as he was freed from a police station on Tuesday and vowed to continue his investigative journalism.



A world cup of tragedy

At least 1,400 Nepali workers died while constructing football stadiums in Qatar, reveals documentary

Doha

The Nepali government said there have been "many deaths" in Qatar, following a TV documentary claim that 1,400 workers have died while helping to build football stadiums for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

German broadcaster WDR's investigative show, "Trapped in Qatar," exposed the plight of workers who endured squalid

living conditions and perilous building sites.

A spokesman for the Labour Ministry said he was unaware of the documentary but confirmed many Nepalis had died in the Gulf state.

"It is a fact that many Nepali workers have lost their lives in Qatar over the years," Narayan Ragmi was quoted by Arab News.

"I don't have any information

1,300 migrant workers departed Nepal on a daily basis for Gulf-based jobs, and that a substantial number went to Qatar, say sources.

regarding the documentary right now, I am not in a situation to tell you how many people lost their lives in Qatar.

"But that many people lost their lives in Qatar, that is true. Since the time we started sending our labourers to Qatar some people have lost their lives.

"I am not sure whether it is 1,400 or 200 or 300. I must verify this number with the authorities directly concerned with

the issue."

Ragmi said there was a memorandum of understanding with Doha, as well as a bilateral agreement, when it came to Nepali labourers. Workers were briefed before leaving Nepal and went through a pre-departure orientation program, he added.

Accidents and poor living conditions were claiming around 110 lives every year, according to Nepali government figures.

Cleaning the sea



Recognising the importance of sustainable environment, the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunication together with APM Terminals Bahrain and Supreme Council of Environment has embarked on a mission to clean up the sea bed nearby Khalifa Bin Salman Port. The initiative has succeeded in the removal of 70 kg of waste with the assistance of 10 voluntary divers. The initiative is being carried out in various phases with the first phase concluding to coincide with the World Environment Day. The initial phase covered an area of approximately 20 miles north of the Kingdom. It was observed that the designated area contained a considerable amount of waste including plastic and debris.

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02 Spotlight on rights strides

Tea shops, cafeterias violating rules by 'selling non-permitted food items'

03

Traffic policeman faces trial for embezzlement

04



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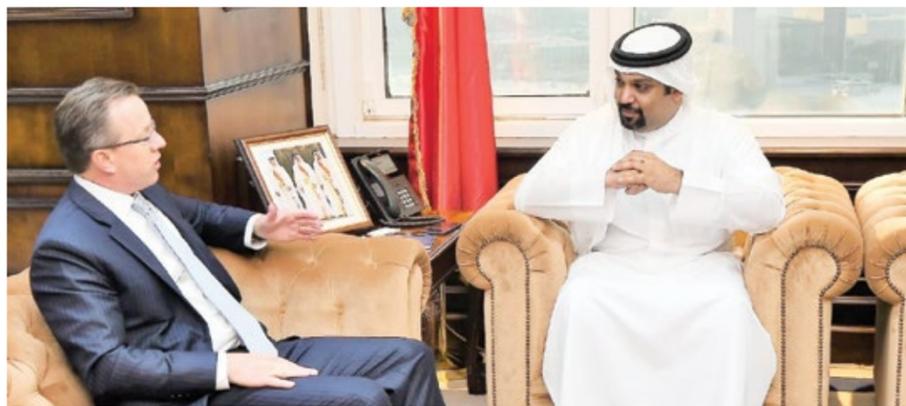
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Southern Governor Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa yesterday received Philippine President's Special Envoy to the Gulf Co-operation Council countries (GCC) Dr Amabel Aguiluz, in the presence of Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA) Chairman Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa. Shaikh Khalifa welcomed the Filipino envoy and hailed the advanced level of bilateral relations, stressing the importance of enhancing joint ties and expanding co-operation. Dr Aguiluz expressed thanks to the Governor and hailed his keenness on strengthening relations of friendship and expanding co-operation, wishing the Kingdom further progress and prosperity.



Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, has affirmed the importance of continuing to promote economic and investment co-operation with the United States of America. This came during a meeting with Justin Siberell, US Ambassador to the Kingdom. Mr Siberell praised the deep historical relations between the two countries and the importance of pushing them towards a broader horizon of joint action and co-ordination. During the meeting, they discussed ways of boosting bilateral co-operation between Bahrain and the United States in various fields to serve the interests of the two friendly countries and reviewing the latest developments in the world economy.

Spotlight on rights strides

Kingdom's initiatives to uphold human rights hailed

London

The Assistant Foreign Minister, Abdullah Al Doseri, yesterday affirmed that the Kingdom's advanced achievements in the human rights field stem from the reform approach of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and his wise directives.

This came during a meeting with the Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the UN at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon at his office in London, in the presence of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Kingdom, Shaikh Fawaz Bin Mohammed Al Khalifa and the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Simon Martin.

The Assistant Foreign Minister highlighted the most significant initiatives launched by the Kingdom in the field of the promotion of human rights, including the "Declaration of the Kingdom of Bahrain" as a document emphasising the importance of peaceful coexistence and religious tolerance.

He noted that His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, has cited on several times that the Bahraini society "is based on a longstanding tradition of val-



Mr Al Doseri with Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon.

ues of coexistence and spiritual and cultural tolerance, and the Bahraini society is a model to be followed when it comes to coexisting with various types of people".

He also mentioned the Royal Decree No. 51 of 2018 that establishes the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence, which aims to promote universal peace and coexistence among human beings through the embodiment of inter-cultural partnerships, and the launch of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Award for Women's Empowerment, in addition to the promulgation of many laws and legislation pro-

Many initiatives launched by the Kingdom emphasise the importance of peaceful coexistence and religious tolerance.

MR AL DOSERI

tecting the rights of the family and protection from domestic violence and the alternative penal law.

The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Kingdom stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation

between the two friendly countries in a number of fields to meet common interests, noting that the Kingdom has promoted the concept of human rights through a series of measures and legislation aimed at achieving the necessary protection and development of human rights.

For his part, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon hailed the distinguished historical relations between the two countries, affirming the importance of exchanging visits to further strengthen this relationship in all fields.

He also affirmed the need to further co-ordination between them to benefit and exchange experiences at various levels, and reviewed a number of issues of common interest in the regional and international arenas.

The Assistant Foreign Minister also met with the Director of Human Rights and Democracy of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Richard Jones and the Special Envoy for Gender Equality, Joanna Roper, where he showcased the Kingdom's latest achievements and advancements in the field of human rights.

The two sides also discussed bilateral cooperation frameworks and the exchange of experiences in various fields related to human rights, in addition to discussing a number of issues and topics of common interest.

Need to adapt to digital press stressed



Traditional press institutions must continue even with the emergence of the social media and modern technologies as they are capable of creating a comprehensive media content.

MR AL HAMER

Tunis

Deputy President of Bahrain Journalists Association (BJA), Rashid Nabeel Al Hamer, has stressed that the traditional press institutions face serious crises due to the increasing presence of social media and smart phone applications.

In a statement to the Middle East News Agency on the sidelines of his participation in the 30th Congress of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) held in Tunis, Al Hamer said the press institutions have become aware of the significance of the challenges that threaten their existence and therefore they have adopted a series of actions to adapt to the new world.

He said the traditional press

institutions must continue even with the emergence of the social media and modern technologies as they are capable of creating a comprehensive media content.

He said the continuity of the traditional press institutions and their capability to face challenges depend on two factors, firstly coping with modern technological development and secondly the support and protection they receive from information ministries and authorities overseeing information and communications affairs.

With regard to the Bahraini-Egyptian co-operation, he said it is solid in various fields, and that joint workshops and the exchange of expertise among the press institutions of the two countries have constantly been going on.

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The Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB)'s Chief Executive Khalid Al Rumaihi yesterday welcomed the fourth intake of the Office of the First Deputy Prime Minister (OFDPM) Fellowship for a roundtable discussion. During the meeting, he highlighted the importance of the OFDPM Fellowship in strengthening the leadership and management skills of Bahrainis working in the public sector in line with Bahrain Economic Vision 2030's goal of placing citizens at the centre of the Kingdom's development efforts. He went on to outline the EDB's role and areas of focus, as well as its efforts in attracting investment in key sectors such as financial services, tourism, ICT, manufacturing, transport and logistics.



In line with ongoing efforts to attract new business to Bahrain International Airport (BIA), Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) participated at Transport Logistic Europe 2019, the world's biggest gathering for the logistics industry. BAC team members met with senior representatives from leading global airlines, airports, freight forwarders, and couriers, highlighting the important steps BIA is taking to develop its air cargo infrastructure to support the rapid growth in e-commerce in the region. More than 60,000 visitors and 2,374 exhibitors from 63 countries attended the event, which took place in Munich, Germany from 4 to 7 June.

Tea shops, cafeterias violating rules by 'selling non-permitted food items'

Unhappy restaurateurs file complaints as these tea shops rob into their businesses

● Restaurant owners feel the heat as many tea shops and cafeterias operate illegally.

● Authorities urged to take strict action against these tea shops and cafeterias.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Many tea shops and cafeterias across the Capital are flouting rules by selling food items that they are not permitted to prepare.

Tribune has learnt that they continue to flout rules despite several warnings from the part of authorities.

Sources said inadequate spaces without required permits are being used to prepare food and in many cases the conditions are unhygienic as well.

"Many of the shops here are not operating as per law. Some of the cafeterias are preparing sweet items such as zalabia even though it is not allowed.

"In case of tea shops, they are selling breakfasts and other meals which they are not allowed to do," the sources added.

This has drawn the ire of restaurant owners in the area, who say their business have been ad-



A tea shop in Manama, where breakfasts are served.



Unhygienic and unsafe conditions prevail at most of these cafeterias.



Many cafeterias and tea shops are selling breakfasts and other meals, which they are not allowed to do.

SOURCES

hygienic and take little care in food preparation.

"In our case, we are paying a high rent to be able to get the permits to be a restaurant, but these shops are operating out of a small space, which is not a good thing."

Another restaurateur said that he has complained to the authorities about one of the shops operating illegally. "I have notified the authorities about one of the shops that have been operating illegally.

"It is important that action is taken against these shops because it is harming people's health."

Hussain, a resident in the area, said that cafeterias selling Indian and Arabian sweets have become a common sight.

"Many cafeterias are selling sweets. I don't advise to buy food items from these shops because they do not look hygienic.

"I hope authorities take strict action against these tea shops and cafeterias that are operating illegally."

versely affected because of such cafeterias and business.

A restaurateur told Tribune: "We have a restaurant that has

been operating since many decades. We have always followed the rules and are earning a halal income.

"A tea shop launched near our shop four months back is greatly affecting our revenues as they have started selling food items

for breakfast and other meals.

"They are paying a small rent so they are able to sell food items cheaper. Moreover, they are un-

Event marks 100 years of formal education in the Kingdom

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

An event to mark 100 years of formal education in the Kingdom was opened yesterday.

Being held at the ART Rotana Hotel in Amwaj Islands under the patronage of Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi, the first day of the conference featured a number of plenary sessions in which leading experts took part.

The event is being organised by the Education Ministry in co-operation with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

Among the attendees were Oil Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) Hala Al Ansari, officials and academicians from Bahrain and abroad.

The two-day conference is within a series of events to be held by the Ministry of Education to celebrate 100 years of public education in Bahrain, affirm the kingdom's leadership in the field of education and highlight the tremendous efforts exerted over the past century to develop the educational process, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Speaking during the confer-



Dr Al Nuaimi opens the conference in the presence of Shaikh Mohammed, dignitaries and senior government officials.

ence, the minister shed a scope of light on the Kingdom's progress in the field of education and the vast achievements it has made.

"Education has played a vital role in the development of Bahrain. The Kingdom has been recognised internationally for its progress and achievements," he said.

The conference revolves around topics including curricula, the skills students need for the future and how the students



Education has played a vital role in the development of Bahrain. The Kingdom has been recognised internationally for its progress and achievements.

DR AL NUAIMI

can learn those skills.

It also focuses on the role of the private sector in education.

A career expo was opened showcasing many job opportunities in many local companies and institutions.

Success stories of 50 Bahraini entrepreneurs are also being showcased at the event.

The conference also witnessed the honouring of the participants and sponsors of the event.

Instant e-Visas for Jeddah Season visitors

● Three minute online visa system is linked to the purchase of tickets for Jeddah Season events.

● Jeddah Season 2019 offers visitors a dazzling choice of more than 150 events and activities celebrating music, arts, culture and sports.

TDT | Manama

Visitors coming to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the Jeddah Season 2019 can obtain a tourist visa in three minutes or less through the Sharek e-Visa website, it is learnt.

Implemented by the Organising Committee for Jeddah Season 2019, the online application method is linked to ticket purchases for Jeddah Season 2019 events.

Once visitors buy a ticket, they

can get an instant e-Visa simply by logging on to www.sharek.sa and following the step-by-step instructions.

"Making it quick and easy to obtain an entry visa will encourage more tourists to discover the beauty of Jeddah, known affectionately as the Bride of the Red Sea, attracting regional and international visitors to the 2019 edition of Jeddah Season," said Raed Abuzinada, General Supervisor of the Jeddah Season.

"The introduction of the e-Visa system will have a positive impact on the travel and tourism sector, which is a key driver of the nation's economy and remains a vital component of the economic diversification that is a fundamental aim of Vision 2030."

Jeddah Season 2019 offers visitors a dazzling choice of more than 150 events and activities celebrating music, arts, culture and sports.

Taking place from the 8th June till the 18th of July 2019, the inaugural edition of the festival aims to position Jeddah as the capital of tourism and entertainment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

CSB carry out 15 field visits to fix violations

TDT | Manama

Fifteen field visits were carried out by the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) to fix violations regarding matters that include partial employment contracts, qualification standards for economic jobs, special regulations, end of service procedures and attendance system, the Director of the Administrative Control Directorate, Shaikha Rana bint Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, said yesterday.

Auditing on government entities by the Administrative Control Directorate also included auditing on compliance with the duties and responsibilities of the job title, incentives and incentive rewards, adoption of the "Work Flow" electronic system's mechanism, overtime, licences for prac-

tising engineering professions, commissions of inquiry, resignation procedures follow-up of corrective actions, and the Grievance Committee, she pointed out.

The official indicated that the her directorate proposed corrective measures to solve administrative irregularities and to develop radical solutions to shortcomings in government entities by preparing oversight reports on these visits, including administrative observations and recommendations of the Administrative Control Team to correct the observed shortcomings.

Shaikha Rana said that the department conducts regular and continuous follow-up on government entities that have been visited in order to ensure that all corrective measures proposed by



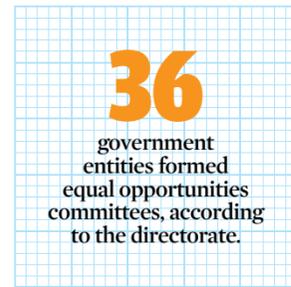
Shaikha Rana

the auditing team are implemented to correct the conditions of these entities in accordance with the law while also ensuring regular operation of the public facility.

Furthermore, 50 per cent of the total violations and administrative observations that were followed up until the end of 2018 were resolved, she said.

She stressed that during 2018; the focus was on following up on the issue of compliance with the duties and responsibilities of the job title during the supervisory visits, as well as ensuring that the government entities comply to the provisions of the civil service regulations.

"In order to activate the supervisory and oversight role of the Administrative Control Directorate, the Director of the Administrative Control confirmed coordination with the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) in following up on all government entities subject to the supervision of the CSB; and addressing them to commitment of forming the Equal Opportunities Committee in order to implement regulations set out in the Civil Service



Instructions 4/2014.

"Moreover, the formation of equal opportunity committees was included in the plans of the annual supervisory visits in order to implement the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the directives of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ebrahim Al Khalifa,

to integrate the needs of Bahraini women in the framework of equal opportunities.

"In addition, through the field supervision visits, the Administrative Control Directorate verified the commitment of parties to form these committees and compel the non-cooperating parties to do so."

The directorate also observed that 36 government entities formed equal opportunities committees, it is learnt.

Shaikha Rana explained that during 2018, the Administrative Control Directorate received 306 administrative complaints through all means of communication with the public, including the electronic reporting system, telephone, the directorate's mailbox, and personal attendance.

Traffic policeman faces trial for embezzlement

Defendant accused of collecting vehicle registration fees without recording it

TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court has announced that the trial of a traffic policeman, who's accused of embezzlement, will begin on June 16, 2019.

The defendant, who works at the Registration Department in the General Directorate of Traffic, is accused of collecting vehicles' registration fees without entering the data in the directorate's system and embezzling the paid amounts.

As shown in court files, the crimes occurred in 2016, but the matter only came to light one year later.

In 2017, many drivers were shocked to find out that their cars were not registered for an entire year, as the directorate's system was not updated, despite the fact that they paid the fees and received receipts for them, according to Prosecutors.

The directorate immediately launched an investigation into the matter and the records led to the



The General Directorate of Traffic has carried out an inquiry into the matter.

accused, as the fraud occurred during his shift.

"When confronted, the man denied that he stole any amounts.

"In an attempt to clear his name, the defendant initially claimed that his login password

was used on several other computers in the department, adding that he had reported it to his superior, who allegedly didn't lift a finger and ignored the matter.

"But, the defendant couldn't support his claims with any evi-

Though the defendant initially dismissed allegations, he couldn't support his claims with any evidence.

PROSECUTORS

dence. He later confessed that he had taken the money and didn't hand it over to the concerned department," the Prosecutors added.

The Public Prosecution accused the man of embezzlement and misusing his authority as a public servant entrusted to collect amounts for Interior Ministry.

The Prosecution's accusations came after interrogating the suspect, hearing witnesses statements and reviewing the evidence.

He was referred to the First High Criminal Court, which adjourned his trial to next Sunday.

Man detained for presenting fake science degree certificate

TDT | Manama

The Public Prosecution yesterday announced that it has ordered the detention of an individual who's suspected of recently presenting a fake university degree certificate for ratification.

This was confirmed by Attorney General and Southern Governorate Prosecution Acting Chief Prosecutor Mamdouh Al Ma'awdah in a statement published yesterday on the Prosecution's page on Instagram.

Mr Al Ma'awdah said the prosecution was notified by Education Ministry about the matter, informing that the suspect had presented a science degree certificate, which he claimed was issued by a university in Malaysia, for ratification, but was later proven to be fake.

"After reviewing the matter with the said university, the ministry was informed that the suspect didn't continue his education there and that the presented certificate was never issued to him by the university," Mr Al Ma'awdah said in his statement.

He explained that the Prosecution summoned the suspect and interrogated him.



The suspect confessed that he had fabricated the university degree, with the assistance of a Malaysian individual.

MR AL MA'AWDAH

The official also confirmed that the Prosecution heard the testimony of the Head of the Foreign Certificates Ratification Department in Education Ministry.

"The suspect confessed that he had fabricated the university degree, with the assistance of a Malaysian individual, and presented the certificate to Education Ministry while acknowledging that it's counterfeited.

"The Prosecution ordered his detention pending further investigation," Mr Al Ma'awdah added.

Global Institute shines in NIOS 10th grade exams



Adarsh Ajith, Basil Rahman, Joshva Paul D'souza, Elias Mathew, Imran

TDT | Manama

Global Institute of Management Science, the one and only approved study centre of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), has secured an excellent pass rate in the 10th grade exam results published yesterday.

The NIOS is the world's largest open schooling system under the Ministry of Human Resources, Government of India.

The institute provides oppor-



Riya Rajeev, Ruthwik, Safal Ithani, Yash Mohan Poojari

tunity for adults and school drop-outs to complete CBSE 10th and 12th grade equivalent qualifications to pursue higher studies.

Global Institute provides special preparatory classes for students enrolling for the course in Commerce, Humanities and

Science streams.

The examinations are conducted under the direct supervision of the Indian Embassy in the Kingdom.

The admission for new batches of NIOS 10th and 12th has already started.

BCCI brawl case adjourned

TDT | Manama

The First Minor Criminal Court yesterday adjourned the trial of an Arab lawyer who's facing charges of assault and insulting a sect, to June 19, 2019, after a request was submitted to the judges by the defence attorney.

The defendant has denied the charges of assaulting a member of Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), explaining that he only acted in self defence.

As reported earlier on Tribune, the legal adviser was involved in a brawl that took place at the general assembly of BCCI on April 25 this year.

The brawl broke out between the defendant and several chamber members, after he allegedly made some sectarian remarks.

Footage of the fight rapidly went viral online in Bahrain and regional countries, including GCC states and Egypt.



A screen grab of the video showing the brawl between members at the chamber.

In the video, the man was seen while angrily interrupting a chamber member and demanding him to keep quiet and respect the meeting.

A verbal dispute quickly erupted between both men and certain remarks made by the defendant caused an uproar among the attendees, who considered it as sectarian.

The defendant was soon surrounded by several businessmen who were attending the assembly and a fist fight erupted between them in no time.

Other members and security

guards managed to separate the angry crowd, while they continued to exchange insults, the video shows.

The defendant was arrested at Bahrain International Airport on the same day while attempting to travel abroad, as confirmed by Interior Ministry back then.

It was explained in a statement issued by the Public Prosecution on the next day that prosecutors listened to the suspect and witnesses' testimonies and ordered to hold the suspect in custody for seven days pending investigations.

world

India finds wreckage of plane missing with 13 on board



The missing An-32 took off from Assam's Jorhat at 12.25 pm on Monday. (File Photo)

New Delhi, India

Indian authorities yesterday spotted the wreckage of a plane missing with 13 air force personnel aboard after days of searching a remote mountainous region close to China.

The Soviet-built AN-32 plane, carrying eight crew and five passengers, disappeared from radar on June 3 in the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, prompting a frantic search by the Indian Air Force (IAF) and ground teams.

"The wreckage of the missing #An32 was spotted today... at an approximate elevation of 12,000 ft by the #IAF Mi-17 Helicopter undertaking search

in the expanded search zone," the IAF said on Twitter.

"Efforts are now continuing to establish the status of occupants & establish survivors."

Desperate authorities last week announced a cash reward of 550,000 rupees (\$8,000) for any information about the plane.

They also urged village chiefs to organise search parties to scour the Mechuka jungle in the mountainous region.

The twin-engine plane lost contact with ground control 35 minutes after taking off.

In 2016, another AN-32 -- flying from Chennai to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands -- went missing above the Bay of Bengal. It had 29 people aboard and was never found.

Notre-Dame of Paris to celebrate first mass since fire



Cathedral's rector, Msgr. Patrick Chauvet with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and historic monument architect Philippe Villeneuve, in Notre-Dame Cathedral

● The mass -- led by Archbishop of Paris Michel Aupetit -- will be celebrated on a very small scale late Saturday

Paris, France

The Notre-Dame cathedral will host its first mass this weekend since a fire ravaged the Paris landmark almost two months ago, the city's diocese said yesterday.

The mass -- led by Archbishop of Paris Michel Aupetit -- will be celebrated on a very small scale late Saturday, the diocese said.

It will take place in a "side chapel with a restricted number of people, for obvious security reasons," it said.

Just 20 people are expected to take part, including priests and canons from the cathedral.

The event will be broadcast live by a French television channel so that Christians from all over France can participate, the diocese added.

The date has been chosen as it is the anniversary of the consecration of the cathedral's altar, which is celebrated every year on June 16.

President Emmanuel Macron has set an ambitious target of five years for restoring the Notre-Dame, which was gutted by a fire on April 15 that felled its steeple.

The diocese is awaiting a response from the French authorities over whether it can re-open the parvis -- the open space in front of the cathedral -- to the public.

If the authorities approve the plan, the idea is to celebrate the evening prayers on the parvis, the diocese said.

A temporary structure could be erected there to host worshippers while the cathedral is rebuilt.

Sudan protesters keep up civil disobedience

Khartoum, Sudan

A protest strike kept businesses shut and residents indoors in the Sudanese capital yesterday as a top US diplomat prepared a visit to press the ruling generals to halt a bloody crackdown.

Protest leaders stepped up the pressure on the generals by announcing they would soon release a list of members for a new ruling body -- the key point of dispute between the two sides.

Most shops and businesses remained closed on the third day of a civil disobedience campaign launched by protest leaders after a crackdown on a weeks-long sit-in left dozens dead on June 3.

Public buses were operating in some parts of the capital, but Khartoum's main business and commercial districts were shut down, an AFP correspondent reported.

Paramilitaries of the Rapid Support Forces -- accused by witnesses, protesters and human rights groups of having played the lead role in the June 3 crackdown -- patrolled several districts of the city in their trademark pickup trucks fitted with heavy machine guns.

Fewer people were on the streets than usual.

"In the last three days, we have lost a lot of money," said Ibrahim Omar, an employee at a tour firm. Travel agencies have been hit hard by a nationwide internet blackout on Monday.



Sudanese soldiers stand guard a street in Khartoum

"We cannot do anything. We are not doing any international flight bookings. I hope it does not continue like this," Omar said.

Generals lost 'legitimacy'

But protesters say their shutdown is already successful.

"This shows clearly what we can do, and also in a peaceful way," said Ishraga Mohamed.

"Such a campaign does not lead to killing people and at the same time puts pressure on the military council. We will continue with it until our goal is achieved," she told AFP.

Protest leaders vowed to name a new ruling body to replace the generals.

Since toppling longtime President Omar al-Bashir on April 11, the generals have resist-

ed demonstrators' demands, backed by Western and most African governments, to make way for a civilian-led transition.

US call to stop attacks

The US assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Tibor Nagy, plans to meet both the generals and protest leaders in Khartoum, the State Department said.

He is to leave on the trip on Wednesday and also visit Addis Ababa to discuss the Sudan crisis with Ethiopian leaders and the African Union.

"He will call for a cessation of attacks against civilians and urge parties to work toward creating an enabling environment" for talks to resume, the State Department said on Monday.

Sri Lanka MPs defy president to resume Easter attack probe

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's parliament yesterday defied President Maithripala Sirisena and resumed an investigation into security lapses surrounding the Easter suicide bombings that killed 258 people, officials said.

The Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) began hearing testimony from Muslim leaders who claimed they repeatedly alerted the authorities to dangerous radicalisation, a parliamentary official said.

President Sirisena last week asked his coalition cabinet to halt the hearings, which have already revealed senior police and security officials directly under him had ignored repeated intelligence warnings.

Sirisena sacked his intelligence chief over the weekend after he told the hearing that the April 21 attacks could have been avoided if police had been allowed to arrest the ringleader as early as last year.

An Islamic State-inspired local jihadist group has been blamed for the suicide attacks against three churches and three luxury hotels. Among the dead were 45 foreign nationals, while nearly 500 people were injured.

Since the attacks, the country has been under a state of emergency which gives sweeping powers to the police and security forces to arrest and detain suspects for long periods of time.

Temple helps 'extinct' turtle back to life

● Good Earth has identified 18 other temple ponds in the area which could also be used for similar initiatives

Hajo, India

The black softshell turtle is officially extinct in the wild, but a centuries-old Indian temple and its nature-loving caretaker are helping the creature make a tentative comeback.

The northeastern state of Assam was once rich in freshwater turtles, but habitat loss and over-exploitation -- they were once a popular local food -- have massively depleted their population.

The black softshell turtle was declared extinct in the wild in 2002 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, while the Indian softshell turtle and the Indian peacock softshell turtle are classified as vulnerable. But all the while, the pond of the Hayagriva Madhav temple in the Hajo pilgrimage centre has provided a safe haven, thanks to the sacred status of turtles protecting them from



The black softshell turtle was declared extinct in the wild in 2002 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature

” The population of the turtle in Assam has gone down by a great extent. So we thought we needed to intervene and do something to save the species from extinction

JAYADITYA PURKAYASTHA, FROM CONSERVATION GROUP GOOD EARTH

harm.

"There are plenty of turtles in the temple pond," said Jayaditya

Purkayastha, from conservation group Good Earth.

The group has teamed up with the temple authorities in a breeding programme.

"The population of the turtle in Assam has gone down by a great extent. So we thought we needed to intervene and do something to save the species from extinction," he said.

In January his organisation's first batch of 35 turtle hatchlings, including 16 black softshells hand-reared at the temple, was released into a nearby wildlife sanctuary.

A key figure is the caretaker of the temple pond, Pranab Malakar, who long before envi-

ronmentalists became involved took a keen interest in the turtles' wellbeing.

"I used to take care of them as I like them. Later, after I became associated with Good Earth, it became my responsibility," he said.

"No one harms them here as they are incarnations of Lord Vishnu (a Hindu deity). I was born and grew up here. We have been seeing the turtles since our childhood. People respect them," he said.

Malakar collects eggs laid by the turtles on the sandy banks of the pond -- a new concrete bank had to be demolished a few years ago -- and gingerly puts them into an incubator.

The project has been so successful that Good Earth has identified 18 other temple ponds in the area which could also be used for similar initiatives.

For one thing, some of the hundreds of daily visitors to the temple outside Guwahati throw bread and other food to the turtles -- which they clearly like.

"This has triggered some biological changes among the turtles in the pond. They have also lost their natural tendency of hunting for food," Purkayastha said.

More bodies found as Hungary lifts sunken boat



In pictures, rescue teams working during the operations to pull out the sunken Mermaid sightseeing boat on the Danube river in Budapest

● **Police were seen removing another four bodies from the vessel**

● **The Mermaid was carrying mostly South Korean holidaymakers when it capsized**

● **Those on board included a six-year-old girl travelling with her mother and grandparents**

Budapest, Hungary

Hungarian police recovered more bodies on Tuesday as they lifted a sightseeing boat that sank in the

river Danube in Budapest last month in an accident that has claimed at least 24 lives.

Police were seen removing another four bodies from the vessel while four people are still missing about two weeks after the tragedy, the worst such incident in Hungary in 75 years.

The lifting operation began at around 6 am (0400 GMT) and six hours later the Mermaid tourist boat was almost entirely out of the water.

Early on in the operation, police were seen by an AFP photographer at the site removing four bodies from the vessel.

Several dozen rescue workers could be seen taking part in the operation, including members of a team sent from South Korea.

The Mermaid was carrying mostly South Korean holidaymakers when it capsized and sank on the evening of May 29,

just seconds after colliding with a bigger river cruise boat on a busy stretch of the river.

Those on board included a six-year-old girl travelling with her mother and grandparents, and the Mermaid's Hungarian captain.

Only seven of the 35 people on board are known to have survived the accident, with the prospect of finding any more passengers alive seen as practically zero.

Strong river currents

Hungarian police, who are leading the salvage operation, initially estimated the lifting operation would take around six hours, but work is expected to continue well into the afternoon.

Temperatures above 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit) and strong river currents have slowed the operation,

The captain of the river cruise boat, the Viking Sigyn, has been arrested on suspicion of "endangering waterborne traffic resulting in multiple deaths"

which has been stopped several times.

At one point, one member of the rescue crew fell into the fast-flowing water and had to be rescued after almost being swept away.

Divers have periodically been entering the vessel to search the bodies of any victims still inside.

Damage was visible to the rear part of the Mermaid where the collision occurred.

Since the accident divers had been unable to enter the submerged boat due to the strong

current in a river swollen from weeks of rain.

The salvage crew instead focused on fixing wire harnesses underneath and around the vessel to prepare it for hoisting by a crane mounted on a barge.

Once out of the water and removed to a secure location the Mermaid will be examined by police who have already launched a criminal probe into the cause of the accident.

The captain of the river cruise boat, the Viking Sigyn, has been arrested on suspicion of "endangering waterborne traffic resulting in multiple deaths".

On Monday the Sigyn was again searched by Hungarian police.

After the incident, the boat had travelled on to Germany before returning to Hungary according to its schedule.

According to Hungary's as-

sociation of passenger shipping companies, the sinking of the Mermaid is the first such accident to cause mass fatalities in Hungary for 75 years.

For many in South Korea the tragedy has brought back memories of the 2014 Sewol ferry sinking which killed more than 300 people in one of the deadliest maritime disasters in the country.

The Mermaid accident happened on a popular part of the Danube river for pleasure trips, from where passengers can view the city and parliament building illuminated at night.

Dozens of small sightseeing boats ply the river through Budapest every day.

Larger river cruise boats travelling on the Danube between Germany and the Black Sea typically spend several days moored in the capital.

Travellers' images exposed in US data breach: reports

Washington, United States

Images of tens of thousands of travellers crossing the United States' border have been stolen from an immigration subcontractor in a data breach, US media reported on Monday.

The images were snatched from the network of a subcontractor for US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), after the company copied data to its database without the agency's



A display shows a facial recognition system for law enforcement during a technology conference in Washington on November 1, 2017

consent, according to *The New York Times*.

The data included images of drivers in their cars and license plates taken over a six-week period at an undisclosed border crossing, the newspaper said.

An unnamed official said as many as 100,000 people may have had their images stolen, the Times reported.

"As of today, none of the image data has been identified on the Dark Web or internet," CBP

said in a statement quoted by the Times. CBP hasn't identified the name of the subcontractor hacked but the newspaper identified it as Perceptics, which makes license plate readers and works with the agency on border security matters.

Facial recognition is being deployed in airports around the US, aiming to help speed boarding and arrivals and also monitoring for suspects and people who may have overstayed their visas.

German serial killer nurse appeals life term for 85 murders

Berlin, Germany

Germany's most prolific serial killer in the country's post-war history has appealed his life sentence for 85 murders, a district court said Tuesday.

Former nurse Nils Hoegel, 42, was convicted last week for killing patients chosen at random by lethal injection.

The murder spree of patients aged between 34 to 96 took place between 2000 and 2005 before he was finally caught in the act.

"I can inform you that the defendant has now lodged an appeal," Melanie Bitter, a spokeswoman for the court in Oldenburg, said Tuesday without adding further details.

Last Thursday's judgement brought the official number of victims to 91 as Hoegel had previously been convicted for six other murders.

Police suspect that Hoegel's final death toll may be more than 200.

However, it may never be known exactly how many people he killed because many likely victims were cremated before autopsies could be performed, and because of gaps in Hoegel's memory.

Four passengers die in 'unbearable' heat on Indian train

● **Temperatures touched 50.3 degrees Celsius in the Rajasthan town of Churu recently, just below India's record of 51 degrees.**

New Delhi, India

Four people died in 'unbearable' heat while travelling by train in northern India, which has been in the grip of a heat-wave for two weeks, officials and passengers said yesterday.

The four died Monday while travelling from Agra -- the city of the Taj Mahal -- to Coimbatore in the country's south.

"Heat seems to be a factor," Indian Railways spokesman Ajit



Four passengers on the Kerala Express have died in Jhansi due to extreme heat

Kumar Singh said, "it is really unfortunate".

"When the train was approaching Jhansi, we got a call from the on-board staff that one of the passengers is uncon-

scious," Singh said.

"We rushed medical staff to the station but they found that three of the passengers were already dead."

A fourth person died later in

hospital.

Temperatures have hovered around 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit) in Jhansi, in northern Uttar Pradesh state, in recent days. Singh said the Kerala

Express train had no technical problems, but the tourists were not in air-conditioned coaches.

A passenger who was a part of the group that boarded in Agra said the train was stiflingly hot.

"Shortly after we left Agra, the heat became unbearable and some people started complaining of breathing problems and uneasiness," the passenger was quoted as saying by News18 television.

"Before we could get some help, they collapsed."

One of the dead was 81 years old, the channel said.

Much of India has been sweltering in temperatures that have risen above 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit) in northern Rajasthan state. A number of deaths from heatstroke have been reported.

Two-year-old Indian boy dies after four days down well

● The case of Fatehveer Singh captured national attention after he fell into the 33-metre (110 feet) deep well in the Punjab

● Authorities had dug a hole parallel to the well to reach the trapped toddler

New Delhi, India

A two-year-old Indian boy stuck in a narrow well for more than four days was pulled out dead yesterday, triggering protests over delays in reaching the toddler.

The case of Fatehveer Singh captured national attention after he fell into the 33-metre (110 feet) deep well in the Punjab state district of Sangrur while playing on Thursday.

The disused well was just 23 centimetres (nine inches) wide, complicating desperate efforts by dozens of rescue workers and volunteers as locals and television cameras looked on.

"The child is not alive anymore. He was pulled out at 5 in the morning by the NDRF (National Disaster Response Force) personnel," Vijay Inder Singla, a state lawmaker, said.

The toddler, who had oxygen supplies but no food or water, was flown in an air ambulance to a hospital in the capital Chandigarh where he was declared dead.

Authorities had dug a hole



An Indian rescue team dug a hole parallel to the well and inserted a 36-inch wide pipe into it, in an attempt to reach the trapped toddler



Rohi Singh (L), the grandfather of two-year-old boy Fatehveer Singh, mourns next to the body of his grandchild, who was stuck in a narrow well for more than four days, as they take the body back to their village in Punjab state district of Sangrur in an ambulance, in Chandigarh



Have sought reports from all DCs (deputy commissioners) regarding any open bore well so that such terrible accidents can be prevented in the future

PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER AMARINDER SINGH

parallel to the well and inserted a 36-inch wide pipe into it, in an attempt to reach the trapped toddler.

Villagers angry about the failed rescue mission gathered at the site Tuesday and shouted slogans against the state government.

Protesters also blocked a main road briefly before police were deployed to prevent further trouble.

The rescue operation was "delayed due to lack of required technical assistance," resident Kultar Singh was quoted as saying by local media.

The borewell was dug by the child's family in 1984. They used to draw water from it to irrigate the fields but stopped using it after 1991.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has ordered a crackdown on open wells across the state.

"Very sad to hear about the tragic death of young Fatehveer," he tweeted Tuesday.

Canada bans capture and breeding of dolphins, whales



Representative picture

Montreal

Canada's parliament on Monday approved a bill banning the capture and breeding of cetaceans such as whales and dolphins in a move hailed by animal rights activists.

The bill, first proposed in 2015 and now awaiting symbolic royal approval, will not apply retroactively, meaning captive marine mammals can stay confined.

And it will contain exceptions for marine mammals who require rehabilitation

following an injury, or in other cases authorized by authorities.

"This is such an important law because it bans breeding, making sure the whales and dolphins currently kept in tiny tanks in Canada are the last generation to suffer," Melissa Matlow, campaign director for World Animal Protection Canada, said in a statement.

"We hope other countries will now follow Canada's lead and that travel companies will also realize the declining acceptance for these types of attractions."

US man to face death penalty trial in Vietnam

Hanoi

A Vietnamese-American man charged with "attempting to overthrow the state" will go on trial in Ho Chi Minh City on June 24, his family said, and could face the death penalty if found guilty.

Michael Nguyen has been held for nearly a year in the one-party communist state, which has tightened its grip on power since a new administration came to office in 2016 and took a harder line on dissent of

any kind. Nearly 130 prisoners of conscience are currently behind bars in the country, where independent media is banned and protests are illegal.

Nguyen was detained in July last year while travelling with two activists on a visit to Vietnam.

The father of four young daughters could face the death sentence if convicted.

His family said he has been denied access to lawyers during his detention and insisted he is innocent.

New York Times to cease political cartoons

New York

The New York Times has announced it will no longer include daily political cartoons in its international edition, weeks after apologising for publishing a caricature of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu deemed anti-Semitic.

The cartoon, published in April, depicted Netanyahu as a guide dog wearing a Star of David collar and leading a blind Donald Trump -- who was wearing a kippah, or a Jewish skullcap.

It prompted an uproar within the Jewish community, with Israel's ambassador to the UN likening the drawing to the content of Nazi propaganda tabloid Der Sturmer.

Editor James Bennet said the paper had planned for a year to cease running political cartoons in the international print version of the Times, in line with the US edition.

The decision will come into effect on July 1, Bennet said in a Monday statement.

Patrick Chappatte, one of the paper's leading cartoonists, said the decision was directly related to the Netanyahu cartoon.

He condemned the publi-



cation of the caricature at the center of the controversy but said he was concerned that media outlets were increasingly buckling under political pressure and criticism from "moralistic mobs" on social media.

"Over the last years, some of the very best cartoonists... lost their positions because their publishers found their work too critical of Trump. Maybe we should start worrying," Chappatte wrote on his personal website.

Bennet said the newspaper hoped to keep working with Chappatte and fellow contributor Heng Kim Song on other projects.

New York Times publisher A.G. Sulzberger announced in May that the editor who published the cartoon would be disciplined.

Light exposure during sleep linked to weight gain in women, says study

● The research, which was published in the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) Internal Medicine

Washington

Women who sleep with the television or a light on in the bedroom may be more likely to gain weight, according to a new study published Monday.

The research, which was published in the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) Internal Medicine, relied on a survey of almost 44,000 US women, with a follow-up five years later.

The women were classified according to their level of exposure to artificial light at night (ALAN) which came from a variety of sources, from small night-lights or clock radios to light shining in from the street to televisions or room lights.

One of the key findings was that women who slept with a television or a light on in the room were 17 percent more likely to have gained five kilograms



Representative picture

(11 pounds) or more during the study period.

The correlation remained strong even after controlling for factors like sleep duration, diet, and physical activity.

Although the authors cautioned they could not definitely draw a causal link, they said their findings added to a growing body of evidence that supports sleeping in a dark room.

"Public health strategies to decrease obesity might consider interventions aimed at reducing

ALAN while sleeping," wrote Dale Sandler and Yong-Moon Mark Park of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in North Carolina and coauthors.

They suggested that the light may be suppressing production of melatonin, thereby disrupting circadian rhythm and eating patterns.

Other possibilities were that light acts as a "chronic stressor" disrupting the release of stress hormones such as glucocorti-

One of the key findings was that women who slept with a television or a light on in the room were 17 percent more likely to have gained five kilograms (11 pounds) or more during the study period.

coids that play a part in regulating food intake, or that there may be another mechanism at work that affects metabolism directly.

The authors acknowledged several limitations including that the data was self-reported and they did not know how intense various light sources were.

High light exposure may also "reflect a constellation of measures of socioeconomic disadvantage and unhealthy lifestyle behaviors, all of which could contribute to weight gain and obesity."



Aung San Suu Kyi's unholy alliance with Viktor Orban, a new low

Would the Nobel Peace Prize ever be awarded to the woman she has revealed herself to be? Of course not

SHOLTO BYRNES

If the decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Barack Obama in 2009 was somewhat embarrassing – given that he'd only been US president for a few months and had done little to earn what is considered one of the ultimate accolades – its bestowal on Aung San Suu Kyi in 1991 now looks disastrous.

Many thought that Myanmar's de facto leader – technically she is just “state counsellor”, but the president defers to her – could not sink any lower after a litany of horrors saw her status as a “secular saint” thoroughly demolished. Last week, however, she managed it.

After meeting prime minister Viktor Orban in Budapest, a statement was issued by the Hungarian government: “The two leaders highlighted that one of the greatest challenges at present for both countries and their respective regions – south-east Asia and Europe – is migration. They noted that both regions have seen the emergence of the issue of coexistence with continuously growing Muslim populations.”

Mr Orban may be duly and legally elected but it says something about Ms Suu Kyi's current standing that a woman who was once a human rights icon now seeks an alliance with a far-right populist accused of subverting his country's democratic institutions, whipping up hatred against non-whites and non-Christians and cracking down on free speech.

Mr Orban has his own (bad) reasons for trading in the language of migrant and Muslim-bashing. Certainly, it is true that Europe is deeply divided over how to deal with the hundreds of thousands of people



Aung San Suu Kyi with Viktor Orban.

fleeing war and poverty who want to start new lives on the continent.

For Ms Suu Kyi to echo him, however, is truly despicable. The migration “challenge” that is facing Myanmar, after all, is that more than 900,000 mostly Muslim Rohingya were forced out of the country of their birth, in a state-run campaign of harassment and persecution that went on for years, before escalating from October 2016 onwards into what a top UN official has denounced as genocide,

crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The Myanmar military that Ms Suu Kyi has always had a soft spot for, not least because her father, general Aung San, used to head it, has tried to solve the “issue of coexistence” with their Muslim compatriots by killing, raping and completely marginalising a community that makes up a mere 4 per cent of the 54 million strong population. Far from “continuously growing”, the percentage of Muslims in the country has gone down. And

Myanmar coexisted perfectly well with its Muslim-majority fellow members of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (Asean), Malaysia and Indonesia, until its ill-treatment of its own Muslims became impossible to ignore.

It is this issue above all that has ruined Ms Suu Kyi's once lustrous reputation, leading even old friends like South Africa's Desmond Tutu – a fellow Nobel Prize winner – to condemn a woman he considered “a dearly beloved younger sister”

Can this be a new era of pragmatism

RASHMEE ROSHAN

How will Narendra Modi's India deal with the world now? Differently from his first term as prime minister, as far as confidence and competence are concerned. Mr Modi is newly empowered, having won an emphatic re-election last month. Bestriding India and his governing Bharatiya Janata Party, Mr Modi faced no political pushback in the swift and radical appointment of a veteran apolitical diplomat, S Jaishankar, as his foreign minister.

All the signs point to a new seriousness about foreign policy. It will be informed by Mr Modi's worldview, but subtly shaped and implemented by Mr Jaishankar, who retired as India's top career diplomat in January 2018 and was formerly ambassador to both the US and China.

To get a sense of what might be in store, consider Mr Jaishankar's policy prescription just five weeks before his surprise elevation to one of the four great offices of the Indian state. It's all about positioning today's India on the world stage, he said, which means “cultivating America, steadying Russia, managing

China, enthusing Japan and attending to Europe”. In the same breath, he added that “prioritisation of the neighbourhood is also important”.

Clues to what that foreign policy might look like were there in Mr Modi's second swearing-in ceremony. In 2014, South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (Saarc) leaders were invited. This time, it was the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Co-operation (Bimstec) countries, as well as the president of Kyrgyzstan and the prime minister of Mauritius. All the invitations had a clear purpose.

India and China are competing in Mauritius, often referred to as Asia's gateway to Africa, and New Delhi is playing the diaspora card – about 70 per cent of the island nation's population is descended from indentured Indian labourers taken there by the British.

Kyrgyzstan is chair of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO), and Mr Modi will attend its two-day summit in Bishkek from June 13. The SCO is a China-led eight-member economic and security bloc, which includes both India and Paki-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is taking a different approach to the world after his re-election.

stan. Mr Modi will be working the summit hard. He will meet China's President Xi Jinping and discuss issues related to counter-terrorism, connectivity and transportation with Central Asian leaders, as a US exit from Afghanistan becomes more likely by the day. Finally, Bishkek will be used to send a strong message to Pakistan. Indian officials have indicated there will be lit-

tle chance of a one-on-one with Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Isolating Pakistan is part of the reason for the change in Mr Modi's guest list in his two inaugurations. The shift from Saarc to Bimstec was about more than acronyms. Bimstec comprises India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. So, it is Saarc minus Pakistan and Afghanistan, plus

Thailand and Myanmar. Bimstec's new prominence is significant, 22 years after it came into being as a means of integrating the littoral economies of the Bay of Bengal. Mr Modi's India is signalling a quite different aspiration to those of years past. Instead of engaging Pakistan, it seeks to marginalise it altogether, and build new bridges to east and south-east Asia.

The prime minister's India is today signalling a quite different aspiration to those of years past

1999

Kosovo War: Operation Joint Guardian begins when a NATO-led United Nations peace-keeping force (KFOR) enters the province of Kosovo in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

2009

A disputed presidential election in **Iran** leads to wide-ranging local and international protests.

2016

Forty-nine civilians are killed and 58 others injured in an attack on a gay nightclub in Orlando, **Florida**; the gunman, Omar Mateen, is killed in a gunfight with police.



2017

American student **Otto Warmbier** returns home in a coma after spending 17 months in a North Korean prison and dies a week later.



Mr Orban may be duly and legally elected but it says something about Ms Suu Kyi's current standing that a woman who was once a human rights icon now seeks an alliance with a far-right populist accused of subverting his country's democratic institutions.

world thought she was in the first place.

It is not just that she was an accidental politician. Married to an English academic, she spent much of her life abroad; the only reason she was in Myanmar and ended up leading protests against the military dictatorship in 1988 was to take care of her elderly mother. While she immediately became the face of the opposition that finally came to power in 2015, in the country's first democratic elections for decades, she suffered years of house arrest and separation from her family. As her reputation grew, her political skills did not – a flaw that has long been widely acknowledged.

Far more damaging is the growing suspicion that Ms Suu Kyi's post-1988 career has not, in fact, been all about democracy and freedom for the people of Myanmar. Instead, say some, it has been driven by a deep sense of entitlement that, as the daughter of the country's greatest independence hero, it is her destiny to lead Myanmar.

(Sholto Byrnes is a leading columnist with many newspapers.)

who was a "symbol of righteousness".

At one point apologists urged understanding. Ms Suu Kyi could not speak out, they said, because she had to deal with the political realities of an overwhelmingly Buddhist country in which anti-Muslim sentiment was strong. Further, they pointed out, she could not overrule the military, which is protected and granted considerable powers by the 2008 constitution the generals themselves drafted. No one attempts that defence

any more and Ms Suu Kyi has nailed her colours to the mast by embracing Mr Orban's Islamophobic rhetoric.

For those who wonder how a woman who was once regularly compared to Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela could change so shockingly – defending the jailing of journalists, behaving autocratically, refusing to stop slaughter and ethnic cleansing, and now pandering to the basest of prejudices – perhaps the answer is that she was never the person the

c foreign policy?

To get a sense of what might be in store, consider Mr Jaishankar's policy prescription just five weeks before his surprise elevation to one of the four great offices of the Indian state.

Bimstec and Saarc are significant organisations".

This may have ramifications for a related strand of the Modi 2.0 foreign policy agenda – the "neighbourhood first" policy. It took the Indian prime minister to the Maldives and Sri Lanka at the weekend, his first overseas trip since re-election. The reason for their preferment was obvious. India is trying hard to counter China's influence in both countries, which are key to Beijing's new Silk Road project. What is unexpected is the realpolitik with which Mr Modi's India is approaching the task. On Saturday, Mr Modi, a Hindu

nationalist, declared that India would contribute to conservation of the Maldives' oldest mosque, an ornate, 17th-century building made of coral.

This, just like Mr Modi's choice of foreign minister, seems to suggest new pragmatism in pursuit of India's goals. These are grand and overarching, a re-imagining of India's place regionally and in the wider world, in order to move from a nation that follows global rules to a force that helps to establish them.

All of the above, not least the outreach to Central Asia, adds up to an ambitious plan to enhance India's diplomatic and economic profile. It's certainly hard-headed. Before he became foreign minister, Mr Jaishankar offered a pithy response when US General David Petraeus told an international conference in Delhi that India "has to decide, has to take a side in the new world order shaped by rising China [and] resurgent Russia". Yes, indeed, Mr Jaishankar replied, India must take a side – its own.

Truly, as the saying goes, there is no diplomacy like candour.

(Rashmee Roshan Lall is a senior journalist and an expert on India's foreign policy.)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Donald Trump is the best president ever. I love him so much that I have a photo of him and his wonderful wife as my header picture. It is so exciting to be living during these great times. If Trump doesn't win in 2020, I will go into a deep depression. I know he'll win, though.

@JeffreyGuterman

02



For many years modern slavery seldom captured the world's attention or outrage. Throughout my time in government I have fought to change that and to put the issue firmly on the domestic and international agenda. Today I gladly continue that fight.

@theresa_may

03



I have been briefed on the helicopter crash in New York City. Phenomenal job by our GREAT First Responders who are currently on the scene. THANK YOU for all you do 24/7/365! The Trump Administration stands ready should you need anything at all.

@realDonaldTrump

04



Asked about Biden theory that GOP will change after Trump leaves office, Durbin deadpans: "A thousand flowers will bloom, children will smile, and America will be happy again."

@igorbobic

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

Wide Angle

The growing e-waste problem: Who is responsible?



JOEL INDRUPATI

Do you have old electronic equipment at home? That which is unused or no longer usable? And, is it occupying unnecessary space?

From old mobile phones to televisions, from laptops to DVD players, from headphones to gaming consoles, from CDs and video cassettes to wires and plugs, many electronic items must be lying in our houses.

Throwing them into municipal garbage bins is not a recommended option. And, sadly, there are not many e-waste collection facilities available to us to dispose them of, safely.

So, despite our reluctance, ultimately, much of our electronic stuff might end up in a garbage heap, or in a junkyard. From there, it may go into an incinerator.

Electronic waste that goes into landfills and incinerators will not only cause environmental pollution but also extreme health hazards.

Harmful diseases have been found to result from the burning of e-waste.

A great deal of scientific evidence is available today that proves - without a doubt - that unsafe e-waste disposal is a major health hazard.

And that is why we should hold the producers of electronic equipment responsible - at least partially responsible - for this nightmare they are creating in the form of newer and newer electronic gadgets.

Every enhancement in the new models of mobile phones is making old mobile phones obsolete. Every increase in speed and memory of computers is making old laptops and desktops obsolete.

Every development in HD, UHD, and 3D television technology is making the old TVs obsolete. Every development in wireless technology is making all the wired technology obsolete.

Today, instead of making long-term durable electronics - on the pretext of advancing technology, and with greed for more profits - electronics product manufacturers are inundating our markets with new gadgets which are no longer compatible with old hardware. They force us to upgrade and to buy new gadgets, by deliberately reducing the product life cycles.

The TIME magazine says, "...dozens of televisions from the 1970s and 1980s have stopped working only recently. Yet instead, technology companies are speeding the pace of obsolescence. Most smartphone batteries can't be easily replaced when they stop holding a charge, new laptops don't accept old cables, and software companies push upgrades that won't run on old devices." (The World Has an E-Waste Problem, TIME, 23 May 2019).

The main reason is this. The existing global Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws, which require manufacturers to establish and fund systems to recycle or collect obsolete products, are not being effectively implemented.

Recently, I found a news-item from India which said: "Premium smartphones and electronic merchandise worth 5000 crore rupees (720 million US dollars) of 10 tech companies including Apple, Samsung, Vivo, HP, and Motorola are stranded with customs after the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) suspended their import permits for not complying with e-waste rules" (Apple, Samsung in a jam with imports held up at customs, Economic Times, 12 Apr 2019).

According to the news item, the Indian government suspended the import permits of the 10 companies for violating Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) clauses.

The companies had not re-collected e-waste they had promised they would.

By 2025, Singapore will have extended producer responsibility (EPR) laws in place for both packaging and electronic waste (e-waste) which will make it difficult for manufacturers to dump new products on us, without taking back some old ones.

The USA, the UK, and most European countries have already had legislation to make producers re-buy, recollect and re-use their products, for two decades now. But implementation is still a challenge.

As responsible consumers, we must push our governments to insist that producers comply with Extended Producer Responsibility laws, and show us how much e-waste the producers are taking back. Only then can we curtail the growing e-waste problem.

As responsible consumers, we must push our governments to insist that producers comply with Extended Producer Responsibility laws, and show us how much e-waste the producers are taking back.

business

Ryanair buys Malta Air startup to target African markets

London, United Kingdom

Irish no-frills airline Ryanair said yesterday that it will buy Maltese startup Malta Air, forming a new division that reaches more markets in north Africa from the Mediterranean island.

"Ryanair Holdings ... today announced it has agreed to purchase Malta Air," the Dublin-based company said in a statement.

The Dublin-based company will move its Malta-based fleet of six Boeing 737 aircraft into the new subsidiary.

Ryanair will seek to increase the division's total fleet to ten aircraft over the next three years, creating some 350 jobs.

The deal is expected to complete at the end of June.

Under group boss Michael O'Leary will be Ryanair DAC overseeing the Irish group's main operations, Landa for its Austrian-based business and Buzz, or Polish unit. Malta Air will now be the fourth division.

Banks bolster Saudi market

● All Saudi banks gain

● Malath rises on insurance deal renewal

● Top lender elevates Egypt

Reuters

Saudi Arabia's stock market rose sharply for the fourth session yesterday, boosted mainly by its banking shares on expectations of further capital inflows, while Abu Dhabi was weighed down by financials.

The Saudi index was up 1.6 per cent with all its banks gaining. Al Rajhi Bank added 1.5pc and National Commercial Bank climbed 3.3pc.

The index has gained nearly 15pc year-to-date, outperforming other major Gulf peers in a rally led by foreign investors, who have been net buyers of Saudi stocks every month this year.

A third tranche of the FTSE Russell emerging market index



Saudi stock market (Courtesy of Emerging Market views)

will kick in this month after Saudi stocks were included in two tranches in March and April.

Late last month, the Saudi equity market joined the MSCI Emerging Market index, which is expected to trigger billions of

dollars of foreign fund inflows.

Malath Cooperative Insurance added 3.1pc after it renewed a vehicle insurance contract with Arab National Bank for a year with premiums from the deal expected to exceed 5pc

of the firm's total annual sales.

The Abu Dhabi index declined 0.6pc after rising in five of the last six sessions, with most of its financial stocks sliding.

First Abu Dhabi Bank, the United Arab Emirates' largest

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 1.6pc	» 8,990 pts
ABU DHABI	▼ 0.6pc	» 4,966 pts
DUBAI	■	» 2,675 pts
QATAR	▲ 0.8pc	» 10,584 pts
EGYPT	▲ 0.4pc	» 14,206 pts
BAHRAIN	▼ n 0.1pc	» 1,450 pts
OMAN	▲ 0.2pc	» 3,983 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.9pc	» 6,497 pts

lender, dropped 0.8pc and Emirates Telecommunications was down 1.1pc.

Qatar's index rose 0.8pc with financials leading the gains.

Egypt's blue-chip index closed 0.4pc higher, as a 2.2pc gain in its heavyweight lender Commercial International Bank offset other declining stocks.

In Dubai, the index traded flat with budget airline Air Arabia gaining 2.9pc and Dubai Islamic Bank losing 1pc. The lender rose in the previous session after its board proposed acquiring private lender Noor Bank.

BCCI, Indian business delegation meeting

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) is hosting a business delegation from India tomorrow from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in Al Ama'al Hall on the third floor of Bait Al Tijjar building.

The delegation will comprise of representatives of

companies in IT Systems and Automation; Solar Energy, Ship Building and Design, Building Materials (cement products, fire prevention and Safety products, Potassium Bichromate, wood), Food (rice), Manufacturing (washing machine trolleys, automobile components, A/C outdoor units), Textile and Lighting (power automation).

Chery Bahrain wins top market development award



In pictures, the award ceremony



Chery 2019 Annual Conference of Global Dealers in Ningbo, China

TDT | Manama

city of Ningbo.

Motorcity Chairman, Waleed Kanoo, lauded the award stating; "Motorcity and Chery have cooperated for 14 years since the Chery brand was established in 2005, growing from strength to strength together and gaining the trust of the Bahrain market."

The conference comprised several activities including a visit to Auto Shanghai 2019, the Ningbo Zhoushan Port, test drives of new Chery vehicles, theme meetings, product & digital marketing seminars, an EXED dealer-attracting roadshow and a tour of the

In 2018, Motorcity launched the Tiggo7 and successfully executed a series of marketing and sales activities which contributed to its overall impressive market performance. 2018 sales volumes for Chery cars in Bahrain increased by over 200pc compared to 2017.



The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) celebrated Eid Al-Fitr at the NBB Home for the Elderly with the participation of NBB volunteers. Hisham Abu Alfateh, NBB Head of Corporate Communications, said, "In the spirit of Eid Al-Fitr, NBB is delighted to have the opportunity to get closer to the community and celebrate this important holiday with residents of the NBB Home for the Elderly."

Beijing mum on Trump-Xi meeting at G20 summit

Beijing, China

China yesterday did not confirm a planned face-to-face meeting between President Xi Jinping and his American counterpart Donald Trump, after the US leader threatened new tariffs against Beijing amid an escalating trade war.

Trump said a meeting with Xi has been "scheduled" during the G20 summit in Japan later this month, and that he expected the Chinese leader to attend.

"We have noticed that the US has repeatedly publicly expressed its expectation that the Chinese and US heads of state will meet during the G20 summit," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a regular briefing.

"If there is any news in this regard, we will release it in due time."

EU blocks Thyssenkrupp-Tata steel merger plan

Brussels, Belgium

The EU's powerful anti-trust authority on Tuesday blocked the merger of German industrial conglomerate Thyssenkrupp with Indian steel giant Tata, an expected veto that kills the deal.

"We prohibited the merger to avoid serious harm to European industrial customers and consumers," EU competition commissioner Margrethe Vestager said in a statement.

The aim of the merger had been to create the second largest European steel company behind multinational giant ArcelorMittal and to join forces in the face of the surge of Chinese steel.

The companies last month abandoned the merger on expectations that the EU would refuse the deal, with Thyssenkrupp announcing it would slash 6,000 jobs as a result, mainly in Germany.

Ubisoft plays into streaming trend at E3 video game event

● **Uplay+ service launching on September 3 will let players access Ubisoft's library of games on Windows-powered personal computer**

Los Angeles

French video game titan Ubisoft on Monday unveiled a new subscription service and a Brexit-tinged title as it taps into the industry trend toward streaming games.

A Uplay+ service launching on September 3 will let players access Ubisoft's library of games on Windows-powered personal computers, according to vice president of platform and product management Brenda Panagrossi.

"We're excited about this," Panagrossi said during a behind-the-scenes briefing at the Electronic Entertainment Expo video game industry gathering.

"It provides tremendous value that we think will bring in new players."

Uplay+ subscriptions will cost \$14.99 monthly when it launches in the US and much of Europe. Subscribers will be able to download whichever titles they wish from the Ubisoft library for play on personal computers.

Next year, Uplay+ will launch on Google's new streaming video game service Stadia, which will let titles hosted in the internet cloud be playable on a wide range of devices, according to Panagrossi.

Ubisoft has a history of boldly embracing new styles of play and gaming devices, and was an early partner with Google while the California-based technology giant was developing Stadia.

"The video game industry is constantly shifting, and our players' needs are evolving," Panagrossi said.

"With Uplay+ we are able to provide more freedom for players by making it even easier to access our extensive catalogue."

Post-Brexit dystopia

As the multi-billion dollar video game industry turns to streaming games the way Netflix does video or Apple Music does songs, a key will be fresh, captivating content to attract and keep subscribers, according to industry insiders.

Ubisoft on Monday showed off coming games during a colorful, high-energy show in the Orpheum Theater in down-



Brenda Panagrossi, Ubisoft vice president of platform and product management, said Uplay+ will launch next year on Google's new streaming video game service Stadia



Ubisoft's Clint Hocking introduces "Watch Dogs Legion," set in a future London in crisis, with automation and artificial intelligence devastating the economy



US actor Jon Bernthal is joined by his dog Bam Bam on stage as he introduces "Ghost Recon Breakpoint", at the Ubisoft E3 press conference

town Los Angeles on the eve of the official opening of E3.

Games on the way included a new

addition to the "Watch Dogs" franchise in which players take on the role of a cyber-savvy hero whose arsenal includes

hacking people and systems in a technology-driven world.

"Watch Dogs Legion" is set in a future London in crisis, with automation and artificial intelligence devastating the economy. Cryptocurrency has replaced the pound. Extremists and organized crime control the government in a city under constant surveillance and patrolled by drones.

"We wanted to make a game relevant to the world we live in today, but with a goal of challenging the imagination," said Alexandre Parizeau, managing director at Ubisoft's studio in Toronto.

"Your mission is to build a resistance and fight back against the emergence of an authoritarian regime."

In a technical accomplishment, any character in the game city of London can be recruited to the resistance and eventually played, opening up myriad options.

Creative director Clint Hocking described the game world as a post-Brexit Britain at a turning point, and where citizens are called on to fight extremism.

"It's a story about freeing London and the world from tyranny," Hocking said.

Watch Dog Legion was slated for launch in March of next year.

Hollywood touch

Ubisoft announced it is collaborating with Netflix on a film being made from its military action game "Tom Clancy's: The Division" which is to star actors Jessica Chastain and Jake Gyllenhaal.

Rob McElhenney, creator of comedy series "It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia" said during the presentation that he partnered with Ubisoft to make a comedy for a coming Apple TV+ service set in a game development studio.

"I love games; I wanted to express that love by making a TV show about them," McElhenney said while providing a glimpse of what he is working on.

The show, in which McElhenney plays an egotistical creative director, is called "Mythic Quest: Raven's Banquet."

In another celebrity alliance, Ubisoft based a fearsome military foe in a coming "Ghost Recon: Breakpoint" game on actor Jon Bernthal, who is known for roles in "The Walking Dead" and "The Punisher."

His character in the game leads an elite fighting unit called the Wolves.

"I've had a chance to play some pretty tough guys," said Bernthal, who came on stage with his dog.

Amazon dethrones Google as top global brand: survey

● **Alibaba beat Tencent to become the most valuable Chinese brand**

London, United Kingdom

US retail giant Amazon has moved past hi-tech titans Apple and Google to become the world's most valuable brand, a key survey showed Tuesday.

The brand value of Amazon surged by 52 percent to \$315 billion, global market research agency Kantar said in its 2019 100 Top BrandZ report.

Amazon jumped from third to first place to eclipse Google -- which slid from first to third place with Apple holding on to the second spot.

The Seattle-based retail be-



The brand value of Amazon surged by 52 percent to \$315 billion, global market research agency Kantar said in its 2019 100 Top BrandZ report

hemoth, founded by Jeff Bezos in his garage in 1994, topped the table thanks to key acquisitions, superior customer services and a

disruptive business model, Kantar said in a statement.

"Amazon's smart acquisitions, that have led to new revenue

streams, excellent customer service provision and its ability to stay ahead of its competitors by offering a diverse ecosystem of products and services, have allowed Amazon to continuously accelerate its brand value



The top ten companies were once again dominated by US firms, with Apple on \$309.5 billion, Google on \$309 billion and Microsoft on \$251 billion.

growth," said Kantar.

The agency, which is owned by British advertising group WPP, added that Amazon showed "little sign" of any slowdown in its growth.

The top ten companies were once again dominated by US firms, with Apple on \$309.5 billion, Google on \$309 billion and Microsoft on \$251 billion.

Payments specialist Visa had the fifth biggest value at almost \$178 billion, while social networking group Facebook was the sixth largest at nearly \$159 billion.

For the first time, Alibaba beat Tencent to become the most valuable Chinese brand.

E-commerce leader Alibaba was the seventh biggest at \$131.2 billion, up two places on the previous year. Internet giant Tencent fell three spots to stand

at number eight with a value of \$130.9 billion.

In a sign of Asia's growing importance, 23 of the top 100 brands were Asian -- including 15 from China.

The leading brands have embraced "disruptive" business models to beat traditional rivals in the technology, finance and retail sectors.

"Amazon's phenomenal brand value growth of almost \$108 billion in the last year demonstrates how brands are now less anchored to individual categories and regions," said Doreen Wang, Kantar's global head of BrandZ.

"The boundaries are blurring as technology fluency allow brands, such as Amazon, Google and Alibaba, to offer a range of services across multiple consumer touchpoints.

Stocks rally as rate cut prospect offsets tensions

● The dollar was mixed against main rivals

● Friday's weak US jobs report has increased expectations that the Federal Reserve will look to cut interest rates

● Trump said a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping had been "scheduled" during the G20 summit

London, United Kingdom

Stock markets extended their strong run higher yesterday, with the prospect of a US interest rate cut helping to offset trade war tensions according to traders.

The dollar was mixed against main rivals, while the pound won support from official data showing UK unemployment held at a 45-year low point with a rate of 3.8 percent.

"Safe to say, the changing expectations for interest rates is the primary reason for such a strong rebound in the (stock)



Pedestrians are reflected on an electronics stock indicator at the window of a securities company in Tokyo

markets that didn't look particularly likely at the start of last week," said Oanda senior market analyst Craig Erlam.

"Once again, it's central banks that are left to fill the economic void, easing investor fears over trade wars and a global slow-

down."

Friday's weak US jobs report has increased expectations that the Federal Reserve will look to cut interest rates, weighing on the dollar but boosting stock markets around the world.

Brexit uncertainty has mean-

while reduced expectations of a rate hike from the Bank of England any time soon, while the European Central Bank has vowed support to stimulate a struggling eurozone economy.

Rising prospects of a US rate cut come as President Donald

Key figures around 1330 GMT

London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.6pc at 7,416.31 points
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▲ 1.4pc at 12,217.63
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.9pc at 5,428.06
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ 0.9pc at 3,416.11
New York - Dow:	▲ 0.5pc at 26,189.64
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 0.3pc at 21,204.28 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▲ 0.8pc at 27,789.34 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 2.6pc at 2,925.72 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1324 from \$1.1316 Monday
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.2715 from \$1.2686
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 108.67 yen from 108.49 yen
Oil - Brent North Sea:	▲ 35 cents at \$62.64 per barrel
Oil - West Texas Inter:	▲ 53 cents at \$53.78 per barrel

Trump has threatened new tariffs against Beijing amid an escalating trade war.

Trump said a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping had been "scheduled" during the G20 summit in Japan later this month.

But China on Tuesday did not confirm any meeting.

A Trump-Xi meeting would mark a turning point in the bruising trade dispute between the world's two biggest economies that has spooked markets worldwide and sparked worries about the global economy.

At the same time, Trump's de-

cision to drop threatened tariffs on Mexico sparked relief across trading floors and led to hope that the row with Beijing could also end with some sort of agreement.

Current stock market gains were highly welcome after the US president shocked markets last month by hiking levies on \$200 billion of Chinese imports, blaming backsliding over their long-running trade talks.

Oil prices recovered, having dropped Monday on uncertainties about an agreement between crude producing nations to cap output.

G20 won't produce 'definitive' US-China deal: Official



US President Donald Trump has threatened to immediately impose a new round of tariffs on China if the country's President Xi Jinping fails to meet with him at the G20 summit in Osaka

Washington, United States

The Group of 20 summit later this month could lead to progress towards a trade deal with China but is not the venue for a "definitive agreement," US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said yesterday.

A day after President Donald Trump threatened to hit China with a new round of tariffs "immediately" if President Xi Jinping fails to meet with him in Tokyo, Ross defended Washington's aggressive tariff strategy.

Talks between Washington and Beijing broke down last month after Trump accused China of reneging on commitments and after the United States took aim against China's tech behemoth Huawei.

The countries have hit each other steep tariffs on more than \$360 billion in bilateral trade, rattling financial markets and business confidence.

The impasse has raised expectations that Xi and Trump might jumpstart the talks in Osaka on the sidelines of the G20 leaders' summit.

However Ross tamped down expectations for a final agreement which "is going to be thousands of pages."

"At the G20, at most, it will be a 40,000-foot level, some sort of agreement on a path forward," Ross told CNBC. "It's certainly not going to be a definitive agreement."

But he said there eventually will be a deal.

"Even shooting wars end in negotiation."

Trump last month started the process to impose 25 percent tariffs on another \$300 billion in Chinese goods but on Monday threatened to impose the taxes immediately if Xi does not show up for a planned meeting in Osaka.

Ross said financial markets overreacted to the various tariff threats, including those against Mexico that had been due to take effect on Monday, and said the tariff battles are producing good outcomes.

"I think what people have to learn to do, judge this administration by results. Don't judge it by interim sound bites," he said.

In a twitter screed Tuesday, Trump hammered home that point: "Tariffs are a great negotiating tool, a great revenue producers and, most importantly, a powerful way to get... Companies to come to the U.S.A and to get companies that have left us for other lands to come back home."

Pakistan budget targets steep increase in tax revenue

● Forecast a budget deficit of 7.1 per cent of gross domestic product

● Targets federal tax revenues of 5.55 trillion rupees (\$36.80 billion)

● Spending is set to rise to 7.02 trillion rupees

● Only 1.8 million people file income tax returns in a nation with a population of 208 million

Reuters | Islamabad

Pakistan's government targeted a sharp hike in tax revenues yesterday as it presented plans for next year's budget, amid shouts and protests from opponents in parliament angry at measures set under pressure for an IMF loan agreement.

Seeking final approval for an International Monetary Fund bailout, the government had already prepared the ground for widespread belt-tightening. But the goals unveiled by Revenue Minister Hammad Azhar for the fiscal year to June 2020 underlined the scale of the economic challenges it faces.

He forecast a budget deficit of 7.1 per cent of gross domestic product, after the gap in the current year blew out to 7.2pc.

He also targeted federal tax revenues of 5.55 trillion rupees (\$36.80 billion), up 25pc and driven by a lower introductory threshold for income tax and a clampdown on tax evasion.

The government failed to hit the last fiscal year's goal of 4.44



Pakistan PM Imran Khan delivers a speech at the opening ceremony for the second Belt and Road Forum in Beijing, China (Reuters)

trillion rupees. "Until we improve our tax system, Pakistan will not progress," Azhar said.

Spending is set to rise to 7.02 trillion rupees, 30pc above last year's target, he said.

Amid chaotic scenes in parliament, opposition lawmakers brandished banners reading "Say no to IMF budget!" and shouting slogans against the government.

Prime Minister Imran Khan's administration has been forced to seek what would be Pakistan's 13th IMF bailout since the late 1980s to stabilise an econo-

“The first couple of years are going to be tough but then we will start reaping the fruits of our hard work”

HAMMAD AZHAR
REVENUE MINISTER



Last year the government allocated the military about 20pc of the 5.6 trillion federal budget. Officials say the military overshot that figure

increasing anger and Azhar announced a 10% cut in ministerial salaries and an increase in the minimum wage.

Pakistan expects to raise \$2 billion from the sale of two liquefied natural gas (LNG) power plants, and another \$1 billion from the auction of mobile licenses, he said.

The government has already slashed its year to June 2019 growth forecast to 3.3pc from the 6.2pc predicted at the time of the last budget. The IMF's estimates growth of around 2.9pc.

For the coming year to June 2020, the government expects growth at 4pc.

Under the terms of the IMF loan, the government is also expected to let the rupee depreciate to help tackle an unsustainable current account deficit and aim for a primary budget deficit - excluding debt servicing costs - of 0.6pc.

Despite promises the army would rein in spending and widespread expectations that the military's hefty budget would be cut, the spending target for the armed forces was increased by 4.5pc to 1.15 trillion rupees.

CAMPUS

AMAISB holds commencement exercises

TDT | Manama

Under the patronage of Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, AMA International School Bahrain, conducted its 11th Commencement Exercises 2019 yesterday at the Gulf International Convention Centre.

The occasion was graced by Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi and Chairman of AMAISB and President's Special Envoy to the GCC- Ambassador Dr Amable R. Aguiluz V who delivered the congratulatory message. The program was followed by the distribution of diplomas to the graduates and medals to the honour students



Chief guests with students during the Commencement Exercises

BIS student excel in global exam

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Indian School - BHAVANS' student Ritisha Bisht of Grade IX registered an outstanding result in International Benchmark Test (IBT).

Ritisha had achieved the highest score in Hindi in International Benchmark Test (IBT) for Improved Learning 2018 among all the Grade VIII students who appeared for the assessments in the Middle East.

She has been awarded with a memento and Cash Prize by ACER for her remarkable effort. BIS Management and faculty congratulated Ritisha and her



Ritisha with Principal and other school officials

parents for the commendable result. IBT Exams are conducted by Australian Council for Educational Research Limited (ACER).

RCSI Bahrain goes green



TDT | Manama

RCSI Bahrain recently launched Green Week, a series of initiatives aimed at encouraging a greener and more environmentally friendly campus, all part of a wider and long-term campus sustainability project.

The week-long event kicked off with the launch of new waste collection areas all around the campus and followed with a Top Bins football challenge as well as a Beach Clean, organised by the University's Community Engagement department.

Staff and students were also encouraged to wear green in support of the event and to bring their own coffee mugs and water bottles for a chance



to win a free cup of coffee. Local cleaning and waste disposal service provider, Gulf City Cleaning, was also available on campus providing information and tips on how to improve recycling habits at work and at home.

NMS celebrates world environment day



Students during environment day celebrations

TDT | Manama

Encouraging awareness and action for the protection of our environment, the New Millennium School, DPS celebrated the World Environment Day.

This year's environment day

celebrations at NMS saw the students commissioning the campaign of 'Clean NMS Green NMS' and 'Say No To Plastic.'

Various activities including cleanliness campaigns, poster making, recycling of e-waste, and Plantation Drive were planned to develop environ-

mental sensitivity among the children.

Children were the torch bearers of this mammoth campaign at NMS taking up a pledge on not dirtying the oceans and beaches and developing a strong bond of love and care towards the environment.

celebs

Bradley Cooper and Irina Shayk



Bradley Cooper, Irina Shayk's relationship "changed" during 'A Star Is Born': Source

Los Angeles

Bradley Cooper and Irina Shayk were unable to pull their relationship back together after they drifted apart during the filming of 'A Star Is Born'.

"Bradley was emotionally absent during the long time filming A Star Is Born. They tried to save the relationship but it had changed," People quoted an entertainment source as saying.

The source asserted that since the two always kept their relationship out of the spotlight, not a lot of people knew that they were having troubles.

2018 was a big year for the Hollywood star as his directorial debut 'A Star Is Born' ended up being nominated for eight Academy Awards.

Earlier this year, accepting the award for best original music, Cooper thanked Shayk for "putting up" with him throughout the creative process.

"Most of all I have to thank Irina, for putting up with me for all the music I was trying to make in our basement for a year. Thank you very much. Thank you," he said.

After dating for about four years, Cooper and Shayk decided to call it quits.

The actor, 44, and the 33-year-old supermodel started dating in April 2015 after their respective breakups from Suki Waterhouse and Cristiano Ronaldo.

The two welcomed their daughter named Lea De Seine in March 2017 but kept the news under wraps for a few weeks.

Sophie Turner reveals a big secret post her marriage with Joe Jonas

Los Angeles

It seems that Sophie Turner before secretly tying the knot with Joe Jonas, had a soft corner in her heart for Matthew Perry and wanted to go on a date with the star.

On Friday, the 23-year-old 'Game of Thrones' actor appeared on 'Twitter's Behind The Tweets' series, where she confronted her several old tweets, including one that mentioned Perry's character on 'Friends', reported People.

In the tweet from 2016, Turner wrote about when she encountered 'Chanandler Bong', a fan-known reference of Perry's character Chanandler Bing on the long-running sitcom.

The newly-wed actor who was vocal about her feelings for Perry revealed that she wrote the tweet with more intentions than just to share her excitement with her followers.

"I would walk around the corner every day to go to my local Budgens, which is a great little supermarket," she explained.

"And I would see Matthew Perry outside smoking a cigarette."



Sophie Turner

Selena Gomez deletes the last photo of Justin Bieber from her Insta account

Los Angeles

Selena Gomez deleted the last photo of Justin Bieber from her Instagram. The picture was a birthday shout out to Bieber and was posted last year.

"March 1, 1994 someone I knew that happens to be super cool was born. Boom" she wrote in the caption. The picture featured the 'can't get enough' singer balancing a photographed of Bieber on her nose, People reported.

Bieber and Gomez dated on-and-off for about three years, but broke up in 2014. They reconciled later in November 2017 when they were spotted kissing at one of his hockey games. A few months later in March 2018, they decided to take a break from each other for a while.

However, not long after that, Bieber was spotted hanging out with his new lady love Hailey Baldwin. The two secretly got married at a New York City courthouse in September last year.

Bieber and Baldwin are set to tie the knot for the second time in a ceremony in front of their friends and families.



Selena Gomez

Britney Spears, Sam Asghari having great time in Miami

Los Angeles

American singer Britney Spears jetted off to Miami with Sam Asghari and it seems the duo is having a great time holidaying together.

The cameras spotted the 37-year-old Grammy award winner and her 25-year-old personal trainer beau soaking up the sun on a beach together over the weekend.

The cute couple also had a great time on a yacht together, where they recreated one of Titanic's most iconic scene on the bow of the boat.

A source tells E-News that "Britney and Sam took a quick weekend trip to Miami. All [Spears] wanted was to be in a bikini by the water. She was

so excited to be able to go. They had a room overlooking the ocean and Britney was in heaven."

And the fun did not just stop here, the couple also had a great time riding jet skis during their weekend trip.

The singer posted a video on Instagram where she is seen enjoying every bit of her jet Ski moment.

"Britney was very daring and not scared. She has an adventurous side that came out and she was having a great time," the source tells E-News.

"She was definitely in her element being at the beach and enjoying the nice weather. She was very relaxed and just happy to be there," the source added.



Britney Spears and Sam Asghari

Jordan Craig blames ex Tristan Thompson for pregnancy complications

Los Angeles

Tristan Thompson's ex-girlfriend Jordan Craig blamed the relationship of the basketball player with Khloe Kardashian for her pregnancy complications.

According to US Weekly, the 28-year-old athlete started dating Khloe in August 2016 while Craig was pregnant with Tristan's son. In paperwork cited by US Weekly, Craig, who discovered she was pregnant in April 2016, claimed that seeing pictures of Thompson with another woman bothered her a lot.

"Their relationship went viral and everything took a turn for the worst," Craig wrote in the court documents



filed as part of her demand for child support in November 2018.

"Every day several articles were published worldwide mocking my new unfortunate reality and my pregnancy would now become one of the most popular gossip headlines due to the woman Tristan was now publicly dating during my pregnancy."

Craig added that the unwarranted fame and limelight brought in an "enormous amount of negative, unwanted attention and stress" into her life, more specifically, into her pregnancy.

"My obstetrician ordered me to be on bed rest due to high levels of stress that eventually caused me to have serious pregnancy complications," the paperwork read.

Kevin Hart sued by woman

Los Angeles

American comedian Kevin Hart is facing a lawsuit from



Kevin Hart

a woman who claims that she was injured by a member of his security team.

Suing harts, Carmen Marrero alleged that one of his security guards, who she referred to as John Doe, caused her "to fall and sustain serious personal injuries" while Hart was being escorted out of a building in New York City in January, People quoted the documents obtained by The Blast. Marrero has accused the guard of assault and battery alleging that she was "seriously and permanently injured" from the incident. She is seeking unspecified damages.

Robin Givens denies having affair with Brad Pitt

Los Angeles

Putting all the rumours to rest, Robin Givens denied having an affair with Brad Pitt.



Robin Givens

The American television actress appeared on the Sunday night's episode of 'Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen'. During the show, a curious fan asked her if the claims made by her ex-husband Mike Tyson, regarding her romantic relationship with Pitt, were in fact true.

In his memoir 'Undisputed Truth', American professional boxer alleged that he once drove to Givens' house and saw her in a car with Pitt after they had split. He also claimed that he caught Givens and Pitt in bed together while they were still married.

John Cena excited over joining 'Fast & Furious 9'

Los Angeles

John Cena who was recently roped in for the ninth installment of 'Fast and Furious', expressed his excitement over getting behind the wheels and promised to deliver his absolute best performance for his fans.



John Cena

Literally, I'm surrounded by a group of people who are better than I am and such skilled people with so much experience, so what a great environment to learn from. I give everybody who is attached to the franchise and who enjoys the franchise the promise that you will get my absolute best," he said during an interaction with Weekly.

SPORTS

sports

Spain get better of Sweden

● Ramos and Morata on the spot as Spain cruise past Sweden in Euro qualifier

● Ireland complete lacklustre victory over Gibraltar

AFP | Paris

Sergio Ramos and Alvaro Morata both scored penalties as Spain got the better of Sweden on Monday, while the Republic of Ireland and Poland continued their strong starts in qualifying for Euro 2020.

Three-time European champions Spain ran out 3-0 winners in their Group F encounter with the Swedes at the Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid, recovering from the early frustration of seeing a Rodrigo Moreno effort wrongly disallowed for offside.

They won a penalty just after the hour when Sebastian Larsson blocked a Marco Asensio cross with his arm, and captain Ramos converted the spot-kick. It was the Real Madrid defender's 20th goal for his country, his seventh in his last eight matches.

Morata, who had come on as a second-half substitute, won another penalty late on when he was brought down in the box by Filip Helander, and he duly netted from 12 yards too.

Real Sociedad striker Mikel Oyarzabal, also on from the



Sweden's forward Marcus Berg (L) vies with Spain's defender Sergio Ramos (R) and Spain's defender Inigo Martinez

bench, wrapped up the win with three minutes left.

The result means Luis Enrique's side have the maximum 12 points from four matches and are five points ahead of Sweden and Romania at the top of the six-team section. The top two teams in each group qualify for the finals.

Romania, who host Spain next in September, eased to a 4-0 win in Malta. Norway, whose only appearance at the Euros so far came in 2000, got their first win of the campaign as they beat the Faroe Islands 2-0 away thanks to a brace from US-born forward

Bjorn Johnsen.

Irish five clear

Ireland are top of Group D with 10 points from four games after again doing the minimum to get the better of minnows Gibraltar.

Mick McCarthy's team won 1-0 on the rock in March and won 2-0 against the same opponents this time.

They went ahead in Dublin when David McGoldrick's wayward shot went in thanks to a wicked deflection off Joseph Chipolina. Robbie Brady then wrapped up the victory at the

death.

"If the remit for me was to get 10 points, which I'm sure it was, that job's done," McCarthy told Sky Sports.

Ireland are five points ahead of Denmark, with whom they drew in Copenhagen at the weekend.

However, the Danes have a game in hand and romped to a 5-1 win over Georgia on Monday, with Kasper Dolberg of Ajax scoring twice. Tottenham Hotspur star Christian Eriksen scored a penalty, while Yussuf Poulsen and Martin Braithwaite also netted.

“These matches are more difficult than the result makes them look. We played well, defended well and we are very happy”

ALVARO MORATA

Poland have maximum points after four games in Group G, with hotshots Krzysztof Piatek and Robert Lewandowski both on target in a 4-0 defeat of Israel in Warsaw.

Austria boosted their chances of qualifying as West Ham United's Marko Arnautovic bagged a brace in a 4-1 victory in North Macedonia, while Slovenia romped to a 5-0 win in Latvia.

The Czech Republic joined England on six points at the top of Group A thanks to a 3-0 defeat of Montenegro, although they have now played a game more than Gareth Southgate's side.

In the same group, Kosovo registered their first win in qualifying for a Euro or a World Cup, coming from behind to beat Bulgaria 3-2 in Sofia thanks to Elbasan Rashani's injury-time strike.

Ukraine are six points clear at the top of Group B after beating Luxembourg 1-0, while Aleksandar Mitrovic scored twice and new Real Madrid signing Luka Jovic got one goal as Serbia defeated Lithuania 4-1.

Thiem offers Serena doubles match after Roland-Garros row

AFP | Vienna

Austrian tennis ace Dominic Thiem yesterday offered Serena Williams a mixed doubles jaunt in an attempt to put their French Open press room dispute behind them.

Thiem reacted with disbelief when officials asked him, mid-post match interview, to leave the main interview room at Roland Garros so that the American superstar, who had just been knocked out, would not be kept waiting.

He accused the 23-time Grand Slam winner, who had just suffered her earliest exit at a major tournament in almost five years, of having a "bad personality" and said he would have waited even for a junior player to finish.

Athletes treatment deal signed

AFP | Bristol

The Bahrain Olympic Committee and the Bahrain Defence Force Hospital signed an agreement to facilitate surgeries and medical consultations for Bahrain national athletes.

The deal was in line with the BOC commitment to provide optimal medical care for members of Bahrain sports teams and help them recover from their respective injuries.

BOC secretary general Mohammed Al Nusuf said the agreement is a crucial step in the right direction in an attempt to support national teams' athletes, not only physically, but also morally.

Dhawan injury in focus ahead of India's New Zealand clash

AFP | London

India yesterday put Shikhar Dhawan under observation over a hand injury that could sideline the batsman for at least two weeks at the World Cup.

Dhawan led India to their second win of the 50-over tournament with his 117 against holders Australia on Sunday, but the opener took a hit near the thumb during the innings and didn't come out to field at the Oval.

Dhawan's injury is a blow to Virat Kohli's side, who will play New Zealand on Thursday before taking on arch-rivals Pakistan on Sunday.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India did not reveal the extent of Dhawan's injury, but said the left-hander will stay with the team after rumours he would have to be replaced.

"Team India opening batsman Mr Shikhar Dhawan is presently under the observation of the BCCI medical team," said a BCCI statement.

"The team management has decided that Mr Dhawan will continue to be in England and his progress will be monitored. "Mr Dhawan sustained an



Shikhar Dhawan receives medical treatment

injury on the back of his left hand in the region between the index finger and thumb during the CWC 2019 league match against Australia," the statement added.

Team physio Patrick Farhart is assessing Dhawan's injury after the batsman was taken to Leeds for detailed scans.

Dhawan suffered the injury as a result of a nasty blow from a rising delivery by Australia paceman Pat Cummins in the early phase of his innings but went on to complete his 17th one-day international century.

Dhawan, however, played no further part in the match after his dismissal, with substitute Ravindra Jadeja taking the field in his place as India comfortably defended their total of 352 for five to complete a 36-run victory.

Teenage talent Auger-Aliassime records first ATP win on grass

AFP | Berlin

Canadian prodigy Felix Auger-Aliassime continued his breakthrough season in Stuttgart yesterday, beating Latvian veteran Ernests Gulbis 7-5, 6-3 to record his first ever ATP tour win on grass.

The 18-year-old looked unbeatable on serve as he eased past Gulbis in straight sets to continue an impressive season in which he has shot to 21st in the world rankings.

"I was surprised because I thought it would be a lot tougher," he said. "I still have a lot to learn on grass."

Fellow Canadian Milos Raonic marked his return with a hard-fought win over Austral-



Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime returns a shot to Croatia's Borna Coric (file photo)

ian teenager Alexei Popyrin, having missed the entire clay season with a knee injury.

The 28-year-old survived an

early scare to win 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 7-6 (7) and set up a second round meeting with French veteran Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

Sam Bennett wins stage 3 of Dauphine

Cycling News | Paris

Sam Bennett of Bora-Hansgrohe claimed a dominant sprint victory on stage 3 of Criterium du Dauphine in Riom. The Irishman was led out expertly by Shane Archbold and then delivered a powerful acceleration

to claim honours ahead of Wout van Aert (Jumbo-Visma).

Davide Ballerini (Astana) took third place ahead of Clement Venturini (AG2R La Mondiale), while Edward Theuns (Trek-Segafredo) came home in fifth.

The win was Bennett's sev-

enth at WorldTour level this season, though he missed out on selection for the Giro d'Italia to Pascal Ackerman, while Peter Sagan is expected to be Bora-Hansgrohe's sprinter at next month's Tour de France.

Stage 3 of the Dauphiné was animated by a day-long break-

away from Natnael Berhane (Cofidis) and Quentin Pacher (Vital Concept). The pair escaped shortly after the start in Le Puy-en-Velay and built up a maximum lead of 3:45 before they were pegged back by the sprinters' teams on the run-in to the finish.

Messi is sports world's highest earner: Forbes

AFP | New York

Lionel Messi was the world's highest paid athlete over the past year, Forbes reported yesterday in its annual sporting rich list.

Barcelona and Argentina star Messi dethroned retired boxer Floyd Mayweather as the sports world's highest earner, raking in \$127 million via salary and endorsement deals.

Bangladesh-Sri Lanka washout sets record

Heavy rain meant no play was possible in Bristol, resulting in a third World Cup washout in five days

AFP | Bristol

Sri Lanka's World Cup match against Bangladesh was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to rain in Bristol yesterday.

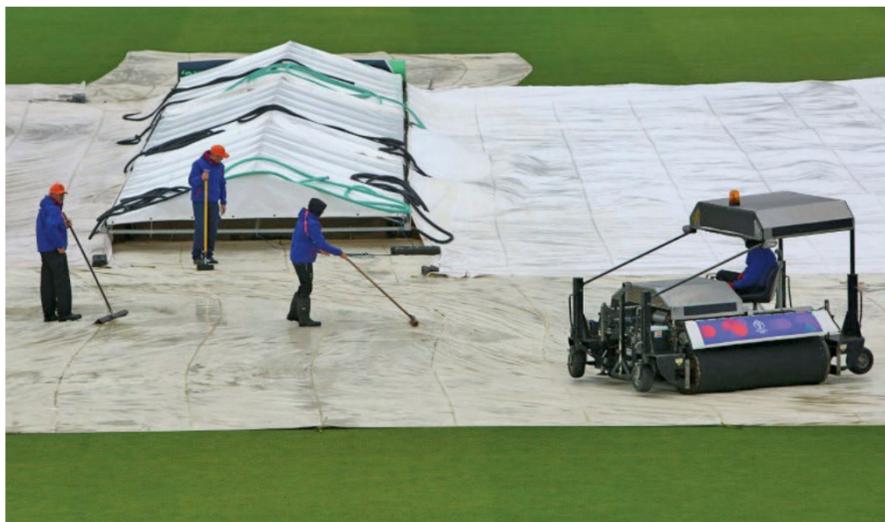
The umpires' decision left tournament organisers with the unwanted record for the most number of abandoned games at a World Cup, surpassing the two each at the 1992 tournament in Australia and New Zealand and the 2003 edition in southern Africa.

It was the second successive World Cup match at Bristol that had fallen victim to bad weather, with Sri Lanka's group game against Pakistan at southwest county Gloucestershire's headquarters on Friday another no-result washout that did not witness a single delivery.

Rain has also been forecast for today's match between Australia and Pakistan in Taunton.

No reserve days have been scheduled for the 10-team round-robin stage, despite the well-known risks of rain during a British summer.

Asked whether there should



Groundkeepers brush water from the covers as rain delayed the start of play

be reserve days in the group phase, Bangladesh coach Steve Rhodes, a former England wicket-keeper, said: "Yes, I would (have them)."

"I know logistically it would have caused problems. But we can put a man on the moon, so if we have to travel a day later, so be it."

Only one of three World Cup

matches scheduled to take place in Bristol produced any play, champions Australia launching their title defence with a seven-wicket victory over outsiders Afghanistan.

Heavy overnight and early morning rain delayed the scheduled 10:30 am local time (0930 GMT) start of yesterday's match. And with rain continuing to

fall, the umpires -- after several inspections -- bowed to the inevitable by calling the game off at 1:57 pm (1257 GMT). Both sides received a point for the washout.

It was the second World Cup no-result in as many days after rain meant only 7.3 overs were possible in the match between South Africa and the West Indies in Southampton on Monday.



Cricket World Cup 2019 standings

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	No result	Run rate	Points
New Zealand	3	3	0	0	0	2.163	6
England	3	2	1	0	0	1.307	4
India	2	2	0	0	0	0.539	4
Australia	3	2	1	0	0	0.483	4
Sri Lanka	4	1	1	0	2	-1.517	4
West Indies	3	1	1	0	1	2.054	3
Bangladesh	4	1	2	0	1	-0.714	3
Pakistan	3	1	1	0	1	-2.412	3
S Africa	4	0	3	0	1	-0.952	1
Afghanistan	3	0	3	0	0	-1.264	0



Rain has also been forecast for today's match between Australia and Pakistan in Taunton

Today's match



ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP
ENGLAND & WALES
2019

Australia vs Pakistan
(12:30pm)

at County Ground Taunton, Taunton

ICC won't change bails after World Cup wicket problems

AFP | London

The International Cricket Council have ignored pleas from World Cup stars to resolve the bail controversy that threatens to spoil the tournament.

India captain Virat Kohli and Australia skipper Aaron Finch joined forces to condemn the "unfair" problem on Sunday.

Australia's David Warner avoided being bowled early in his side's unsuccessful run-chase against India when he deflected Jasprit Bumrah's delivery onto the wicket via his boot.

Not for the first time in this tournament, the ball struck the stumps but failed to dislodge the bails, meaning Warner earned an unexpected reprieve.

It was the fifth incident in the tournament of the 'zing' bails, which contain lights that flash



David Warner looks on as the ball hits the stumps but fails to dislodge the bails

when the ball hits the wicket, failing to come off when hit.

But despite calls for a change to the bails from Kohli, Finch and former England captains Michael Vaughan and Nasser Hussain, tournament organisers have no plans to make a switch back to the traditional

wooden style.

"We wouldn't change anything mid-event as it would compromise the integrity of the event - the equipment is the same for all 10 teams across all 48 games," the International Cricket Council, the sport's global governing body, said.

Finch hopes washouts don't hurt Australia

AFP | Taunton

Australia captain Aaron Finch hopes the holders don't become the latest World Cup team to be derailed by bad weather.



Australia's captain Aaron Finch

Heavy rain has forced two no-results in the World Cup so far and Finch has been anxiously eyeing the forecast to see if Australia could be the next victims when they face Pakistan at Taunton today.

Pakistan's match against Sri Lanka was washed out on Friday before the clash between South Africa and the West Indies was abandoned after less than eight overs play on Monday.

There is rain predicted in the Taunton area today and Finch conceded luck with the weather could play a role in who makes the semi-finals from the 10-team group stage.

"I think it (weather) might play a huge part in the next few days," Finch told reporters yesterday.

"Next week it starts fine and

looks good across the country for the remainder of the tournament.

"So it's important that you get early wins on the board because you don't want to be on the wrong end of a couple of washouts that might leave you just outside that top four."

Australia failed to qualify for the semi-finals of the 2017 Champions Trophy in England following their rained-off matches against New Zealand and Bangladesh before they lost to England on D/L method.

If the match does get underway, Finch expects unpredictable Pakistan to provide a stern test.

They lost to the West Indies by seven wickets in their opening match, but shocked tournament favourites England with a fine performance.

Today's match

Australia vs Pakistan

Glenn Maxwell



Facts

- » Defending champions Australia are looking to get back to winning ways after suffering their first defeat of this year's tournament against India.
- » Pakistan were frustrated by the rain, which forced their match against Sri Lanka to be abandoned, but they beat England in their previous game.
- » Australia geared up for the World Cup by whitewashing Pakistan in the UAE, in a series in which Aaron Finch was in red-hot batting form.

Babar Azam



Australia

1. Australia arrived in England in resurgent ODI form and kicked off the World Cup 2019 with two wins. They bowled Afghanistan out for 207 to start with a seven-wicket win and then defended 288 against West Indies next up - a win which owed much to Mitchell Starc, who claimed 5-46.
2. Their winning start was ended by India last time out, however, as some excellent late hitting left Australia chasing 353 to win. Steve Smith, David Warner and Alex Carey all passed 50 but, ultimately, the scoreboard pressure proved too much and they were eventually bowled out off the final ball for 316.

Probable XI

Aaron Finch (c), David Warner, Usman Khawaja, Steve Smith, Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis, Alex Carey (wk), Nathan Coulter-Nile, Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Adam Zampa

Pakistan

1. Pakistan's ODI form looked to have deserted them as they came into this tournament on the back of their thrashings against Australia and England. That was even more the case when they folded for just 105 on their way to an opening seven-wicket defeat against West Indies in this tournament.
2. They bounced back against England, however, after powering to 348/8 thanks to half-centuries from Babar Azam (63 from 66 balls), Mohammad Hafeez (84 from 62) and Sarfaraz Ahmed (55 from 44). In reply, England were rarely too far behind the asking rate but Pakistan came back well late on to restrict them to 334/9.

Probable XI

Imam-ul-Haq, Fakhar Zaman, Babar Azam, Sarfaraz Ahmed (c, wk), Mohammad Hafeez, Asif Ali, Shoaib Malik, Shadab Khan, Hasan Ali, Wahab Riaz, Mohammad Amir



PITCH REPORT

A dry and cloudy start to the day is expected, but chances of rain thereafter might result in a shortened game. With the pitch expected to offer some assistance for fast bowlers early in the day, captains would be tempted to field first

Head to Head

- Australia were in dominant form when these two teams last met, as Aaron Finch's excellent batting led them to a 5-0 series win in the UAE as both teams geared up for this tournament. Finch was named man of the series, after hitting two 50s and two centuries on his way to more than 450 runs in the five games.
- It means Australia have won 67 of their previous 103 ODI matches against Pakistan, with 32 defeats, one tie and three no results. Their last World Cup match in England, of course, was the 1999 final when Australia won their first title.

Australia call-up Marsh after Stoinis's side strain

AFP | Taunton

Australia are flying Mitchell Marsh to England as cover for Marcus Stoinis after his fellow all-rounder suffered a side strain that ruled him out of today's World Cup match against Pakistan in Taunton.

Stoinis sustained the injury during champions Australia's 36-run defeat by India at the Oval on Sunday.

Australia, however, will wait to decide whether to bring in Marsh as a permanent tournament replacement for Stoinis -- a decision that will require

the approval of the World Cup's event technical committee.

International Cricket Council regulations allow injured players to be replaced during the World Cup but they cannot then rejoin their squad if they regain full fitness later on in the tournament.