

Brie Larson, Alex Greenwald call off engagement

Brie Larson and musician Alex Greenwald have called off their engagement after nearly three years. The 29-year-old actress and 39-year-old Phantom Planet frontman exchanged rings in Tokyo back in 2016. **P13**

Try to keep up with Australia's fastest 92-year-old woman

THE DAILY **tribune**



Sarah Hyland wrote suicide notes in her head

Malaysian state chosers new sultan, expected to be elected king



www.nbt.gov.bh

Ensure effective implementation of VAT 80008001

For inquiries & complaints

@BahrainNBT

Blast horror



Three people, including two firefighters, died and dozens were injured after a gas leak caused an explosion in Paris. The blast occurred at a bakery at 9 am local time yesterday, as firefighters were responding to reports of the leak. French Police had originally said four people had died, before revising down the death count. Full story on page 6

Action call

US relationship with Saudi Arabia essential for Mideast stability

● **The United States plans to jointly host a global summit focused on the Middle East, particularly Iran, next month in Poland.**

Riyadh

The United States' relationship with Saudi Arabia is essential to the Middle East's stability and security, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said yesterday.

The US secretary of state told Al Arabiya that America wants an Arab coalition and force that is capable of facing the different challenges in the region.

He added that the US will not be leaving the Middle East, and that destroying Daesh is a priority.

Pompeo is on a whistle stop regional tour aimed at reassuring US allies after President Donald Trump's shock deci-



The US withdrawal from Syria does not contradict its strategy towards Iran.

POMPEO

sion to withdraw all US troops from Syria. He was in Abu Dhabi on Saturday after a visit to Bahrain on Friday.

He told Al Arabiya that the US withdrawal from Syria does not contradict its strategy towards Iran, and nor does it mean a retreat with regards to fighting

terrorism.

The Iranian people should know that interfering in the affairs of other states is "unacceptable," and the US wants to hear the voice of the Iranian people, Pompeo said.

The US top diplomat has also visited Cairo, Amman, Baghdad, and the Iraqi Kurdish regional capital of Irbil.

The United States plans to jointly host a global summit focused on the Middle East, particularly Iran, next month in Poland, the US State Department said on Friday.

The gathering will take place in Warsaw from Feb 13 to Feb 14, it said in a statement.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told Fox News in an interview on Friday that the meeting would "focus on Middle East stability and peace and freedom and security here in this region, and that includes an important element of making sure that Iran is not a destabilising influence".

Israel tried to wiretap Hamas Gaza City

Gaza's ruling Hamas said Saturday that Israeli undercover forces had attempted to install equipment to monitor the group's landline communications network during a botched mission in November.

The findings of a lengthy investigation were announced by the Hamas military wing, known as the Qassam Brigades, in a pre-recorded TV statement.

Hamas presented surveillance footage, as well as photos of drills, chain saws and two pistols with silencers, to back up its claims.

Hamas thwarted an attempt to "plant spying devices in the Gaza Strip," a Qassam spokesman, identified only as Abu Obeida, said in the statement.

Israel's military has not released details about the operation which went awry Nov. 11, leading to the heaviest round of cross-border fire, including Hamas rockets and Israeli airstrikes, since a 2014 war between the two sides.

DRUG TRIAL

Briton to be caned naked

Singapore City



Ye Ming Yuen is currently being held at Changi prison in Singapore.

A British former public schoolboy has been sentenced to a naked caning for drug offences in Singapore.

London-born Ye Ming Yuen, 29, has also been ordered to serve 20 years in jail being convicted of seven charges, including two counts of 'repeat drug trafficking'.

The case has now sparked a rift between Singapore and the UK, with Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt and his officials making it clear they 'strongly oppose the use of corporal punishment'.

Yuen is currently being held at Changi prison, but could be stripped naked, strapped to a large wooden trestle and flogged 'any day'.

He will be hit 24 times with a 4ft-long rattan cane, the maximum amount of strikes

that can be dished out in the country.

According to the Mail Online, the punishment is inflicted by a 'trained caner' taught how to cause the most pain possible and could leave him scarred for life.

Yuen has also been ordered to serve 20 years in jail for drug offences, including two counts of 'repeat drug trafficking', one of 69g and one of 60g of cannabis. Another offence included drug trafficking of 15g of crystal meth.

A day of fun



A festival for children was held yesterday as part of the ongoing farmers market at the Agriculture Centre in Budaiya Botanical Garden, which was visited nearly 22,000 people during the day. The five months long market provides a platform for local farmers to sell their fresh produce to the public. Full report Page 5



03 Psychos finding a hobby 'in cutting off dogs' tails'

04 Showcasing realty treasures

05 Alert call to jobseekers as fraud recruitment agencies mushroom



6 084010 110021 >