

Identity Card Centres open on Saturdays

TDT | Manama

Identity card centres at Isa Town and Muharraq (Seef Mall) will remain open on Saturdays during summer holidays for Bahrain nationals.

Working hours are from 8 am to 2 pm. The move is as directed by the Minister of Interior, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, to reduce congestion.

Before visiting book an appointment through the National Portal *bahrain.bh* and ensure all necessary documents.

The branches will continue operating at their regular hours during the rest of the week.

From Sunday to Wednesday (7 am to 6 pm) and on Thursday (7 am to 2:30 pm).

Clashes kill more than 80 fighters in northwest Syria

Beirut, Lebanon

More than 80 fighters were killed in clashes yesterday between regime and forces in northwest Syria.

In nearby Afrin, a car bombing killed 13 people in the latest violence to hit the city that Turkey-backed rebels seized last year from Kurdish fighters.

Syria's civil war has killed a total of more than 370,000 people and spiralled into a complex conflict since starting in 2011 with the repression of anti-government protests.

Russian and regime aircraft have since late April ramped up deadly bombardment of the Idlib region of some three million people in northwest Syria.



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210 fils (includes VAT)



Iran guards driven off

UK warship fends off Iran bid to 'impede' its tanker in Gulf



British Royal Navy's HMS Montrose, a Type 23 Frigate, performing turns during exercise "Marstrike 05", off the coast of Oman

Three Iranian boats tried to "impede the passage" of a UK commercial vessel

UK warship then trained its guns on the Iranian boats

US surveillance aircraft captured video footage of the episode

London, United Kingdom

London said yesterday that armed Iranian boats tried to "impede" a UK supertanker before being warned off by a British warship in a dramatic escalation in the Gulf.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards denied involvement but also

cautioned both the United States and Britain that they would "strongly regret" the UK Royal Marines' detention of one of the Islamic republic's own tankers off Gibraltar last week.

The Gibraltar police brushed aside the warning and announced the arrest yesterday of both the Indian captain and officer of the seized Iranian tanker.

And President Donald Trump raised the US pressure by tweeting on Wednesday that sanctions against Iran over its stepped-up nuclear activities would be "increased substantially" soon.

The rapid chain of events further complicates Britain and other European allies' efforts to salvage a 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran from which Washington pulled out more than a year ago.

The UK defence ministry said three Iranian boats tried to "im-

pede the passage" of a commercial vessel called British Heritage. The 274-metre (899-foot) tanker is owned by the British energy giant BP and can carry a million barrels of oil.

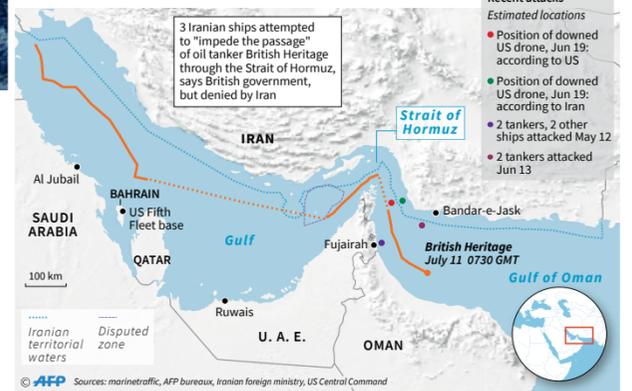
"HMS Montrose was forced to position herself between the Iranian vessels and British Heritage and issue verbal warnings to the Iranian vessels, which then turned away," the ministry statement said.

UK defence sources told British media that the Revolutionary Guards boats attempt to first stop and then divert the supertanker towards the Iranian shore. The UK warship then trained its guns on the Iranian boats and delivered a "cease and desist" message by radio.

CNN reported that a US surveillance aircraft captured video footage of the episode from above.

"We are concerned by this ac-

Tensions in the Gulf



tion and continue to urge the Iranian authorities to de-escalate the situation in the region," a Downing Street spokesman said.

The Times newspaper reported that Britain is now considering whether to send other naval resources to the Gulf.

Sky News said the transport ministry had issued new guidance to all British-flagged commercial ships in recent days to go to a heightened state of security in the area.

US plans escort ops

The Pentagon said it was discussing military escorts for vessels in the Gulf. Washington was attempting to put together a coalition "in terms of providing military escort, naval escort to commercial shipping," said the White House's nominee to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley.ww

Back to the sea

Orcas loaded onto trucks as Russia releases more from 'whale jail'

Nakhodka, Russia

Three orcas were loaded onto trucks at a controversial facility in Russia's Far East yesterday as the country continues to release animals from what the media have dubbed a "whale jail".

The secluded facility near the port town of Nakhodka contains dozens of orcas and beluga

whales which were caught to be sent to aquariums, but are now being set free after a global outcry and intervention by President Vladimir Putin.

Last month two orcas, also known as killer whales, and six belugas were released after a six-day trip north to their original habitat in the Sea of Okhotsk. They were first driven in trucks with a police es-



Employees load a killer whale into a special tank on a truck

cort and then shipped on a barge.

The three whales loaded onto trucks on Thursday, one male and two females, are expected to be released following a similar journey.

A correspondent at the scene observed employees removing the transparent roof of the floating dock housing the killer whale pens.



The Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, during an inspection visit to one of the BDF units to review administrative and combat readiness, as well as their military preparations and work progress. He gave necessary directives to the units' personnel and urged them to exert more efforts and be more vigilant while carrying out duties



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, with outgoing Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Simon Martin, in his office at the Ministry's General Court. The Minister of Foreign Affairs commended the efforts of the Ambassador in reinforcing relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Kingdom and wished him continued success



Under the patronage of Labour and Social Development Minister, Jameel Humaidan, Undersecretary Sabah Salim Al-Dossari, opened yesterday the Seef Health Training Centre in Amwaj Islands. National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA)'s CEO, Dr Mariam Adhbi Al-Jalahma, CEO of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), Dr Ibrahim Mohammed Janahi, and the work team of the committee in charge of licensing and examining health training programmes, officials and specialists were present. Seef Health Training Centre's CEO, Dr Sami El-Bassit, said the centre aims to train Bahraini healthcare professionals and provide them with the necessary skills.



The Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the United Kingdom held yesterday its annual ceremony for the Bahrain All-Party Parliamentary Group and the Bahrain-British Friendship Society, under the patronage of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Kingdom, Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa. The ceremony was held in the presence of a number of ministers, MPs and media figures, including the Minister of State for Middle East Affairs, Dr Andrew Morrison, Shadow Minister for Middle East Affairs in the Labour Party, Fabian Hamilton, Shadow Minister for European Affairs, Khalid Mahmood, the former Minister of State for Middle East Affairs, Alistair Burt, as well as other politicians and MPs. Chair of the Bahrain-UK Parliamentary Group, Bob Stewart expressed his pride in his relations with the Kingdom of Bahrain that dates back to 50 years.



Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi with General Director of the Arab Bureau of Education for Gulf States (ABEGS) Dr Ali Abdul-Khaliq Al Karni. The meeting was held during the minister's visit to Saudi Arabia and upon ABEGS request to review the Ministry of Education (MoE)'s remarks pertaining to the office's 2015-2020 strategy. The minister reaffirmed the Kingdom of Bahrain's support to the office including its studies and programmes aimed to boost the joint work for educational progress.



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr Abdhussain Mirza, with Shaikh Ibrahim bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, who was accompanied by a high-level delegation from Chinese company Cnec, headed by Zhao Hul. The company is specialised in renewable energy. The minister welcomed the attendees and listened to an account of the activities and programmes of the company and their desire to invest in renewable energy projects



The first meeting for political consultations between Bahrain and Romania was held yesterday under the chairmanship of the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for International Affairs, Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, and the Secretary of State for Global Affairs, Monica Gheorghita. The two sides discussed the development of bilateral cooperation in all fields, and exchanged viewpoints on the latest regional and international developments as well as combating terrorism and extremism. Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa highlighted Bahrain's approach to combating extremism and terrorism as a leading model in this field. The Undersecretary for International Affairs, Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, attended a luncheon hosted by the Minister of State within the Ministry of the Environment, Business and Entrepreneurship of Romania, Paula Pirvanescu, where means of cooperation between the two countries were reviewed

Lane closures on King Hamad, Budaiya highways, Avenue 15

TDT | Manama

The slow lane for south-bound traffic leading to Asker on King Hamad Highway will remain closed for improvement works, said the Ministry of Works, Municipality and Urban Planning in a statement.

The slow lane for south-bound traffic leading to Asker on King Hamad Highway will remain closed for improvement works, said the Ministry of Works, Municipality and Urban Planning in a statement.

The closure will be effective during the weekend from Thursday at 11:00 pm to Sunday at 05:00 am.

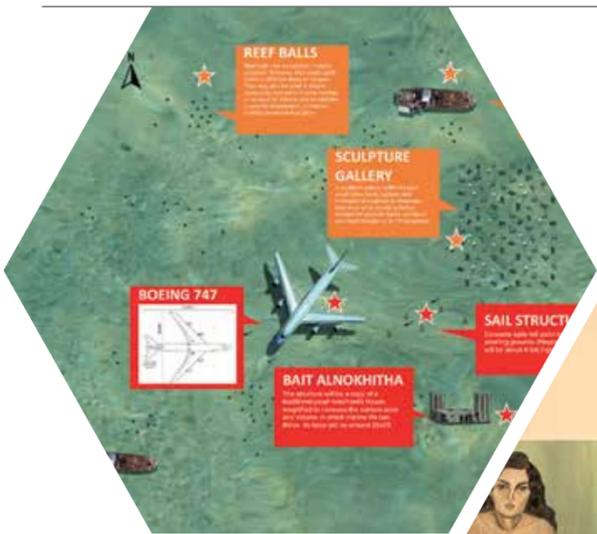
Separately, the Ministry said that it will close one lane and provide one lane on both directions of Budaiya highway near to Duraz area as part of sewerage connection works.

The closure will be effective from today for two months.

The ministry said it will also close Part of Avenue 15 in Al-maameer between road 3401 and Sh. Jaber Al Ahmed Al Subah Highway for traffic going to Alnuwaydrat interchange. The diversion will be to road 3417. The move is for improving Albaa and Nuwaydirat interchange.

The closure will be effective from today for a period of 3 weeks.

big story



Bahrain is packing a big punch

TDT | Manama

When it comes to setting standards, Bahrain is second to none.

Examples are aplenty in this direction from the about to open underwater theme park to the fast progressing Metro Rail project and several other game changing facilities.

Yes! Bahrain is transforming itself in an unprecedented way to offer something the world has never seen before in terms of heritage, culture, lifestyle, business and events output.

The strategy is leading towards the creation of a hub island destination in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries.

As experts say, Bahrain is slowly packing a heavyweight punch for the world to experience in its 760 square kilometres of the area comprising of 33 islands.

Below is a quick peek into happenings going on both above and below Bahrain powering this transformation.

Underwater theme park

Leading the way in this effort is the Bahrain Tourism & Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) with its innovative projects.

The authority had already made a big statement with the launch of the first phase of its underwater theme park dubbed the world's largest.

The unique dive site, covering an area of 100,000 square meters, now has a 70-meter long decommissioned Boeing 747 as its centrepiece.

Joining it very soon will be a 900-square-meter replica of Bahraini pearl merchant house.

Dubbed 'Bait Alnokhitha' the structure will be a copy of a traditional pearl merchant house magnified to increase the surface area and volume for marine life to thrive.

Installation of sail structures of 4 to 5m heights pointing towards the pearling grounds or 'Hayarat' will further enrich Phase 1.

Phase 2 will enhance the excitement further by submerging decommissioned ships. A sculpture gallery for local, regional and international sculptures to showcase their work, as well as multi-purpose Reef Balls are others in the line.

Starting August, residents and tourists could enjoy all these.

But it doesn't end there as it is just the beginning.

Chinese Trade Expo

In September, Bahrain will host the region's largest Chinese Trade expo with the participation of over 100 firms showcasing their products and services. The expo is being organised on behalf of Silk Road Steps Committee in China by Beijing Sea Level Science and Technology Company.

Convention and Exhibition Expo City in Sakhir

Now comes the next big thing for Bahrain in the form of the planned construction of the Convention and Exhibition Expo City in Sakhir, scheduled to open in mid-2021. Ten times larger than the Bahrain International Exhibition & Convention Centre (BIECC), the \$300 million centre, on a total area of 95,000 square metres, will feature ten halls for exhibitions.

The development will be on a

308,000 square metre site next to the Bahrain International Circuit, with the total built-up area of 149,000 square metres.

The cluster, which includes hotels with a combined capacity of 1,200 rooms, is also closer to the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC).

Airport modernisation

Acting as a springboard to these developments will be the Bahrain International Airport. The capacity increase there is reportedly expected to jump the passenger traffic to 14 million per year, especially with its new Private Jet Terminal. Part-funded by a GCC development grant, the \$1.1bn project is due for completion in 2020.

The Private Jet Terminal, experts say, will act a catalyst in sustaining the success of Bahrain's exhibition industry which currently is attracting over 50,000 visitors.

Second Airport

Bahrain reportedly is also planning to develop a new airport. According to Transportation and Telecommunication Minister Kamal Ahmed, "The current airport (after the modernisation project) has limitations and by 2030, if we succeed in making Bahrain a thriving country, increasing the growth and development, then by 2034 we should be ready with the new airport." "I hope that in 2030 we start construction work on the second airport or at least start the process."

Metro project

The US\$2 billion project is part of the

Kingdom's Public Transport Masterplan 2030. Phase one will see the construction of 30km of track, serving 20 stations. Al Zayani Engineering, KPMG and PwC have been shortlisted to assist in the delivery of the project.

Boom in Banking

Developments in the Banking sector is another part of the diversification efforts spearheaded by the Central Bank of Bahrain. Regulations for open banking, cryptocurrency and Artificial Intelligence are transforming Bahrain's economic landscape like never before. With the introduction of eKYC, the know-your-customer process in banking, Bahrain is all set to lead the FinTech scene in the GCC.

Art and culture

Missing to mention Bahrain's art and culture scene will be a cardinal sin as the sector is booming. In this regard, ArtBab, Bahrain's Contemporary Art Fair, is a big investment in the creative economy. ArtBAB 2020 is on a mission to attract leading international galleries to the Kingdom. UNESCO naming Dilmun Burial Mounds as a World Heritage Site is another encouraging move for Bahrain. Once a specific landmark has been picked for the heritage status by the committee, it

becomes automatically protected by international treaties and laws, to preserve it for generations to come.

Joint bid to host U20 World Cup

Above all, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain are planning to submit a joint bid to host the FIFA U20 World Cup 2021! If they win the bid, it will be the first time that the U20 FIFA World Cup be hosted by more than one country.

The deadline to submit the bids is the 30th of August, and the FIFA Council will announce the decision on the fourth quarter of 2019.

Yes, Bahrain is busy and is changing fast by opening up new avenues to economic diversification. As Gulf Air says, 'Boutique' is certainly the buzz word here with the developments happening simultaneously and at a quick pace.

As they say, Bahrain is packing a big market punch for the world to experience.





GDP will feel the heat

Bahrain could lose up to 2 per cent of GDP in 2030 due to global warming, says ILO

● Heat stress in the Arab States is driven by the construction sector

● Bahrain's work hour loss to double by 2030

● GDP to lose more than 2pct points

● Construction sector affected most

● Arab GDP to lose 0.5pc in 1995

● Qatar is the country most affected

● Oman least affected

● Summer work ban started on July 1

TDT | Manama

Mohammed Zafran

Bahrain is projected to lose more than 2 percentage of its Gross Domestic Product by 2030 from working hours lost to heat stress, warned the latest International Labour Organisation report.

The report, which deals with the effect of heat stress on productivity and decent work, projects that working hours lost to heat stress in Bahrain will more than double by the year 2030.

In 1995, Bahrain lost 1.9pc of its working hours which led to a loss of 4,600 full-time jobs due to the impact of heat stress, the report says.

The projections outlined in the ILO's report titled: 'Working on a Warmer Planet: The Impact of Heat Stress on Labour Productivity and Decent Work' are based on a global temperature rise of 1.5°C by the end of the twenty-first century, and also on labour force trends.

ILO report suggests that, in 2030, 2.2 per cent of total working hours worldwide will be lost to high temperatures – a productivity loss equivalent to 80 million full-time jobs.

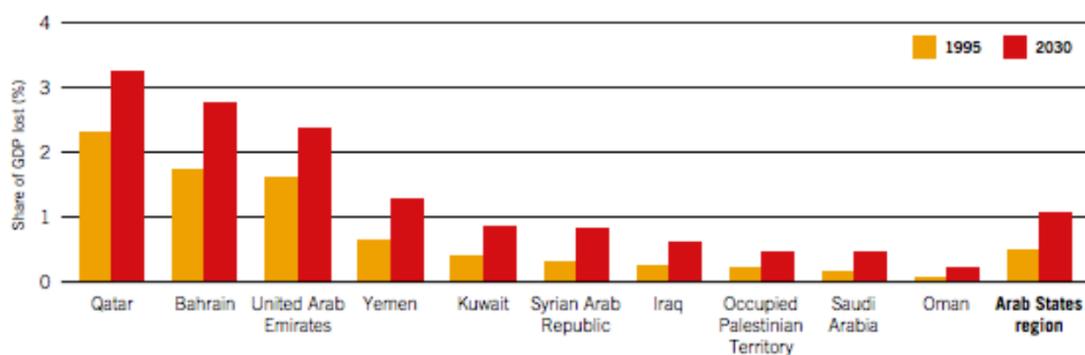
Working hours lost to heat stress, by sector and country/territory, Arab States, 1995 and 2030 (projections)

Country	1995						2030					
	Agriculture (in shade) (%)	Industry (%)	Construction (in shade) (%)	Services (%)	Total (%)	Total (thousand full-time jobs)	Agriculture (in shade) (%)	Industry (%)	Construction (in shade) (%)	Services (%)	Total (%)	Total (thousand full-time jobs)
Bahrain	5.8	3.2	5.8	0.9	1.9	4.4	9.5	6.2	9.5	2.2	4.1	32.1
Iraq	0.9	0.3	0.9	0	0.3	11.3	1.8	0.8	1.8	0.1	0.7	87.9
Jordan	0.3	0.1	0.3	0	0	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.8	0	0.1	2.3
Kuwait	1.6	0.6	1.6	0	0.4	3.0	3.3	1.6	3.3	0.3	1.0	20.9
Lebanon	0.1	0	0.1	0	0	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.5	0	0.1	2.3
Occupied Palestinian Territory	0.6	0.2	0.6	0	0.2	0.9	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.1	0.5	7.4
Oman	0.4	0.1	0.4	0	0.1	0.4	1.2	0.4	1.2	0.1	0.5	6.2
Qatar	5.4	2.9	5.4	0.7	2.3	6.6	8.9	5.6	8.9	1.9	5.3	76.6
Saudi Arabia	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.2	8.8	1.6	0.8	1.6	0.2	0.5	69.3
Syrian Arab Republic	0.6	0.2	0.6	0	0.3	12.0	1.4	0.6	1.4	0.1	0.7	53.3
United Arab Emirates	4.3	2.2	4.3	0.5	1.8	21.1	7.6	4.6	7.6	1.4	2.6	164.1
Yemen	1.1	0.5	1.1	0.1	0.7	20.4	2.0	1.1	2.0	0.3	1.0	95.7
Arab States	1.0	0.6	1.0	0.1	0.4	89.5	2.0	1.4	2.0	0.4	1.0	618.0

Note: The table shows the percentage of working hours lost to heat stress (and the associated health, well-being and productivity effects) in each sector and in the economy as a whole. It also shows the equivalent loss in terms of full-time jobs for the economy as a whole. Work in agriculture and construction is assumed to be carried out in the shade. The heat stress index for work in the afternoon sun adds around 2–3°C to the in-shade WBGT (see Appendix II for further details). The data are based on historical observations and on estimates obtained using the RCP2.6 climate change pathway, which envisages a global average temperature rise of 1.5°C by the end of the century.

Source: ILO estimates based on data from the ILOSTAT database and the HadGEM2 and GFDL-ESM2M climate models.

Percentage of GDP lost to heat stress under a 1.5°C global warming scenario, ten most affected countries/territories, Arab States, 1995 and 2030 (projections)



This also translates to an economic loss of US\$2,400 billion in 2030, which was estimated at US\$280 billion in 1995.

The report also warns that the impact of heat stress will be most pronounced in the

lower-middle- and low-income countries.

Construction sector affected most

The ILO report also paints a similar picture on the labour

productivity in the Arab states especially in countries having a high share of employment in the construction sector.

The report says: "In 1995, for instance, Qatar and Bahrain lost, respectively, 2.3pc and 1.9pc of

working hours (the equivalent of 6,600 and 4,600 full-time jobs) as a result of heat stress, whereas Jordan and Lebanon lost less than 0.1pc."

Projections for 2030 suggest that the percentage of work-

ing hours lost to heat stress will more than double in both Qatar and Bahrain, reaching 5.3pc and 4.1pc, respectively.

The Arab States region as a whole is estimated to have lost about 0.5pc of its average GDP in 1995 as a result of heat stress, and this productivity loss is projected to increase to 1.1pc in 2030.

Qatar most affected

The impact of heat stress on labour productivity varies among countries in the region.

Qatar is the country most affected: it lost 2.3pc of its GDP in 1995 and is projected to lose 3.2pc in 2030.

Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates are also expected to lose more than 2pc of their GDP by 2030 as a result of heat stress.

Oman least affected

Other countries in the region are affected by heat stress to a lesser extent. "Thus, the impact of heat stress on labour productivity in Oman is almost negligible: its GDP loss was almost zero in 1995 and is expected to reach only 0.2pc by 2030," it stated.

Summer work ban started

The two-month summer work ban to protect outdoor workers began on July 1. The ban restricts direct sun-exposed labour activities between mid-day and 4 pm effective until August 31.

The humanitarian move aims to safeguard workers health and their safety against heat exhaustion and sunstroke as well as prevent summer-related diseases and to reduce occupational incidents because of the searing temperatures. Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan called on companies and establishments having work-sites exposed directly to sun to comply with the afternoon work ban.

Humaidan called all the respective establishments to boost the protective tools to prevent the onset of summer-related ailments as well as potential occupational injuries by rescheduling working hours.

Eleven jailed on terrorism charges

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court yesterday sentenced eleven Bahrainis to lengthy prison terms on charges linked to terrorism.

The suspects were also found guilty of illegal handling, possession and use of weapons and explosives, said Ahmed Al Hammadi, Chief of Terror Crime Prosecution.

Five of the suspects were handed down ten years prison terms and a fine of BD100,000 each.

Two were given five years each, while three others received three years and a fine of BD100,000 each.

The arrests were recorded following an investigation by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID)

The court also awarded a three-year jail term to another suspect and acquitted five others.

The arrests were recorded following an investigation by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Investigators found that a wanted fugitive was recruiting people to target security forces with Molotovs and explosives and operate social media pages to promote terrorism.

He also provided financial support to these elements.

Public prosecution presented testimonies, confessions, technical and material evidence to court.

Open meeting held on summer outdoor work ban

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The Labour and Social Development Ministry, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, held an open meeting to raise expatriate workers' awareness on the importance of outdoor work ban during July and August.

Labour and Social Development Ministry's Undersecretary, Sabah Salim Al-Dossari, representatives of labour-exporting countries and the safety supervisors from the relevant sectors attended.

Al-Dossari extended thanks to the ambassadors and representatives of countries for attending the key meeting.

On the sidelines of the event, the Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Health held an exhibi-



During the meeting on outdoor work ban

tion in which they showcased the efforts and services of the kingdom to protect workers' health.

Clinics and health centres

also conducted medical tests on workers.

Edict 3/2013 aims to safeguard workers' health, ensure their safety against heat exhaus-

tion and sunstroke as well as prevent summer-related diseases and to reduce occupational incidents because of the increasing temperatures.

WORLD
world

Brain-damaged French patient dies

- Vincent Lambert, 42, was involved in a near-fatal car crash in 2008 that left him a quadriplegic with severe brain damage

- Multiple medical assessments found he had no chance of recovering

- Lambert's fate had sparked a years-long battle in the courts with his deeply-Catholic parents

Reims, France



Vincent Lambert, a quadriplegic man on artificial life support, at a hospital in Reims

A French man at the centre of a bitter row over right-to-die legislation passed away in hospital yesterday more than a week after doctors removed his hydration and nutrition tubes, his family said.

"Vincent died at 8:24 am (0624 GMT) this morning," his nephew Francois Lambert said, expressing his "relief after years of suffering for everyone".

"We were ready to let him go," he added, saying he had been notified about his uncle's death by the doctor treating him.

Vincent Lambert, 42, was involved in a near-fatal car crash in 2008 that left him a quadriplegic with severe brain damage which doctors had long said was irreversible.

Left in a vegetative state, the question of whether to continue keeping him alive artificially divided his family and the nation, triggering a years-long legal

battle that raged in the highest courts in France and Europe.

On July 2, Dr Vincent Sanchez, head of palliative care at the University Hospital in the northern French city of Reims, had begun removing the life support mechanisms in a process which was completed by Wednesday evening.

Although his feeding and hydration tubes were removed, he was kept under "deep and continuous sedation".

Multiple medical assessments ordered by the courts over the years found that the former psychiatric nurse, who was poised to become a father shortly before his accident, had no chance of recovering.

Speaking, Jean Paillet, a lawyer for Lambert's parents who had fought the move to take him off life support, said it was "now

time for a moment of remembrance".

He said they would respond when they felt ready.

Right to live, right to die

The case rekindled a charged debate over France's right-to-die laws, which allow so-called "passive" euthanasia for severely ill or injured patients who are being kept alive artificially with no chance of recovery.

Even Pope Francis got involved, tweeting in May that it was necessary to "always safeguard life, God's gift, from its beginning until its natural end".

Lambert's fate had sparked a years-long battle in the courts with his deeply-Catholic parents and two of his eight siblings, fighting to keep him alive.

But his wife Rachel, his doctors, six other brothers and sis-



People pray for Vincent Lambert, who is in a vegetative state since 2008, in front of the Saint-Sulpice church in Paris



In early May, the UN committee on disabled rights also asked France to keep Lambert alive while it conducted its own investigation into his fate, but the government said it was not legally bound to abide by its request

ters and a nephew have fought for his right to die, arguing it was the more humane option.

Those close to him said Lam-

bert had repeatedly made clear that he would not want to be kept alive artificially, though this was never put in writing.

But over the years, his parents managed to successfully challenge five different attempts by doctors to halt his life-support.

The last time they tried to do so was in May, but it was quickly overturned by a Paris appeals court.

That ruling was then taken to France's top appeals court, the Cour de Cassation, which on June 28 said doctors could legally end his life support in what was hailed as a definitive final judgement by lawyers for his wife.

With their efforts spurned by the highest courts in France as well as by the European Court of Human Rights, Lambert's parents on Friday filed suit for

"murder" with prosecutors in Reims opening a preliminary inquiry.

'Medically irreversible'

On July 1, his mother Viviane turned to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in a last-ditch plea for help, warning her son was about to "be euthanised because of his mental handicap".

"He is in a state of minimal consciousness but he is not a vegetable," she told the council. But by Monday, just days after doctors removed his tubes, the couple had accepted that his death was now "unavoidable".

"We have nowhere else to turn and now it's too late. Vincent is dying," they said in a statement through their lawyers sent to AFP, saying that his condition was now "medically irreversible".

US scientist 'asphyxiated' on Greek island of Crete: police

Athens, Greece

Police in Greece yesterday said foul play was involved in the death of a 59-year-old American scientist whose body was found in an abandoned WWII bunker on the island of Crete earlier this week.

"This was a criminal act, death by asphyxiation," a police source said.

The body of Suzanne Eaton, a molecular biologist at the Max Planck Institute at Dresden University, was found on Monday near the town of Hania, nearly a week after she was last seen by friends on July 2.

She was found inside a cave complex near the settlement of Xamoudochori, a short distance from the nearest road, increasing suspicion that she was killed elsewhere and hidden there.

The little-known cave complex had been used by German occupation forces during World War II.

"We are deeply shocked and disturbed by this tragic event.



Suzanne Eaton

Suzanne was an outstanding and inspiring scientist, a loving spouse and mother, an athlete as well as a truly wonderful person beloved to us all," the institute said in a statement.

According to reports, an examination of her remains by two local coroners indicated that she had had her mouth and nose blocked, though it remains unclear whether her death was the result of suffocation.

Police declined to give further details.

Eaton had been attending a conference in Hania. She is survived by her husband, British scientist Anthony Hyman, and two sons.

Pakistan train collision kills 11, injures 78

- The incident took place in Rahim yar Khan district in Punjab province

Islamabad, Pakistan

At least 11 people were killed and nearly 80 injured when two trains collided in central Pakistan early yesterday, officials said.

The incident took place in Rahim Yar Khan district in Punjab province when a passenger train coming from the eastern city of Lahore rammed into a goods train that had stopped at a crossing, a senior government official said.

A senior Pakistan Railways official gave the toll, adding: "We fear the death toll will rise as rescue teams are still cutting (through) the wreckage."

Earlier, local police officer Omar Salamat told TV channel Geo News that dozens had been taken to nearby hospitals.

"The condition of three to



Pakistani rescue personnel and local residents search for victims in a wreck train carriage after two trains collided in Rahim Yar Khan district in Punjab province

four passengers is critical," he said.

TV footage from the site showed the heavily damaged train engine and carriages, as emergency workers and local people used metal-cutting tools and heavy cranes.

Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed, the

country's minister for railways told TV channel Aaj that an investigation had been launched to determine the causes of the incident.

Prime Minister Imran Khan tweeted his condolences, adding: "Have asked Railways Minister to take emergency steps to counter decades of neglect of

railway infrastructure & ensure safety standards."

Also on Thursday at least nine passengers were killed and 22 injured when a speeding bus overturned near the capital Islamabad, a police official said, while a landslide in the north-western Swat valley killed six people, all from one family.

Vega rocket fails after takeoff in French Guiana
Kourou, France

A rocket carrying a satellite for the United Arab Emirates failed shortly after taking off from French Guiana on Wednesday night, launch company ArianeSpace said.

"About two minutes after takeoff a major anomaly occurred, leading to the loss of the mission," said Luce Fabreguettes, director of operations in Kourou, on the northern coast of the French territory in South America.

It is the first failure after fourteen successful launches of Vega -- ArianeSpace's lightweight launcher -- since operations began at the Guiana Space Centre in 2012.

Huge fire erupts at power station outside Moscow
Moscow, Russia

A huge blaze broke out yesterday at a gas-fired power station just outside Moscow with a plume of smoke and flames surging 50 metres (165 feet) into the sky, Russian television showed.

The fire at Power Station No. 27 broke out around 11:00 am. The emergency ministry said that at least five people were injured, while the health ministry said it was at least six.

Fierce storms tear through Greece

● The area had been hit by winds of more than 100 kilometres (62 miles) an hour

● Six tourists including two children were killed

● There were reports yesterday that a seventh body had been recovered

Thessaloniki, Greece

Six people died and at least 23 were injured as a fierce storm tore through a beachfront in one of Greece's top tourist areas, terrifying thousands of holidaymakers caught in the open, authorities said yesterday.

Six tourists including two children were killed -- two each from the Czech Republic, Russia and Romania -- in the northern region of Halkidiki, near Greece's second city Thessaloniki, in the storms late Wednesday.

There were reports yesterday that a seventh body had been recovered, but they have not yet been confirmed.

"There was panic, people were howling and running to hide inside," said Haris Lazaridis, owner of a tavern where a 54-year-old woman from Romania and her son were killed when the roof caved in.

"For five minutes it was hellish," Lazaridis said. He added that more than 100 people were sheltering under the roof when it collapsed.



A caravan overturned by strong winds lies on a beach where a storm killed a Czech couple in Nea Plagia, in Chalkidiki, Northern Greece

In an emergency briefing, government spokesman Stelios Petsas yesterday said the area had been hit by winds of more than 100 kilometres (62 miles) an hour.

Twenty-three people were still receiving treatment in nearby hospitals, including a 72-year-old woman in critical condition, he said.

Most of them are tourists, Petsas said, declining to give nationalities.

The seventh body recovered Thursday is believed to belong to a missing fisherman.

The freak storm only lasted about 20 minutes, according to witnesses, but it was enough to overturn cars, uproot trees

and balcony railings and cause mudslides.

Road access to part of Halkidiki was still severed owing to a fallen high-voltage electricity pylon, Petsas said, adding that restoring power to the area could take another two days.

"It was a miracle that there weren't more deaths," said 39-year-old Kyriakos Athanasiadis, who is vacationing in the area.

"Nearly all the coastal restaurants were full, and you could see large objects flying," he said.

One woman reportedly told hospital staff she was picked up by the wind and thrown in a garbage bin, which then rolled away.

'Unprecedented phenomenon'

On a beach in Sozopoli, the storm toppled and ripped open



Broken trees fallen on cars after a storm in Nea Plagia, in Chalkidiki, Northern Greece

a Czech family's caravan, killing an elderly couple in their seventies and injuring their 48-year-old son and 19-year-old grandson.

"The wind picked up the caravan as if it were a matchbox," said Yiannis Karabourniotis, owner of a nearby tavern.

"You cannot describe it. There used to be 50 pine trees around my establishment. Most were uprooted or snapped in two," he said.

Elsewhere in the region, a Russian man and his son were killed by a falling tree.

At least 140 rescue workers were involved in the operation, emergency chief Vassilis Varthakoyannis said.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, who took over Sunday after general elections, cancelled his meetings to address the disaster, his office said.

The storms came after temperatures in Greece soared to 37 degrees centigrade (98 degrees Fahrenheit) over the past two days.

Japan's Hayabusa2 makes 'perfect' touchdown on asteroid

Tokyo, Japan

Japan's Hayabusa2 probe made a "perfect" touchdown Thursday on a distant asteroid, collecting samples from beneath the surface in an unprecedented mission that could shed light on the origins of the solar system.

"We've collected a part of the solar system's history," project manager Yuichi Tsuda said at a jubilant press conference hours after the successful landing was confirmed.

"We have never gathered sub-surface material from a celestial body further away than the Moon," he added.

"We did it and we succeeded in a world first."

The fridge-sized probe made its second landing on the asteroid around 10:30am (0130GMT), with officials from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) breaking into applause and cheers as initial data suggested the touchdown had been a success. Confirmation of the landing came only after Hayabusa2 lifted back up from the asteroid and resumed communications with the control room.

Research director Takashi Kubota told reporters that the touchdown operation was "more than perfect." Tsuda, with a grin, said he rated it "1000 points out of 100."

"The probe moved perfectly and the team's preparation work was perfect," he said.

Pristine samples

The brief landing Thursday is the second time Hayabusa2



Researchers and employees celebrating the Hayabusa2's touchdown on the asteroid Ryugu, at the mission control room in Sagami-hara city, Kanagawa prefecture.



Hayabusa2 is the successor to JAXA's first asteroid explorer, Hayabusa -- Japanese for falcon, which returned with dust samples from a smaller, potato-shaped asteroid in 2010. The Hayabusa2 mission was launched in December 2014, and has a price tag of around 30 billion yen (\$270 million).

has touched down on the desolate asteroid Ryugu, some 300 million kilometres (185 million miles) from Earth.

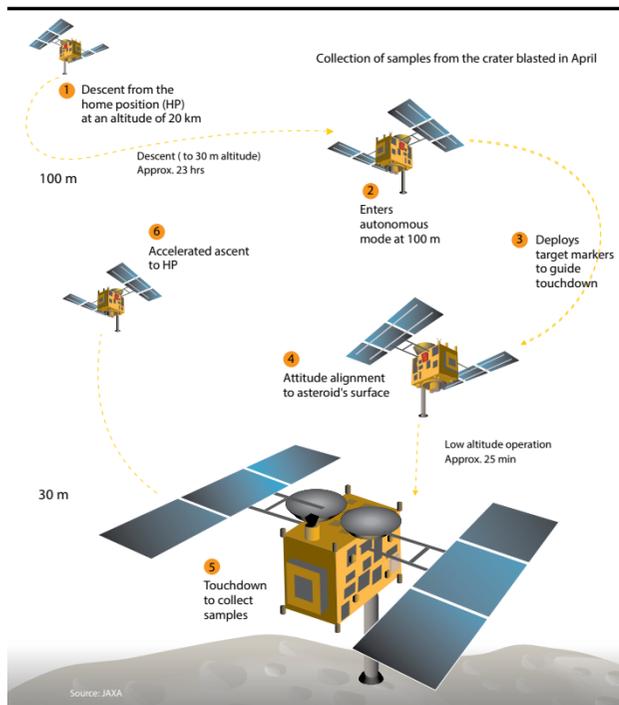
Ryugu, which means "Dragon Palace" in Japanese, refers to a castle at the bottom of the ocean in an ancient Japanese tale.

The complex multi-year Hayabusa2 mission has also involved sending rovers and robots down to the surface.

Thursday's touchdown was

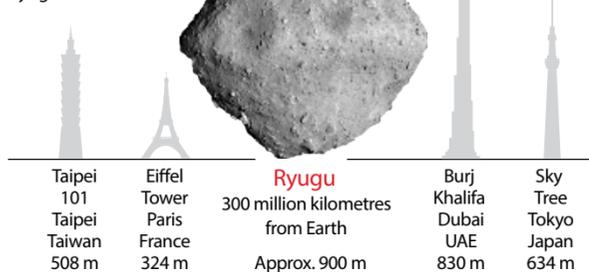
intended to collect pristine materials from beneath the surface of the asteroid that could provide insights into what the solar system was like at its birth, some 4.6 billion years ago.

To get at those crucial materials, in April an "impactor" was fired from Hayabusa2 towards Ryugu in a risky process that created a crater on the asteroid's surface and stirred up material that had not previously been



Asteroid size

Japan lands probe on the 900 m long Ryugu asteroid



Source: Jaxa

exposed to the atmosphere.

Hayabusa2's first touchdown was in February, when it landed briefly on Ryugu and fired a bullet into the surface to puff up dust for collection, before blasting back to its holding position.

'The world is watching'

A photo of the crater taken by Hayabusa2's camera after the April blast showed that parts of the asteroid's surface are covered with materials that are "obviously different" from the rest of the surface, mission manager Makoto Yoshikawa told reporters before the latest touchdown.

Scientists are hoping the probe will have collected unidentified materials believed to be "ejecta" from the blast after landing briefly in an area some 20 metres away from the centre of the crater.

"It would be safe to say that extremely attractive materials are near the crater," Tsuda said before the landing.

The touchdown is the last major part of Hayabusa2's mission, and when the probe returns to Earth next year to drop off its samples, scientists hope to learn more about the history of the solar system and even the origin of life on Earth.

The Hayabusa2 mission has attracted international attention, with Queen guitarist and astrophysicist Brian May sending a video to the probes team ahead of the landing.

"The world is watching. We love you, take care Hayabusa2," the musician told the team.

The Moon now has hundreds of artefacts

Should they be protected?

Washington, United States

Three rovers, six US flags, dozens of probes that either landed successfully or crashed, tools, cameras and trash: the Moon is dotted with hundreds of objects as a result of space exploration.

Some experts are calling to grant them heritage status to protect them from future tourists and human activity.

It all started on September 13, 1959 when Soviet probe Luna 2 smashed into Mare Imbrium, its 390 kilograms (859 pounds) of mass vaporizing, no doubt, on impact.

It was followed in succession by more Luna probes, then it was the Americans' turn with the Ranger and Surveyor programs.

And then, on July 20, 1969, the first humans, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin.

The pair spent 22 hours on the Sea of Tranquility. They left behind everything that wasn't necessary to taken back: the lunar module's descent stage, cameras, lunar boots, tongs, commemorative objects, and four "defecation collection devices."

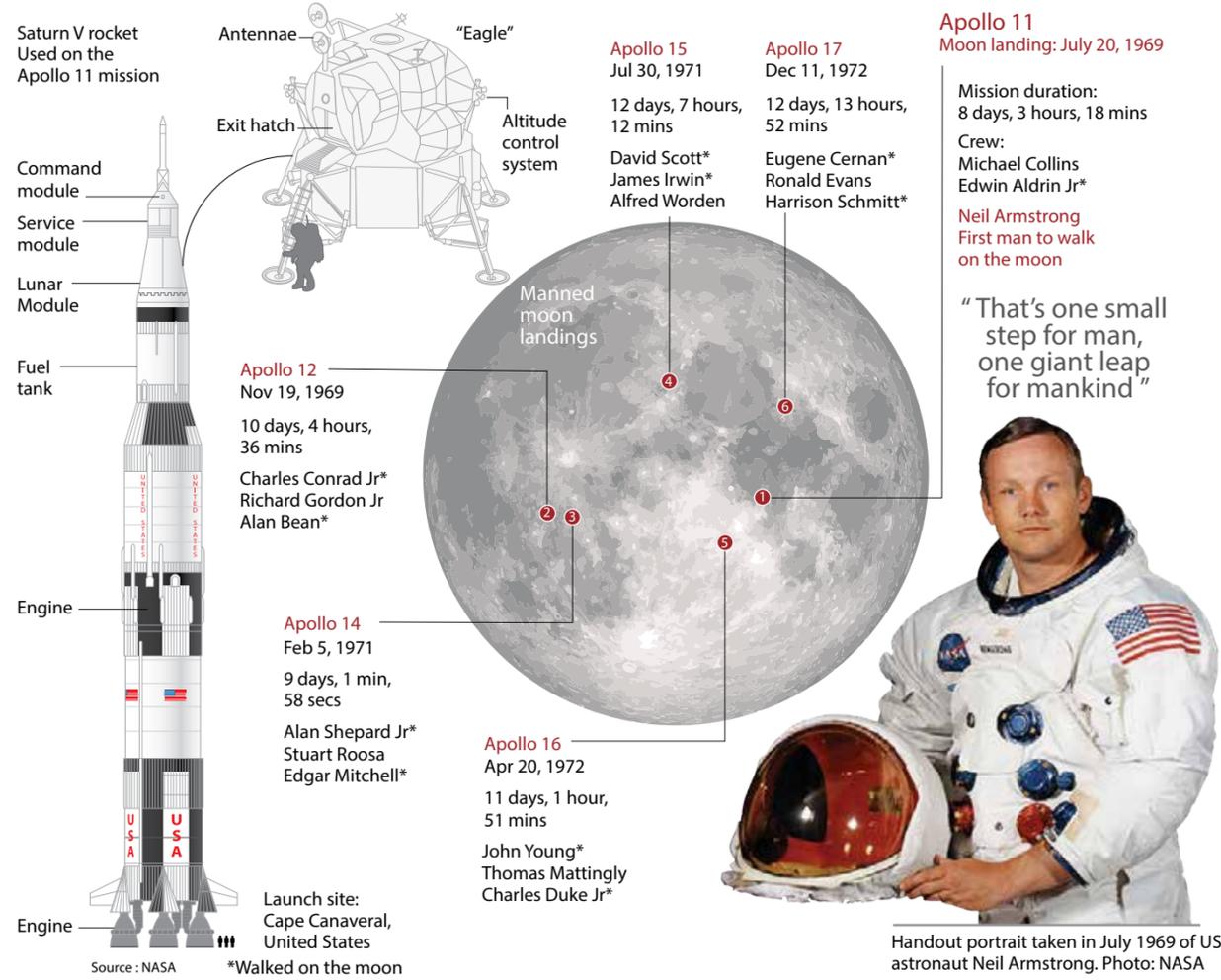
Five more successful Apollo missions left behind hundreds of additional objects.

All told, the Moon has about a hundred sites where people have left their mark, according to For All Moonkind, a non-profit that seeks to preserve human heritage in space.

That's about 167 tonnes of material. Legally, "the sites themselves aren't protected at all," said Michelle Hanlon, a law professor at the University of Mississippi who co-founded For All Moonkind in 2017 after the head of the European Space Agency Jan Worner joked that he wanted to bring back the American flag.

"So the boot prints, the rover

Walking on the Moon



tracks, where items are on the site, which is so important, from an archaeological standpoint, they have no protection," she added.

Hanlon fears the Apollo sites will one day attract the attention of tourists, who could kick up lunar dust that cuts like glass and can be highly damaging.

"If somebody were to get too close to the LEM, there's

nothing in international law right now that says you can't just drive a rover right up to it, and actually take a peek at it," she said. "We need protections against inadvertent as well as intentional acts."

Waste centres?

NASA has adopted recommendations, for example,

that future expeditions should not land within two kilometers (1.2 miles) of Apollo sites.

In the US Congress, senators have introduced a "One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space" bill.

But the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 is very explicit: "Outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to na-

tional appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means."

"Once you start making exclusionary zones, and stopping other countries from their free use and ex-

ploration of space, you're running up against the basic premise of the Outer Space Treaty," Jack Beard, a space law professor from the University of Nebraska, said.

To be sure, the treaty says each space object must be registered by its country, a safeguard against irresponsible behaviour by private entities.

These artefacts also remain the property of the entity which placed them, effectively barring theft.

But its loopholes concern lawyers, space agencies and the UN, and not only over the issue of protecting heritage.

Moon traffic is likely to grow in the coming decades and the vague principles of cooperation enshrined in the treaty are not seen as sufficient to regulate it.

In 2019 alone, a Chinese robot landed on the Moon, a private Israeli probe crashed, and India will send a probe.

US astronauts are scheduled to visit its southern pole in 2024, where there is ice.

Hundreds of space start-ups have sprung up, many of which want to exploit the water and mineral resources of the Moon and asteroids. What would happen if they quarreled with one another?

"It's clear that there is potential for conflict," Tanja Masson, a professor of space law at Leiden University in The Netherlands told AFP.

"There's a need for rules so that it does not become the Wild West."

She suggests the creation of an international body to distribute priority rights, without granting sovereignty, as is done to manage satellites in geostationary orbit.



A camera left by the Apollo 12 crew during their landing on the moon 19 and 20, 1969



The final parking spot for the Apollo 15 Lunar Rover on August 1, 1971

Graves dug in missing teen search empty: Vatican

Vatican City, Holy See

The mystery surrounding the disappearance of an Italian teenager 36 years ago deepened Thursday after two graves at the Vatican thought to possibly hold her remains were discovered to be empty.

Not only were Emanuela Orlandi's remains not found, the tombs did not even hold the remains of the two princesses supposed to be buried there in the Teutonic Cemetery in the tiny city state, the Vatican said in a statement.

"No human findings or funeral urns were found," it said.

The Vatican dig followed an anonymous tip-off that the cemetery may be the last resting place of Orlandi, the daughter of a Vatican employee, who was



A demonstrator holds a poster of Emanuela Orlandi reading "Missing" during Pope Benedict XVI's Regina Coeli noon prayer in St. Peter's square, at the Vatican

last seen leaving a music class aged 15.

Theories have circulated for decades about who took her and

where her body may lie.

The family had been sent a picture of an angel-topped grave in the cemetery, and a message



The opening of one of two tombs within the Vatican's grounds in the Teutonic Cemetery

which simply read: "Look where the angel is pointing".

A second, similar grave alongside the first was also opened to

rule out any misunderstandings over which grave was meant.

The tombs belonged to two princesses, buried in 1836 and

1840.

The Vatican said it had informed their descendants of Thursday's discovery that their remains were missing.

It said it would look into when work was done on the tombs in a bid to find out what happened to them.

"Documentary checks are underway on the structural interventions that took place in the area... in a first phase at the end of the 19th century, and in a second more recent phase between the 60s and 70s of the last century," the Vatican said.

The Holy See expressed its "attention and closeness to the suffering of the Orlandi Family and in particular to Emanuela's mother," who still lives inside the Vatican.

CANVAS



A painting by Abeer Mohammed Al Hadrami.jpg A painting by Abeer Mohammed Al Hadrami

The woman fighting

The National | Dubai

Yemeni artist works hard to change the perception of modern art in her conservative hometown, while struggling to raise funds for a flailing creative scene

Abeer Mohammed Al Hadrami stores about 100 of her own paintings in her parent's three-room apartment in the port city of Mukalla, the capital of Yemen's south-eastern province, Hadramout. You'll find some inside or on top of cupboards, and even under her bed.

Al Hadrami's favourite stands out among them. It's a 50 centimetre by 70cm piece that highlights the issue of child marriage. In it, a grey-haired pregnant girl is depicted wearing a white wedding dress and carrying a small toy. An over-sized hand clutches her right shoulder. "This is the hand of the society or parents," Al Hadrami explains. "I love this artwork too much."

The young artist was born in Aden, raised in the capital, Sanaa, and now lives with her mother and father in Mukalla, where Al Hadrami also has a small studio. She has been interested in art for as long as she can remember. "At home, I used to decorate cups, clothes and plates, and art was my favourite

subject during primary school." flashes a smile and winks at her mother who nods her head and shares her memories of her daughter who, as a baby, broke cups while trying to play with them. They both laugh as they explain how Al Hadrami scratched and scribbled her drawings wherever she could find an empty space.

Chasing her dreams

It's unsurprising then that she eventually pursued a career in art, particularly as the creative bug also runs in her family. "My sister, uncles and cousins are artists. My brother is a lute player," she explains.

She was clearly influenced by them from a child, but it wasn't until she went to college that Al Hadrami had the chance to truly explore her love of art, where she met a teacher who encouraged budding artists to chase their dreams. "My teacher, Anwar, and my parents were the agents behind my early passion for art," she recalls. "My amateur sketches were polished when I was at college from 2010 to 2014."



Abeer Mohammed Al Hadrami works on a painting Abeer Mohammed Al Hadrami works on a painting

REEL V

Palestinian investment banker turned a

British-Palestinian filmmaker has not looked back since swapping her business suits and briefcases for cameras and film scripts



Farah Nabulsi

Arab News | Dubai

Farah Nabulsi had started out on a clear career path. Born and raised in the UK to Palestinian parents, she studied business in London and became an institutional equity stock broker at JP Morgan Chase.

But life changed totally, she said, after she visited Palestine and witnessed the everyday indignities that Palestinians endure.

"It hit me like a ton of bricks how colossal this injustice is, and how 1948 is happening right now in the present day," Nabulsi said, referring to the exodus of several hundred thousand Palestinians when Israel was established on their homeland.

"That experience and first-hand knowledge changed me. I knew that charity and sympathy were certainly not enough."

Nabulsi swapped her business suits and briefcases for cameras and film scripts. She took it upon herself to shed light on the injustices meted out to Palestinians since their mass displacement in 1948, known to Palestinians as the Nakba (Arabic for catastrophe).

"With one foot in the West — having been born, raised and educated in London — and the other — my heritage, the blood running

through my veins — in Palestine, I recognized the unique and rather powerful position I was in, so I changed the trajectory of my life," she said.

The change was a big one, but the British-Palestinian filmmaker has not looked back ever since, saying the shift has been "absolutely liberating."

So far, Nabulsi has made three short films on Palestine. One of them, "Today They Took My Son," follows a mother as she copes with

Born and raised in the UK to Palestinian parents, Farah Nabulsi studied business in London and became an institutional equity stock broker at JP Morgan Chase before turning to film



Actors and technicians at t

1679

Britain's King Charles II ratifies Habeas Corpus Act allowing prisoners right to be imprisoned to be examined by a court

1970

French Revolution: The Civil Constitution of the Clergy is adopted, putting the Catholic Church in France under the control of the state

1804

Former United States Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton dies after being shot in a pistol duel by Vice President Aaron Burr



1957

US Surgeon General Leroy Burney connects smoking with lung cancer

g for the arts amid conflict in Yemen

During those four years, Al Hadrami discovered different artistic mediums. "It was a different experience that helped me turn professional," she says. She soon decided to focus on painting, making use of the constructive criticism she received from her teachers as she learnt as much as she could about the various theories and schools of modern art. "I now practise expressive painting," she says.

It can take her anywhere from several hours to three days to produce a painting, and over the past few years Al Hadrami has taken part in more than 30 art exhibitions across Hadramout, as well as a show in Malaysia. She's a founding member of Hadramout Talents, an independent non-governmental organisation that has brought together about 100 artists – both men and women – from the area. Alongside several other artists, Al Hadrami is working to revive modern art in a city that's all but forgotten about creative pursuits during a time of war.



Abeer Al Hadrami holds her favourite painting in her collection

local artists to help her raise awareness of the importance of modern art in their conservative society, whether that's producing paintings, sketches or even graffiti. The artists spend their savings at art galleries. "In the past, it was hard to convince the rich to fund galleries," Al Hadrami says. "We worked hard on displaying our work to them."

Changing Yemen's attitude towards art

However, after several campaigns to raise funds and awareness, Al Hadrami says she feels local perceptions of modern art are beginning to shift. "There is

a great understanding and appreciation of our artworks now," she says. "As you can see, graffiti is covering street buildings and walls. The young artists imposed themselves on the society here."

Public officials have even stepped in to help her; Al Hadrami received funds from the governor of Hadramout, which meant she could take part in a show at an international art gallery in Cairo. Still, Al Hadrami says such achievements are only another step in a much longer journey.

While promoting art in her hometown, she also works in an administrative role with an international aid

"I want to introduce my paintings to renowned painters. I have talked to some of those painters. They either cautiously respond to my messages or ignore them, simply because they do not know me

ABEER MOHAMMED AL HADRAMI

organisation, while her parents give her pocket money, too. She's also sold a few of her beloved paintings. "I sold a collection of my paintings in Malaysia for \$2,000. I saved the money to buy a car," she says. She also sold a painting for 1,000 Saudi Arabian riyals to a local art pundit. "By selling their work, artists can buy materials and pay to participate in international exhibitions, as well as helping to arrange exhibitions locally," she says.

Otherwise, it can be difficult for budding talents, she says, lamenting that

international galleries usually only invite renowned artists from Yemen to exhibit. "We are struggling to build our names," she says. Al Hadrami relies heavily on social media – predominantly Twitter and Facebook – as a platform to get her work seen, she adds.

The ongoing conflict in Yemen also makes her career path in the art world far from clear. In early 2015, when the Houthi rebels stormed Aden, Al Hadrami watched nervously as local military forces and resistance fighters flooded into the city. "During the fighting, my paintings that portray the army, the people and the war in Aden have increased," she says.

Despite all that she and her family have been through, however, Al Hadrami is confident her paintings have the potential to win international awards, if she could only get the chance to display them in front of a global audience. "I want to introduce my paintings to renowned painters," she says. "I have talked to some of those painters. They either cautiously respond to my messages or ignore them, simply because they do not know me."



Abeer Mohammed Al Hadrami during an exhibition

Abeer Mohammed Al Hadrami has taken part in more than 30 art exhibitions across Hadramout in Yemen, as well as a show in Malaysia. She's a founding member of Hadramout Talents, an independent non-governmental organisation that has brought together about 100 artists – both men and women – from the area. Alongside several other artists, Al Hadrami is working to revive modern art in a city that's all but forgotten about creative pursuits during a time of war

activist filmmaker shines light on Nakba



the set of Farah Nabulsi's film.jpg Actors and technicians at the set of Farah Nabulsi's film

"With one foot in the West – having been born, raised and educated in London – and the other – my heritage, the blood running through my veins – in Palestine, I recognized the unique and rather powerful position I was in, so I changed the trajectory of my life

FARAH NABULSI

the trauma of her young son being taken away by the Israeli military.

It was named an Official Selection at the Edinburgh Short Film Festival in 2016, and was a finalist at the International Short Film Competition at the USA Film Festival in 2017.

The other films, "Oceans of Injustice" and "Nightmare of Gaza," have similar themes of Israeli prejudices against, and abuses of, Palestinians.

"What I do is painful, raw and exhausting. But the satisfaction that I'm doing something with meaning – giving voice to the silenced, playing my part in informing and educating with the aim of ending injustice, and being able to use my creativity and my emotional IQ while doing that – has been a blessing I'm truly grateful for," Nabulsi said.

"I have children of my own, and the very idea of a child being taken – usually in the middle of the night by armed soldiers, with no parent or adult with them, processed through a military system and subjected to all sorts of abuses – is just insane," she added. "That ('Today They Took My Son') was a film I didn't choose to make. I had to make it."

Nabulsi is working on her fourth short film, "The Present," which features Israeli-Palestinian actor Saleh Bakri.

"It's a beautiful story of a Palestinian father and his young daughter dealing with the indignities of checkpoints," she said. "I'm looking forward to completing it and sharing it with the world."

business

US Dept of Justice investigates Deutsche Bank over 1MDB

● The department is looking into whether Deutsche Bank broke foreign corruption or anti-money laundering laws

● Billions of dollars were looted from the investment vehicle between 2009 and 2014

Washington, United States

The US Department of Justice opened an investigation into whether Deutsche Bank, Germany's embattled biggest lender, violated foreign financial laws in its work for 1MDB, American media reported Wednesday.

The department is looking into whether Deutsche Bank broke foreign corruption or anti-money laundering laws through its work for 1MDB, which included helping the Malaysian fund raise \$1.2 billion in 2014 as concern's about its management and financials had begun to circulate, The Wall Street Journal reported.

Billions of dollars were looted from the investment vehicle between 2009 and 2014 and spent on everything from yachts to expensive artwork, in a fraud allegedly involving disgraced Malaysian ex-premier Najib Razak and his cronies.

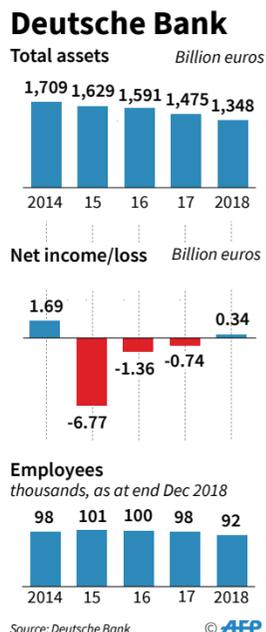
The investigation into Deutsche Bank has been helped by former Goldman Sachs banker Tim Leissner,

who pled guilty to his involvement in the 1MDB scandal, the Journal reported.

Prosecutors are looking into the role of Leissner's former colleague Tan Boon-Kee, who also worked as Deutsche Bank's Asia Pacific head of banking for financial institution clients, the newspaper said.

Tan left Deutsche Bank last year after it was discovered she had been in contact with Jho Low, the Malaysian financier who allegedly played a central role in the fraud, according to the Journal.

Deutsche Bank has "cooperated fully" with the investigation, it said in a statement, and claims it was misled by 1MDB.



Nintendo announces smaller, cheaper new Switch console



Picture courtesy of TechCrunch

Tokyo, Japan

Game giant Nintendo has announced the release of a scaled back, cheaper version of its runaway success "Switch" game console, expected out in September ahead of the key holiday shopping season.

Switch Lite, which will sell for \$199.99, will be a strictly handheld device that can't be used with television sets.

It will hit shelves on September 20, the Japan-based company said in a statement released overnight.

Unlike the existing console -- a hybrid that can be used for handheld play or hooked up to a screen at home -- the new edition's controllers will be permanently fixed on either side of the screen.

It will be small enough to

fit in the pocket of an adult's jacket.

"Adding Nintendo Switch Lite to the lineup gives gamers more colour and price point options," said Nintendo of America President Doug Bowser in a statement.

"Now consumers can choose the system that best suits how they like to play their favourite Nintendo Switch games."

The new device will be able to play many Switch games but with fewer features, Nintendo added.

The original Switch has enjoyed huge popularity, helped by innovative, family-friendly software titles.

Nintendo, the creator of Super Mario and Pokemon, is aiming to roll out the flagship model to China via Tencent to further boost its global reach.

India-US restart talks



Donald Trump attends a bilateral meeting with Narendra Modi during the G20 leaders summit in Osaka Japan

● Trump and Modi met in Osaka on the sidelines of a G20 summit

Reuters | New Delhi

Indian and US trade negotiators will meet today, with little sign of a compromise on a series of protectionist measures taken by the two governments in recent months.

US President Donald Trump has been putting pressure on India to do more to open its markets, saying this week again on Twitter its high tariffs were "unacceptable".

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, re-elected in May, has been pushing nationalist policies with higher tariffs on everything from electronic goods to tighter controls on foreign firms in the fast grow-

ing e-commerce market to help foster domestic companies and create jobs for millions of youth.

A delegation led by Assistant US Trade Representative (AUSTR) for South and Central Asia, Christopher Wilson, will meet Indian officials to try to re-start negotiations on tit-for-tat tariffs that were put on hold because of India's election.

"Since India's election period has now passed, USTR officials are visiting India for relationship-building with Indian government counterparts," a USTR spokesperson said.

The USTR delegation is likely to meet Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal along with key trade officials today. The delegation is also likely to meet top officials at the IT ministry.

Trump and Modi met in Osaka on the sidelines of a G20 summit in June where they agreed to build ties and sort out thorny trade issues.



Trade between India and United States was worth \$142.1 billion in 2018, with India having a surplus of \$24.2 billion.

At today's meeting, New Delhi expects US officials to push against India's efforts to mandate foreign firms to store more of their data locally, an Indian government official said.

Washington is also expected to seek revisions to foreign investment rules for the e-commerce sector that have forced

companies such as Walmart Inc's Flipkart and Amazon.com Inc to rework their business strategies in the country.

"The meeting with USTR was meant to set the tone for further talks after a positive G20 discussion. But Trump's tweet has shown their intention is to continue with a tough stance," another official said.

Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman Raveesh Kumar said during a briefing that India was looking to resolve trade issues, many of which were discussed in Osaka.

"We are looking forward to a constructive engagement," Kumar said.

One concern among Indian policymakers is that the Trump administration may push for a free trade agreement with India that could dent India's competitiveness, lead to a flurry of imports and hurt Modi's "Make in India" plan.

BoE boss dodges IMF speculation

London, United Kingdom

Bank of England governor Mark Carney yesterday gave outgoing IMF chief Christine Lagarde his warm support as she heads to the European Central Bank, but evaded questions about whether he wants to succeed her.

The Canadian is due to end his posting in London at the end of January, and has been judged by bookmakers as an early favourite to take over at the International Monetary Fund once Lagarde is confirmed at the Frankfurt-based ECB.

"I do want to take the opportunity to praise the role that Christine Lagarde has played and the leadership she's played



Mark Carney

at the IMF," Carney told a news conference marking the publication of the BoE's latest Finan-

cial Stability Report.

He said it had been an "absolute privilege" to serve as head of Britain's central bank, but declined to go further on what the future might hold.

The process to pick a new IMF managing director "should be open, transparent and merit-based, so there'll come a time when that process launches, and that's probably the right time to answer that question."

Carney also holds British and Irish passports, so would qualify to replace Lagarde under an arrangement whereby a European leads the IMF and an American the World Bank.

That convention has come under strain in recent years

from developing economies demanding a greater say at the Washington-based institutions, although the American David Malpass was elected unopposed in April to head the World Bank.

Lagarde is leaving the IMF two years ahead of schedule after European Union leaders, at a summit this month, nominated her to succeed Mario Draghi as ECB president.

Draghi himself has been mentioned as a possible pick at the IMF. Other names in the mix include Bank of France governor Francois Villeroy de Galhau, EU finance commissioner Pierre Moscovici of France, and former British finance minister George Osborne.

US central bank to study Facebook virtual currency

● Powell indicated that the Fed would carefully study the Facebook plan to create a global virtual currency

Washington, United States

The US Federal Reserve has created a “working group” that is coordinating with government agencies and other central banks to consider the implications of Facebook’s planned virtual currency Libra, chairman Jerome Powell said Wednesday.

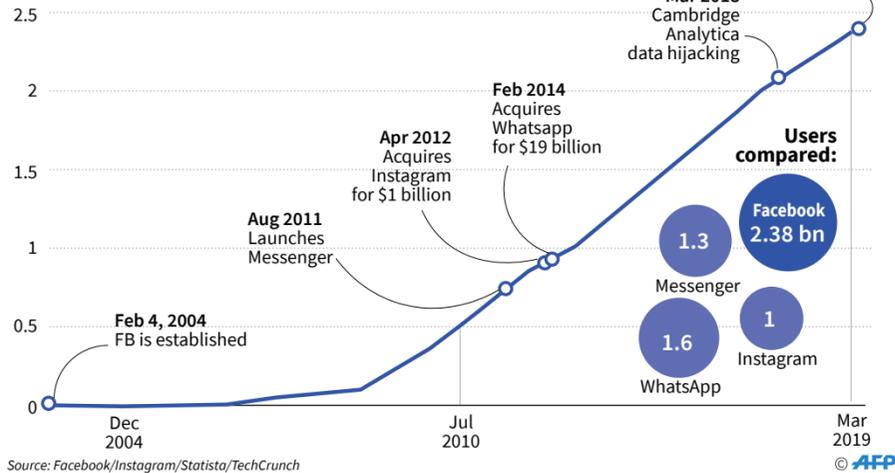
At a hearing at the US House Financial Services Committee, Powell told lawmakers that the cryptocurrency plan raises “serious” questions.

“Let me start by saying that we do support responsible innovation in the financial services industry as long as the associated risks are appropriately identified and managed,” he told the panel.

“While the project’s sponsors hold out the possibility of public benefits, Libra raises serious

Facebook

Active users, in billions



Source: Facebook/Instagram/Statista/TechCrunch

concerns regarding privacy.”

Powell said the Fed was “coordinating with our colleagues in the government in the United States” and “with central banks and governments around the world.”

The central bank chief said the review “should be a patient and careful one and not a sprint to implementation.”

Last month Powell indicated that the Fed would carefully study the Facebook plan to create a global virtual currency which aims to lower transaction costs and bring more services to people without access to the banking system.

The Libra coin plan, backed by financial and nonprofit partners, represents an ambitious

new initiative for the world’s biggest social network with the potential to bring crypto-money out of the shadows and into the mainstream.

But the plan has already prompted calls in Europe for close regulatory scrutiny and several US lawmakers have said they need more information from Facebook.

Rapper Jay-Z joins cannabis business

Los Angeles, United States

Rapper Jay-Z has become the latest celebrity to enter the weed business, signing on to be the chief brand strategist for a California-based cannabis company.

The rapper said he reached out to the company Caliva after a wide search for a suitable partner in the booming industry.

“Anything I do, I want to do correctly and at the highest level,” he said in a statement posted on Caliva’s website. “With all the potential in the cannabis industry, Caliva’s expertise and ethos make them the best partners for this endeavor.”

“We want to create something amazing, have fun in the process, do good and bring people along the way.”

Caliva said as chief strategist, Jay-Z would help the company with its creative decisions as well as outreach efforts and strategy for the brand.

“Together, we hope to shape the conversation surrounding cannabis, foster equality and fairness in

the development of the industry, promote awareness for the many uses and benefits of cannabis and empower consumers to feel free to use cannabis how, when, and where they want,” Caliva said in a statement.

Rapper Snoop Dogg has established his own brand of marijuana and actress Whoopi Goldberg launched a line of medical marijuana products for women in 2016.

Jay-Z, who grew up in one of Brooklyn’s most notorious housing projects, was recently named by Forbes magazine as hip hop’s first billionaire thanks to investments in champagne, cognac, the ride-sharing service Uber and his Roc Nation entertainment company.



Final VW ‘Beetle’ model rolls off Mexican production line



A Volkswagen “Beetle”, the final edition of the iconic car, is pictured inside the factory in Puebla, Puebla State, Mexico

Puebla, Mexico

German auto giant Volkswagen launched the final edition of its iconic “Beetle” car from its Mexican factory in Puebla on Wednesday.

The bug-shaped metallic blue sedan rolled off the production line in central Mexico to rapturous applause, the last of a model first manufactured in the late 1930s.

The last 65 models of the “Beetle Final Edition” will be sold in Mexico on the internet for a base price of \$21,000, and can be reserved with a \$1,000 payment.

Each vehicle includes a commemorative plaque on its left side, numbered from 1-65.

As well as metallic blue, it will be available in black, white and beige.

Dozens of factory workers had turned up from early morning to put the final touches on the car, which was unveiled after seven hours of work.

The employees wore bright yellow coats bearing the words: Thanks Beetle, as the unveiling proceeded in a festive atmosphere tinged with nostalgia for a car that has generated a loyal following like almost no other.

The vehicle’s history goes back to the Nazi era, having first been developed by Ferdinand Porsche with support from Adolf Hitler, who in 1937 formed the state-run Volkswagenwerk, or “The People’s Car Company.”

After the war, the Allied countries eventually made Volkswagen a priority in an effort to revive the German auto industry.

The advertising agency Doyle Dane Bernbach in 1959 rechristened the car the “Beetle,” and began touting the vehicle’s small size as an advantage to consumers, according to the History Channel.

The car attained further popularity with the 1968 Disney movie “The Love Bug,” the story of a racing Volkswagen with a mind of its own.

Andy Warhol did prints featuring the car and a Beetle featured prominently on the cover of “Abbey Road,” the final album to be recorded by legendary British band the Beatles.

The Volkswagen Beetle

First prototype of the VW Series 3, July 1935



Chassis and body are constructed of wood and steel

Beetle Convertible, 1949



Two-seater with a flat-dropping rear and top that can be completely lowered

Selected models

1952 Pretzel



1967 Beetle



2016 Dune convertible



New Beetle 1997



2003 Beetle last edition



The last original VW Beetle

2010 Beetle convertible final edition



Uruguay’s former President Jose Mujica drives his Volkswagen “Beetle” near his house, after leaving the Uruguayan Presidency

Banks boost Saudi stocks

● 10 of 11 Saudi banks climb

● Riyadh Bank, Banque Saudi Fransi rise ahead of going ex-dividend

● Kuwait rises for eleventh straight day

Reuters

The Saudi stock market rose yesterday as nearly all its banks surged ahead of earnings announcements, while Egypt dropped sharply with most blue-chips declining.

The Saudi index gained 0.7 per cent with 10 of its 11 banks rising. Riyadh Bank rose 1.6pc and Banque Saudi Fransi added 0.6pc before both go ex-dividend in the next trading session. Investors will be entitled to the next dividend pay-out as of Thursday.

Saudi banks are expected to report strong second-quarter earnings. Investment bank EFG Hermes forecast 7.6pc growth year-on-year in second-quarter profit for Saudi Arabia's financial sector.

Saudi Enaya Cooperative Insurance surged 1.9pc after it won a medical insurance con-



A trader watching stock movements on the floor of Tadawul (file)

tract worth over 5pc of its revenue last year.

Egypt's blue-chip index decreased 1.4pc as most of its shares turned red, with Commercial International Bank shedding 1.6pc and Ezz Steel slumping 7.7pc after swinging to a first quarter loss earlier this week.

Exchange data on Thursday showed non-Arab foreigners were net sellers of Egyptian stocks.

In Qatar, the index reversed course to rise 0.6pc with Qatar Insurance up 3.1pc, while Qatar Gas Transport (Nakilat) rose 2.2pc after posting 7pc growth in first-half net profit.

The Gulf's largest bank, Qatar National Bank (QNB), edged up 0.2pc after the lender reported a 4pc increase in first-half net profit.

The Abu Dhabi index increased 0.5pc, with First Abu Dhabi Bank, the country's larg-

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 0.7pc	8,968 pts
ABU DHABI	▲ 0.5pc	5,052 pts
DUBAI	▼ 0.1pc	2,686 pts
QATAR	▲ 0.6pc	10,613 pts
EGYPT	▼ 1.4pc	13,814 pts
BAHRAIN	▼ 0.2pc	1,537 pts
OMAN	▼ 0.1pc	3,808 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.1pc	6,777 pts

est lender, ending 1.1pc higher and Aldar Properties up 2pc.

On Wednesday, the property developer was awarded 5 billion dirhams (\$1.36 billion) of development projects from the Abu Dhabi government.

Kuwait's index closed 0.1pc higher, as National Bank of Kuwait gained 1.1pc and Mobile Telecommunications Co rose 1.9pc.

The index ended the session in positive territory for the eleventh straight session, triggered by MSCI's decision to move Kuwaiti equities to its main emerging-market index in 2020.

Kuwait has outperformed its Gulf peers in anticipation of the MSCI move and is up more than 28pc year-to-date.

The Dubai index eased 0.1pc after rising as much as 0.6pc earlier in the day, hurt by a 2.5pc fall in Emaar Malls and a 0.4pc drop in Emaar Properties.



The Annual Blood Donation Drive spearheaded by Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat), the sovereign wealth fund of the Kingdom of Bahrain, was conducted yesterday at the Arcapita Building, Bahrain Bay. Organised in partnership with the Ministry of Health's Central Blood Bank, the blood drive brought together staff from the Mumtalakat group in Bahrain as well as from companies located in the Arcapita Building and Bahrain Bay area, including family members and friends.

China fails to buy agricultural goods: Trump

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump yesterday accused China of backsliding on promises to increase purchases of American farm exports.

The president's latest salvo on Twitter comes the same week that US and Chinese trade officials had their first

contact in months in an effort to revive negotiations that nearly collapsed in May.

Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping met last month on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Japan, agreeing to cease further hostilities while the talks resumed.

Dow surges past 27,000, dollar sags on rate cut fever

London, United Kingdom

The Dow powered above 27,000 points for the first time while the dollar slumped yesterday as investors welcomed the head of the Federal Reserve effectively flagging a cut in US interest rates later this month.

In a first day of closely watched congressional testimony on Wednesday, Jerome Powell said the case for lower borrowing costs "had strengthened" owing to headwinds caused by global trade uncertainty.

"It's safe to say that investors were pleased with Jerome Powell's first day of testimony on

Key figures around 1530 GMT

London - FTSE:	▼ 0.3 pc at 7,509.82 points (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.3 pc at 5,551.95
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▼ 0.3 pc at 12,332.12
EURO STOXX 50:	▼ 0.1 at 3,497.47
New York - Dow:	▲ 0.7 pc at 27,044.38
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 0.5 pc at 21,643.53 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▲ 0.8 pc at 28,431.80 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.1 pc at 2917.76 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1261 from \$1.1251 at 2100 GMT
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.2552 from \$1.2504
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 108.28 yen from 108.46 yen
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 28 cents at \$60.71 per barrel
Brent North Sea crude:	■ at \$67.01 per barrel

Wednesday, with equity markets jumping on his dovish assessment," said Oanda analyst Craig Erlam.

US equities, which had surged on Wednesday with the Nasdaq ending at a record high, pushed even higher.

The Dow shot above 27,000 points to set a new intraday record, while the S&P 500 briefly broke the 3,000 point level.

"Dow just hit 27,000 for first time EVER!" tweeted US President Donald Trump, who has been outspoken about his desire for the Fed to cut rates to support the economy.

"The Fed Chairman doesn't typically provide strong and direct messages on policy direction, which makes predicting future rate movements all the more difficult. But Wednesday's message was clear, the data is softening -- particularly on the inflation side -- and downside risks are significant," Erlam said.

Most Asian markets had followed Wall Street's lead, with Hong Kong jumping 0.8 per cent and Tokyo ending the day 0.5pc higher.

But European markets turned lower.

"With these dovish tones from

the Fed driving the dollar lower, we are seeing European stocks stutter in the wake of a strengthening euro and pound," said Joshua Mahony, senior market analyst at online trading firm IG.

Investors were also keeping an eye on Powell's second day of testimony on Capitol Hill.

Higher-than-expected June inflation data didn't dent expectations that the Fed would go ahead with a rate cut.

Consumer prices rose 0.1pc month-on-month, while 12-month inflation excluding volatile energy and oil prices, added a tenth of a percentage point to 2.1pc.

US launches investigation into France's tax on tech giants

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump has ordered an investigation into France's planned tax on internet services that will hit American tech giants especially hard, officials said.

The investigation into unfair trade practices could pave the way for Washington to impose punitive tariffs, something Trump has done repeatedly since taking office.

"The United States is very concerned that the digital services tax which is expected to pass the French Senate tomorrow unfairly targets American companies," US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said in a statement.

The proposed three percent tax on total annual revenues of companies providing services to French consumers only applies to the largest tech companies, "where US firms are global lead-



US President Donald Trump said the US is very concerned that the tax will unfairly target American Companies

ers," the trade representative's office said.

The so-called Section 301 investigation is the primary tool the Trump administration has used in the trade war with China to justify tariffs against what the United States says are unfair trade practices.

USTR will hold hearings to allow for public comment on the issue over several weeks before issuing a final report with a recommendation on what actions to take.

Despite the objections to the French tax proposal however, the statement said the United States will continue to work with other advanced economies to address the conundrum of how to tax tech companies.

The Group of 20 has tasked the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development with finding a fix in the international tax system that has allowed

US 'threats' not way to solve digital tax law dispute: French minister

Paris, France

France yesterday rejected a US investigation into its plans to tax internet giants which could trigger punitive tariffs, saying "threats" were not the way to resolve disputes.

"Between allies, I believe we can and must resolve our differences in another way than through threats," Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire told the French Senate ahead of a vote.

Le Maire said he was warned about the so-called Section 301 investigation during a "long conversation" with US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

some internet heavyweights to take advantage of low-tax jurisdictions in places like Ireland and pay next to nothing in other countries where they make huge profits.

The Computer & Communications Industry Association on Wednesday applauded the US Trade Representative's move, saying the tax would retroactively require US internet giants operating in France to turn over a percentage of their revenues from the beginning of this year and violates international trade commitments.

"This is a critical step toward preventing protectionist taxes on global trade," CCAIA official Matt Schruers said in a statement.

"CCAIA encourages France to lead the effort toward more ambitious global tax reform, instead of the discriminatory national tax measures that harm global trade."

SHOW

OASIS JUFFAIR

1-SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW

*TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 PM
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 2.45 + 11.30 PM
DAILY AT (ATMOS): 10.15 AM + 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
DAILY AT (VIP): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
DAILY AT (3D): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM

2-ALMAMAR (PG-13) (ARABIC/DRAMA/WAR) NEW

*AHMAD EIZ, HIND SABRI, AHMAD RIZIK
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM

3-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COM-EDY)

*TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 PM
DAILY AT: 2.15 PM

4-ANNABELLE COMES HOME (15+) (HORROR)

*VERA FARMIGA, MCKENNA GRACE, MADISON ISEMAN
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

5-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)

*WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM

6-MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY)

*TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 7.00 + 12.00 MN

7-ANNA (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)

*SASHA LUSS, HELEN MIRREN, LUKE EVANS
DAILY AT: 4.30 + 9.30 PM

8-KABIR SINGH (15+) (HINDI/DRAMA/ROMANTIC)

*SHAHID KAPOOR, KIARA ADVANI, ARJAN BAJWA
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM

CITYCENTRE

1-SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW

*TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.30 + 4.15 + 7.00 + 9.45 + (12.30 MN + 1.00 AM THURS./FRI)
DAILY AT (ATMOS): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN
DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 10.15 AM + 1.00 PM
DAILY AT (VIP (I)): 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
DAILY AT (VIP (II)): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
DAILY AT (3D): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM

2-ALMAMAR (PG-13) (ARABIC/DRAMA/WAR) NEW

*AHMAD EIZ, HIND SABRI, AHMAD RIZIK
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

3-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COM-EDY)

*TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM
DAILY (3D): 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

4-ANNABELLE COMES HOME (15+) (HORROR)

*VERA FARMIGA, MCKENNA GRACE, MADISON ISEMAN
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS./FRI)



5-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)

*WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM + (12.30 MN THURS./FRI)

6-MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)

*MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHAMED THARWAT
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM

7-MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY)

*TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM

8-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME)

*KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

9-ANNA (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)

*SASHA LUSS, HELEN MIRREN, LUKE EVANS
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN

10-THE HUSTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME)

*ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM

11-CHILD'S PLAY (18+) (HORROR)

*AUBREY PLAZA, GABRIEL BATEMAN, BRIAN TYREE
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 3.00 + 7.30 + 12.00 MN

12-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY)

*VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM

13-POKEMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU (PG) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY)

*RYAN REYNOLDS, JUSTICE SMITH, KATHRYN NEWTON
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 4.15 + 9.30 PM

14-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)

*BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
DAILY AT: 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 PM

15-SABIE AL BOROMBA (PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY)

*RAMEZ GALAL, BAYOUMI FOUAD, JAMEELA AWAD
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM

16-CASABLANCA (PG-15) (ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)

*AMIR KARARA, GHADA ADEL, EYAD NASSAR
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 PM

SEEF (II)

1-SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW

*TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA
DAILY AT: (12.45 MN THURS./FRI.)

2-PLAY OR DIE (18+) (THRILLER/ HORROR) NEW

*CHARLEY PALMER ROTHWELL, ROXANE MESQUIDA, LAETITIA CHAMBRON
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 3.30 + 7.30 + 11.30 PM

3-I'LL TAKE YOUR DEAD (18+) (THRILLER/HORROR) NEW

*AIDAN DEVINE, AVA PRESTON, JESS SALGUEIRO
DAILY AT: 1.30 + 5.30 + 9.30 PM

4-CLARITA (15+) (FILIPINO/HORROR/DRAMA) NEW

*RICKY DAVAO, ALYSSA MUHLACH, JODI STA. MARIA
DAILY AT: 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

5-ASTERIX: THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION (PG) (ANIMATION/ ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

*CHRISTIAN CLAVIER, GUILLAUME BRIAT, ALEX LUTZ
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 PM

6-PAVAROTTI (PG-13) (DOCUMENTRY) NEW

*SPIKE LEE, PRINCESS DIANA, LUCIANO PAVAROTTI
DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 PM

7-MALAAL (PG-15) (HINDI/ ROMANTIC) NEW

*MEEZAAN JAFRI, SHARMIN SEGAL, BADRI CHAVAN
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 3.00 + 7.30 + 12.00 MN

8-HUME TUMSE PYAAR KITNA (PG-15) (HINDI/THRILLER/ROMANTIC) NEW

*JUHI CHAWLA, PRIYA BANERJEE, KARANVIR BOHRA
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 3.15 + 7.30 + 11.45 PM

9-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COM-EDY)

*TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM

10-ANNABELLE COMES HOME (15+) (HORROR)

*VERA FARMIGA, MCKENNA GRACE, MADISON ISEMAN

DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

11-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)

*WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

12-MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)

*MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHAMED THARWAT
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN

13-MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY)

*TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON
DAILY AT: 1.15 + 6.30 + 11.45 PM

14-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME)

*KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM

15-THE HUSTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME)

*ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP
DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.30 + 10.00 PM

16-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY)

*VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 3.45 + 9.00 PM

17-POKEMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU (PG) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY)

*RYAN REYNOLDS, JUSTICE SMITH, KATHRYN NEWTON
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 PM

SEEF (I)

1-SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW

*TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 12.15 + 12.45 + 2.30 + 3.00 + 3.30 + 5.15 + 5.45 + 6.15 + 8.00 + 8.30 + 9.00 + 10.45 + 11.15 PM + 11.45 PM

2-ALMAMAR (PG-13) (ARABIC/DRAMA/WAR) NEW

*AHMAD EIZ, HIND SABRI, AHMAD RIZIK
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

3-ONE DAY: JUSTICE DELIVERED (PG-15) (HINDI/CRIME/THRILLER) NEW

*ANUPAM KHER, KUMUD MISHRA, ESHA GUPTA
DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM



MOVIE REVIEW

Stuber: Uber-centric comedy makes for a wild ride

● Kumail Nanjiani and Dave Bautista are hilarious in the summer's most refreshingly modest ride

● Stuber is a sharp, funny look at masculinity in a buddy action movie



Dave Bautista and Kumail Nanjiani in Stuber

Stuber is a 2019 American action comedy film directed by Michael Dowse and written by Tripper Clancy. It stars Kumail Nanjiani, Dave Bautista, Iko Uwais, Natalie Morales, Betty Gilpin, Jimmy Tatro, Mira Sorvino, and Karen Gillan, and follows an Uber-driver who unwillingly becomes part of a police officer's arrest operation.

The film had its world premiere at South by Southwest on March 13, 2019 and is scheduled to be theatrically released in the United States on July 12, 2019. Produced by 20th Century Fox,

it will be distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, making it the first R-rated film to be distributed by Disney since The Fifth Estate (2013).

A meager Uber driver named Stu is forced by an aggressive LAPD detective named Vic to drive him around town to catch a notorious drug lord named

Oka Teijo. For Vic, it is especially personal, as Teijo murdered Vic's partner.

Along the way, Stu deals with Vic's mad behavior while try-

YOU KNOW WHAT
Incapacitated cop Dave Bautista forces timid Kumail Nanjiani to help him take down the bad guys in this lame LA-set caper

ing to express his feelings to his friend Becca. Stu and Vic confront each other about Stu's inability to man up while Vic is called out for his toxic masculinity and negligence toward his daughter Nicole.

The film received mixed reviews from critics, who praised Nanjiani and Bautista's chemis-

try, but criticized the violence and uneven tone.

On review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 43% based on 61 reviews, with an average rating of 4.95/10. The website's critical consensus reads, "Though it makes a strong case for future collaborations between Kumail Nanjiani and Dave Bautista, Stuber fails to mesh its contrasting genres, settling for an overtly violent, mildly entertaining diversion that's far from a five-star ride."

On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 38 out of 100, based on 21 critics, indicating "generally unfavorable reviews".

SITUATIONS VACANT

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celebs



Taylor Swift

Taylor Swift shakes off Kardashian clan as highest-paid celebrity

Reuters | Los Angeles

Singer Taylor Swift was named the world's highest-paid entertainer on Wednesday but was closely followed by two members of the wider Kardashian clan - reality star turned cosmetics queen Kylie Jenner and rapper Kanye West.

The annual Forbes Celebrity 100 list also saw soccer stars Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar among the top 10, along with British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran and 1970s soft rock band The Eagles, who embarked

on a new tour in 2018.

West, the husband of Kim Kardashian, returned to the list after a four-year absence. Forbes estimated his pre-tax earnings at \$150 million, driven mostly by his popular Yeezy sneaker line, putting him in third place. Kim Kardashian ranked No.26 on the list.

Swift, hot off her 2018 "Reputation" tour and album, earned an estimated \$185 million to take the No. 1 spot. The 29-year-old pop star also topped the list in 2016 after her best-selling "1989" tour and album.

Jenner, 21, the half-sister of Kim, Khloe and Kourtney Kardashian, came in second place after bringing in an estimated \$170 million thanks to her booming online lip kits and cosmetics company.

Earlier this year Forbes declared Jenner to be the world's youngest billionaire.



Hilary Swank

Hilary Swank joins 'The Hunt' cast

ANI | Los Angeles

American actor Hilary Swank is all set to join the cast of politically charged action-thriller 'The Hunt'.

Coming from screenwriters Damon Lindelof and Nick Cuse, the film's cast already include Ike Barinholtz, Emma Roberts, Justin Hartley and Glenn Howerton, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Craig Zobel, who had previously worked with Lindelof and Cuse on HBO's 'The Leftovers',

will helm the movie.

The film is expected to roll out soon as Universal has scheduled it for a September 27 release.

Jason Blum will be producing, alongside Lindelof and Cuse and Zobel will be the executive producers.

Swank is a two-time Oscar winner popularly known for her role in 'Boys Don't Cry', 'I Am Mother' and 'Million Dollar Baby'.

Her other stints include Netflix's upcoming space drama 'Away' for which she has been

roped in to play the lead.

The series is loosely inspired by Chris Jones' article of the same name and is described as being about hope, humanity and how we need one another if we are to embark on a journey of achieving impossible things.

Netflix has issued a 10-episode order for the show. Apart from starring as the main lead, Swank will also serve as executive producer.

Cardi B wishes daughter Kulture on her birthday in an adorable post

ANI | Los Angeles

Grammy-winning rapper Cardi B just felt emotional when her daughter Kulture whom she shares with Offset, turned 1 today.

The star took to Instagram around midnight and shared a picture of the mother-daughter duo enjoying a late-night sweet treat.

The click showed the birthday girl sitting next to a tray of cupcakes and rubbing a bit of frosting on her mother's face. The birthday girl--who topped off her skirt and T-shirt ensemble with a big white bow--also received a bunch of balloons.

"A little quick 12 o'clock turn up," Cardi captioned the photo along with a few weary face emojis. "my baaaaaaaaaaay-beeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee.... Ok, goodbye," the rapper captioned the picture on Instagram.

It's just hard to believe that it's been a year since the singer welcomed their bundle of joy into the world. As fans will recall, Cardi kept her pregnancy hidden from the public for quite some time. While her admirers had suspected a baby was on the way for months, it wasn't until Cardi revealed her baby bump on Saturday Night Live and as cited by E-News that these

rumoured were confirmed, reported by E-News.

"She is so fun. She is so cool. Like, I love her. She's like my little best friend," Cardi told E! News in April. "She just makes the gloomiest days, like, sunshine. I love it. It's like a slice of heaven."

Initially, the superstar did not share pictures of her little one on social media. However, the proud parents have now started sharing adorable with the public. In fact, Offset included his daughter in the cover art for his album Father of 4.



Cardi B

Jada Pinkett Smith, Will Smith launch media venture

AP | Los Angeles

Jada Pinkett Smith and Will Smith are looking to expand their brands under a new corporate umbrella.

The Hollywood power couple on Wednesday announced the launch of

a new media venture.

According to a statement, Westbrook Inc. will be a cross-platform holding company "formed to execute the Smith family's global content and commerce business strategy."

In a statement, the couple said Westbrook's mission is "to spread positive ideas, art and products that entertain and empower the greatest number of

lives."

Westbrook Studios will serve as the studio home to all new premium TV and motion picture projects. It currently serves "Red Table Talk," the Facebook Watch series featuring Pinkett Smith, Willow Smith and Adrienne Banfield-Norris.

The company will also develop projects as starring vehicles for Will Smith.



Jada Pinkett Smith and Will Smith

Storm Reid to play Idris Elba's daughter in 'The Suicide Squad'

ANI | Los Angeles

Warner Bros' 'The Suicide Squad' has added another member to its cast. Teen actor Storm Reid has been roped in for the upcoming feature.

Reid has come on board to play the role of Idris Elba's daughter in the film, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Other actors who will be seen in the film include John Cena, who is also a part of 'Fast and Furious 9', David Dastmalchian, with Margot Robbie, Joel Kinnaman, Jai Courtney and Viola Davis, from 'Suicide Squad' returning to the follow-up.

The upcoming film is being directed by James Gunn and the production will likely begin in September in Atlanta.

Charles Roven will be producing the film.

Reid came into limelight with Disney's 'A Wrinkle in Time' directed by Ava DuVernay. The film also had Reese Witherspoon and Oprah Winfrey in the cast.

Later, Reid also worked in Netflix docudrama 'When They See Us' and currently appears on HBO's teen drama 'Euphoria'.



Storm Reid

Kanye reveals religion helped him overcome rough patch in career

ANI | Los Angeles

Rapper Kanye West recently revealed that religion and acknowledgment of his bipolar disorder helped him through a very rough patch in his career.

In 2016, West took to Twitter and made the announcement that he was USD 53 million in debt ahead of the release of his eighth studio album 'Life of Pablo', as well as a new fashion line.

It was the latest in a long line of erratic behaviour from West that ultimately landed the rapper in a Los Angeles hospital to treat temporary psychosis and

sleep deprivation. The stay also led him to cancel the second half of his world tour.

In a cover story for Forbes, as cited Fox News, West credited his religion and acceptance with his transformation.

West described his religious beliefs as, "being in service to Christ, the radical obedience."

He also noted that his bipolar diagnosis gave him some clarity. Not only did he recently tell David Letterman that his experience made him want to change the way people view mental health treatment, but he explained that it's his "superpower."

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SPORTS
sports

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman attends Bahrain Trophy Race in UK

TDT | London

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, Vice Chairman of the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club High Committee, yesterday attended the 28th edition of the Bahrain Trophy race held as part of the Newmarket Racing Festival in the United Kingdom.

Spanish Mission, ridden by Jockey Jamie Spencer, and trained by David Simcock, won the race that witnessed high competition.

Nayef Road, ridden by jockey



Shaikh Isa bin Salman during Bahrain Trophy Race at Newmarket

Sylvester De Sousa, and owned by Emarati Mohammed Belobaida, was the runner up.

HH Shaikh Isa then presented the award to the winner of the event

During the festival, HH Shaikh Isa highlighted HM the King's commitment to supporting and preserving the Kingdom's equestrian heritage.

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman expressed gratitude to HM the King for the continued support provided in ensuring the success of the annual Bahrain Trophy race at the Newmarket Racing Festival.

HH Shaikh Isa noted that the success of the annual race embodies the strength of historic relations between Bahrain and the United Kingdom, which are underpinned by continued cooperation across various fields.

HH Shaikh Isa highlighted that the Bahrain Trophy race, a 2600-meter Group 3 flat horse race, is one of the most prominent races in the Newmarket calendar.

HH Shaikh Isa was accompanied by HH Shaikh Sultan Al Din bin Mohammed bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Serena to face Halep for title

● **Serena Williams to face Simona Halep in Wimbledon final with record Slam haul in view**

● **Serena beats Strycova to go into Wimbledon singles final**

● **Halep becomes first Romanian woman to reach Wimbledon final after win over Svitolina**

AFP | London

Simona Halep is the last woman standing between Serena Williams and achieving her long held ambition of equalling Margaret Court's Grand Slam title record after both recorded easy victories in their Wimbledon semi-finals yesterday.

Seven-time champion Williams made short work of plucky unseeded Czech Barbora Strycova, whose experience of her first ever Grand Slams singles semi-final in her 53rd campaign lasted just under an hour as she lost 6-1, 6-2.

Former world number one Halep's clash with Ukrainian Elina Svitolina lasted a bit longer but the 27-year-old ran out a 6-1, 6-3 victor to become the first Romanian woman to reach the Wimbledon final.

Williams has missed the chance to equal Australian



US player Serena Williams returns against Czech Republic's Barbora Strycova

Court's record on two occasions since returning from giving birth -- losing last year's Wimbledon final and then a bad-tempered defeat in the US Open final.

"It feels good to be in the final again after the year I have had," said 37-year-old Williams.

"I have just needed matches to feel good and do what I do best and that is play tennis

"I love what I do. I have a great job and I am still pretty good at it. I get a remarkable experience every time."

Williams produced a dominant performance yesterday which has not always been the case during the Championships and she said she would not be taking seventh-seeded Halep lightly.

"She's a tough opponent," said

Williams. "We always have great matches. I look forward to it."

Strycova, who never managed to impose her delightful stroke-filled game on her opponent, at least has the consolation of perhaps winning the women's doubles.

Halep, who was French Open champion in 2018, will be playing in her fifth Grand Slam final.

"It's an amazing feeling but I am also excited and nervous. It is one of the best moments of my life," said Halep.

"The match was not easy, the games were long and went deep.

"I fought hard to win this match and I was strong mentally and physically and had the right tactics."

Halep, who had knocked out new star, 15-year-old Coco Gauff



Halep, who was French Open champion in 2018, will be playing in her fifth Grand Slam final

in the last 16, lost in her previous semi-final appearance at Wimbledon to Eugenie Bouchard in 2014. However, she said she was a different player now and had taken to grass.

"I have more experience, I don't give up anymore," se said. "I plan to be the best version

of myself and fight to the end."

'Kicking the ball'

The easy manner in which former world number one Halep wrapped up the match had not looked on the cards at the outset.

Svitolina, the first Ukrainian woman to reach a Grand Slam semi-final, and Halep traded shots aplenty and break points in the opening two games which took over 20 minutes to complete but Halep emerged on top with a 2-0 lead.

Svitolina, being watched from the players box by her English coach Andy Bettles and French boyfriend and ATP star Gael Monfils, briefly raised her game to break back.

However, Halep broke again immediately and 24-year-old Svitolina gave an indication of her increasing frustration when she netted a simple volley and lashed out, kicking the ball into the net.

Worse was to come for Svitolina on her next service game when Halep produced a stunning shot to go 5-1. The 27-year-old Romanian dashed across court to get to Svitolina's drop shot and flashed it cross court.

Halep, who had not faced a seeded player until Svitolina, faced some resistance as she served for the set eventually taking it on her sixth set point.

Although Svitolina stayed with Halep for the first part of the second set, the self-belief and fight had gone and when the Romanian broke for 4-3 it was game over.

Arsenal captain Koscielny refuses to travel on pre-season tour

AFP | London

Arsenal captain Laurent Koscielny has refused to travel for the club's pre-season tour in the United States.

The Gunners released a statement yesterday highlighting their disappointment at the 33-year-old Frenchman, who has been at the club since 2010.

"Laurent Koscielny has refused to travel to the US for our pre-season tour," said Arsenal.

"We are very disappointed by Laurent's actions, which are against our clear instructions.

"We hope to resolve this matter and will not be providing any further comment at this time."

Spain goalkeeper Lopez leaves Betis for Roma

AFP | Madrid

Spain international goalkeeper Pau Lopez has completed his move from Real Betis to Serie A giants Roma, the two clubs announced late on Wednesday.

The 24-year-old has signed a five-year deal with Roma paying 23.5 million euros (\$26.48 million).

"It is almost impossible to say no to a club like Roma. It represents a step forward in my career and I am ready to rise to this new challenge," Lopez said in a video on the Roma website.

Lopez is Roma's fourth signing of the summer after Amadou Diawara, Bryan Cristante and Leonardo Spinazzola, taking their spending to over 100 million euros.

He began his career at Espanyol, making 78 appearances before a year-long spell on loan at Tottenham where he failed to make any appearances for the first team. He joined Betis in 2018.

Bahrain Merida's Teuns wins Stage six, Ciccone takes race lead

● **Thomas silences doubters**

AP | Champagne, France

Defending Tour de France champion Geraint Thomas defied his doubters as Belgian Dylan Teuns won stage six and his breakaway partner Giulio Ciccone snatched the yellow jersey by just a few seconds on an iconic mountain stage.

Teuns won the ultra-tough mountain stage to Planche des Belles Filles when he and Ciccone crossed the summit fin-

ish line as the sole survivors of a mass breakaway.

"It was so steep, but I love these kind of finishes, I'm pretty good at this kind of finish," said Teuns, a Belgian who rides for Bahrain Merida.

Ciccone was less calm about his feat. "It's just unbelievable," said the Italian after taking the overall lead from Frenchman Julian Alaphilippe by just six seconds.

Alaphilippe put in a heroic defence of his lead, but missed out due to the bonus seconds over the final two summits saw the young Italian edge ahead of him.



Belgium's Dylan Teuns (R) and cyclists ride during the sixth stage of Tour de France

"It feels strange, to have the yellow jersey on my back feels so strange," said Ciccone.

"I wanted to win the stage for the team but I never believed it would be possible to take the lead," said the 24-year-old who rides for the same Trek-Segafredo team as Richie Porte.

Just behind this victorious pair the struggle between the contenders to win the Tour de France itself played out when defending champion Geraint Thomas suggested that the doubters who had called him a one-hit wonder after his 2018 win with Sky might be wrong.

England thump Australia

● **England reach Cricket World Cup final after emphatic win over Australia**

● **Tournament hosts comfortably chase down Australia's total to win by eight wickets at Edgbaston**

AFP | Birmingham

England booked their place in the World Cup final against New Zealand with a dominant eight-wicket win over reigning champions Australia at Edgbaston yesterday.

Jason Roy hit a blistering 85 as England reached a victory target of 224 with a mammoth 107 balls to spare after restricting Australia.

Openers Roy and Jonny Bairstow (34) put on 124 for the first wicket, their fourth consecutive century stand.

England, losing finalists in 1979, 1987 and 1992, will now face New Zealand, who have also yet to win the World Cup after finishing runners-up to Australia four years ago, in Sunday's final at Lord's following the Black Caps' surprise semi-final win over India.

"I'm pretty speechless," said man-of-the-match Chris Woakes. "It was an incredible



Matt Henry of New Zealand celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of KL Rahul of India

performance from the whole team. It started with the bowling performance and then the way they knocked that off was outstanding.

"There were some nerves around this morning but that's

natural going into a semi-final. The way we produced the goods just showed how good we are and where we are at as a team."

Roy, who missed three matches earlier in the tournament with a torn hamstring, was in particu-

larly good form, hitting left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Starc and Nathan Lyon for sixes.

Australia were in desperate need of early wickets after suffering a top-order collapse on the way to being dismissed for

It was an incredible performance from the whole team. It started with the bowling performance and then the way they knocked that off was outstanding

CHRIS WOAKES

223, with the record five-time champions thankful for Steve Smith's battling 85.

All three of England's defeats this tournament -- including a 64-run group-stage loss to Australia -- have come batting second but Roy and Bairstow showed few signs of nerves in Birmingham.

Australia captain Aaron Finch turned to Steve Smith's occasional leg-spin in a desperate bid to break the partnership.

Smith booed

Smith was booed by a large crowd, a reflection of the former Australia captain's role in a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa that saw him banned for 12 months.

But the jeers turned to cheers as Roy hit three huge straight sixes in as many balls.

Bairstow fell lbw to Starc, who in the process set a new record for most wickets at a single

World Cup of 27.

Roy was in sight of a hundred when he was given out caught behind down the legside by wicketkeeper Alex Carey off fast bowler Pat Cummins.

The batsman was visibly angry and had to be ushered away from the crease by square leg umpire Marais Erasmus. England had earlier squandered their lone review.

Test skipper Joe Root (49 not out) and England captain Eoin Morgan (45 not out) finished the job as the crowd chanted "cricket's coming home".

Defeat meant Australia suffered their first loss in eight World Cup semi-finals.

Earlier, Woakes and Adil Rashid each took three wickets apiece.

Woakes struck twice early on at his Warwickshire home ground as Australia slumped to 14-3 after winning the toss.

Australia's prolific opening pair of David Warner and Finch, as well as Peter Handscomb, were all back in the pavilion by the seventh over.

Warner, who like Smith walked out to boos because of his role in the ball-tampering scandal, returned to even louder cat-calls after being dismissed for nine.

Smith and Alex Carey steadied the innings with a fourth-wicket stand of 103 but wickets tumbled at regular intervals and Australia were unable to set England a testing target.

Kohli says fans should be 'measured' after World Cup woe

AFP | Manchester

India captain Virat Kohli has urged frustrated fans in his cricket-crazy nation not to get emotional after their shock World Cup semi-final defeat to New Zealand on Wednesday.

Kohli's side went down to by 18 runs at Old Trafford after the last four tie was played over two days due rain in Manchester.

Chasing 240 for victory, India lost four of their top batsmen for 24 runs in the first 10 overs and were eventually bowled out for 221.

The unexpected loss left a largely Indian-dominated crowd at Old Trafford disappointed, while a billion fans back home tried to come to terms with the heartbreaking end of the team's bid for a third World Cup crown.

Indian cricket fans are known for angry outbursts after crushing defeats, but Kohli said losing is part and parcel of sport and should not trigger an extreme reaction from either supporters or players.

"I have always been of the favour of a measured reaction and yes disappointment is there in a loss but don't take it to extreme," Kohli told reporters.

"Because many players will not be able to process it. Everything has to be balanced, like we want it to be on the field.

"It is easy to criticise from the outside when somebody loses and you are put on top when are winning. But when it happens on a big scale then it is a national responsibility that how you react to the sport you watch."

Pre-tournament favourites India had topped the group table



Virat Kohli tosses up his bat in frustration

to book the semi-final clash with fourth-placed underdogs New Zealand.

But Kane Williamson's side posted 239-8 after batting first on a tricky pitch and then defended the total with some excellent fast bowling.

Kohli insisted the defeat, which came after India won seven of nine group games, will eventually be dissected to work out what went wrong.

"I don't think that I would like to break things down immediately," said Kohli.

"But in time we will have to sit down and analyse things that we could have done right in this game.

"We are not shying away from accepting that we did not stand up to the challenge and we were not good enough under pressure. Accept the failure as it shows on the scoreboard."

India mourns World Cup shocker

AFP | New Delhi

Cricket-mad Indians tried to come to terms with their shock World Cup exit, with the Times of India telling readers "The Sun will still rise tomorrow" and Ravindra Jadeja emerging as a new national hero.

Jadeja and veteran Mahendra Singh Dhoni, renowned as one of the game's great finishers, rekindled the hopes of the cricket-crazy nation with a fighting seventh-wicket century partnership but it wasn't enough as India, chasing 240 to win, fell 18 runs short.

"For a while it looked like he (Dhoni) would turn back the clock and script another great escape, but that was not to be," wrote the Indian Express under the headline "The un-finisher".

Batting legend Sachin Tendulkar said the target was straightforward but India had been too reliant on the top three in the batting order -- Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul and captain Virat Kohli -- who each only scored one run.

"I am disappointed because we should have chased 240 without any doubt. It wasn't a big total," Tendulkar told India Today.

"But I feel that we can't be all the time relying on Rohit to give a good start or Virat to come and make sure that a solid foundation is built," he said.

Group defeats no bother to Williamson ahead of final

AFP | Manchester

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson insisted the fact his side lost to potential World Cup final opponents Australia and England earlier in the tournament would have no bearing on Sunday's showpiece match at Lord's.

The Black Caps, who only reached the last four on net run-rate, upset the odds to beat group table-toppers India by 18 runs in a dramatic semi-final at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

And after what New Zealand media quickly dubbed 'The Manchester Miracle', the understated Williamson insisted the 2015 runners-up had every chance of going one better and winning their first World Cup title.

Williamson is confident despite an 86-run defeat by Australia -- the team that beat New Zealand in the final four years ago -- and a 119-run loss to England in the initial 10-team group stage.

"Every game throughout

the round-robin was worth a couple of points so they were all important," Williamson said.

"Obviously a semi-final is worth a few more than two points. But, you know, we'll go into another match and try to implement similar things that are important to our side, that gives us the best chance of success.

"There are so many strong teams in the tournament that can go either way, two very good sides.



New Zealand's Kane Williamson takes a catch to dismiss India's Hardik Pandya