

**Jodie Whittaker to return as 'Doctor Who' in 2020**

Actress Jodie Whittaker will return in her groundbreaking role as a female timelord in "Doctor Who", set to be back on global screens in early 2020.

P13

OP-ED 8 **Macron's moment of truth**

THE DAILY **tribune**

Markle presents wedding dress designer with award **13 SHOW**

WORLD 6 **US returns bells to Philippines**

**HH Shaikha Noora mourned**  
 Manama

The Royal Court yesterday announced the sad demise of Her Highness Shaikha Noora bint Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa. The Royal Court prayed to Allah the Almighty to rest the soul of the late HH Shaikha Noora bint Salman in eternal peace, and to bless her relatives with patience and fortitude. Condolences will be offered at the Al Zaher Palace on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 am to 12 pm, and from 3 pm to 4 pm.

**Two killed in France shooting**  
 Strasbourg

At least two persons were killed and eight people were wounded in a shooting near a Christmas market in the French city of Strasbourg yesterday, police sources said. "There were gun shots and people running everywhere," one local shopkeeper told BFM TV. "It lasted about 10 minutes." A source at the prosecutor's office said the motive behind the shooting was not immediately clear and that an investigation was under way to see if it was terrorism-related. France remains on high alert after a wave of attacks commissioned or inspired by Daesh militants since early 2015, in which about 240 people have been killed.



- 03 Passengers allege Red Bus team of running unpunctual services
- 04 More disinvestment soon
- 05 Second phase of water park project to commence soon



**Yemen govt, Houthis swap names of 15,000 prisoners**

**Rimbo**  
 Yemen's government and rival militia announced yesterday plans for a mass prisoner swap, exchanging some 15,000 names, as UN-brokered talks on ending the country's war entered their seventh day. Nearly four years into a war that has pushed 14 million Yemenis to the brink of mass starvation, the Saudi-backed government of Abedrabbo

Mansour Hadi and Houthi militia, linked to Iran, began talks Thursday in the rural town of Rimbo in Sweden. The talks are expected to last a week. The Houthi militia announced that the names of a total of 15,000 detainees and prisoners had been exchanged. A source in the government delegation said their side had released the names of 8,200 detainees but declined to comment on the combined total.

**His Majesty receives Giuilani**



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received former New York mayor and adviser to US President Donald Trump, Rudy Giuliani and the accompanying delegation at the Safriya Palace. HM the King praised the longstanding Bahraini-US relations, noting keenness of the two countries to constantly develop them. Topics of joint interests were also discussed.

**Iran shows fangs**

Tehran confirms carrying out missile tests; threatens US

● **Iran reined in most of its nuclear programme under a landmark 2015 deal with major powers, but has continued to develop its ballistic missile technology.**

● **Iran has developed several types of medium-range ballistic missile capable of reaching Israel or Western bases across the region.**

**Tehran**

Iran confirmed yesterday that it had carried out a recent missile test after Western powers sharply criticised a December 1 launch of medium-range ballistic missiles. "We are continuing our missile tests and this recent one was a significant test," the Fars news agency reported, citing



A Sayad missile being fired from the Talash missile system during an air defence drill at an undisclosed location in Iran.

Revolutionary Guards aerospace commander Brigadier General Amirali Hajizadeh. "The US reaction showed that it was a big thing for them and that it upset them," Hajizadeh said, adding that Iran carried out between 40 and 50 missile tests a year. He said the test had put Washington "under pressure," Fars reported. Iran reined in most of its nuclear programme under a land-

mark 2015 deal with major powers, but has continued to develop its ballistic missile technology. A UN Security Council resolution adopted after the agreement calls on Iran to refrain from testing missiles capable of carrying a nuclear weapon, but does not specifically bar Tehran from missile launches. The Security Council convened at the request of Britain and France on December 4 to discuss the latest test, which

both governments described as "provocative" and "inconsistent" with Resolution 2231. Britain said that the types of missiles fired had capabilities that "go way beyond legitimate defensive needs". Iran insists the missiles are for defensive and deterrent purposes only. It has twice fired its medium-range missiles in anger in recent months. The first was against a Kurdish rebel base in neighbouring Iraq in September following a series of cross-border attacks. The second was against an extremist base in eastern Syria

in October following a deadly attack on a military parade in the Iranian city of Ahvaz. Iran has developed several types of medium-range ballistic missile capable of reaching Israel or Western bases across the region. In its report, Fars did not specify the date of the latest test or say which types of missile were fired. Washington, which quit the nuclear deal in May, described the test as an outright "violation" of Resolution 2231 and called on the Security Council to condemn it. But veto-wielding Moscow has defended Tehran's right to carry out missile tests, and the December 4 meeting ended with no joint statement or any plan for follow-up action. The council is due to meet again on December 19 for a regular review of the resolution's implementation. US President Donald Trump cited both issues as factors in his decision to abandon the nuclear deal with Tehran.

**2231**  
 UN resolution has been outrightly violated by Iran by carrying out missile tests.

**BAD CLICK**

**Egypt probes images of naked couple atop pyramid**

**Cairo**

Egyptian authorities have launched an investigation into images said to show a naked couple who scaled the Great Pyramid that has sparked outrage in the conservative Muslim country, an official said yesterday. In a video titled "Climbing the Great Pyramid of Giza," Danish photographer Andreas Hvid appears to scale the 4,500-year-old tomb on the outskirts of Cairo at night with an unidentified woman who is later seen taking off her top. Hvid says the video was tak-



The pyramids in Giza is a Unesco heritage site.

en in late November but it was published on YouTube on December 8. A photograph released by Hvid appears to show the couple completely naked on top of each other while looking in the direction of a nearby pyramid

with the horizon illuminated. "The public prosecution is investigating the incident of the Danish photographer and the authenticity of the photos and video of him climbing the pyramid," Mostafa Waziri, the secretary general of Egypt's supreme

**”**  
 The public prosecution is investigating the incident of the Danish photographer and the authenticity of the photos and video.  
 MOSTAFA

antiquities council, said. If the video was actually filmed at the top of the pyramid, that would make it a "very serious crime," Waziri said. The nearly three-minute video has taken social media by storm

and has been the subject of late night talk shows. It has notched up almost three million views on YouTube alone. "A 7,000-year-old civilisation has turned into a bed sheet," a Twitter user in Egypt lamented. Another protested that "they want to soil the dignity and pride of Egyptians because the pyramid reflects the glory and grandeur of the Egyptian people." The authenticity of the images has been disputed with some arguing the photograph showing the pair naked appears to be very bright whereas the video showed them scaling the pyramid at night.

# People's welfare first priority

### HRH the Premier affirms the continuation of all welfare schemes

#### Manama

**H**is Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has stressed that the government will build on its rich record of landmark achievements and gains during the next phase of national action in which the pace of development will be accelerated.

The government's development efforts target all sectors so that the Bahraini citizens enjoy services that ensure their decent living, he said.

The Prime Minister made the statements while receiving, at the Gudaiya Palace yesterday, Royal Family members and officials, with whom he reviewed local and international issues.

HRH Premier affirmed that caring for the citizens in the health, educational, housing, social and service fields, and ensuring them the requirements of



HRH the Premier receives Royal Family members and senior government officials.

decent living top the government's priorities and are the ultimate goal of all its development programmes and plans in the present and the future.

The government is determined to meet the citizens' aspirations for a decent and prosperous life through a com-

prehensive development programme commensurate with the size of the current challenges.

HRH the Prime Minister highlighted the government's successful programmes targeting the health sector, citing the existing comprehensive

healthcare enjoyed by the citizens, and stressing his personal close follow-up on the extent of the citizens' satisfaction with the integrated health services delivered to them.

HRH Premier highlighted the economic importance of industrial devel-

opment in the kingdom, reiterating the government's interest in and support for industrial projects.

The Prime Minister called for expanding investments in the national industries in light of the government's support and facilities for investors.



Lions Club of Bahrain hosted lunch for members of the old age home in Muharraq at Somerset Al Fateh Hotel. It was part of the society outreach programme being undertaken by the Lions Club of Bahrain. The members of the old age home had a great outing with the Lions and other members at the Somerset Hotel.



Middle East Hospital held a free medical camp in association with Segaya Charity Society. Free consultation was offered to society members and their families. Hospital general manager Brigadier (Dr) Khalil Abdulwahid Hussain Omar attended the camp.



Bahrain National Day was celebrated by students of New Millennium School - DPS with great enthusiasm and fervour at its campus with a series of special assemblies. Students dressed up in traditional Bahraini costumes filled the air with feelings of celebration and excitement. Dr Ravi Pillai, Chairman and Geetha Pillai, Managing Director and Principal Arun Kumar Sharma congratulated and extended best wishes to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister and the People of Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of Bahrain National Day.



The kindergarteners and primary school students of the Indian School, Bahrain (ISB) paid rich tribute to the Kingdom on the occasion of the National Day celebrations at its Riffa campus on Tuesday. A human emblem formation for the third year in succession was the highlight of the day. Around 5,000 students and staff joined in to form the human Heart Flag of Bahrain reflecting their ever-glowing love towards the Kingdom.

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Under the patronage of Dr Shaikha Mariam Bint Hassan Al Khalifa, Deputy President for the Supreme Council for Women, a prestigious and engaging ceremony was held at the Royal University for Women to celebrate the Bahrain National Day and Bahraini Women's Day at its premises in West Riffa in the presence of dignitaries in the legislative field and municipal work such as Dr Jehad Al Fadhle, member of Shura Council, academics and students.

# Passengers allege Red Bus team running unpunctual services

Commuters blame authority for mismanagement; say no efforts to alleviate their sufferings

TDT | Manama  
Rajeevan Puravankara

Red buses were introduced in the Kingdom to boost its public transport system, but many passengers allege that it has no way helped the system flourish.

They attribute its “below-average performance” to unpunctual services coupled with poor customer care.

A good number of Red Bus customers are low-income workers, who don’t know where to complain about these unpunctual services, sources said.

The sources also added that many a time the buses are stop-



The Bahrain Transport Company runs services across 32 routes, say sources.

bothered about other services, namely service No.19, the only service connecting Manama, Salmabad and East Riffa,” Santhosh, a regular commuter on Manama-Salmabad route alleged.

“This is not only the case of this single route, as other routes also face similar problems,” he accused.

“We have to wait almost one hour to get a bus in the evenings to reach Manama while there are a good number of buses covering the A1 route.

“These services are only wasting the money of the company and are not aimed at the benefit of passengers. Because of these unpunctual services, people are forced to rent or hire cars, worsening the ever-increasing traffic congestion.

Highlighting the plight of passengers, Vinod Kumar, another commuter said, “The other day, I was travelling in No.19 bus from Salmabad to Manama. Mid-way, the driver stopped the bus and asked the passengers to board another bus, which was parked in front.”

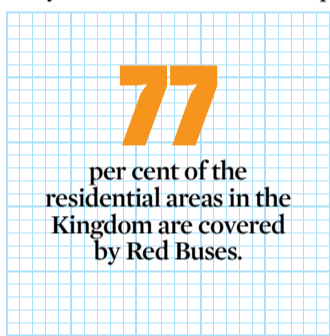
”  
This is not the first time. Many time I have been forced to disembark the bus and board another in the mid-way. This is nothing but insulting the passengers.

MR KUMAR

“This is not the first time. Many time I have been forced to disembark the bus and board another in the mid-way. This is nothing but insulting the passengers.”

Commuters are of the opinion that the authorities should find a better solution to this issue at the earliest, for the service now only benefits the pockets of the Company employees.

At present, the Bahrain Transport Company runs services across 32 routes, covering almost 77 per cent of the residential areas in the Kingdom.



ping its services mid-way, forcing people to board other buses running in the route.

When enquired, the customer care department of Bahrain Transport Company said they were not in a position to answer questions related to unpunctual

services.

Even the Android app launched by the company, which helps in live tracking of the bus, often, goes defunct, testing the common man’s patience further.

Many people, who depend on the bus service, are blaming

the authority for its mismanagement.

They allege that drivers cut the trip half way, saying that their duty hours are done.

“While the authorities are pretty interested in running A1 service properly, they are never

## Theft gang, including two Iranians, arrested

● An Investigation was launched after several cases were reported and the suspects were identified and arrested in different locations.

Manama

The Director-General of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science

announced yesterday the arrest of a five-member theft gang, including two Iranians.

They are accused of stealing jewellery, expensive watches and mobile phones from homes.

They have stolen items worth more than BD50,000, according to the director-general.

He said that three of the suspects acted like bicycling enthusiasts to spot their targeted homes, especially big villas, while the other two broke into

these houses and the three waited for them outside to alert them.

An Investigation was launched after several cases were reported and the suspects were identified and arrested in different locations.

The theft equipment and a large part of the stolen items were seized.

He said that legal procedures were taken and the case was referred to the Public Prosecution.

## Bahrain takes part in migration conference

Marrakesh

Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) Chief Executive Officer Asumah Al Absi lead the Kingdom’s delega-



Mr Al Absi speaking at the conference.

tion to the International Migration Conference.

He underlined the initiatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, which are destinations for international immigrants, stressing dedicated efforts to update institutional and legal structures that regulate expatriates’ rights and duties.

Addressing the opening session, he reiterated Bahrain’s support to all efforts and initiatives aimed to promote the legal status of expatriate workers all over the world and protect them from exploitation.

He highlighted Bahrain’s strides to promote the situation of expatriate workers, citing particularly the flexi-work permit scheme and the national referral system.

The LMRA chief also led Bahrain’s delegation to the 11th edition of the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GMFD), which was held December 5-7 in Marrakesh under the theme “Honouring International Commitments to Unlock the Potential of all Migrants for Development”.

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# More disinvestment soon

Govt mulling IPOs for Bahrain Duty Free and Bahrain Airport Services

● Speaking about the possible IPOs for Bahrain Airport Services and the Bahrain Duty Free, he said it could be launched in two years' time if other investors get on board.

● Under the trading symbol APMTB, APM Terminals Bahrain was listed in Bahrain Bourse on December 9 following a bell-ringing ceremony.

TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Zafran

The government is mulling over the possible launch of two more Initial Public Offerings (IPO) for two major companies in the near future, according to a minister.

The IPOs for two major companies, Bahrain Duty Free and Bahrain Airport Services could be launched in the next two years, according to Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, Kamal Ahmed.

Speaking about the possible IPOs for Bahrain Airport Services and the Bahrain Duty Free, he said it could be launched in two

years' time if other investors get on board.

"We will work with the other investors and hopefully in two years we can have these two companies listed in Bahrain Bourse," he told reporters.

Commenting on the recent listing of APM Terminals Bahrain on the Bahrain Bourse, he said, "We are pleased to see this. I want to thank APM terminals, the company that is operating Khalifa bin Salman port as well as thanks to Bahrain bourse and SICO who has participated in this as well. All in all, we are very happy with it."

Mark Hardiman, CEO/Managing Director, APM Terminals Bahrain commented about the company's IPO and listing saying: "The



**We will work with the other investors and hopefully in two years we can have these two companies listed in Bahrain Bourse.**

MR AHMED

fact that people have participated in this IPO in such great numbers is a testament to not only the public's trust in us but also a ringing endorsement to all that is happening at the Kingdom at the moment.

"When only 18 million shares are

available, applying for 974 million is a tremendous oversubscription."

Under the trading symbol APMTB, APM Terminals Bahrain was listed in Bahrain Bourse on December 9 following a bell-ringing ceremony.

The ceremony took place in the presence of Zayed Al Zayani, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism and Minister in Charge of Bahrain Bourse, the Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain Rashed Al Maraj, Mr Ahmed along with the CEOs of listed companies and officials of Bahrain Bourse.

The trading of APMT Bahrain will be traded under the trading symbol (APMTB) in the IPO Market for a duration of six months according to the procedures followed in the market, and will then be transferred to the regular market to be traded under the Services Sector. Following the listing of APMT, the total number of listed companies at Bahrain Bourse rose to 44 companies.

## Virtual Reality Corner to add special charm to ArtBAB expo

TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Zafran

Visitors to next year's edition of ArtBAB, one of the leading Art fairs in the region, will have the chance to experience a VR tour of some of the top art museums in the world apart from enjoying seminars, talks, and other attractions.

Middle East's first ever VR showcase of The Kremer Collection and Khora Contemporary will be featured in ArtBAB 2019 (Art Bahrain Across Borders), organisers announced during a press conference held yesterday.

In-depth discussions on how technology is becoming transformative in the art movement will also feature during ArtBAB, organisers said. Conversations on art, culture, tech and commerce will also feature.

The fourth edition of the art fair, which is held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of the King of Bahrain, will take place from March 6 to 10, 2019 at the Bahrain Exhibitions and Convention Centre.

In 2019, the theme of the exhibition will be 'Legacies' which will explore the nearly 50 year-old Bahraini contemporary art scene and its foundation in the Kingdom's rich art heritage.

The exhibition will offer visitors a multi-layered and multi-dimensional experience through exposure to a Virtual Reality Corner that allows exploration of some of the world's leading private museums and a



From left, Ms Rekkab, Ms Subberwal, Shaikha Maram, Dr Hatim El Tahir, Director, Deloitte ME Islamic Finance and Khalid Saad, Chief Executive Officer, Bahrain FinTech Bay, at the press conference.

diverse Speaker's Programme that will bring together art foundations, cultural districts and museums with FinTech, Blockchain, AI and VR specialists.

"We are proud of the unique conversations that we have started about Bahraini art around the world - in 2018 alone, our supporting project Artists Across Borders has taken 25 Bahraini artists to Paris, Moscow, Singapore and the UK," said Shaikha Maram bint Isa Al Khalifa, Director of the Office of Her Royal Highness Wife of

HM the King.

"In the 2019 edition of the fair, we shall explore not just the heritage and legacies that inspire Bahraini contemporary art but also the new directions of art on the global stage. We shall also have a beautifully curated Artisanal Room featuring special installations and large masterpieces rooted in the traditional skills of Bahraini crafts heritage," she said.

Kaneka Subberwal, Fairs and Programme Director of ArtBAB 2019, said: "The art fair's 2019

edition would be an exciting amalgam of Bahraini art and cutting-edge trends discussed during the conference. This year, in a first for the region, ArtBAB will take visitors beyond the canvases of the gifted artists of Bahrain and the gallerists who bring some of the famous contemporary artworks to showcase at the fair and take them not just across borders but across timeframes too."

Rachel Rekkab, Founder of UNFOLD Art XChange and Owner of Artem Holdings adds, "We

are honoured to be partnering with ArtBAB and to have ArtBAB as our Host Sponsor for our second edition. This will be launched as part of ArtBAB's talks program from the 7-9 March 2019 where we will be bringing together over 40 cultural, fintech, blockchain, AI and VR specialists from 20 countries across the globe to Bahrain. We would like to thank Kaneka Subberwal for her generous support and look forward to developing a long-term relationship with ArtBAB."

## Med City infra work on good track

Manama

Infrastructure works are ongoing at the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Medical City, which has been directed to be established by the late King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, who donated Saudi riyal one billion to fund the project, and a million square-meter land has been allocated for the project in the Southern Governorate as per the instructions of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Deputy President of the Arabian Gulf University (AGU) Dr. Khalid Saeed Tabbarah appreciated the support of the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the project by bearing the construction of the infrastructure phase and instructing the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning to implement the works, which are funded by the GCC Development Programme (GCC Marshall Plan) under the supervision of the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD).

Dr Tabbarah explained that the works include paving the roads, electricity, water and sanitation, and the establishment of sewage and electricity plants.

He also noted that AGU's consultant for the project, Saud Consult, which is in charge of the project's engineering designs, will also follow up on the implementation of the infrastructure works as per the instructions of the Ministry.

## Bahrain attends 21st session of Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism

TDT | Manama

The Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa, headed the participating delegation in the 21st Session of the Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism which took place at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport Headquarters located in Alexandria, Egypt.

The meeting discussed 13 topics relating to land, maritime and air transport including the preparation for the joint meeting between ministers of



Shaikh Khaled at the council meeting.

tourism and culture in the region which aims to build effective partnerships among Arab countries in the field of cultural tourism.

The meeting also discussed the possibility of increasing the aid granted to the occupied State of Palestine, more-over dedicating a share of its programs for the implementation of rescue and development projects aimed at mitigating the aftermath of the Israeli attacks, rebuilding the stricken areas and providing support to overcome the financial crisis.

The heads of delegations also reviewed the latest tourism data and sta-

tics with the aim of reinforcing the Arab Tourism and Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 in the field of tourism within the region and enhancing the quality of services provided by travel and tourism agencies.

The Council also approved the recommendations presented by the BTEA on the utilisation of the Arab tourism data and statistics and invited the Technical Committee to discuss the implementation of the solutions mentioned. In addition, the meeting also included discussions regarding the host country for 2nd Arab Forum on Tourism Statistics which will take place in 2019.

# Second phase of water park project to commence soon

The project is part of Works Ministry's initiatives to promote sustainable urban development

**TDT | Manama**  
**Tamer Taifoor**

The Ministry of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning announced that it would begin the implementation of the second phase of the water park project in the Capital.

The project is part of the ministry's initiatives to promote sustainable urban development.

Speaking to Tribune, Saleh Taradah, the head of the Board of Capital Secretariat, said the second stage of the 6.57-hectare park project is the main stage which includes the restoration of the green patch, preservation of all existing trees and lakes, provision of a shaded walkway and shaded areas for families along with limited investment space for the establishment of restaurants and cafes.

"The water park is the lung with which Manama breathes,



The water park project is implemented by the Works Ministry in co-operation with the Capital Governorate.

similar to Park Centre in New York City and Hyde Park in

London.

"The Capital Governorate has 39 parks and gardens, but the water park holds the best reputation among the people of Manama," he said.

Essam Khalaf, Minister of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning, said the ministry is working on developing the level and quality of services and projects provided to citizens and residents in different regions of the Kingdom.

"The ministry has sponsored the second stage of the water park project, which costs BD2.7 million. The project includes the restoration of the park including the re-estab-

lishment of green and water bodies and the establishment of facilities and services and parking for cars and vegetable garden and others."

"The second phase of the project, which will be launched in



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The second phase of the project, which will be launched in the coming weeks, is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2019.

MR KHALAF

the coming weeks, is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2019.

"The ministry, in co-operation with the council of the capital's secretariat and the municipal councils, is keen to set up municipal projects in the various governorates in light of its efforts to promote sustainable urban development and provide space for recreational and sports activities."

"The ministry has successfully completed several similar projects including the Prince

Khalifa Bin Salman Park, Khalifa Grand Park, Ain Adhari Park, Haneenia Park, Andalusia Park and many others."

"The ministry, within the framework of the government's work programme, the economic vision 2030 and the national strategy, especially with regard to urban development, is moving ahead with the implementation of development projects and public facilities aimed at improving the quality of services provided to citizens and residents."



”

The water park is the lung with which Manama breathes, similar to Park Centre in New York City and Hyde Park in London and other cities.

MR TARADAH

## Announcement

LMRA advises all citizens and residents of the importance of completing the processes of issuing and renewing the residency for their Domestic Employees which includes:

1. Issuing the Identity card.
2. Complete the medical examination.
3. Domestic Employee residence permit stamp in his/her passport.
4. Domestic Employee residence permit renewal once expired.
5. Ensure that the Domestic Employee passport is valid.

For further information & inquires kindly contact the below channels :

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Website: [www.lmra.bh](http://www.lmra.bh)

## CPISP launches informative workshops

● The CPISP criteria requires applicants to have Bahraini citizenship, be enrolled in the 11th grade and/or set to graduate from secondary school in 2020.

**TDT | Manama**

The Crown Prince's International Scholarship Programme (CPISP) has launched a series of informative presentations/workshops detailing the opportunities available to government and private school students under its 2020 programme. The presentations also cover the scholarship application process.

The application period for 2020 scholarships will run from 3 - 21 March 2019, with students invited to complete and submit an application form available on the programme's website ([www.cpisp.bh](http://www.cpisp.bh)) during that



Scholarships will be allocated to three males and three females from government schools, and two males and two females from private schools.

period.

Applicants who meet the programme's criteria will then be invited by email for a series of tests to assess their English proficiency and critical reasoning abilities.

The assessments are organised by the CPISP in cooperation with the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF). The CPISP criteria requires

applicants to have Bahraini citizenship, be enrolled in the 11th grade and/or set to graduate from secondary school in 2020.

In addition, applicants are required to have an accumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 97 per cent or above for grade 10 and the first semester of grade 11.

During the programme's candidacy stage, a minimum of 60 applicants will be selected based on the results of the qualifying tests and their GPA.

A minimum of 40 students from local schools under the Ministry of Education and 20 students from private schools will reach this stage of the assessment.

The candidacy stage will involve training, conducted in cooperation with BIBF, as well as preparatory courses for the IELTS and SAT exams, after which the final ten scholarship recipients will be selected.

Scholarships will be allocated to three males and three females from government schools, and two males and two females from private schools.

WORLD  
world

# US returns bells to Philippines

● Giving back the three so-called Balangiga bells meets a decades-old demand

● The bells will be sent back later this week to the church in the central town of Balangiga

Manila, Philippines

Church bells seized from the Philippines by US troops as war trophies over a century ago were returned on Tuesday, in a bid to turn the page on a difficult chapter between the historical allies.

Giving back the three so-called Balangiga bells meets a decades-old demand from the former US colony at a time when the two nations' ties have been rattled by President Rodrigo Duterte's pivot to China.

"Returning these bells is the right thing to do," US Ambassador Sung Kim said at a sober handover ceremony on a Manila airfield, where a cheer went up



Philippine military personnel unload one of the three Balangiga church bells after it arrived from the US at a military airbase in Manila

when the bells were pulled from wooden crates.

"It is my great honour to be here at the closing of a painful chapter in our history," he told the crowd that included people

who had lobbied for years to bring the bells home.

The bells will be sent back later this week to the church in the central town of Balangiga where they were looted by US soldiers

avenging a surprise attack that killed 48 of their comrades on September 28, 1901.

In reprisal, the US commander Jacob Smith ordered the surrounding island of Samar be

turned into a "howling wilderness", resulting in the slaughter of thousands of Filipinos and Balangiga's razing.

The return of the bronze bells has been divisive with some US veterans and lawmakers, who see them as a tribute to fallen American troops, while the Philippines hails them as a symbol of its struggle for independence.

Two of the bells had been on display in the US state of Wyoming and the other in South Korea until being restored and flown to a Manila air base Tuesday aboard an American military cargo plane.

"Ring again after 117 years" "It is time for healing. It is time for closure. It is a time to look ahead as two nations should with shared history and as allies," Philippine secretary of defence Delfin Lorenzana said. "After 117 years the sound of the bells will once again ring," he added.

Manila's push for the bells' repatriation began in the 1990s and has had backing from Philippine presidents as well as from the Catholic Church and historians, but also supporters in the US.

## India ruling party stares at biggest election losses

Reuters | New Delhi

The Bharatiya Janata Party looked set to lose power in the three key states of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, official vote counts showed yesterday.

In Chhattisgarh, Congress was ahead in 67 of the 90 seats at stake, with the BJP on 17.

In Rajasthan, the Congress was leading in 98 of the 199 seats contested, against 74 for the BJP, according to data from the Election Commission.

In Madhya Pradesh, the most important of the five states that have held assembly elections in recent weeks, Congress was leading with 113 seats while the BJP had 108 out of 230.

Regional parties were leading in two smaller states that also voted, Telangana in the south and Mizoram in the northeast.

Investors said the BJP had not fared as badly as feared, and nationally would still likely have an edge over an opposition coalition in the general election.

## US adds Pakistan to blacklist for religious freedom violations

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States said yesterday it has added Pakistan to its blacklist of countries that violate religious freedom, ramping up pressure over its treatment of minorities.

The United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said, in a statement, he had designated Pakistan among "countries of particular concern" in a congressionally mandated annual report, a year after the State Department put Pakistan on a watchlist without legal consequences.

## Indonesians wrestle with giant python



A sequence of pictures taken from a video grab showing villagers trying to capture a large python in Padang Pariaman, in West Sumatra

Pariaman, Indonesia

A viral video showing a gigantic python wrapping itself around an Indonesian villager has secured more than a million views, after locals wrestled with the serpent before successfully

caging it.

The villagers initially thought the giant snake, which was resting by the river, was just an old log before one of them touched the serpent, triggering

it into action.

The November 22 video, shot by villager Ronal Efendi Coto, shows the man fighting as others try to pry him loose from the python's notorious death grip.

After calling for help and

managing to subdue the serpent, the men put it into a cage in Pucuang Anam village in Sumatra and asked a local zoo for assistance.

But the zoo declined to take in the python, citing overcapacity.

## Man detained outside British parliament



London, United Kingdom

Armed police detained a man on the grounds of the British parliament yesterday, at almost exactly the same spot where an attack occurred last year, an AFP photographer saw. London's Metropolitan Police did not immediately respond to a request for information about the incident, while parliamentary authorities said police were handling it.

## 100 marathons in 100 days: A punishing run for water

AFP | Hong Kong, China

From ankle-deep mud in Central Asia to the scorching heat of Australia, Mina Guli is running 100 marathons in 100 days to highlight a looming global water shortage.

The 48-year-old Australian is galloping across the planet, 42 kilometres (26 miles) at a time, with barely a moment to adjust her watch before it's on to the next stop. Her unorthodox world tour began in New York on November 4 and has so far taken in France, the Vatican, India and Hong Kong.

Guli, a former lawyer, will race through dozens more places -- including in Jordan, Kenya and Mexico -- before she gets back



Australian marathon runner Mina Guli runs on the track at the Peak in Hong Kong

to New York on February 11 for a triumphant final marathon.

"Running is not my favourite thing in the world to do by any stretch of the imagination," Guli said. But it has opened her a path to adventure -- like in Uzbekistan where city streets were closed for her, she had a police escort and the mayor joined her for a jog.

"When you see all the traffic banked up at the traffic lights for you, you just think 'wow I need to be running faster or something,'" she said.

Despite an itinerary that would be the envy of many a seasoned traveller, Guli and her six-strong support team have no time for tourism.

Guli is chief executive of Hong Kong-based not-for-profit organisation Thirst, which works to highlight the pressures on the global water supply.

"We forget that water goes into everything we buy and consume every day," she says, including the clothes we wear.

And, say experts, as the planet's population increases, this precious resource will become ever-more scarce.

The UN estimates that, by 2030, demand for water will outstrip supply by 40 percent.

That thought, says Guli, is what keeps her going through the longest -- and most difficult -- slog of her life.



A woman puts a plastic bottle into a vending machine as she waits to take extra credit on her Istanbul card at Istanbul metro station

Every bottle or can placed in the machine gives extra credit on Istanbul card -- the universal ticket for using public transport in the city -- in a pilot project by the municipality to promote recycling.

# Mind your waste

## Slow recycler Turkey seeks better uses for its trash

AFP | Istanbul, Turkey

**T**urkish woman Tulay Gercek stands in front of a vending machine at a busy Istanbul metro station but instead of putting coins into a slot, she crams plastic bottles into a hole.

Every bottle or can Gercek places in the machine gives extra credit on her Istanbul card -- the universal ticket for using public transport in the city -- in a pilot project by the municipality to promote recycling.

"I'm bringing plastic bottles every day," she said at Sishane station, where she had brought a large bag of bottles and cans.

"In the past I used to throw them into the bin. This is a very good project. There should be more," she said. "I believe it will help raise public awareness a little bit."

The machines are in place at three metro stations in Turkey's mega city and officials hope to expand to more in the future.

It's so far a relatively rare step in a country of over 80 million people with a notoriously bad record on recycling and waste.

Activists say this must change fast and there are signs, albeit tentative, that the authorities are starting to understand the need to change profligate habits.

### 'Polluting the soil'

Turkey ranks 108th with a score of 52.96 in the 2018 Environmental Performance Index (EPI), produced by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, that analyses the environmental performance of 180 nations.

Top of the eco-chart is Switzerland, with a score of 87.42, indicating a strong showing across most issues, especially climate, energy and air pollution.

Oya Guzel, of the Mind Your Waste (Copune Sahip Cik) foundation, said Turkey was producing around 31 million tonnes of waste annually, out of which 11



Turkish workers eliminate garbage in the recycling centre in Istanbul. The country of over 80 million people has notoriously bad record on recycling and waste. Activists say this needs to change fast and there are signs, albeit tentative, the authorities are starting to understand the need to change the public's profligate habits.



**In the past I used to throw them into the bin. This is a very good project. There should be more. I believe it will help raise public awareness a little bit**

TULAY GERCEK

percent was recycled.

"We are polluting the soil and the environment with plastics, metals and glass which remain in the natural environment for years," she said.

"We have a target of 35 percent (of all waste to be recycled) by five years from now, which is also low but we believe progress can be made" in that time.

She said it was consumers in the end who have to decide what is recyclable.

"We could turn it into raw material, or throw away litter and make it trash," Guzel said, urging consumers to give up on disposable materials.

"We use a plastic bag for an average time of 12 minutes. It becomes trash 12 minutes later."

The Istanbul municipality told AFP that, of the non-recycled waste, 61 per cent was burned to produce electricity and the remaining 28pc buried with no use.

### 'Will get better'

At a sorting facility on the outskirts of Istanbul, organic waste is separated, processed and used as fertiliser in parks and gardens throughout the city, while non-organic materials, like glass, plastics and metals, are recycled. But Ibrahim Halil Turkeri, the



**Turkey ranks 108th with a score of 52.96 in the 2018 Environmental Performance Index (EPI), produced by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, that analyses the environmental performance of 180 nations.**



city's recycling chief, said that "greater responsibility falls to individuals."

"If the waste is classified at its source, cleaner waste will reach our facility and factories, and they will have better value as secondary raw materials, and all will have been recycled."

Ahmet Hamdi Zembil, environment engineer at waste management company ISTAC, said gas from burning organic waste can be transformed into electricity.

But he added that classifying at source was crucial so that synthetic waste was not mixed in.

"We have disposed of seven million tonnes of waste here over the last year and produced 400 million kilowatt hours of electricity," he said.

Back at Sishane, Gercek slotted her plastic bottles into the machine, realising to her chagrin that only 0.03 lira is given for each can or bottle, meaning she would need to recycle 87 cans or bottles for a single free trip that normally costs 2.60 lira (\$0.50).

"But still, it is a start. I believe this system will get better," she said.



**The Indian School**

Kingdom of Bahrain  
P O Box 558

### CLEANING CONTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from qualified contractors for The Indian School Cleaning contract for Isa Town Campus & Riffa Campus. Tender document is available in The Indian School website [www.indianschool.bh](http://www.indianschool.bh).

Sealed tender addressed to Hon. Secretary should be deposited in the tender box kept in EC Room, Admin Block, Isa Town Campus on or before 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018, 10 am

**For further details please contact 17684166**

# Macron's moment



SYLVIE KAUFFMANN

*Weeks of violent protest by France's angry working poor are testing a president who promised the people reform but has failed to govern them*

He was the saviour of Europe. A 39-year-old maverick who rescued France from the populist tide, the newcomer who crushed his far-right opponent Marine Le Pen in a TV debate on the eve of a presidential election. The leader who would make liberal democracy great again. The visionary who had a plan to jump start the European Union. A 21st-century John Kennedy. Some joked that he could walk on water.

That was 2017. Eighteen months into his presidential term, Emmanuel Macron, faced with an uprising by a leaderless army of working poor in yellow vests and by violence unseen since the student riots of May 1968, is struggling to take back control of his country. The charismatic young president was jeered by protesters who tried to chase his car this week when he visited a public building set afire by rioters in Le Puy-en-Velay, in south-central France. "Macron, démission" — "Macron, resign" — has become the rallying cry of these modern-day sans-culottes, whose anger is directed at him, personally.

In a rare show of humility, Macron admitted a month ago that

he had "failed to reconcile the people with its leaders." Little did he suspect that the anger would turn into hatred, of the kind thrown in the face of dictators by the Arab Spring. As a fourth Saturday of protests looms, in spite of an olive branch offered by the government, nobody can predict whether this revolt will eventually give way to dialogue or degenerate into an even more profound and dangerous crisis.

What went wrong? Two sets of factors have come into play. One is not specific to France: an insurrectional wave that is now a familiar feature of Western democracies shaken by the disruptions of globalisation, the aftermath of the 2008 economic crisis and the inability of our traditional political parties to adjust to these new challenges. Brexit, Donald Trump's election, an emergence of the far right in Germany and a victory of anti-system parties in Italy — all, though less violent, are part of the same dynamics. Emmanuel Macron was initially seen as a bulwark against this trend. More determined than his predecessors, he would reform France with a progressive agenda that would do away with the injustices of the old world.

This is where the second set of factors comes in, and it is of the president's own making. As the historian Gérard Noiriel has noted, in Macron's book "Révolution," which introduced his presidential bid, there was no mention of the working class. His revolu-



President Emmanuel Macron, center, inspecting the damage from protests over a planned fuel tax increase in Paris this month

tion was not of the masses — it was meant to be top down, and for a while it worked. In his first year in office, the young president adroitly passed several reforms, including of a labor law, and survived a painful strike of railway workers without sacrificing a reform of the national railway

company. By then, Macron may have been thinking that he could, indeed, walk on water.

Unfortunately, nobody can — not even him. His vertical way of exercising power — some call it Jupiterian, others monarchical — became more and more of a problem: his being surrounded

by a small team of technocrats the contempt he seemed to hold for people not lucky enough to be as successful as he was; his lack of knowledge of the local political terrain because he had never been elected before. The combination left people feeling that their president was out of touch.

## How Egypt crowdsources c



YASMINE EL RASHIDI

*The bounds of right and wrong now extend beyond the parameters of a political system, to what is deemed to be moral for the culture and conscientious for the nation*

To write in Egypt and about Egypt has long meant being under the scrutiny of an authoritarian state — starting in the 1950s with President Gamal Abdel Nasser, who nationalised the press, and extending to the present. If you didn't approve of the government's activities, your only option, you quickly learned, was to be noncommittal.

My first encounter with the red lines of authority was in the early 2000s, as a young writer at a weekly paper in Cairo. One day my editor, a well-respected journalist who stood apart from his submissive state-appointed colleagues for his outspokenness and professional rigor, called me into his office after an editorial meeting. I had proposed to write about an impending gas deal with Israel. He was apologetic but clear: There would be no talk of the gas deal.

There was an official blackout on coverage of Egypt's relations with Israel. Border issues were off-limits. So was heavy metal mu-

sic, thought to be a pact with the devil. Particular turns of phrase also were no-nos: "iron-fisted," for example, when used to describe the president, since any criticism of him could land you in jail. I quickly learned the ropes and the bounds, and I inadvertently, not conscious of the act itself, learned to self-censor, too.

This, in many ways, was the beginning of what would become a growing space of silence in my writing life, which slowly extended beyond politics. Over the years, I developed a habit of sidestepping or writing in innuendo anything that I thought might be culturally offensive, exposing, taboo.

In the fall of 2010, the year before the revolution that ousted President Hosni Mubarak, I was part of a small team of writers and editors that founded the online news site Ahram Online. It was partly funded by the state and under the umbrella of the government daily Al Ahram. But our editor, Hani Shukrallah, was a liberal and a leftist — a fierce defender of press freedoms and human rights, who encouraged us to push boundaries.

After that year's particularly contentious parliamentary election, during which Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party

hired thugs to beat up dissident candidates, we ran an article with the headline "Blow by Blow Account."

Shukrallah almost immediately got a phone call from the chairman of Al Ahram.

He came out of his office and grudgingly told us that the headline had to go. We changed it to "Minute by Minute Account." We also chopped off the last paragraph of an article I was writing because it mentioned the president's younger son, Gamal, who was angling for power in a standoff with the army. This type of censorship, slight in many ways, severe in others, had become a mode of survival; one picked one's battles.

Still, it was only for a fleeting moment in 2011, in the early days of the uprising — before any clear division between factions had become apparent — that my notebook felt like a liability: I was stopped several times on the street by police officers who were suspicious of my note-taking and interrogated me about my affiliation and intentions.

In all my years of writing, it had always been clear what could and what couldn't be addressed, even when the difference between those things shifted as the political story changed. There



Hosni Mubarak regime controlled press in Egypt with very limited freedom for journa

was still a margin for challenging the status quo, to subtly suggest what could not be said — that was mostly a matter of timing and venue. Writing in English, one had more leeway. Sometimes journalists were jailed and people disappeared, but such perils didn't loom over the everyday or

anyone I personally knew. The present, in this broader historical context, feels novel. In the space of a single day in April, three journalists were detained. Over the whole year the number is thought to be 38. Others have disappeared. The crackdown now also extends be



1915

President of the **Republic of China, Yuan Shikai**, announces his intention to reinstate the monarchy and proclaim himself Emperor of China.



1917

In Nebraska, Father **Edward J. Flanagan** founds Boys Town as a farm village for wayward boys.

1918

The **Flag of Estonia** is raised atop the Pikk Hermann for the first time.

1935

**Lebensborn** Project, a Nazi reproduction program, is founded by Heinrich Himmler.

# t of truth



The Yellow Vests have become Macron's midterms, only more brutal. He has been so busy that he forgot to create a new political force to support his agenda.

The Yellow Vests have become Macron's midterms, only more brutal. He has been so busy that he forgot to create a new political force to support his agenda. That has left him vulnerable, because his party's Parliament members, elected a few weeks after him, are as inexperienced in politics as he is.

So what if Macron fails? This is not an easy question. In the uncharted environment created by the collapse of the old French political balances, there is no obvious alternative, no opposition leader prepared to win a snap election, no strong political parties. Whatever happens in the next few days, Macron will not be able to govern as he did in his first year. "One cannot govern against the people," his political ally François Bayrou sternly warned him last week.

Most likely, his reform agenda

will need a pause. The hard work still to be done — the reforms of the pension system, of the civil service, of local taxes, of political institutions — will have to wait or be watered down. Curbing public spending will be an even bigger challenge. The Yellow Vests are demanding fewer taxes and more public services. And the crucial equation between ecological transition and social justice will be even harder to solve.

Such a scenario of France reverting to its old woes will do the European Union no good. With Germany absorbed for another year by its domestic political upheavals, the European agenda will be left unattended. This is a cruel dimension of Macron's travails: The only leader bold enough to articulate an attractive vision of a renewed European project, he was hung out to dry by those very leaders who had celebrated him. It is difficult to imagine how the pendulum can now swing back: The last bulwark against nationalism is gone. Trump and Italy's Matteo Salvini may have the last laugh.

Yet, if Macron survives this crisis, something good may come out of it. He, along with French and European elites, could draw the lesson from the revolt of the Yellow Vests and find a way to govern with the people, not against them. That is, after all, what democracy is about.

(Sylvie Kauffmann is the editorial director and a former editor in chief of *Le Monde*, and a contributing opinion writer.)

# ensorship?



Today, the risks exist regardless of who you are, what platform you write or speak for, what language you choose to use.

tary. The Egyptian singer Shyma was imprisoned in January for making a suggestive music video involving a banana; another singer was also jailed — for joking about the cleanliness of the Nile's waters. This week, an actress was handed a trial date for wearing to the Cairo International Film Festival a fishnet dress revealing her legs.

Many of these works, which earned their creators charges of "blasphemy," "offending public morals," "inciting debauchery" or "contempt of religion," were reported to the prosecutor's office by fellow citizens who questioned their morality. The laws are vague enough to act as

a catchall. The crusade to silence words, images and thoughts is both opaque and arbitrary. What may well escape the state censor might still offend a neighbour — partly because the government has encouraged citizens to report fake news and "forces of evil."

For decades under past presidents, the conservative current in Egyptian society had been kept in check acceptability.

Today, the risks exist regardless of who you are, what platform you write or speak for, what language you choose to use. The bounds of right and wrong now extend beyond the parameters of a political system, to what is deemed to be moral for the culture and conscientious for the nation. This is a moment of crisis, when new forms of expression and resistance must emerge.

A question occupies me today: How to silence the censor inside me when faced with a growing sense of foreboding, even at times fear? How to invent, from this moment and this pressure, something radical, bound-breaking, new?

(Yasmine El Rashidi is the author of "The Battle for Egypt: Dispatches from the Revolution" and "Chronicle of a Last Summer: A Novel of Egypt," and a contributing opinion writer.)



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Wonderful news pouring in from #Elections2018. In the memorable words of @arunjaitley, "Great Day for India. No one who cheats India will go scot free." #EndToJumlas #TimesUpBJP @ShashiTharoor

02



GOP member Lamar Smith goes on with a lunatic conspiracy theory about Google having an anti-conservative bias. It's clown show time. YouTube is far more favorable to right-wing content and its programmatic ad service is, well... #Google-Hearing @matthewstoller

03



Some Democrats are salivating over the possibility that the President could be charged with campaign finance illegalities for paying the women off. So the Trump people are pointing out much more serious allegations such as lying to federal judges to get surveillance warrants. @BillOReilly

04



A male, 19, arrested after a video circulated on social media of him physically assaulting a shopkeeper in Jidhafs and intentionally damaging the shop. Legal procedures are being taken to refer the case to the Public Prosecution. @moi\_bahrain

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

## Wide Angle

### Voyager Interstellar Mission: A feat of human ingenuity



JOEL INDRUPATI

"Your smartphone has 200,000 times more memory than what the Voyager spacecraft had."

This line should be enough to convince us, on why the news of Voyager 2, leaving the heliosphere of the Solar System, is really a big deal for science; and for man's exploration of outer space.

Launched in 1977, some sixteen days apart, both spacecraft Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 have now become the only two man-made objects to have gone the farthest from earth.

They have, effectively left the confines of the solar system, in August 2012 and November 2018 respectively, and are now journeying in interstellar space.

And, in their total journey of 41 years, they have sent back enormous amounts of data, including magnificent pictures of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune from close quarters. And are still sending data!

Voyager 2's position and data can actually be tracked live, at this web link: [theskylive.com/voyager2-tracker](http://theskylive.com/voyager2-tracker).

And as I write this, I see that its distance from earth is 17.9 billion kilometres now. Can we even compare that with the distance of sun from earth, which is a miniscule 150 million kilometres?

Voyager 2 is 119 times farther from earth than the sun is from the earth. Which is why data from it reaches earth in 16 to 19 hours.

When I heard Suzanne Dodd, the Voyager Project Manager of NASA, on a YouTube video, say those words, comparing the memory of our 2018 smartphones to that of the memory of the 1977 spacecraft, I really could not help wondering about the greatness of man, in thinking ahead.

While paying tribute to all those amazing scientists and engineers, who are making these mind-bending things possible, I felt it would be useful to share some amazing things I had learnt about these spacecrafts.

These two space probes obviously do not just need memory chips. Among other things, they need power to let the craft run, they need appropriate software to keep transmitting data, and they need alignment with receiving stations, on an always rotating earth, to keep receiving data without interruption.

My investigations revealed some incredible facts about these in the 'Voyager Mission' — which, by the way, NASA has now changed to 'Voyager Interstellar Mission'.

Power to the spacecraft is supplied by a mini nuclear reactor that uses heat from Plutonium decay, as an energy generating method; and it is likely to last till 2025.

Software programmers of 1970s, or with that knowledge, are often needed to re-program or revise the programs on the onboard minicomputer that transmits data to earth.

Thrusters onboard are always ensuring that the aircraft is aligned in such a way that one of the main antennas is always pointing to earth, so that the receiving and transmission earth-stations can receive the data.

Three earth stations, located at different points on earth, with high power receivers to capture weak signals, in a continuous uninterrupted seamless stream, with at least one station in a line of sight with the space probe, billions of kilometres away.

Like 'a game of cosmic billiards' — as Carl Sagan has put it in his book 'Cosmos' — the planets' gravitational pulls were used to sling shot the space craft through immense distances, conserving energy, and increasing speed.

So, when we think of this scientific thinking and visionary resourcefulness, does it not boggle our minds? When we think of our curious human minds, and passionate collective endeavour, does it not stun us into a reverent awe?

Today, thanks to this great human ingenuity, we can see that a spacecraft keeps going strong for over 41 years. But then, the same ingenuity is making a mobile phone outdated in six months.

# business

## Tarabut passes CBB's sand test



During a photocall on the occasion of a ceremony held to announce the successful exit of Tarabut Gateway from CBB's sandbox

### ● The Almoayed Technologies subsidiary is first to successfully complete the Regulatory Sandbox stage

TDT | Manama

Tarabut Gateway, a subsidiary of Almoayed Technologies, has become the first company to successfully complete the Regulatory Sandbox stage and to receive the CBB's in-principle confirmation under the Open Banking regulatory framework, the top bank announced.

The announcement was made

at a ceremony held at the Bahrain Fintech in the presence of CBB, Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) and Bahrain Fintech Bay officials and Abdulla Almoayed, CEO of Almoayed Technologies.

Tarabut Gateway was one of the first companies to enter the regulatory sandbox in early 2018 to test its technology-based innovative open banking solutions and provide connectivity for Bahraini banks to assist their customer in accessing account information across different banks on a single platform, in accordance with the open banking regulations recently issued by the CBB.

Expressing his delight at the successful graduation of

Tarabut, Rasheed Mohammed Al Maraj, Governor of the CBB, said, "We look forward to more successful completion of the Regulatory Sandbox stage by other companies."

"Open Banking will create opportunities for building synergies between financial institutions and FinTechs, thereby, delivering a more competitive and efficient financial services sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain," Al Maraj added.

Khalid Al Rumaihi, Chief Executive of Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB), said, "This success highlights the CBB's continuous efforts to update and develop the FinTech ecosystem and enable industry players to create innovative

and forward-looking FinTech products while maintaining the overall safety and soundness of the financial system."

Tarabut emerged successfully from the Sandbox after completing 12 months of continuous support from the CBB and the Economic Development Board. "Throughout the sandbox period, we have successfully integrated more than 11 banks in Bahrain preparing them for the new Open Banking regulation to deliver one of the world's most advanced infrastructures enabling Banks and Fintechs within the ecosystem to enhance their offerings and the customer experience as a whole," said Abdulla Almoayed, CEO of Almoayed Technologies.

## VIVA, StanChart launch Mastercard, fin services



The deal signing

### ● The credit card is scheduled to be launched in January 2019

TDT | Manama

VIVA Bahrain and Standard Chartered Bank jointly announced introducing an exclusive co-branded card and a deal that allows Standard Chartered to expand its financial services offerings through VIVA Bahrain.

The signing ceremony was held at VIVA Bahrain's HQ and attended by Ulaiyan Al Wetaid, CEO of VIVA Bahrain and Dr Boutros Klink, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank for Bahrain & GCC, in addition to senior executives of both organisations.

Commenting on the agreement, Ulaiyan Al Wetaid CEO of VIVA Bahrain said, "We are proud to partner with Standard Chartered Bank as this partnership is in line with VIVA's strategy to explore new and innovative solutions to further engage our customers and raise the bar for the industry as a whole and inspire all key players."

Signing the deal, Dr Boutros Klink, CEO of Standard Chartered Bahrain & GCC, said, "We believe that telecommunication and technology are at the heart of our everyday life, where one has to be connected all the time."

The credit card, scheduled to be launched in January 2019, can be used for VIVA products and services will also offer its card members access to offers on shopping, dining, hotel accommodation, air tickets and more.

The card, Viva, said, offers 10 per cent discount off monthly plans when a customer register their credit card for AutoPay to settle their monthly bills. Additionally, cardmembers will get access to more than 800 airport lounges around the world. Additionally, cardholders will be able to earn and redeem their VIVA reward points to purchase airline tickets and collect miles with major airline operators in the region including Gulf Air, Saudia, Turkish Airlines, Air India and more.

Standard Chartered will be offering financial services through some of VIVA Bahrain's prime outlets, where customers can apply for financial services and products.

## China court bans iPhone sales in patent dispute: Qualcomm

Washington, United States

A Chinese court ordered a ban in the country on iPhone sales in a patent dispute, US chip-making giant Qualcomm said Monday.

A Qualcomm statement said the Fuzhou Intermediate People's Court had granted its request for two preliminary injunctions against four subsidiaries of Apple, ordering them to immediately stop selling the iPhone 6S, iPhone 6S Plus, iPhone 7, iPhone 7 Plus, iPhone 8, iPhone 8 Plus and iPhone X.

The move marked the latest in a long-running dispute over patents and royalties between the two California tech giants playing out in courts and administrative bodies worldwide.

"Apple continues to benefit from our intellectual property while refusing to compensate us. These court orders are further confirmation of the strength of Qualcomm's vast patent portfolio," said Don Rosenberg, Qual-



**Qualcomm has countersued Apple and earlier this year escalated its legal fight, claiming the iPhone maker stole trade secrets and shared them with mobile chip rival Intel**

comm executive vice president and general counsel in Monday's statement.

The China case is based on patents which enable consumers to adjust and reformat the size and appearance of photographs,



Customers (C) look at products in an Apple store in Beijing

and to manage applications using a touchscreen, Qualcomm said.

An Apple statement to AFP called Qualcomm's effort a "desperate move by a company whose illegal practices are under

investigation by regulators around the world."

Apple added that Qualcomm "is asserting three patents they had never raised before, including one which has already been invalidated."

The Wall Street Journal said the order was issued November 30, and that iPhones remained on sale in the country. The court case does not affect the newest models, including the iPhone Xs and Xr.

Apple's China strategy

China has been an important market for Apple in recent years since China Mobile agreed to begin distributing the smartphones in 2014, and a number of Apple stores are open in China.

Apple's most recent quarterly report showed it brought in some \$11 billion -- around 18 percent of its total revenues -- from "Greater China," a region which includes Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Qualcomm, the leading supplier of chips for mobile devices, has been in a prolonged legal battle with Apple in recent years.

Apple has claimed that Qualcomm is abusing its market power over certain mobile chipsets in order to demand unfair royalties, joining a string of antitrust actions against the chipmaker.

Qualcomm is facing antitrust probes in South Korea, the European Union and the United States over its dominant position.

# Macron vows wage rise

French President Emmanuel Macron unveils new measures in a bid to end 'yellow vest' revolt

- A 100 euro (\$113) monthly increase in the minimum wage as of next year, for which businesses
- The minimum wage was set at 1,498 euros a month pre-tax in 2018 and 1,185 euros after tax.
- To roll back most of an unpopular increase in taxes on pensioners
- A one-off "end of year bonus" which would be tax free

AFP | Paris, France



French President Emmanuel Macron speaks during a special address to the nation



Students hold banners reading "Tolbiac in action, Macron, same fight!"

Embattled French President Emmanuel Macron Monday announced a series of financial measures seeking to defuse the "yellow vest" revolt that has triggered violent protests in cities across the country.

In a 15-minute televised speech from the Elysee Palace, a sombre-looking president told the nation, "I accept my share of responsibility" for the crisis.

The former investment banker struck a more humble tone than usual as he sought to address criticism of his style of leadership.

"I know that I have hurt some of you with my statements," he said.

Macron stressed, however, that the protests by mostly low-income people in small town or rural France were the result of long-term problems.

"Their distress doesn't date from yesterday. We have ended up getting used to it," he said.

"These are forty years of malaise that have come to the surface."

Among the measures Macron announced was a 100 euro (\$113) monthly increase in the minimum wage as of next year, for which businesses would not have to foot the bill.

The minimum wage was set at 1,498 euros a month pre-tax in 2018 and 1,185 euros after tax.

## "Insufficient", says Yellow vests

Reactions to his speech from the "yellow vests" were hard to judge as the movement is leaderless and has refused to come under the sway of political parties or trade unions.

Some protesters, interviewed on French television, acknowledged that Macron had made some "concessions", but added that these were "insufficient" to call the protests off.

"This time, there really is some progress. My smile got bigger and bigger as he spoke," said Erwan, one of the movement's "spokesmen" in the northwestern town of Rennes.

But, for Pierre-Gael Laveder, in the eastern town of Montceau-les-Mines, "Macron hasn't taken the full measure of what is going on".

"Everyone of his announcements was booted and the first overall reaction was 'he thinks we are fools'," Laveder added.

Macron's government had previously suggested that any increase in the minimum wage would destroy jobs rather than



A man wearing a yellow vest with the inscription "Macron resignation" stands in front of a road blockade

Right-wing opposition leader Marine Le Pen, Macron's rival in last year's presidential run-off election, welcomed

help create them. But the protests, which have seen rioting in Paris and other cities and taken a heavy financial

some of the tax measures announced, but accused Macron of being the harbinger of "savage" globalisation.

"He refuses to admit it's the (economic) model which he champions which is itself called into question," she added.

Jean-Luc Melenchon, who heads the left-wing opposition Unbowed France, said Macron was mistaken if he thought "a distribution of money" will calm "the insurrection".

The European Commission, which monitors EU members' finances, said it would study the budgetary impact of Macron's measures which are expected to cost billions of euros.

"We are monitoring the potential new measures announced, but we cannot comment until they are properly announced and detailed," said Valdis Dombrovskis, the commissioner for the euro.

toll, are the biggest challenge for Macron since he came to power in May 2017 promising to revitalise the economy.

## France blows hole in budget

Paris, France

French President Emmanuel Macron's measures to help low-income families and so end the "yellow vest" protests will blow a hole in the budget and perhaps his reputation too, analysts say.

Economists estimate the cost of the sweeteners he announced could reach 11 billion euros (\$12.5 billion).

The minimum wage will be hiked next year, labour taxes on overtime will be scrapped and a tax rise on pensioners introduced this year will be rolled back.

The total bill for all the measures is estimated at 15 billion euros -- and counting.

Under EU rules, France is obliged to keep its budget deficit under 3.0 percent of gross domestic product -- something it failed to do repeatedly until 2017.

Since then his popularity has fallen with critics saying he favours the rich and alienates people struggling, especially in

provincial France.

## Pensions, overtime

The 40-year-old centrist also announced he would roll back most of an unpopular increase in taxes on pensioners introduced by his government.

And he called on all businesses "that can afford it" to give employees a one-off "end of year bonus" which would be tax free.

In another move to appease protesters' anger, Macron said he would do away with all wage taxes on overtime work.

Macron, who has been in power for the past 18 months, on Monday held four hours of crisis talks with top officials.

He had previously vowed that unlike his predecessors he would not be swayed by street protests. But in an initial attempt to quell the revolt now in its fourth week, the government agreed last week to cancel a planned increase in anti-pollution fuel taxes -- the spark behind the "yellow vest" protests in car-dependent rural and suburban France.

The central bank on Monday halved its fourth-quarter growth forecast to just 0.2 percent from 0.4 percent -- far below the 0.8 percent growth needed to meet the government's full-year target of 1.7 percent.

## Chinese and US negotiators discuss trade talks timetable

Beijing, China

Top Chinese and US negotiators held telephone talks yesterday to exchange views on the timetable of trade talks, the Chinese commerce ministry said.

Vice Premier Liu He spoke with US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer 10 days after presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping agreed to a trade war truce.

A 90-day deadline was set to reach an agreement, but no date has been set for the next round of talks and tensions have risen anew following Canada's arrest of an executive of Chinese telecom giant

Huawei at the behest of the United States.

The commerce ministry said in a statement Liu and the US officials "exchanged views on the implementation of the consensus" reached by Trump and Xi as well as on the timetable for the next round of negotiations.

Lighthizer said Sunday that March 1 was a "hard deadline" for the two sides to reach an agreement that would prevent an escalation of the trade war.

The world's top two economies have exchanged steep tariffs on more than \$300 billion in total two-way trade, locking them in a conflict that has begun to eat into profits.

## India names Shaktikanta Das as new RBI governor

Reuters | Mumbai

India's government named Shaktikanta Das, a seasoned financial bureaucrat, as the next governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), replacing Urjit Patel.

Das, who retired as the secretary of department of economic affairs, has been appointed as the central bank's governor for a three-year term, the government said in a statement on Tuesday.

Das is known as an experienced bureaucrat who has held key positions.

His appointment is likely to



Shaktikanta Das (file)

cheer markets as investors expect communication between

the government and the central bank to improve following a public spat that deepened an existing rift between the two sides.

"Bonds and rupee should react positively following this news," said Ashish Vaidya, executive director and head of trading at DBS Bank in Mumbai.

"He is a bureaucrat and will help in improving the RBI-government relationship. We expect the RBI to take a pragmatic approach under him, be pro-growth and change its stance going ahead, given that inflation has come off sharply."

## China warns against 'bullying' of its citizens

Beijing, China

China's foreign minister warned yesterday against the "bullying" of any Chinese citizen, amid a diplomatic fracas over the arrest of a Huawei executive on a US warrant in Canada.

"The safety and security of Chinese compatriots are our priority, China will never sit idly by and ignore any bullying that violates the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens," Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in a speech in Beijing, without directly referring to the Huawei case.

## European stocks surge higher as sterling rebounds

AFP | London, United Kingdom

European stocks charged higher yesterday, rebounding from the previous day's sharp downturn as bargain hunters, emboldened by solid US markets, pushed aside a plethora of global worries.

"European equities are broadly higher in afternoon action, in the wake of yesterday's battle back in the US," said analysts at Charles Schwab.

Wall Street yesterday added to the previous day's late surge, rising by about one percent in early New York business. The British pound also enjoyed a modest rebound as British Prime Minister Theresa May scrambled to rescue the UK's Brexit deal.

British unemployment data supported a recovery in the pound, in particular as they came with an unexpected wage rise, said David Cheetham, chief market analyst at traders XTB.

### Key figures around 1450 GMT

London - FTSE 100:	▲ 1.9pc at 6,846.58 points
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▲ 2.3pc at 10,863.99
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 2.0pc at 4,837.89
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ 2.0pc at 3,076.93
New York - Dow Jones:	▲ 1.0pc at 24,661.15
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 0.3pc at 21,148.02 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▲ 0.1pc at 25,771.67 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.4pc at 2,594.09 (close)
Pound/dollar:	▲ \$1.2572 from \$1.2562 at 2200 GMT
Euro/dollar:	▲ \$1.1338 from \$1.1354
Dollar/yen:	▼ 113.26 yen fr 113.35 yen
Oil - Brent Crude:	▲ 96 cents at \$60.93 per barrel
Oil - West Texas Inter	▲ \$1.20 at \$52.19

The China-US trade row, signs of softness in both countries' economies, the Huawei arrest, Brexit, demonstrations in France and volatile oil prices are among the factors investors are weighing. But in Europe, Frankfurt stocks were well over two percent higher.

Paris rose by nearly as much after President Emmanuel Macron made spending promises worth up to 11 billion euros (\$12.5 billion) aimed at quelling unrest.

Paris up after Macron splurge. Adding lost income after he scrapped a fuel tax, France is looking at a hole in its 2019 budget of around 15 billion euros -- which could take its deficit to 3.4 percent of GDP from a planned 2.8 percent.

Elsewhere, both main oil contracts climbed but the gains were short of making up for the 3pc losses suffered on concerns an output cut agreed by OPEC might not be enough to offset a supply glut.

# Banks propel Egypt gain

● **Dubai Investments in biggest one-day gain in years**

● **Saudi Advanced Industries rises on stake sale**

● **Most real estate stocks in Dubai rise**

● **Banks aid Egypt's blue-chip index**

Reuters

Egypt's blue-chip index continued to gain yesterday after enjoying its biggest one-day gain in two years in the last session, while Dubai recovered partially from five-year lows, lifted by gains in real estate shares.

The Egyptian index rose 1.5 percent with gainers outnumbering losers by one to five as bank stocks rose.

Egypt's annual urban consumer price inflation dipped to 15.7pc in November from 17.7pc in October, the official statistics agency CAPMAS said on Monday, exceeding analysts' expectations.

Bank shares gained after suffering losses in the previous sessions due to proposed tax changes in Egypt with the country's largest lender, Commercial International Bank, adding 3pc.

El Sewedy Electric added 5.6pc; its unit had signed a contract to develop land



Traders on the floor of Saudi Stock exchange

### Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 0.3pc	» 7,839 pts.
DUBAI	▲ 1.4pc	» 2,535 pts
ABU DHABI	▲ 0.6pc	» 4,816 pts
QATAR	▼ 0.7pc	» 10,482 pts
EGYPT	▲ 1.5pc	» 12,664 pts
KUWAIT	■ at 5,407 pts	
BAHRAIN	■ at 1,318 pts	
OMAN	■ at 4,498 pts	

at Ain Sokhna economic zone. Sixth Of Development and Investment (SODIC) added 3.4pc, while Madinet Nasr For Housing And Development gained 2.1pc after reiterating its interest in completing a merger with SODIC.

In Dubai, the index added 1.4pc, with four of its six real estate stocks increasing.

The emirate's largest listed developer Emaar Properties gained 2.8pc after saying it had started business development operations in China, while its unit Emaar Development increased 4.2pc and Deyaar climbed 3.6pc.

Dubai Investments soared 11.1pc, registering its biggest intra-day gain since July, 2014; the stock has been sliding recently on weak real estate in Dubai and on MSCI's decision to move it to the UAE small cap index from its United Arab Emirates standard index.

But Gulf Navigation Holding slipped 0.9pc in active trade after Goldilocks Investment, an indirect unit of Abu Dhabi Financial Group, acquired an 18.32pc stake in the firm.

The Saudi Arabia index snapped a five-day losing streak to inch up 0.3pc.

Saudi's banks rose after oil recouped some losses after a modest show of strength in global stocks, with National Commercial Bank climbing 1.5pc and Riyad Bank increasing 2.1pc.

Saudi Advanced Industries Co rose 5.7pc after Saudi Arabian Military Industries offered to buy its stake in Alsalam Aerospace Industries for 100 million riyals (\$26.66 million).

National Shipping Company of Saudi Arabia climbed 1.6pc after it proposed an annual cash dividend of 1.5 riyals per share.

The Qatar index slipped 0.7pc as Middle East's largest lender Qatar National Bank lost 1pc and bank Masraf Al Rayan dropped 1.2pc.

Abu Dhabi's index rose 0.6pc with Abu Dhabi National Energy surging 6.5pc and National Bank of Umm Al Qaiwain gaining 6pc.



Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications and Chairman of Gulf Air Group Holding, Kamal Ahmed, headed a Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) Board of Directors meeting to review the progress of the Airport Modernisation Programme. In attendance were BFG International Group President, Dr Samer Majed Al Jishi; Mumtalakat Company Vice President of Investments, Raed Abdullah Fakhri; Ithmaar Bank Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Abdul Hakim Khalil Al Mutawa; Investcorp Co-Chief Executive Officer, Rishi Kapoor; and JP Morgan Chief Executive Officer, Dr Ali Mousa Shafei; along with other BAC board members and executives. The board discussed a range of issues, including the AMP's latest developments and the construction progress of the new Passenger Terminal Building, which is scheduled to be completed in the third quarter of next year. The board also reviewed the annual financial reports of all companies within the Group

## Canadian judge weighs bail for Huawei exec

Vancouver, Canada

A Canadian judge will weigh whether to release on bail a top executive of Chinese telecom giant Huawei, amid a diplomatic row provoked by her arrest on a US warrant.

Huawei chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou was arrested on December 1 in Vancouver.

This third day of court deliberations was to focus on her proposed release plan. The judge was expected to render a decision, but could push it to a later date.

## Former Canadian diplomat detained in China amid spat

Washington, United States

A Canadian former diplomat has been detained in China, the think tank where he now works said yesterday, amid Beijing's outrage over the arrest of a senior technology executive.

The International Crisis Group said it was aware of reports of the detention of Michael Kovrig, a Chinese-speaking expert who served as a Canadian diplomat in Beijing, Hong Kong and at the United Nations.

"We are doing everything possible to secure additional information on Michael's whereabouts as well as his prompt and safe release," the think tank said in a statement.

Kovrig went to work last year for the International Crisis Group, which is known for its research on peaceful solutions to global conflicts.

There was no official word from China but the detention comes as Beijing voices anger over Canada's arrest of Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of leading technology company Huawei.

Meng was stopped while changing planes in Vancouver on an extradition request from the United States, where prosecutors allege she violated US sanctions on Iran.

China earlier yesterday warned that it would not tolerate any "bullying" of its citizens abroad and has demanded Meng's release.



Reem Al Bastaki, an Engineer at the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC), receiving a Women's Award in Industry and Assets from the Gulf Society for Maintenance and Reliability (GSMA) in recognition of her achievements in industry and asset management. The Award was presented during a ceremony on the sidelines of an exhibition hosted by the Women's Committee in Industry and Asset Management of the Bahrain Society of Engineers.



SPORTS  
sports**PSG to face fifth-tier Pontivy in French Cup**

AFP | Paris

Holders Paris Saint-Germain were drawn at Pontivy from the fifth tier in the last 64 of the French Cup on Monday.

The Parisians have won their last 42 domestic cup matches, a record stretching back to February 2014.

Elsewhere, the lowest side left in the competition, Entente Crest-Aouste from the eighth level, will welcome Nancy from Ligue 2 if the minnows beat Le Puy in a postponed game from the previous round.

Aiglon du Lamentin are only the third club in the history of the competition from the Caribbean island of Martinique to reach this stage and will become only the second side from an overseas territory in almost 30 years to reach the last 32 if they overcome Orleans from Ligue 2.

**Chelsea ban fans over alleged racial abuse of Sterling**

Reuters | London

Chelsea said on Monday they had banned four supporters from matches pending an investigation into alleged racial abuse of Manchester City forward Raheem Sterling.

The incident involving the 24-year-old England international occurred during City's 2-0 Premier League defeat at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

Chelsea said they were "fully supporting" a police investigation launched after a video posted online showed Sterling being shouted at by a fan as he went to collect the ball from behind the goal.

Asked about the remarks the fan made, Sterling told journalists on Sunday he "had to laugh" because he expected no better, adding that newspapers were "unacceptable" in their portrayal of young black players.

The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) said harsh treatment that Sterling was receiving from the media was fuelling racism on the terraces, reports of which had increased from last season.

**India keen to carry momentum**

Reuters | Adelaide

Having become the first Indian team to win a test series-opener on Australian soil, Virat Kohli's side are determined to keep the momentum rolling into the second clash in Perth and inch closer to a breakthrough series triumph Down Under.

India were made to work harder than expected in the 31-run win at Adelaide Oval, and their bowlers will have only three days' rest before taking to the field again at Perth Stadium on Friday.

Despite the quick turnaround, Kohli suggested the tourists were leaping out of their skins to land another blow on Tim Paine's shaky side in the four-match series.

"They are at their peak, all of them together and it's something that we as batsman look at as an opportunity to put in good performances," Kohli said of his attack, rated India's most potent in years.

"We will be, in every test match, gunning for a result."

Compared to his counterpart Paine, weighed down by a sore index finger and a long list of concerns, Kohli heads to Perth



India's Jasprit Bumrah (L) celebrates with captain Virat Kohli after dismissing Australia's captain Tim Paine on day five of the first test match between Australia and India at the Adelaide Oval

with a spring in his step.

India's Ishant Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami enjoyed a stellar debut as a pace unit in Australia, sharing 14 of the 20 wickets at Adelaide Oval, bowling with sustained pressure and limiting the hosts to a single 50-run partnership.

Kohli's batsmen got off to a shaky start and needed man-of-the-match Cheteshwar Pujara's glittering 123 to achieve a modest first innings total of 250.

However, after Australia were bowled out for 235, they were quick to seize the momentum and build valuable partnerships

to all but bat Australia out of the game.

Though beaten and vulnerable, a chastened Australia can be expected to fight back hard on a wicket likely to suit their classy pace attack.

Kohli will hope for more from the recalled opener Murali Vi-



Virat Kohli had struck four centuries in the 2014-15 tour of Australia

jay, who has struggled to justify his place in the side this year. He managed only 11 and 18 in Adelaide, undone by Australia's pace spearhead Mitchell Starc both times.

With sidelined young opener Prithvi Shaw seen limping around Adelaide Oval after his ankle injury during a tour match, the veteran Vijay should have another chance to stake his claim.

Kohli, who struck four centuries in the 2014-15 tour of Australia, is also due a score after being dismissed for three and 34 in Adelaide.

The India skipper noted that his team's tail-end batting was trumped by Australia's as their last five wickets could only muster 25 runs in the second innings.

**Australia look for quick fix ahead of second Test**

AFP | Adelaide, Australia

Australia skipper Tim Paine admitted there was little time to regroup after the first Test defeat to India, but said he had no doubt under-fire fast bowling spearhead Mitchell Starc would bounce back in Perth.

Australia skipper Tim Paine admitted there were shortcomings in Adelaide, but he was largely happy with how the team performed.

"There was a number of reasons why we lost," he said.

"We thought we could have cleaned them up on day one for 200-210 and we let that slip a bit. Clearly we'd like to score more than 230 in a first innings in Australia. There's things we do need to tighten up."

Starc received some criticism for some wayward spells, including a string of costly byes, in India's second innings in Adelaide. But Paine said the left-arm pacesman would come good.

"He didn't set the world on fire but I think, for a long time,



Australia's Peter Handscomb (R) celebrates with wicket-keeper captain Tim Paine (file photo)

there's been a really big gap between Starc's best and his worst," said Paine.

"And from what I'm seeing, that is getting closer and closer every day. Was he at his best? Probably not. But I still thought he played his role."

One key area of concern is opening batsmen. Debutant Marcus Harris scored 26 in each innings and showed enough to warrant another crack, but one-day specialist Aaron Finch

failed both times, out for a duck and then 11.

Paine acknowledged the top order must start delivering, but indicated they are likely to stick with the same line-up although there could be further discussions with coach Justin Langer before Friday's team is named.

"Justin's the coach and he's got a fair say," Paine said. "So I imagine if he wants to talk about it, it will be on the agenda when

we get to Perth."

On what is expected to be a bouncy and seam-friendly pitch at the new Perth Stadium, similar to the WACA Ground it has replaced, spin great Shane Warne said he would like to see all-rounder Marcus Stoinis replace middle-order batsman Peter Handscomb.

"Perth, given what we are hearing, it's going to be a nice, fast bouncy pitch, so I would be making one change and that would be to bring in Marcus Stoinis who got 85 in the last (Sheffield) Shield match and a 60 in the Shield game before," said Warne.

"But mainly it would be for his all-round capabilities, just to relieve a little pressure on Starc who might be able to bowl one less spell and be a little bit better."

Paine himself is a slight doubt after being on the right finger by a Mohammed Shami delivery -- the same finger that has required several operations in the past.

**Stop retirement talk, Rummenigge tells Coman**

AFP | Berlin

Bayern Munich chief Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has told Kingsley Coman to stop all talk of retiring from "aggressive" modern-day football and focus on returning to the fray with his morale intact.

Injury-plagued Coman, who has started only three Champions League games for Bayern since joining the club in 2016, said in a recent television interview that back-to-back injuries had left him pondering his future in the game.

Rummenigge, speaking before Bayern's trip to Amsterdam where they will face Ajax in the Champions League on Wednesday, said it was unthinkable for the 22-year-old Frenchman to be considering quitting.

"I would advise him not to get carried away and stop thinking about ending his career," said Rummenigge.



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**Vietnam gain upper hand after draw with Malaysia**

Reuters | Hong Kong

Malaysia fought back from going two goals behind to secure a 2-2 draw with Vietnam in the first leg of the Asean Football Federation Championship final yesterday.

Vietnam go into Saturday's return leg in Hanoi's My Dinh Stadium as favourites, however, thanks to their two away goals.

Both nations are attempting to win the regional title for only the second time.

After weathering a strong start by the hosts the Vietnamese raced into a two-goal lead by the 25th minute.

Phan Van Duc hit the Malaysians on the break when he latched on to Doan Van Hau's lofted pass before sending in a low centre that eventually end-

ed up at the feet of Nguyen Huy Hung, and he slotted his deflected shot beyond goalkeeper Farizal Marlias.

Pham Duc Huy made it 2-0 soon after when his shot from distance gave Farizal little chance.

With the vociferous backing of the majority inside the Bukit Jalil Stadium, Malaysia found a way back into the game nine

minutes before the interval when Shahrul Saad charged into the six-yard box to head Saymer Kutty Abba's curling free kick home.

Malaysia were level on the hour as Safawi Rashid stepped up to curl a free kick from the edge of the area around the wall and beyond the outstretched arms of Dang Van Lam.

# Everton held by Watford

● **Lucas Digne rescues point for Everton after Watford's crazy five minutes**

● **Silva has last laugh as Everton escape against former club Watford**

AFP | Liverpool

Marco Silva had the last laugh against his former club Watford as Everton defender Lucas Digne's last-gasp free-kick rescued a dramatic 2-2 draw at Goodison Park on Monday.

Everton manager Silva was facing Watford for the first time since his acrimonious departure from Vicarage Road in January.

The 41-year-old was sacked by Watford after less than a year in charge, with the club's owners blaming Everton's interest in the Portuguese coach for distracting him from his job.

Convinced he treated them disrespectfully by showing interest in Everton, the Watford fans who travelled to Goodison Park waved inflatable snakes and directed abusive chants at Silva.

With just seconds to go, it seemed Silva would be bitten



Lucas Digne (left) scores Everton's injury-time equaliser against Watford

by his old employers.

Everton's Richarlison, signed from Watford by Silva, put the hosts ahead in the first half.

Seamus Coleman's own goal drew Watford level after the break and Abdoulaye Doucoure's header put them in front before Everton midfielder Gylfi Sigurdsson had a penalty saved by Ben Foster.

But Digne came to Silva's rescue in the sixth minute of stoppage-time to deny Watford the revenge they so badly wanted.

Insisting he didn't care about silencing the Watford taunts, Silva said: "Of course not. I

didn't see anything. It's not important to me. What I can control is my players.

"It's a difficult match to talk about. We lost our focus completely for their goals."

Eventually hired by Everton in May, Silva summed up the difficult nature of his Watford exit last week when he made it clear he was unsentimental about facing his old club.

Watford are still waiting for the Premier League to settle their complaint against Everton for the alleged illegal approach for Silva.



**Everton manager Silva was facing Watford for the first time since his acrimonious departure from Vicarage Road in January**

And the Silva feud threatened to spill onto the pitch after Watford captain Troy Deeney last week said he would "smash" Richarlison for leaving the Hornets.

**Richarlison strikes**

Yet it was Richarlison who did the early damage as the Brazil forward put Everton ahead in the 15th minute with his eighth goal in 14 Premier League appearances -- three more than he managed in 38 games for Watford last season.

Watford were left frustrated by the goal as they appealed in vain for offside against Theo Walcott during a move that ended with Andre Gomes crossing for Richarlison to stroke a cool finish past Ben Foster.

Some players opt not to celebrate when they score against their former teams.

But in keeping with the fractious mood, Richarlison, who had been targeted by some crunching Watford tackles, had no qualms about sprinting away in jubilation.

Roberto Pereyra squandered a good chance to equalise when the Watford forward headed wide from Ken Sema's cross.

Pereyra curled a free-kick just wide and Deeney saw his strike saved by Jordan Pickford after the interval.

**18 activities confirmed for National Day event**

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain is all set to celebrate the National Day and His Majesty's accession day with a set of sports activities over the coming weekend.

Sixteen national sports federations will be organizing 18 events to celebrate this national occasion in cooperation with the Bahrain Olympic Committee.

The Fencing Federation will have the National Fencing Day Championship, while similar events will be brought by other national federations, including mixed martial arts, gymnastics, weightlifting, table tennis and sports for people of determination.

**Shaikha Hayat named Arab federation vice president**

TDT | Manama

Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa, board member of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), President of the Arab Table Tennis Federations and member of the Executive Office of the federation, was elected vice-president of the Union of Arab Federations' executive office recently.

Shaikha Hayat was greeted on this decision by Supreme Council for Youth and Sports assistant secretary general and BOC secretary general Abdulrahman Askar expressed sincere congratulations on this occasion.

He stressed that Shaikha Hayat is worthy of this position due to her competence and sincerity in working throughout the years of her work in the field of sports at the regional, continental and international levels, and for her achievements in various posts she has occupied over the past years.

## Stop being late and prove your value, Rivaldo urges Dembele

Reuters | Barcelona

Barcelona winger Ousmane Dembele needs to improve his attitude and focus on being more professional even if he does want to leave the La Liga leaders, the club's former championship winning player Rivaldo has said.

Dembele, who joined Barcelona in August 2017 for 105 million euros (\$119.45 million), suffered injury problems in his first year and this season has been criticised for his behaviour, including turning up late to training and events.

Media reports have linked the 21-year-old with a move away from the Nou Camp during next month's transfer window.

Brazilian Rivaldo, who played for Barca for five years from 1997 and is regarded as one of the most skilful attackers of his generation, said there was no doubting the Frenchman's talents.

Dembele has only scored 12 goals for Barca but several of those have been important strikes in the league, the Spanish Super Cup and the Champions League.

"Ousmane Dembele's situation at Barcelona is upsetting because he's already shown that he can play very well, score goals and be an important member of the team," Rivaldo, who won the World Cup with Brazil in 2002, told Betfair.

"He just needs to focus on being a little more professional and to stop being late for training sessions.

"This is not the correct mentality for someone potentially trying to leave Barcelona. It's always strange to hear that someone might want to leave a big club in this way.

"If he wants to leave, he must prove his value by playing well and not missing training sessions to recover his credibility as a professional. That will generate interest from other clubs. If he doesn't change, he is hurting himself more than the club."



Shaikh Mohamed bin Duaij Al Khalifa, President of Bahrain Sport for Disabilities, Shaikh Abdul Aziz Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Vice President of Bahrain Tennis Federation and Khamis Al Muqla, President of the Bahrain Tennis Club attend a meeting on Monday at the Bahrain Sports Federation for Disabilities to discuss about launch wheelchair Tennis in the Kingdom of Bahrain

## Guardiola praises 'incredible' Sterling

AFP | London

Pep Guardiola has praised Manchester City star Raheem Sterling for refusing to be intimidated by the menace of racism in football. Sterling endured alleged racial abuse from a Chelsea fan during City's 2-0 defeat at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

The 24-year-old was targeted by the supporter while he was standing near fans on the touchline.

Sterling appeared to laugh off the shocking incident at the time, but the abuse has drawn widespread condemnation amid fears the sport is being dragged back to the dark ages of the 1970s and 1980s when racism was rife.

The England winger later accused the media of fuelling racism in the way it reports certain stories about black players.

And former England assistant coach Gary Neville revealed this week that Sterling complained during Euro 2016 of constant criticism from fans that carried racist undertones.

Speaking for the first time since the Chelsea incident, City manager Guardiola backed Sterling and hailed his decision to speak out on the controversy.

"I was concerned with what happened but he made a statement on Instagram and was quite clear about his thoughts," Guardiola told reporters yesterday.

"He's an incredible person, an incredible human being.

"It's tough in the 21st century to still be in this position, to have problems with diversity. We have to be better, everyone."

Guardiola believes racism is a deep problem in society, not just football, and insisted more must be done to combat it.

"It's everywhere, racism is everywhere. People focus on foot-

ball but it's not just in football. You'd think in football we'd be safe but racism is everywhere," he said.

"What happens today - how we treat immigrants and refugees, when once in our lives our grandfathers were refugees. It's everywhere. That's why we have to fight every day.

"We have to fight for human rights to make a better society for the future. Today it's dangerous, not just in England, all across Europe.

"The message for the politicians is for them to be tough on human rights and we have to defend democracy in the best way."

Former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss Guardiola also pointed out the media has a crucial role to play in keeping racism in check.

"Today the real power is the media, not politicians, not the governments. It's the media," he said.

The Metropolitan Police have launched an investigation into the Stamford Bridge incident, while Chelsea have suspended four supporters.



Ousmane Dembele



Raheem Sterling

# Hope levels series for Windies

Shai Hope stars as West Indies level series against Bangladesh

● **West Indies won by 4 wickets (with 2 balls remaining)**

AFP | Dhaka

Shai Hope smashed a brilliant century as West Indies edged Bangladesh by four wickets in the second one-day international to level the three-match series 1-1 in Dhaka yesterday.

Opener Hope hit an unbeaten 146 off 144 balls, guiding West Indies to 256-6 in 49.4 overs after the visitors relied on three wickets from paceman Oshane Thomas to restrict Bangladesh to 255-7 in 50 overs.

Hope shared 71-run in an unbroken seventh wicket stand



West Indies cricketer Shai Hope (R) plays a shot as Bangladesh cricketer Mushfiqur Rahim (L) looks on

Bangladesh innings	
Tamim Iqbal c Roach b Bishoo	50
Liton Das c Hetmyer b Paul	8
Imrul Kayes c Hope b Thomas	0
Mushfiqur Rahim c Hope b Thomas	62
Shakib Al Hasan b Roach	65
Mahmudullah Riyad c Hetmyer c Powell	30
Soumya Sarkar c Bishoo b Thomas	6
Mashrafe Mortaza not out	6
Mehidy Hasan not out	10
Extras (b1, lb3, w9, nb5)	18
<b>Total (seven wickets; 50 overs)</b>	<b>255</b>
West Indies innings	
C. Hemraj lbw b Mehidy	3
S. Hope not out	146
D. Bravo b Rubel	27
M. Samuels c Mushfiqur b Mustafizur	26
S. Hetmyer c sub b Rubel	14
R. Powell c Soumya b Mashrafe	1
R. Chase c Tamim b Mustafizur	9
Keemo Paul not out	18
Extras (lb 5, w6, nb1)	12
<b>Total (six wickets; 49.4 overs)</b>	<b>256</b>
<b>Result: West Indies won by four wickets</b>	

**146**  
runs were scored by Shai Hope

with Keemo Paul to help West Indies get their first victory on the tour and stay alive in the series after they suffered a five-wicket loss in the opening match on Sunday.

Paul, who remained unbeaten on 18, pushed spinner Mahmudullah towards midwicket to complete the victory.

The fate of the game was

hanging in the balance until Hope struck three fours off pace bowler Mustafizur Rahman in the penultimate over.

Hope, who has now three centuries in ODIs, hit 12 fours and three sixes in his innings.

"I just kept backing myself and knew that as long as I bat till the end, we will win. I asked Keemo to bat deep. It wasn't an easy

wicket in the beginning," man of the match Hope said.

Rubel Hossain and Mustafizur claimed two wickets each for Bangladesh giving away 57 and 63 runs respectively.

Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim and Tamim Iqbal earlier each scored a half-century to steer Bangladesh to a decent total at the Sher-e-Bangla National

Stadium.

Shakib top-scored with 65 off 62 deliveries while Mushfiqur and Tamim made 62 and 50 respectively after West Indies invited the hosts to bat first.

Mushfiqur and Tamim laid the foundation of the innings with a 111-run second wicket stand after Oshane Thomas worked up lively pace early in the innings.

Thomas, who returned with bowling figures of 3-54, forced opener Liton Das to leave the field with a toe injury before handing Imrul Kayes a duck for West Indies' first breakthrough.

Leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo dismissed Tamim, who faced 63 balls, to break his partnership with Mushfiqur, who soon became second victim of Thomas.

## La Liga remains hopeful of overseas games despite Barca setback



Barcelona players during the warm up before a match

Reuters | Barcelona

La Liga has pledged to persevere with a long-term strategy of taking games outside of Spain after immediate plans to play Barcelona's January match against Girona in Miami were derailed by the champions' decision to back out of the fixture.

Following a board meeting on Monday, Barcelona withdrew from the game "after seeing the lack of consensus surrounding the proposal", ending a protracted saga since La Liga applied to move the game from Catalonia to Florida in September.

The league's organising body accepted that the game, set to take place on Jan. 26, could not be played abroad but pledged to continue its legal battle with

the Spanish football federation (RFEF), the most vocal opponent of the plan.

"We regret to disappoint our fans in the U.S. and will work to, in the shortest possible time, stage an official La Liga game in the U.S., just like the major American leagues stage games outside their borders," a La Liga statement said.

"La Liga will continue the planned action, so an official league game can be played outside of Spain. La Liga is convinced that the RFEF is not acting in accordance with the law."

The league also said Barca's withdrawal did not affect its 15-year agreement with entertainment firm Relevent to promote Spanish football in North



**Barca's withdrawal came a day after Copa Libertadores final between River Plate and Boca Juniors was moved from Buenos Aires to Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium**

America.

Last month, La Liga filed a lawsuit in a Spanish court against the federation, which

turned down its application to have the game moved and whose president Luis Rubiales has loudly protested the league's plans.

La Liga president Javier Tebas told reporters yesterday that he understood Barca's decision, while adding the league would not relent on its future plans.

Girona, meanwhile, said it accepted Barca's withdrawal but continued to support the idea of playing games overseas.

Barca's withdrawal came a day after the second leg of the Copa Libertadores final between River Plate and Boca Juniors was moved from Buenos Aires to Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium after fan violence in Argentina saw the initial game postponed.

## Van Dijk backs Liverpool to compete on multiple fronts

AFP | Liverpool

Virgil van Dijk insists Liverpool have a strong enough squad to maintain a challenge for both the Premier League and the Champions League.

Jurgen Klopp's side went top of the English top flight with a 4-0 victory at Bournemouth on Saturday.

Netherlands defender Van Dijk has acknowledged Liverpool will have no one to blame but themselves if they fail to qualify from Champions League Group C, having lost all three of their away games.

Former Manchester United star Gary Neville, now a television pundit, suggested in September that Klopp did not have a squad capable of being competitive both domestically and in Europe, adding Liverpool should consider prioritising the Premier League.

Klopp disagreed with that at the time, and Van Dijk is adamant he and his team-mates will be able to cope with the demands of the knockout stages from February, should they get through.

"We are definitely capable of competing in both competitions. And hopefully that's still going to be the case tomorrow," Van Dijk told reporters on Monday.

Asked what he thought about people

suggesting elimination from the Champions League would benefit Liverpool in the Premier League, the centre-back responded: "I don't think they're Liverpool fans."

"We want to compete at the highest level. We are top of the league now, but obviously that could change next week. You never know."

"But the main thing for us is that we want to stay at the highest level and we're going to do everything that's possible to go through."



Virgil Van Dijk