

Amber Heard claims Depp threatened to kill her

Actress Amber Heard has recounted years of abuse she endured by her former husband and actor Johnny Depp, in new court documents filed in response to his \$50 million defamation lawsuit against her. **P14**

May faces quit call after Brexit delay

THE DAILY **tribune**

Mandy Moore is bravest, baddest wife: Husband

20 killed as suicide blast rips through Quetta fruit market

GCC finance ministers meet

TDT | Manama

The Finance Ministers of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Bahrain met on the sidelines of the 2019 Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund yesterday.

Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Jadaan, UAE Finance Minister Obaid Bin Humaid Al Tayer, Kuwait Finance Minister Dr Nayef bin Falah Al Hajraf, and the Minister of Finance and National Economy of Bahrain Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa held discussions.

The Director-General and Chairman of Arab Monetary Fund, Dr Abdul Rahman Bin Abdullah Al Humaidi also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Ministers discussed the latest developments of Bahrain's Fiscal Balance Programme and ways to further develop joint cooperation and coordination in the financial, economic and investment fields.

'Peace prime factor towards achieving SDGs'



HRH the Premier receives the Norwegian delegation.

Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has asserted Bahrain's keenness to enhance its co-operation with various regional and international organisations and institutions that adopt the noble values and goals that could bring about development for peoples, out of its belief that contributing to human renaissance is a common responsibility.

"Building a secure world that ensures co-existence among its peoples requires concerted efforts by the International Community

and constant work to achieve the UN-approved Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), being the best means to achieve Good for the entire humanity," HRH Premier said.

The Prime Minister made the statements while receiving, at his Palace in Riffa, former Norwegian Prime Minister and President of the Oslo Centre for Peace and Human Rights, Kjell Magne Bondevik, along with the President of the Dialogue for Peace foundation and Chairman of the 14th of August Committee of Norway, Aamir Javed Shaikh, who are currently on a visit to the Kingdom.

HRH the Prime Minister welcomed the delegation's visit,

HRH Premier is a distinguished international personality with a deep vision and clear marks in pushing the international joint action in the field of sustainable development forward.

MR BONDEVIK

noting that it would contribute to strengthening areas of co-operation that would consolidate collective action aimed at serving development and peace issues

across the world.

HRH Premier asserted that the world and the region are going through multiple challenges that have had negative repercussions on countries' sustainable development efforts and plans, adding that dealing with these challenges requires strong international will that would be based on consolidating common human grounds, and promoting peace, as well as positive constructive co-existence.

HRH Premier lauded the efforts exerted by the Oslo Centre for Peace and Human Rights and the Dialogue for Peace foundation for the sake of strengthening rapprochement and understanding

on everything related to the global efforts in the field of sustainable development.

Mr Bondevik, lauded the Prime Minister's efforts to enhance international cooperation to achieve sustainable development, in addition to the tremendous efforts he had exerted to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

"HRH Premier is a distinguished international personality with a deep vision and clear marks in pushing the international joint action in the field of sustainable development forward through his stances aimed at raising the humanitarian situation of all peoples," he said.

Palestinian teen killed

Gaza City

A Palestinian teenager was shot dead by the Israeli army yesterday during renewed clashes on the Gaza border, the health ministry in the Palestinian enclave said.

A ministry spokesman said Maysara Abu Shaloo, 15, was "shot in the stomach by the (Israeli) occupation east of Jabalia," referring to a demonstration site in northern Gaza.

At least 48 others were taken to hospital with a variety of injuries from clashes at several spots along the border, the ministry said without elaborating.

Uncertain days ahead

Sudan's military council chief Ibn Auf resigns day after overthrowing Omar Al Bashir

Tens of thousands of Sudanese protesters have been rallying in front of the military headquarters in Khartoum, against the military takeover of power.

Cairo

Sudan's Defence Minister Awad Ibn Auf said yesterday that he is stepping down as head of the country's transitional military council, a

day after former President Omar Al Bashir was overthrown in a coup.

Lt Gen Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman Burhan will be the new head of the transitional military council, Ibn Auf said in a speech broadcast on state television on Friday.

Ibn Auf said: "I, the head of the military council, announce I am giving up the post." He said he took the decision to preserve unity of the armed forces.

Tens of thousands of Sudanese protesters have been rallying in front of the military headquarters in Khartoum, against the military takeover of power after ousting Al Bashir



A Sudanese demonstrator chants slogans as he protests against the army's announcement that President Omar Al Bashir would be replaced by a military-led transitional council, near Defence Ministry in Khartoum.

on Thursday.

The head of the military council's political committee, Gen Omar Zein Abdeen, earlier said the council would hold a dialogue with political entities.

The council also announced that it would not extradite Al Bashir to face accusations of genocide at the international Criminal Court. Instead he might go on trial in Sudan.

Friday's announcement of a future civilian government by Zein Abdeen, appeared aimed at reassuring mistrustful demonstrators who went back into the streets to warn against imposing army rule after Al Bashir's ouster.

Desert snake caught from Riffa neighbourhood

TDT | Manama

A desert snake has been caught from one of the neighbourhoods in Riffa and was handed over to the Bahrain Welfare Society, it was announced.

According to a statement quoting the society president Mahmood Faraj, the snake was from the species the Eryx jayakari, commonly known as the Arabian sand snake and it was later released in an area nearby Al Areen Wildlife.

"A Bahraini man found the snake and we appreciate his gesture of catching it without causing any harm. People generally prefer to kill snakes whenever they see them," Mr Faraj said in the statement.



The snake was released in an area nearby Al Areen Wildlife.

The society contacted the Supreme Council for Environment as soon as they received it and they were consulted before setting it free in an area nearby Al Areen Wildlife.

"It's very much uncommon to see this snake roaming in the neighbourhoods because it prefers to bury itself under sand in the morning and leaves at night to hunt its preys such as lizards and mice," he added.

The Arabian sand snake is a small snake growing to a total length (including tail) of about 38 cm (15 in).

The eyes are very small and are located on the top of the head, which has a blunt snout and is wedge-shaped. This snake's colour is yellowish-grey or sandy-brown speckled with white flecks and transversely banded with dark marks.



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Security challenges reviewed

Interior Minister holds discussions with FBI director; signs MoU related to information exchange with FBI

● The US side expressed willingness to reinforce security cooperation and coordination with Bahrain and exchanging expertise in training to meet the current and future developments.

● The meetings were attended by Bahrain Ambassador to Washington, Shaikh Abdulla bin Rashid Al Khalifa, President of Customs, Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa and the accompanying delegation.

Washington

As part of his official visit to the US, Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, met US Acting Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner of the Department of the Homeland

Security, Lan Saunders.

The meeting was attended by the accompanying delegation of the Interior Minister and Commander of the US Coast Guard.

The US official welcomed the Interior Minister, highlighting the importance of enhancing ties between the two countries.

Security challenges in the Gulf region and Iranian interference and Iran's role in backing terrorism were reviewed.

In this context, the Interior Minister hailed the strategic relations that link Bahrain and the United States, highlighting the importance of working towards reinforcing international counterterrorism cooperation to enhance competency, especially with the use of modern technology in terrorism.

Both sides agreed to promote joint work and exchange of expertise in training and cybersecurity, in addition to holding joint exercises between the coastguard of both countries and activation of memorandums of understanding in customs affairs. The meeting also reviewed topics of common interest.

The minister also met the US Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Christopher



General Shaikh Rashid with Christopher Wray after signing the MoU.

Wray, who welcomed him and the delegation.

The US side expressed willingness to reinforce security cooperation and coordination

with Bahrain and exchanging expertise in training to meet the current and future developments and enhancing the effectiveness of security authorities in dealing

with security challenges.

During the meeting, the Interior Minister and the FBI Director signed a memorandum of understanding related to law

enforcement and information exchange cooperation to contribute to enhancing best practices in fighting crimes and training.

The Interior Minister and the accompanying delegation visited the National Law Enforcement Museum that highlights the history phases of the US police. The museum depends on showcasing exhibits on technology and interactively presenting information.

During the visit, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding by the Director-General of Media and Security Culture, Brigadier Mohammed bin Daina and the Interim CEO of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, Lori Sharpe Day.

The MoU includes building a partnership between the US museum and the Police Museum of the Interior Ministry that will be formed in the future, in which the US organisation will provide its expertise and consultancies.

The meetings were attended by Bahrain Ambassador to Washington, Shaikh Abdulla bin Rashid Al Khalifa, President of Customs, Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa and the accompanying delegation.



As part of the 2019 Bahrain Theatre Festival Agenda, an intellectual forum was held in the Kingdom to celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the theatrical movement in Bahrain. Under the patronage of Shaikha Mai bint Mohammad Al Khalifa, Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities President and in the attendance of numerous numbers of playwrights, actors, critics and researchers, the event was held at the Art Centre in Manama besides the Cultural Hall.



Southern Governor Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa received Japanese Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain Hideki Ito. The meeting focused on the outcome of the Governor's successful visit to Japan, which had a positive on bilateral relations of friendship and strong cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan received Council of Representatives member MP Salah Hashem and discussed co-operation with the legislative branch to promote projects and initiatives. They focused on labour and social issues, stressing the importance of consolidating relations of cooperation with the legislative branch of government.



British warship HMS Montrose, which is to operate out of Bahrain for the next three years has been welcomed into her new home by British Embassy Chargé d'affaire, David Thurston and British Embassy Defence Attaché, Commander Paul Windsor RN. The Royal Navy ship has crossed three oceans and visited four continents, before arriving in Bahrain. The Type-23 frigate is following in the footsteps of the Royal Navy's fleet of minehunters in being forward deployed directly out of the newly expanded, Bahraini owned and UK operated Naval Support Facilities (NSF).

'Liquidated firm owner' wins appeal in stolen cheque case

Cheque for BD5,000 presented on behalf of company closed down 10 years ago

● The lower court ordered the defendant to pay the amount to the plaintiff, which was challenged before an appeals court.

● Ms Thani pleaded to the judges that her client isn't guilty as he had no knowledge about the purchase of the vehicle.

TDT | Manama

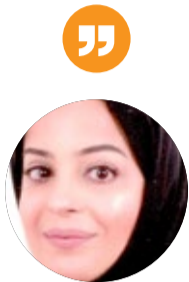
A Bahraini entrepreneur was shocked to learn that a cheque had been pre-

sented on behalf of a company, which he had closed down over a decade ago.

This came to the man's notice when he was demanded to pay BD5,000 in return for a cheque that had been allegedly issued under the company's name without his knowledge in 2014, five years after the business was closed and liquidated.

The man had earlier reported to the police that the cheque book of the company was stolen from his office.

The matter was taken to the court, as an unknown individual used the cheque to purchase a vehicle from another man, who demanded that the amount should be paid by the defendant, being the owner of the company.



The previous verdict was issued by the court without investigating the authenticity of the cheque.

MS THANI

The lower court ordered the defendant to pay the amount to the plaintiff, which was challenged before an appeals court.

Aisha Thani, the defendant's lawyer, explained that her client had shut down the construction and building company he owned back in 2009, adding that he also cancelled the company's bank account.

However, she also said that the cheque had been stolen and misused by an unknown individual to purchase the vehicle from the complainant for BD5,000.

Ms Thani pleaded to the judges that her client isn't guilty as he had no knowledge about the purchase of the vehicle, neither the buyer nor the seller.

The lawyer said the previ-

ous verdict was issued by the court without investigating the authenticity of the cheque and only reviewed a copy that the complainant had provided.

As the case was referred to the Civil Court of Appeal, an expert's report was requested.

The report mentioned that the cheque was issued on January 26, 2014, five years after the defendant's company was officially closed.

The report also showed that the complainant has changed the date on the cheque.

Ms Thani confirmed that the court yesterday accepted her client's appeal, acquitted him from paying the amount mentioned in the cheque and rejected the plaintiff's lawsuit.

Drug smuggler gets 15 years imprisonment

TDT | Manama

An Asian man who was nabbed while trying to smuggle half a kilo hashish into the Kingdom, told prosecutors that he had bought the drugs in his country as it was much cheaper there.

The defendant was arrested at Bahrain International Airport last year upon his arrival from his country.

He hid 32 pieces of hashish, collectively weighing 500 grammes, in different parts of his luggage.

During the interrogation, he said he had bought the hashish for BD40 from his country.

5,000

Bahraini dinars in fine was imposed by the court on the convict for committing the crime.

The investigations of the Anti-Narcotics Department within the Interior Ministry, revealed that the defendant was a member of a network of Asian drugs smugglers, which uses similar methods to smuggle drugs with the intention of selling in the Kingdom.

Medical examination and laboratory tests of the man's blood and urine proved that he had consumed hashish.

He was accused by the Public Prosecution on October 19, 2019, of abusing narcotics and drug peddling.

The Prosecution referred the case to Fourth High Criminal Court, which sentenced him to 15 years of imprisonment, to pay a fine of BD5,000 and permanent deportation after he completes his sentence.

Educator arrested for assaulting disabled child

TDT | Manama

An educator at one of the centres in the Capital Governorate for educating and training people with special needs, has been recently arrested for assaulting a child at the centre, it was announced yesterday.

According to a statement issued by the Public Prosecution yesterday, the woman is an Arab national and has physically assaulted a disabled child she was in charge of caring for.

In the statement, Deputy At-

torney General of the Family and Child Prosecution Nasser Al Sheeb explained: "The Public Prosecution received a notification from the Capital Governorate Police Directorate stating that the suspect, an Arab woman, who works as an Education Specialist at one of the centres for the education and training of people with special needs, had physically assaulted one of the students at the centre. The student is from the people with disabilities category."

The official affirmed in the statement that a probe was



The Public Prosecution received a notification from the Capital Governorate Police Directorate stating that the suspect, an Arab woman, had physically assaulted one of the students at the centre.

MR AL SHEEB

launched into the details of the incident immediately after it was reported to the Public Prosecution. Mr Al Sheeb said the suspect was summoned and interrogated.

The woman was accused by the prosecution of assault and she confessed to her crime.

The prosecution ordered to detain her for seven days pending further investigation, while a trial date before the Fourth Minor Criminal Court has been set to be on April 16, 2019. No further details were available on the condition of the child.

Overseas voting for Filipino nationals starts at embassy today

● The voting centre will be set up on the ground floor at the Philippine Embassy in Al Mahooz area.

TDT | Manama

Filipino expatriates in the Kingdom can cast their votes at the Philippine Embassy starting today as the country goes to polls to elect their senators and representatives.

The embassy, in a statement issued, stated yesterday that it has completed the final testing and sealing of the Vote Counting Machines (VCMs).

"Filipinos in the Kingdom, who have registered with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) can cast their votes in the mid-term national elections wherein they will select 12 senators and one party list representative."

The overseas voting in the Kingdom and across the globe will continue until May 13, 2019.

"We are glad to inform everyone that all the Vote Counting Machines (VCMs) are working perfectly and we have more



There are 60,000 Filipinos in the Kingdom and we are encouraging everyone to come to the embassy and vote. To those who have registered and can't find their names on the COMELEC List of Overseas Voters, please come and see me.

MR ALFONSO A VER

VCMs on standby just in case of VCM malfunctions to ensure a smooth conduct of the overseas voting in Bahrain," Philippine Ambassador Alfonso A Ver said.

The embassy will be open on April 18 and 19 as well, it is learnt. The Philippine Embassy in the Kingdom has registered more than 25,000 Filipino overseas voters.

"There are 60,000 Filipinos in the Kingdom and we are encouraging everyone to come to the embassy and vote. To those who have registered and can't find their names on the COMELEC List of Overseas Voters, please come and see me, so we can look into

your case," he said.

Registered voters can cast their votes from April 13 until May 13, 2019, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, however, on the last day (May 13), the voting will be held from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The voting centre will be set up on the ground floor at the Philippine Embassy in Al Mahooz area.

"To vote all registered overseas voters in Bahrain are advised to bring the Philippine passport or Civil ID, or any Philippine government-issued ID such as UMID, SSS ID, Driver's Licence, PRC ID, OWVA or IDOLE, Voter's ID and other valid IDs," the ambassador added.

Thousands visit Mara'ee 2019



One of the shows held as part of the inaugural ceremony.

● The event was held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Manama

Thousands of people visited the fifth edition of Mara'ee Show 2019 on the first day, which was launched on Wednesday.

The event was held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Ministry of Work's Agriculture Undersecretary Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmad Al Khalifa said that Mara'ee 2019's Supreme Committee added a set of shows and events that are held for the first time, besides expanding the general area of the exhibition.

The new shows include participation of horses show from

Turkmenistan, National Geographic's corner for animals' virtual world, and a corner dedicated to decorative chicken and other birds, as well as the accompanying art exhibition, which offers live demonstrations of painting.

He pointed out that Mara'ee provides the public who are interested in animals and agricultural sector an opportunity to learn how to preserve animals and agriculture through the introduction of the latest technologies in this regard.

SDG success stressed

Norwegian delegation visits House of Representatives, Shura Council

Manama

Following a meeting with His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister who briefed them on the success of Bahrain in the field of sustainable development and the prevailing features of tolerance and co-existence among all its people and its pioneering steps in the field of democratic development, the former Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway, Kjell Magne Bondevik, President of the Oslo Centre for Peace and Human Rights, and Aamir Javed Sheikh, head of the Dialogue for Peace and President of August 14 Committee of Norway visited yesterday the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives.

They were received by Speaker Fawzia Zainal and Shura Council Chairman, Ali Al Saleh. They were briefed by on the mechanisms of the two councils and their committees, the democratic process in the Kingdom, as well as the role both chambers play in the development of the Kingdom.

Mr Bondevik hailed the development, progress and development of the Kingdom of Bahrain in various fields, especially the democratic development. He praised Bahrain for strengthening its position and positive role regionally and internationally, appreciating the outstanding initiatives of the Kingdom on the international level and its support to the efforts aimed to spread peace and achieve the goals of sustainable development.

Speaker of the Council of Representatives welcomed the visit, which would push forward all initiatives aimed at ensur-



The Norwegian delegation being briefed on GPIC projects.

ing a secure and stable life for nations and peoples in light of the challenges facing the world, which require strengthening and promoting the principles and values of peaceful coexistence for a better future for mankind.

She said that the Kingdom, under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, has a unique and historic experience to be proud of in terms of tolerance, pluralism, peaceful coexistence between religions, and society. "Bahrain has become one of the leading countries in this field," she said.

She expressed her deep appreciation for the civilisational and humanitarian initiatives of His Majesty the King in promoting and consolidating the values and principles of peaceful coexistence through a number of initiatives, which have strengthened

Bahrain, under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, has a unique and historic experience to be proud of in terms of tolerance, pluralism, peaceful coexistence between religions, and society.

MS ZAINAL

the international standing of the Kingdom, in addition to the efforts of His Majesty and directives to intensify endeavours to protect and promote these values in order to achieve world peace and ensure security, stability and comprehensive development in

the countries of the world.

She also paid tribute to the efforts of His Majesty and directives to intensify endeavours to protect and promote these values in order to achieve world peace and ensure security, stability and comprehensive development in the countries of the world.

She went on to say that supporting stability, peace and peaceful coexistence is one of the most important orientations of the Kingdom, which the international community seeks to implement and requires concerted efforts and co-ordination of share efforts by all parties and institutions.

Shura Council Chairman affirmed that the Kingdom is an oasis of peace and coexistence, characterised by an atmosphere of openness and democracy and keen to build cooperation rela-

tions with various countries. He pointed out that the Kingdom of Bahrain is interested in developing its relations with all countries in order to promote peace, international tolerance and interfaith coexistence worldwide through the initiatives launched by His Majesty the King, which would contribute to confronting extremism and challenges facing different countries of the world.

The visiting delegation toured a number of national companies and industrial establishments in the Kingdom including the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC), where they were received by the Company's President, Dr Abdul Rahman Jawahery, who briefed them on the company's departments and role in enhancing the development process and upgrading the petrochemical industry.

Bahrain attends GCC health conference

Kuwait City

The first Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Health Council was held under the patronage of Kuwaiti Health Minister Dr Shaikh Basel Al Sabah.

National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) Chief Executive Officer Dr Mariam Adhbi Al Jalahma attended the two-day event, under the theme "GCC Sustainable Healthcare: Challenges and Future Trends".

Addressing the conference, she stressed the importance for GCC private health facilities to comply with the good governance requirements to ensure quality and sustainable health services.

She underlined the results of the National Health Accreditation Programme, which was endorsed in the Kingdom, stressing the importance of the scheme in promoting good governance of medical teams' performance.

The conference aims to build an informative and enriching information base by attracting specialists, scientists, researchers and institutions concerned with health care.

It also seeks to highlight the importance of comprehensive health coverage in line with the development responsibilities of health bodies to move forward in achieving the global goals and objectives of sustainable development.

GCC drive to support flood-hit Iranians

Riyadh

Humanitarian aid organisations in Saudi Arabia and the UAE have joined forces to help thousands of Iranians hit by devastating floods.

The Saudi Red Crescent Authority (SRCA) and Emirates Red Crescent (RCUAE) yesterday launched a major relief initiative after recent deluges left around 80 people dead and forced more than 80,000 residents to flee their homes.

In a joint statement, the two agencies said they were drawing up plans to channel aid to the worst-affected areas in a bid to ease the suffering of the Kingdom's and the UAE's "Iranian brothers."

Iranian authorities on Wednesday ordered tens of thousands of people to leave their homes as floodwaters poured into the southwest city of Ahvaz, capital of Khuzestan province.

Gholamreza Shariati, provincial governor, pleaded for young

men to volunteer to "help us in building dykes and to assist in the evacuation of women, children and the elderly."

Nearly 80 people are known to have died in the past three weeks in torrents, described as the worst since the 1940s, which have swamped about 1,900 cities and villages in 20 of Iran's 31 provinces.

The northeast of Iran was first to be hit by floods on March 19 before the west and southwest were inundated on March 25. On April 1, the west and southwest were again engulfed after heavy rain returned.

The huge inflows have forced authorities to release large volumes of water from Khuzestan's largest dams, which is now threatening some cities downstream, including the Ahvaz region, where 1.3 million people live.

The disaster has left aid agencies struggling to cope and seen 86,000 people moved to emergency shelters.

The Iranian government has told its citizens, especially flood-affected farmers, that all losses will be compensated.



Iran's 31 provinces were adversely affected by floods.

Strong US ties lauded

Manama

Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa yesterday received the US Ambassador

to Bahrain, Justin Siberell.

He lauded outstanding relations of friendship and co-operation between both countries and their perpetual growth at all levels.

Discussions focused on ways

of boosting bilateral co-operation in the justice and legal fields.

The meeting was attended by the ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Statistics, Planning and Telecommunications Dana Al Zayani.

Fire put out



A fire broke out at a labour camp in Gudaiyya yesterday. No injuries were reported after the incident. A special team from the Civil Defence instantly rushed to the scene and doused the flames. A probe has been ordered.

WORLD

SpaceX carries out first commercial launch

Cape Canaveral, US

SpaceX carried out its first commercial launch on Thursday with its Falcon Heavy rocket easing a Saudi telecoms satellite into orbit.

The bright white rocket rose with a roar and spewed thick gray smoke on the ground as it made its way up into clear blue skies over Cape Canaveral, Florida, trailing a long plume of orange fire.

The job was to place the six-ton Arab-sat-6A satellite into geostationary orbit about 22,500 miles (36,000 kilometers) above the Earth. It went off without a hitch. The satellite is designed to provide television, internet, telephone, and secure communications to customers in the Middle East

About 34 minutes after liftoff, the shiny silver satellite was successfully deployed. Staff in the control room cheered and clapped.

Earlier, boisterous spectators chanted along with the launch announcer who counted down the final 10 seconds before liftoff.

The Falcon Heavy rocket exerts 5.1 million pounds of thrust -- that of more than a dozen jetliners, SpaceX said.



Rescuers searching at the site where a train carrying aluminum ore derailed and hit a village house in Zhengzhou in China's central Henan province.

Six killed as train derails, hits house in China

Beijing, China

Rescuers have recovered the bodies of six people in central China after a cargo train carrying aluminium ore hurtled off the tracks and crushed a house, local authorities said yesterday.

At around 10:00 pm on Wednesday the 25-car train derailed from an escape siding and overturned, hitting a house in Gongyi, Henan province.

Search and rescue operations concluded early Friday morning after the bodies of

four crew members and two villagers were found.

Rescue efforts were difficult as the crew accommodation car and the first 14 wagons overturned and lay on top of each other, and were heaped together with a large quantity of aluminium ore, the Gongyi government said.

The train is owned by Chalco, China's largest state-owned aluminium producer. Each car held 60 tonnes of aluminium ore, authorities said.

Authorities are still investigating the cause of the accident.

Israeli spacecraft crashes during moon landing

Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel's attempt at a moon landing failed at the last minute Thursday when the craft suffered an engine failure as it prepared to land and apparently crashed onto the lunar surface.

"We didn't make it, but we definitely tried," project originator and major backer Morris Kahn said in a live videocast from mission control near Tel Aviv.

"I think that the achievement of getting to where we got is really tremendous, I think we can be proud," he said.

During the broadcast control staff could be heard saying that engines meant to slow the craft's descent and allow a soft landing had failed and contact with it had been lost.

"If at first you don't succeed, you try again," said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from the control room, where he had been watching along with US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman.

Only Russia, the United States and China have made the



A handout picture released by SpaceIL and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) shows a picture taken by the camera of the Israel Beresheet spacecraft, of the moons surface as the craft approaches and before it crashed during the landing

384,000-kilometre (239,000-mile) journey and landed safely on the Moon.

Israeli NGO SpaceIL and state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), the project's two main partners, described it as the "world's first spacecraft built in a non-governmental mission".

Khan, a philanthropist and chairman of SpaceIL, put up \$40 million of the project's \$100 million budget.

Other partners who joined

later are from "the private sector, government and academia," according to the IAI website.

Just before the landing attempt Netanyahu said that he was thinking about initiating a national space project.

"I am seriously considering investing in a space programme," he said in the webcast.

"It has national implications for Israel and implications for humanity."

Crying toddler wins World Press award



A Honduran 2-year-old, Yanela Sanchez, cried as she and her mother, Sandra Sanchez, were taken into custody by U.S. border officials in McAllen, Tex., on June 12, 2018. This photo was awarded photo of the year and first prize in the spot news, singles, category.

AFP | Amsterdam, Netherlands

The haunting image of a little girl crying helplessly as she and her mother are taken into custody by US border officials Thursday won the prestigious World Press Photo Award.

Judges said veteran Getty photographer John Moore's picture taken after Honduran mother Sandra Sanchez and her daughter Yanela illegally crossed the US-Mexico border last year showed "a different kind of violence that is psychological".

The picture of the wailing toddler was published worldwide and caused a public outcry about Washington's controversial policy to separate thousands of migrants and their children.

US Customs and Border Protection officials later said Yanela and her mom were not among those separated, but the public furor "resulted in President Donald Trump reversing the policy in June last year," the judges said.

'Fear on their faces'

Moore was taking pictures of US Border Patrol agents on a moonless night in the Rio Grande Valley on June 12 last year when they came across a

group of people who tried to cross the border.

"I could see the fear on their faces, in their eyes," Moore told the US-based National Public Radio broadcaster in an interview shortly afterwards.

As officials took their names, Moore said he spotted Sandra Sanchez and her toddler who started wailing when her mom put her down to be searched.

"I took a knee and had very few frames of that moment before it was over," said Moore, who had been covering the US-Mexico border for a decade.

At the awards ceremony in Amsterdam, Moore told AFP: "I wanted to tell a different story." "For me it was a chance to show a view of humanity that is often only related in statistics," the 51-year-old photographer said.

"I think an issue like this, immigration issues, resonates not just in the United States, but around the world," Moore also told several hundred guests at the awards.

Migrant caravan

The sensitive issue of immigration was further highlighted at Thursday's awards.

Judges chose Dutch-Swedish photographer Pieter Ten Hoopen's images of the 2018 mass-migrant caravan to the US border as its winner in the

"World Press Photo Story of the Year Award".

Ten Hoopen's pictures, which show families and children as they made their way from Honduras in mid-October to the US border "showed a high sense of dignity," one of the judges said.

Ten Hoopen thanked the migrant families, saying without them his award would not have been possible.

Trump said Tuesday he won't resume separating children of undocumented migrants, but insisted that the policy did prevent people from illegal border crossings like a trip to "Disneyland".

His words came after he announced the departure Sunday of the official in charge of fighting illegal immigration -- Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen.

According to US media reports, Trump's reshuffle could herald even harsher measures on the southern border.

Judges selected this year's winners from 78,801 images entered by 4,738 photographers worldwide, the Amsterdam-based organisers said.

Three lensmen from AFP, John Wessels, Brendan Smialowski and Pedro Pardo were handed one second place and three third places overall in the various categories.

'Mikhail Gorbachev' running for office in Indonesia polls

Jakarta, Indonesia

Mikhail Gorbachev is running for office in Indonesian elections next week, but it's not the octogenarian ex-Soviet leader who helped bring an end to the Cold War.

The 32-year-old -- full name Mikhail Gorbachev Dom -- is vying for a seat in parliament, one of more than 245,000 candidates contesting the Southeast Asian nation's biggest-ever polls on April 17.

The former environmental researcher was born in 1986, just as his Nobel Prize-winning namesake was embarking on reforms that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

How the Indonesian Gorbachev got his name was slightly less earth shattering.

"My parents were certain that they were going to have a girl so when I was born they panicked because they didn't have a boy's name ready," the Jakarta resident told AFP.

So he went nameless for a week until the couple spotted the elder Gorbachev's name in a newspaper.

"My father thought it was a cool name and he was an influential leader of the Soviet Union so they thought let's give our son that name," he said.

The unusual moniker wasn't



Mikhail Gorbachev Dom, who is vying for a seat in the Indonesian parliament, one of more than 245,000 candidates contesting the Southeast Asian nation's biggest-ever polls on April 17, 2019.

easy for an adolescent Gorbachev, who still prefers his nickname Gorba.

But it helped him decide to enter politics after years of largely ineffective environmental activism left him frustrated.

"I realised that I needed to go into politics to see my (environmental) policies implemented," he said.

"These days, I think the name works to my advantage ... People will never forget the name, even when they can't remember my face."

Dalai Lama discharged from hospital

New Delhi, India

The Dalai Lama was discharged from a New Delhi hospital yesterday, his personal spokesman said, three days after being admitted with what an aide called a "light cough".

"He was discharged from the hospital at 8 o'clock in the morning," Tenzin Taklha told AFP. "He is doing very well now."

The 83-year-old Buddhist monk, Tibetan spiritual leader and thorn in China's side was admitted to the Max hospital in the Indian capital on Tuesday.

On Thursday Taklha had said that the Nobel Peace Prize winner was already back to his "normal routine" and doing some exercise.

He was thought to be return-

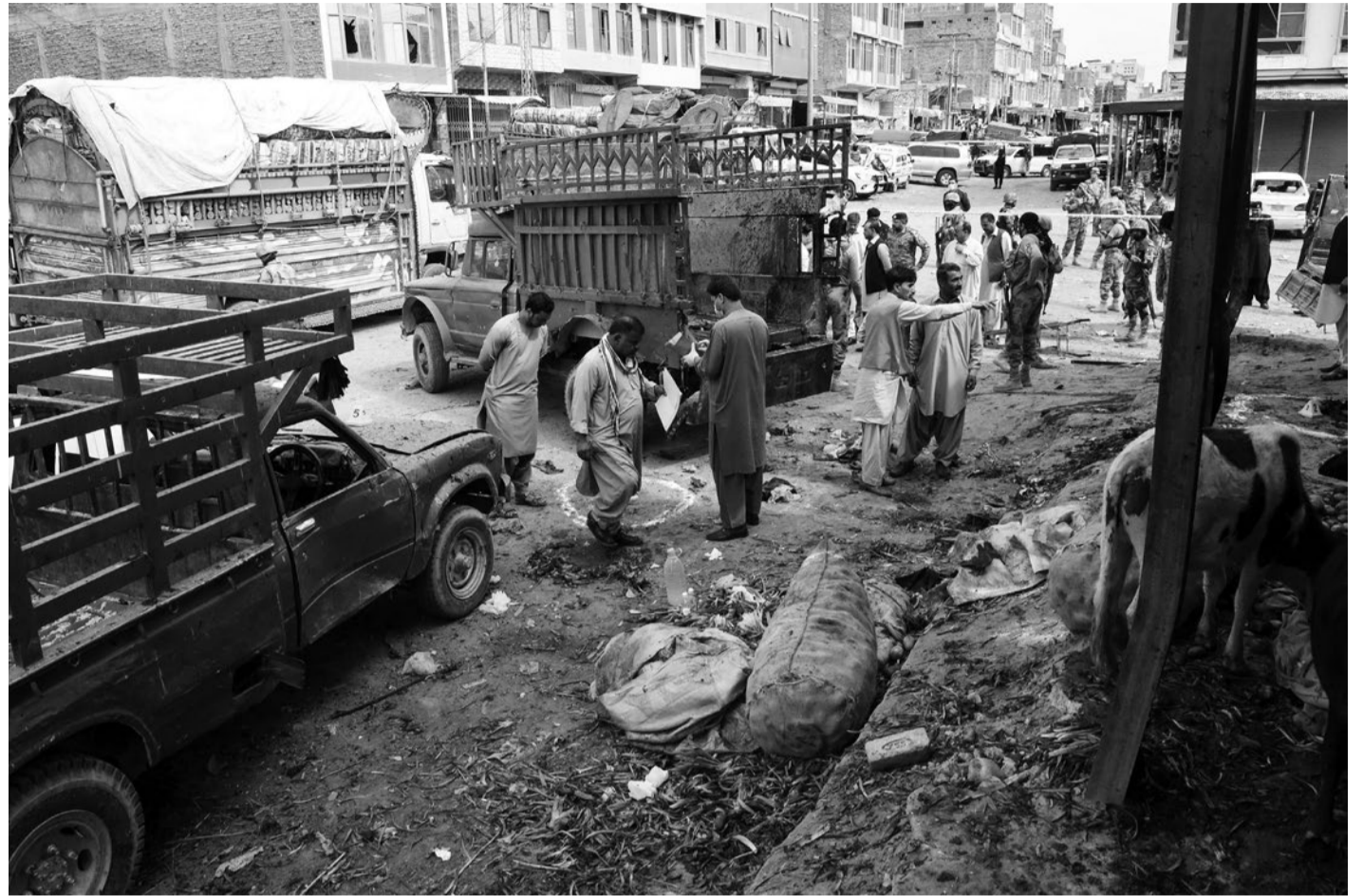


Dalai Lama

ing to the northern Indian hill station of Dharamsala where he has been in permanent exile for six decades along with thousands of others.

He fled the Tibetan capital Lhasa in 1959 and across the frozen Himalayan border to India at the age of 23, disguised as a soldier, as Chinese troops poured into the region to crush an uprising.

20 killed as suicide blast rips through Quetta fruit market



Pakistani security officials inspect the site of a bomb blast at a fruit market in Quetta

● The bomb detonated near a site where produce was being loaded for distribution around the market

● Balochistan home minister Zia Ullah Langu gave the toll and confirmed it was a suicide blast

AFP | Quetta, Pakistan

At least 20 people were killed and 48 wounded yesterday by a powerful suicide blast apparently targeting the Shia Hazara ethnic minority at a crowded fruit market in Pakistan's Quetta city, officials said.

Body parts littered the scene and injured people screamed for help as black smoke cloaked the

market after the explosion.

A faction of the Pakistani Taliban claimed the attack, which occurred in the capital of southwestern Balochistan province.

The group said it collaborated with Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ), which has been behind numerous bloody attacks on Shiite Muslims in Pakistan. There was no immediate confirmation from LeJ.

Balochistan -- which borders Afghanistan and Iran -- is Pakistan's largest and poorest province, rife with ethnic, sectarian and separatist insurgencies.

Balochistan home minister Zia Ullah Langu gave the toll and confirmed it was a suicide blast, adding that two of the dead were children.

Provincial police chief Mohsin Butt said eight Hazara were among the victims.

The Hazara, whose Central Asian features make them easily recognisable, are a soft target for Sunni militants, who consider

them heretics.

They are so frequently targeted that they are forced to live in two protected enclaves in the city and are given a daily police escort to the market to stock up on supplies.

Police chief Butt said this had happened Friday.

The bomb detonated near a site where produce was being loaded for distribution around the market.

"I was loading a small truck and I heard a huge bang and it seemed as if the earth beneath me had shaken and I fell down," said Irfan Khan, a labourer, from his hospital bed.

"The atmosphere was filled with black smoke and I could not see anything, I could hear people screaming for help and I was also screaming for help."

He said the air was "filled with the stinging smell of burnt human flesh".

Senior police official Abdul Razaq Cheema said the blast

targeted the Hazarganji neighbourhood of Quetta.

Hazara make up roughly 500,000 of the city's 2.3 million people.

Amnesty International said the blast was a "painful reminder" of the many attacks suffered by the Hazara community in Quetta over the years, and called for the government of Prime Minister Imran Khan to give them better protection.

"Each time, there are promises that more will be done to protect them, and each time those promises have failed to materialize," wrote Omar Waraich, Amnesty's deputy director for South Asia.

Violence in Pakistan has dropped significantly since the country's deadliest-ever militant attack, an assault on a school in the northwestern city of Peshawar in 2014 that killed more than 150 people, most of them children.

Tourists stunned as Notre-Dame cathedral statues fly above

Paris, France

Sixteen bronze statues briefly took to the skies over Paris after they were removed from the Notre-Dame cathedral to undergo restoration work.

Tourists at the world-famous landmark were left stunned on Thursday as the statues -- representing the 12 apostles and the four evangelists from the New Testament -- were lifted off the spire of the cathedral by crane.

"What's unique is that it's the first time we've seen them up close since they were set up by Viollet-le-Duc in the 1860s," Marie-Helene Didier, who is in charge of the renovation work, said.

"It's an exceptional event because we've brought the 16 statues down in a single day. It's a magical moment for everyone," she said.

Built between the years 1163

and 1345, Notre-Dame is one of the most popular tourist sites in Paris, drawing around 13 million people every year.

Its spire, like the rest of the gothic edifice, is undergoing a 11-million-euro (\$12.4-million) overhaul financed by the French state to repair damage inflicted by time, pollution and the weather.

"Extraordinary," said Sofiane, an onlooker from London, as the statues flew through piercing blue skies suspended from a giant 100-metre (300-foot) crane. "I'll never see anything like it again." The statues will be put on display inside the cathedral and will travel two-by-two to a specialised restorer in the Dordogne area of southwest France.

Once all have been renovated, they will be put back to their position staring out over the City of Light in 2022.



One of 16 copper statues, sitting 50 meters above the ground, is lifted off the Notre-Dame-de-Paris Cathedral to be taken for restoration on April 11, 2019 in the French capital Paris.



In 1804 Napoleon invited Pope Pius VII to come to Paris to crown him emperor in Notre Dame. At the last minute, however, Napoleon seized the crown from the pope's hands and crowned himself

Crude oil, a health cure!



A man bathes in a tub filled with Naftalan crude oil during a treatment session at Sehirlı Naftalan Health Center, some 300 kilometres (186 miles) from capital Baku

AFP | Naftalan, Azerbaijan

Immersed up to her neck in a dark viscous liquid, Sulfiya smiles in delight, confident that the fetid substance will cure her painful condition.

Sulfiya, a Russian woman in her 60s, has travelled to Azerbaijan's north-western city of Naftalan in the hope that crude oil baths at a local sanatorium will end her years of suffering from polyarthritis, a disease affecting the joints.

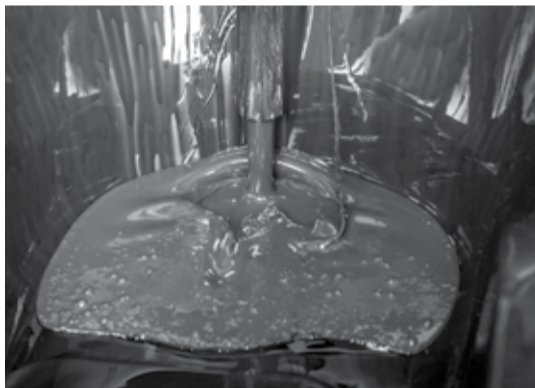
"This is so pleasant," she enthuses, despite the reek of engine oil.

Her naked dip in oil heated to just above body temperature lasts 10 minutes, after which an attendant scrapes the brown oil off her skin and sends her into a shower.

The native of Russia's Tatarstan region said she and her friends "have long dreamed of coming" for treatment in Naftalan.

The petroleum spa resort in the oil-rich Caucasus country is a draw for visitors despite its proximity to Nagorny Karabakh, a region dis-

After 10 days of bathing in crude oil Sulfiya says she now feels "much better" and has even reduced her medication for the polyarthritis that she has had for 12 years



Naftalan crude oil flows from a tap to fill a bathtub during a treatment session at Sehirlı Naftalan Health Center,

puted between Azerbaijan and Armenia in a long-running armed conflict.

After 10 days of bathing in crude oil Sulfiya says she now feels "much better" and has even reduced her medication for the polyarthritis that she has had for 12 years.

"It is a gift from God," agrees 48-year-old Rufat, an Azerbaijani journalist and opposition party member who is undergoing treatment in the sanatorium called Sehirlı, or "magic" in Azerbaijani.

Azerbaijan's vast oil deposits were discovered in the mid-19th century, making what was at the time part of the Russian Empire one of the first places in the world to start commercial oil production.

Oil exports to markets all over the world are the largest sector of Azerbaijan's economy, but the crude that comes from subsoil reservoirs in Naftalan is not suitable for commercial use.

Instead the local oil is used to treat to cure

muscular, skin and bone conditions as well as gynaecological and neurological problems.

According to a legend, which spa staff readily tell clients, the healing properties of Naftalan's "miraculous oil" were discovered by accident when a camel left to die near a pool of oil was cured. The small town of Naftalan some 300 kilometres (185 miles) from the capital Baku became a popular health resort for Soviet citizens in the 1920s.

"In the past, when there weren't any hotels or sanatoriums, people would come to Naftalan and stay with locals," said one of the doctors at the Sehirlı sanatorium, Fabil Azizov, sitting in her office under a portrait of strongman President İlham Aliyev.

"But as time passed, sanatoriums were built and treatment methods developed."

Controversial benefits

Some specialists warn the method has dangerous side effects.

"Despite the stories of past cures, the use of crude oil for medicinal purposes has been condemned by Western doctors as potentially carcinogenic," former journalist Maryam

Omidi wrote in a 2017 book published in Britain about Soviet-era sanatoriums.

In fact, the oil at Naftalan is almost 50 percent naphthalene, a carcinogenic substance found in cigarette smoke and mothballs that in large amounts can damage or destroy red blood cells.

But doctors and patients at Naftalan brush aside any misgivings and the sanatorium even has a small museum displaying crutches that once belonged to patients who have recovered from their illnesses.

'We heard gunshots'

During its heyday in the 1980s, Naftalan would host more than 70,000 visitors a year.

But in 1988, a bloody war began with neighbouring Armenia for the control of Azerbaijan's separatist Nagorny Karabakh region, which unilaterally proclaimed independence from Baku in 1991.

The conflict claimed the lives of some 30,000 people from both sides and forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes.

A 1994 ceasefire agreement ended hostilities, but the arch foes have yet to reach a definitive peace deal and there are fre-

quent skirmishes along the volatile frontline.

During the war, the sanatoriums in Naftalan -- a few kilometres from the frontline -- were converted into hospitals for wounded soldiers and temporary accommodation for refugees.

Over the last two decades, the Azerbaijani authorities have worked hard to re-establish Naftalan's reputation as a health resort. They resettled refugees in other regions, demolished decrepit Soviet-era sanatoriums and built brand-new tourist facilities.

Modern Naftalan is a blend of kitsch-looking high-end spas where a week's treatment costs some 1,000 euros, and modest sanatoriums where a week's treatment costs around 100 euros.

The simmering Karabakh conflict may be out of sight, but guests can still feel uncomfortably close to the military action.

During one of the deadliest recent bouts of fighting in April 2016, "we heard gunshots," said a member of staff at Naftalan's luxurious Garabag spa, adding quickly that "everyone stayed on."

Trump considered daughter Ivanka for head of World Bank

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump considered nominating his daughter to head the World Bank, and she also would have been "great" as US ambassador to the United Nations, he said in an interview published yesterday.

"She's a natural diplomat," Trump told The Atlantic. "She would've been great at the United Nations, as an example."

But if he had nominated his daughter -- who is a senior advisor to the president -- "they'd say nepotism, when it would've had nothing to do with nepotism. But she would've been incredible."

"I even thought of Ivanka for the World Bank," Trump said. "She would've been great at that because she's very good with numbers."

"She's got a great calmness... I've seen her under tremendous stress and pressure. She reacts very well -- that's usually a ge-



US President Donald Trump looks on with his daughter Ivanka Trump(R) as he participates in the National Security Presidential Memorandum to launch the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative in the Oval Office at the White House

netic thing, but it's one of those things, nevertheless," Trump said.

Trump ultimately nominated Kelly Knight Craft, his envoy to

Canada, to be the next US ambassador to the United Nations, while David Malpass, a senior US Treasury official, became the new head of the World Bank.

Doctor 'fathered 49 children' in IVF scandal

The Hague, Netherlands

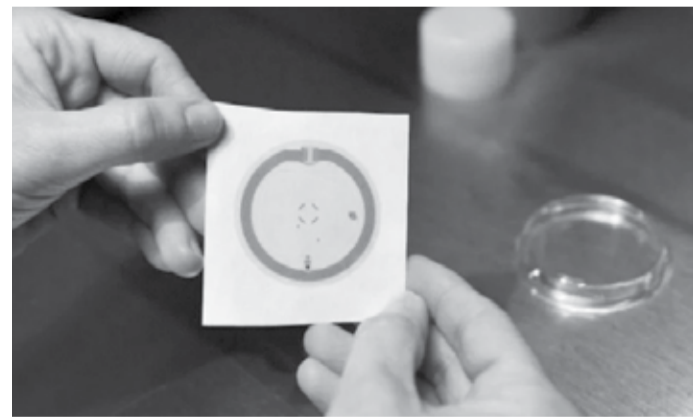
A deceased Dutch doctor famed in a fertility scandal fathered at least 49 children, an organisation representing parents and children born through IVF at his now-closed clinic said yesterday.

Jan Karbaat, who died in 2017, is the direct father of 49 children born after women visited his Rotterdam clinic where he used his own sperm instead of from a chosen donor to inseminate them, Defence for Children said.

Results of DNA tests conducted Friday morning at a hospital in the southeast city of Nijmegen "showed that 49 children in the case are direct descendants of the late Karbaat," the organisation said in a statement.

"The results confirm serious suspicions that Karbaat used his own sperm at his clinic," Defence for Children added.

The controversial case became public after a Dutch court ruled in February that the results of Karbaat's DNA test should be made available to parents and children to conduct



Representative picture

their own comparisons.

Before his death, Karbaat reportedly admitted to having fathered about 60 children in his time at the discredited clinic which closed in 2009 amid reports of irregularities.

The group of suspected "Karbaat children" dragged his family to court to force them to release Karbaat's DNA profile, which was kept behind locked away in a safe.

The plaintiff's lawyer previously told doctors that children for instance had brown eyes, while a sperm donor was supposedly blue-eyed, or that

another male client physically resembled the doctor.

The Karbaat family's lawyers in turn argued that their clients' right to privacy had to be respected.

"However, with the judges agreeing to the paternity test, the judge placed the children's rights above those of Karbaat and his family," Defence for Children advisor Iara de Witte said. "Now, after years of uncertainty the plaintiffs can finally close a chapter and start processing the fact that they are one of Karbaat's many descendants," De Witte said.

SOCIETY



Rotary Club of Sulmaniya held a regular lunch meeting on Wednesday at the Golden Tulip Hotel. Guest speaker was Khalid Saad, CEO of Bahrain Fin-tech Bay, who spoke about the "Fin-tech Ecosystem". During the meeting a couple of sponsors of this years R... committee chairperson and Incoming President Seema Baqi. Two Rotary members were given certificates of participation for the PETS training.



Al Noor International School 26th Annual Athletic meet Prize distribution ceremony was held at the School Multipurpose Hall, where about 250 students from grade 1 to 12 received Gold, Silver and Bronze medals for various sports events. Medals were proud... Amin Mohammed Hulaiwah as well as other school officials and Head Teachers of the various sections. Individual Championship as well as House Championship trophies were also awarded in the function.



Exclusive Orientation Programmes were organised for the parents of new KGI batch and the transition grades (KGI, Grade I, Grade III, Grade VI, and Grades IX to XII) before the beginning of the new academic session at NMS. This was followed by the welcome... followed by pledge and thoughts based on the importance of being responsible and having a positive outlook in life. Children were enthralled to see their loving teachers presenting their talents in form of songs, dances and skit presentations. The Principal, A... successful promotion to the next grades. Speaking at length on the importance of education, he quoted that 'the beginning and end of education, is to become a good human being', thus motivating the students to grow up as responsible global citizens.



The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) celebrated World Health Day, a global health awareness day, on Sunday. This year's theme was 'Universal Health Coverage'. Middle Section Head for Teacher Activities Junith C M welcomed the gathering. ISB EC Member Ajaya...



Society



...ft Race were thanked by the Raft Race



INJAZ Bahrain, in co-operation with AIMabarrah AlKhalifia Foundation (MKF), has launched a one-day "Innovation camp" workshop at Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco). The workshop attended by both students and graduates, aimed to encourage students to foster an understanding of entrepreneurship by creating innovative solutions to challenges from the real business world.



...ly given by the school Chairman Ali Hasan, Director Dr Muhammad Mashood, Principal



...e assemblies conducted for the students. Special prayers were read out by the teachers, ...run Kumar Sharma, in his motivational address, congratulated the students on their



More than 400 students, staff and guests of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) descended on the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain hotel for the annual Winter Ball. Traditionally one of the most popular events on the university's social calendar, the Winter Ball is a chance for students to take a break from their studies, dress up and socialise with their peers. This year's gala event featured a DJ, magician as well as prize draws and a photobooth.



Krishnan V gave World Health Day message. Physical Education Teacher Chinnasamy Rengasamy presented yoga demonstration for students.



Scores attended the Fes 518 Pop Up Bazaar held at The Jawad Dome, Barbar. Many special activities including painting contest, games were organised for children while food stalls offered special dishes to the visitors.

business

IMF, World Bank urge caution with China loans

Washington, United States

Increased lending by China to developing nations is increasingly under the spotlight amid concerns that growing debt burdens and onerous conditions could sow the seeds of a crisis.

The global development lenders, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, are calling for more transparency about loan amounts and terms, and cautioning governments against relying too much on debt.

At the spring meetings of the institutions on Thursday, newly-installed World Bank President David Malpass warned that “17 African countries are already at high risk of debt distress, and that number is just growing as the new contracts come in and aren’t sufficiently transparent.”

IMF chief Christine Lagarde said the high debt levels and number of lenders, who do not



17 African countries are already at high risk of debt distress, and that number is just growing as the new contracts come in and aren’t sufficiently transparent

DAVID MALPASS
WORLD BANK PRESIDENT



It’s clear that any debt restructuring programs going forward in the years to come will be more complicated than debt restructuring programs that were conducted 10 years ago

IMF CHIEF CHRISTINE LAGARDE

all conform to international norms, also complicate any future efforts to restructure a country’s debt.

“Both the bank and the IMF are working together in order to bring about more transparency and be better able to identify debt out there, terms and conditions, volumes and maturities,” she said at a news briefing.

“We are constantly encouraging both borrowers and lenders to align as much as possible with the debt principles” set by international organizations such as the Paris Club and Group of 20.

An IMF report issued this week warned that rising debt levels around the world -- government and corporate borrowing -- poses a risk to the global economy.

China has been lending throughout the developing world as part of its “belt and road” initiative, especially fo-

cus on resource-rich nations.

Debt drags down economies

But the loans have come under increasing scrutiny. Mozambique has been engulfed in scandal over \$2 billion in fraudulent loans that were hidden from the public.

And Lagarde said, “It’s clear that any debt restructuring programs going forward in the years to come will be more complicated than debt restructuring programs that were conducted 10 years ago, simply because of the multiplicity of lenders, and the fact that not all public debt is offered by members of the Paris Club.”

Malpass acknowledged that lending can help economies grow “but if it’s not done in a transparent way, with good outcome from the build-up of debt, then you end up having it be a drag on economies.”

He cautioned that “history is full of those situations where too much debt dragged down economies.”

The G20 has called on the two Washington-based lenders to collect data on debt to get a better handle on the amounts and loan conditions.

“I’ll be reporting to the G20 on the progress during our meetings coming up this week, and the keys are to have transparent disclosure of the debt as it is being created, and also then have the focus on good outcomes in terms of quality projects,” Malpass said.

“This is critical for poor countries as they try to move forward to have the projects associated with good quality programs and full disclosure of the debt.”

China also has a growing role as a donor to the World Bank fund that provides low-cost loans to the poorest countries.

Uber sets IPO in motion

San Francisco, United States

Uber filed documents Thursday for its much-anticipated public share offering expected to be the largest in the tech sector in years, and a bellwether for other venture-backed startups eyeing Wall Street listing.

The filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission contained no specific pricing or timing for the market debut for Uber, which according to media reports was expected to raise some \$10 billion.

Uber’s valuation in its latest

private investment round was more than \$70 billion, but reports said the ride-hailing giant was likely to seek a market value of close to \$100 billion.

The filing noted that Uber offers ridesharing in some 700 cities but has bolder ambitions to reshape how people and goods are transported with operations such as meal deliveries, freight, and electric bikes and scooters.

“Our mission is to ignite opportunity by setting the world in motion,” the document filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Malaysia revives massive Chinese rail project

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Malaysia said yesterday a major Chinese-backed railway had been revived following a deal to cut costs, lifting a suspension slapped on the project when a corruption-plagued regime lost power last year.

The railway was among several infrastructure projects in Malaysia supported by Beijing but put on hold after the shock defeat of a coalition that had ruled the country for six decades.

Critics said the projects lacked transparency, could saddle

the government with debt, and were in reality aimed at quickly funnelling money to former leader Najib Razak to help him pay back cash looted from a sovereign wealth fund.

After months of negotiations between the Malaysian and Chinese governments and the companies involved, a new agreement was reached to resume the East Coast Rail Link, the Malaysian prime minister’s office said in a statement.

The cost of the rail link, which will connect Malaysia’s east and west coasts, was reduced to 44 billion ringgit (\$10.6 billion dol-

lars) from its original price of 65.5 billion ringgit, it said.

“This reduction will surely benefit Malaysia and lighten the burden on the country’s financial position,” said the statement. Malaysia’s new administration inherited a mammoth national debt.

The project is seen as a key part of Beijing’s Belt

and Road global infrastructure drive.

Najib was toppled in large part due to allegations that he and his cronies looted billions from state fund IMDB, and spent it on everything from yachts to pricey artworks. He went on trial over the scandal last week.



‘Hitler would have loved social media’: Disney CEO



Disney CEO Bob Iger

Los Angeles, United States

Disney CEO Bob Iger on Thursday called upon US politicians to reject hate in the run up to the 2020 election -- and claimed that Adolf Hitler would have “loved social media” as a tool to spread extremist propaganda.

“Hate and anger are dragging us toward an abyss,” he said at a dinner organized by the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Jewish human rights organization. “Our politics, in particular, are now dominated by contempt.”

“Hitler would have loved social media,” he added. “It’s the most powerful marketing tool an extremist could ever hope for.”

“At its worst, social media allows evil to prey on troubled minds and lost souls,” he said.

With a fierce campaign for the 2020 US presidential election expected in the coming months, Iger also stressed that it is “possible to argue policy without attacking people.”

“I want to hear a pitch that isn’t grounded in contempt of others,” he said.

“I want to see a vision big enough to include everyone.”

Indian IT giants Infosys, TCS see profits soar

Mumbai, India

India’s biggest software exporters reported a surge in net profits yesterday thanks to strong revenue growth and a slew of big new deals.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), India’s largest IT outsourcing firm, said profits for the quarter ending March 2019 rose 17.7 per cent from the same period a year ago.

The Mumbai-based company notched 81.26 billion rupees (\$1.18bn) in consolidated net profits for Q4 of financial year 2018-19, up from 69.04bn rupees on-year.

TCS said its revenues has grown 18.5pc for the quarter year-on-year.

“This is the strongest revenue growth that we have had in the last fifteen quarters,” said CEO Rajesh Gopinathan in a statement.

“Our order book is bigger than in the prior three quarters, and



Rajesh Gopinathan, CEO, TCS



Salil Parekh, CEO, Infosys

It added that 101 new clients were added during the quarter, bringing their total client count to 1,279.

“We have completed the first year of our transformation journey with strong results on multiple dimensions including revenue growth, performance of our digital portfolio, large deal wins, and client metrics,” chief executive Salil Parekh said in a statement.

“This is a reflection of our increased client relevance stemming from our focus on digital, positioning, and longstanding client relationships,” he added.

India’s \$150 billion IT sector has long been one of the country’s flagship industries as companies around the world take advantage of its skilled English-speaking workforce.

Indian IT firms are undergoing a period of change in the face of automation and new technologies but continue to boast healthy balance sheets.

the deal pipeline is also robust,” he added.

TCS’s rival Infosys, India’s second-largest IT outsourcing firm, reported a more than ten percent rise in its quarterly profits.

The Bangalore-headquartered company said consolidated net profit for the quarter ended March 2019 notched 40.78 billion rupees (\$589.1 million).

That was up from the 36.90 billion rupees recorded in the same period the previous year, a rise of 10.5 percent.

Infosys said revenues soared 19.1pc to 215.54 billion rupees.

May faces quit call after Brexit delay

● May has promised to step down once she delivers the first stage of Brexit

● May last week decided to try finding a compromise with the main opposition Labour Party

● Labour is primarily hoping to place Britain in a European customs union of some sort

● Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said the new delay represented a "diplomatic failure"

AFP | London, United Kingdom

British Prime Minister Theresa May faced down a call to resign on Thursday as she implored MPs to resolve the Brexit impasse at last after the EU granted a new six-month delay.

May's 27 European Union counterparts pulled another all-nighter in Brussels before clinching a compromise timetable for Britain's departure, extending the deadline until October 31.

Britain will be able to leave before then if its parliament finally manages to ratify the hotly-contested divorce deal May



Our intention is to finalise the whole process in October... but I am too old to exclude another scenario

DONALD TUSK
EU COUNCIL PRESIDENT

reached with the bloc and that has been behind all the political turmoil in London, with MPs unable to back it -- or any alternative they themselves have come up with.

"The whole country is intensely frustrated that this process to leave the European Union has not still been completed," May told MPs in parliament.

She said lawmakers should reflect during their forthcoming Easter break on the decisions that will have to be made swiftly upon their return.

"Let us then resolve to find a way through this impasse," said May.

"The choices we face are stark and the timetable is clear."

The second departure extension -- Britain was otherwise due to crash out on Friday -- in-

furiated hardcore Brexiters in her centre-right Conservative Party like William Cash, who want May's head.

They fear that the delay might be prolonged yet again -- and the extra time used to engineer a softer form of Brexit, or even see it annulled outright.

Cash said May had presided over an "abject surrender" in Brussels, adding: "Will she resign?"

"I think you know the answer to that," she replied.

May has promised to step down once she delivers the first stage of Brexit -- meaning she could remain in power until near the end of the year.

'Everything is possible'

The delay avoids a possible economic calamity on both sides of the Channel but does little to resolve the political morass that has seen May's control over her MPs and cabinet gradually slip.

The pound traded steady and stocks held firm on news of the extension.

The delay allowed traders to breathe a sigh of relief but observers noted the reprieve was only brief with the agreement merely kicking the can down the road.

EU Council president Donald Tusk admitted in Brussels after the marathon meetings wound down that "everything is possible".

"Our intention is to finalise the whole process in October... but I am too old to exclude another scenario," he told reporters.

May did get an unexpected



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May in the House of Commons

boost from US President Donald Trump. "Too bad that the European Union is being so tough on the United Kingdom and Brexit," he tweeted.

France's Europe minister defended President Emmanuel Macron's opposition to granting a Brexit extension of more than six months.

A long extension would have been seen "as an attempt by the EU to hamper Britain's departure by delaying the decision for as long as possible in hoping that they will change their mind," Amelie de Montchalin told parliament.

Cross-party push

Unable to convince enough of her Conservatives and their Northern Irish allies to back the

deal, May last week decided to try finding a compromise with the main opposition Labour Party.

A cross-party agreement could help her get a deal through by May 22, just in time for Britain to leave the EU without having to take part in European Parliamentary elections at the end of next month.

"Reaching an agreement will not be easy, because to be successful it will require both sides to make compromises," said May.

Labour is primarily hoping to place Britain in a European customs union of some sort.

May had previously ruled this out because it prevents Britain from striking lucrative inde-

Why is Britain leaving EU?

A referendum was held on 23 June 2016 to decide whether the UK should leave or remain in the European Union. Leave won by 51.9 per cent to 48.1pc. The referendum turnout was 71.8pc, with more than 30 million people voting.

Could Brexit be cancelled?

Yes. Stopping Brexit would require a change in the law in the UK, something neither the government nor the main UK opposition parties want to do at this point. The European Court of Justice ruled on 10 December 2018 that the UK could cancel the Article 50 Brexit process without the permission of the other 27 EU members, and remain a member of the EU on its existing terms, provided the decision followed a "democratic process", in other words, if Parliament voted for it.

pendent trade agreements with giants such as China and the United States.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said the new delay represented a "diplomatic failure" and typified May's "mishandling of the entire Brexit process".

The veteran socialist said while the cross-party talks on finding a compromise were constructive and serious, "the red lines must move and we must see a real compromise".

In the working-class port town of Tilbury east of London, which strongly backed leaving the EU in the 2016 referendum, Brexit supporters voiced their frustration at the new delay.

"I'm very disgruntled with it all," Suzy Hornsby, 59, said.

"We want out... I can't wait to leave."

Cyclone Idai damages estimated at \$2 billion: World Bank



Debris and destroyed buildings which stood in the path of Cyclone Idai can be seen in this aerial photograph over the Praia Nova neighbourhood in Beira

Maputo, Mozambique

Cyclone Idai which cut a deadly swathe through Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe last month, is expected to cost the three countries more than \$2 billion (1.77 billion euros), the World Bank said.

"(E)arly estimates point to over US\$2.0 billion in recovery costs for the infrastructure and livelihood impacts," it said in a statement issued after a meeting in Washington on Thursday.

"To date, about three million people have been affected, with near total damage in the worst affected areas," it said.

Idai slammed into the Mozambican port city of Beira on March 14 then continued a

deadly path westward towards Zimbabwe.

In Mozambique alone, more than 600 people died among the 1.5 million affected. About 344 have been killed in Zimbabwe. Southern Malawi was also drowned in heavy rainfall in an earlier phase of the storm, killing 59.

The lender said the cyclone had damaged the infrastructure corridor connecting the Mozambican port of Beira with Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, disrupting regional trade and supplies of fuel, wheat and other goods."

The UN has appealed for donations of \$282 million (251 million euros) to fund emergency assistance for the next three months.

Chevron says will acquire Anadarko for \$33 billion

New York, United States

Chevron announced yesterday it will acquire smaller US rival Anadarko for \$33 billion in a deal that strengthens the oil giant's exploration and production holdings in its home market.

The cash-and-stock transaction is centered on Anadarko's properties in the Permian Basin in Texas and the Gulf of Mexico, two areas where Chevron is already a big player and where economies of scale can help drive value with suppliers and in key drilling and production operations.

Anadarko also has a handful of overseas ventures, including a major liquefied natural gas project in Mozambique that Chevron said would help bolster one of Chevron's major global businesses.

"This transaction builds strength on strength for Chevron," said Chevron Chief Executive Mike Wirth.

"The combination of Anadarko's premier, high-quality assets with our advantaged portfolio strengthens our leading position in the Permian, builds on our deepwater Gulf of Mexico capabilities and will grow our LNG business."

For Chevron, the second-biggest US oil company after Exxon Mobil, the takeover of Anadarko marks its big-



Chevron Chief Executive Mike Wirth

gest deal since its purchase of Texaco, which closed in 2001.

In another transaction, Chevron in 2005 bought Unocal for \$18.3bn after raising the price during a high-profile bidding war with China's CNOOC that drew interest from lawmakers in Washington.

The acquisition is composed of 75 per cent stock and 25pc cash, with Anadarko shareholders receiving 0.39 shares of Chevron and \$16.25 in cash for each Anadarko share held.

By combining the companies, Chevron expects to cull \$1 billion in costs. The oil giant will also "high grade" its portfolio and sell off some \$15 billion to \$20 billion of assets.

In 2018, Chevron had \$42.4bn in revenues and pumped 3.1 million barrels oil-equivalent per day, above the level of most members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Germany's Merck seals \$6.6 billion takeover of Versum

● The acquisition is Merck's biggest since 2015

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

German chemicals and pharmaceuticals giant Merck KGaA said yesterday it had signed a 5.8-billion-euro (\$6.6bn) deal to buy Arizona-based Versum Materials, which supplies chemicals, gases and equipment for semiconductor manufacturing.

Looking to profit from growth trends in chipmaking, the world's oldest chemical firm -- founded in 1668 -- swooped in with a higher offer for Versum after the group had already agreed a merger with US-based Entegris.

Darmstadt-based Merck "has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Versum Materials, Inc. for \$53 per share in cash," it said in a statement -- higher than an initial offer of \$48 per share made by Merck in February.

With sales of around 1.2bn euros in 2018 and 2,300 employees across Asia and North America, Versum will be integrated into Merck's "performance materials" division, which already produces inputs for circuits and liquid crystals



Merck's chief financial officer Marcus Kuhnert

for computer displays.

There are big growth opportunities in supplying chipmakers in their quest to build ever-more-intricate processors, according to Merck's chief financial officer Marcus Kuhnert.

"Ultra-high-purity materials... have an immense impact" on the hardware for future applications like artificial intelligence, autonomous driving or connected objects, said Kuhnert said in a conference call.

"We will be ideally positioned to capitalise on the electronic industry's growth," he added.

In the near term, the tie-up should increase the revenue of the materials unit by half, from 2.4bn euros last year.

The acquisition is Merck's biggest since 2015, when it took over US materials supplier Sigma-Aldrich for \$17bn.

World stocks push higher

AFP | Paris, France

Stock markets on both sides of the Atlantic pushed higher yesterday after two major US banks reported earnings ahead of analysts' expectations.

A surprise performance by JP Morgan and Wells Fargo boosted the mood of investors who were also happy to have emerged largely unscathed from a week full of potential pitfalls, especially on Brexit.

Wrongfooting financial sector watchers who had warned of a "not that great" earnings season for banks, JP Morgan reported higher first-quarter profits yesterday, pointing to a still-solid US economy reflected in more lending and better profit margins on loans.

Wells Fargo also did better than the market consensus.

Shares in both banks gained at the Wall Street open, which saw the DJIA index, of which JP Morgan is a member, rise by nearly one per cent.

European stock markets were also all stronger at that time.

"US stocks are higher in early action, on continued trade optimism and with the markets eyeing the unofficial start to first quarter earnings season that saw Dow member JPMorgan Chase & Co and Wells Fargo top expectations," said analysts at Charles Schwab.

Shares in Walt Disney, also listed on the Dow, surged after the company announced the launch of its video streaming service.

Away from corporate performance, investors basked in relief that Britain and the European Union had kicked the Brexit can down the road for another six months, and that statements from both the European Central Bank and the US Federal Reserve, while cautious, contained little that was new or frightening.

An 'unremarkable' week

In contrast to what punters had predicted a week ago "it's been an unremarkable week for global equity markets, despite an ECB rate meeting, an EU summit and Fed minutes," said Michael Hewson at CMC Markets.



A trader works ahead of the closing bell on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)

Key figures around 1340 GMT

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| London - FTSE 100: | ▲ 0.1pc at 7,423.13 points |
| Frankfurt - DAX 30: | ▲ 0.5pc at 11,999.54 |
| Paris - CAC 40: | ▲ 0.3pc at 5,502.67 |
| EURO STOXX 50: | ▲ 0.4pc at 3,447.73 |
| New York - Dow: | ▲ 0.9pc at 26,369.04 |
| Tokyo - Nikkei 225: | ▲ 0.7pc at 21,870.56 (close) |
| Hong Kong - Hang Seng: | ▲ 0.2pc at 29,771.14 (close) |
| Shanghai - Composite: FLAT | at 3,188.63 (close) |
| Pound/dollar: | ▲ at \$1.3111 from \$1.3058 at 2100 GMT |
| Euro/pound: | ▲ at 86.27 pence from 86.20 pence |
| Euro/dollar: | ▲ at \$1.1314 from \$1.1253 |
| Dollar/yen: | ▲ at 111.93 yen from 111.66 yen |
| Oil - West Texas Inter: | ▲ 66 cents at \$64.23 per barrel |
| Oil - Brent Crude: | ▲ 65 cents at \$71.48 per barrel |

Supporting sentiment were eurozone industrial production data for February that analysts at Capital Economics "suggest that output in the sector performed a little better in the first quarter than at the end of last year," although it was likely to be sluggish going forward as global economic growth weakens.

Analysts at Oxford Economics said the industrial output numbers "showed some encouraging signs", especially because of

"surprising gains" in France and Italy, setting the scene for a solid rebound in first quarter growth.

Earlier, Asian markets ended mixed.

Analysts in the region reported that with few fresh developments on the China-US trade talks, a rally that characterised the first three months of the year appeared to be running out of steam, while Donald Trump's threats of tariffs against Europe jolted confidence.

Data Friday showed China's imports falling more than ex-

pected in March, signalling ongoing fragility in the world's number two economy, even as exports enjoyed a sharp rise.

Total imports sank 7.6pc year-on-year last month while exports rose 14.2pc, the data from China's customs administration showed.

Economists polled by Bloomberg had expected a slight 0.2pc rise in imports with exports projected to grow 6.5pc.

The readings come after a run of positive releases from Beijing including forecast-beating factory activity and a jump in inflation.

"Recent improvements in China activity data... expectations of further feed-through from policy stimulus to the real economy and signs of some partial form of US-China trade truce have all given rise to a more bullish China sentiment," said Jasslyn Yeo, global market strategist at JP Morgan Asset Management.

In commodities, oil prices chalked up more gains in a six-month bull run that analysts said is their best streak since 2016.

The pound strengthened against the dollar as traders digested the lengthy delay in Brexit proceedings, but slipped a touch against the euro.

Microsoft's work with Chinese military university raises eyebrows



Many of these advanced technologies are dual-use, so they could also contribute to the PLA's (People's Liberation Army's) modernisation and informatisation drive, helping the Chinese military move closer to the 2049 goal of being a world-class military

HELENA LEGARDA

A RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AT THE MERCAT

Beijing, China

Microsoft has been collaborating with researchers linked to a Chinese military-backed university on artificial intelligence, elevating concerns that US firms are contributing to China's high-tech surveillance and censorship apparatus.

Over the past year, researchers at Microsoft Research Asia in Beijing have co-authored at least three papers with scholars affiliated with China's National University of Defence Technology (NUDT), which is overseen by the Central Military Commission.

The research covers a number of AI topics, such as face analysis and machine reading, which enables computers to parse and understand online text.

While it is not unusual for US and Chinese scholars to conduct joint research, Microsoft's work with the military-backed NUDT comes amid increasing scrutiny around China-US academic partnerships, as well as China's high-tech surveillance drive in the northwest region of Xinjiang.

"The new methods and technologies described in their joint papers could very well be contributing to China's crackdown on minorities in Xinjiang, for which they are using facial recognition technology," said Helena Legarda, a research associate at the Mercator Institute for China Studies, who focuses on China's foreign and security policies.

"Many of these advanced technologies are dual-use, so they could also contribute to the PLA's (People's Liberation Army's) modernisation and informatisation drive, helping the Chinese military move closer to the 2049 goal of being a world-class military," she added.

In an email, a Microsoft spokesman said that the company's researchers "conduct fundamental research with leading scholars and experts from around the world to advance our understanding of technology."

In each case, the research "fully complies with US and local laws" and is published to "ensure transparency so everyone can benefit from our work," he said Thursday.

India's Jet extends international cancellations as airline teeters

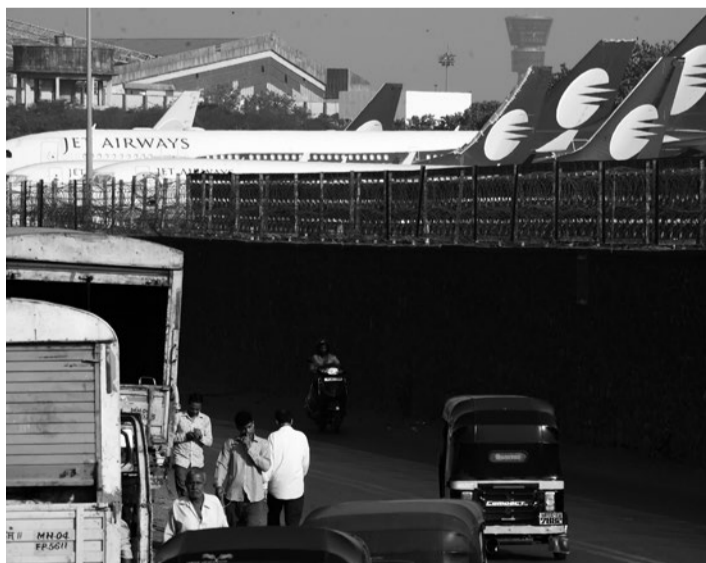
● The airline is believed to now be operating just 16 planes out of a fleet of 119

● Analysts trace the start of Jet's financial problems to its 2006 purchase of Air Sahara for \$500 million in cash.

Mumbai, India

India's Jet Airways extended a suspension of all of its international flights until Monday, the latest blow to the debt-stricken carrier as it battles to stay afloat.

The development Friday came after the government said it would investigate Jet's ability to continue flying as lenders desperately seek a buyer to keep the beleaguered airline running. A Jet Airways source said that



Vehicles (below) ply along a road adjacent to Jet Airways aircraft parked at the airport in Mumbai

all of Jet's international flights out of and into India until Monday had been cancelled, extending a series of cancellations announced on Thursday.

Aviation minister Suresh Prab-

hu earlier tweeted on Friday that his ministry would "review issues related to Jet Airways" and "take necessary steps to minimise passenger inconvenience and ensure their safety".

Jet was until recently India's second-biggest airline by market share but is close to going under with debts of more than \$1 billion.

The Mumbai-based carrier has been forced to ground the majority of its fleet after months of defaulting on loans and struggling to pay lessors and staff.

It told the Bombay Stock Exchange Thursday that it had grounded 10 more planes due to non-payment.

The airline is believed to now be operating just 16 planes out of a fleet of 119. That is below the 20 required by Indian aviation regulators to fly overseas.

Thousands of customers have been stranded in recent weeks after hundreds of flights were cancelled, in some cases with little or no notice.

All of Jet's long-haul flights were cancelled on Thursday, including to London, Paris and Amsterdam. They had been due to run later on Friday.

Close of play Friday is the deadline for prospective bidders to express an interest in acquiring a 75-percent stake in the airline.

A consortium of lenders led by the State Bank of India started the stake sale process on Monday. Any interested parties will then have until April 30 to make a formal bid.

Several airlines, including Etihad, are interested in bidding according to reports.

The consortium took control of Jet Airways last month after creditors injected \$218 million of "immediate funding support" as part of a debt resolution plan.

The deal saw founder Naresh Goyal step down as chairman.

Etihad Airways, which owns a 24-percent stake in Jet, has submitted an expression of interest to buy a controlling stake of up to 75 percent, according to Indian business dailies.

Goyal has also not given up hope of retaking control of the

airline, papers say, although it is unclear if he would be able to put the necessary funds together.

Alarm bells

Alarm bells for Jet Airways first rang in August when it failed to report its quarterly earnings or pay staff, including pilots. It later reported a loss of \$85 million.

In February, it secured a \$1.19 billion bailout from lenders to bridge a funding gap, but its crisis has deepened.

The carrier has been badly hit by fluctuating global crude prices and a weak rupee, as well as fierce competition from budget rivals.

Mismanagement has also plagued the airline with analysts tracing the start of Jet's financial problems to its 2006 purchase of Air Sahara for \$500 million in cash. Goyal reportedly ignored the advice of associates who said the cost was too much.

show

OASIS JUFFAIR

1-HELL BOY (18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY) NEW

Ⓢ DAVID HARBOUR, MILLA JOVOVICH, AND IAN MCSHANE

DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM
DAILY AT (VIP): 3.00 + 8.15 PM

2-DRAGGED ACROSS CONCRETE (18+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW

Ⓢ MEL GIBSON, JENNIFER CARPENTER, VINCE VAUGHN

DAILY AT: 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 PM

3-LITTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY) NEW

Ⓢ REGINA HALL, ISSA RAE, MARSAL MARTIN

DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM

4-AFTER (15+) (ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW

Ⓢ JOSEPHINE LANGFORD, HERO FIENNES TIFFIN, KHADIJHA RED THUNDER

DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 4.00 + 9.15 PM

5-MASHA AND THE BEAR THE NEW ADVENTURES (G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

* DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 10.30 AM + 12.00 + 4.00 PM

6-MADHURA RAJA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW

* MAMMOOTTY, JAI, ANUSREE, SALIM KUMAR, RAMESH PISHARODY

FROM FRIDAY 12TH

DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM

7-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)

Ⓢ ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL

DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

DAILY AT (3D): 12.00 + 5.00 + 10.00 PM

DAILY AT (VIP): 12.15 + 5.30 + 10.45 PM

8-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)

Ⓢ COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO

DAILY AT (3D): 2.45 + 7.45 PM

DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 1.45 + 5.45 + 8.00 + 10.15 PM

9-KESARI (15+) (HINDI/ACTION/DRAMA)

Ⓢ AKSHAY KUMAR, PARINEETI CHOPRA, BHAGYASHREE

DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 3.45 + 8.45 PM

10-LUCIFER (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)

Ⓢ MOHANLAL, MANJU WARRIER, VIVEK OBEROI, TOVINO THOMAS

DAILY AT: 1.15 + 4.30 + 7.45 + 11.00 PM

CITYCENTRE

1-HELL BOY (18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY) NEW

Ⓢ DAVID HARBOUR, MILLA JOVOVICH, AND IAN MCSHANE

DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 12.00 + 5.15 + 10.30 PM

DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)

DAILY AT (VIP I): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM

2-DRAGGED ACROSS CONCRETE (18+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW

Ⓢ MEL GIBSON, JENNIFER CARPENTER, VINCE VAUGHN

DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

3-LITTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY) NEW

Ⓢ REGINA HALL, ISSA RAE, MARSAL MARTIN

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN

4-AFTER (15+) (ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW

Ⓢ JOSEPHINE LANGFORD, HERO FIENNES TIFFIN, KHADIJHA RED THUNDER

DAILY AT: 2.30 + 7.00 + 11.30 PM

5-MASHA AND THE BEAR THE NEW ADVENTURES (G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.00 + 2.45 + 4.30 PM

6-CAPTIVE STATE (PG-15) (THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW

Ⓢ JOHN GOODMAN, ASHTON SANDERS, JONATHAN MAJORS

DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.15 + 11.00 PM

7-MADHURA RAJA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW

Ⓢ MAMMOOTTY, JAI, ANUSREE, SALIM KUMAR, RAMESH PISHARODY

FROM FRIDAY 12TH

DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM

8-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)

Ⓢ ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL

DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 2.30 + 7.45 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN

DAILY AT (ATMOS): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN

DAILY AT (VIP II): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM

9-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)

* COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO

DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.15 + 3.30 + 5.45 + 8.00 + 10.15 PM

DAILY AT (3D): 12.15 + 4.30 + 8.45 PM

10-PET SEMATARY (18+) (HORROR/THRILLER)

* JASON CLARKE, AMY SEIMETZ, JETE LAURENCE

DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM

11-CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)

Ⓢ BRIE LARSON, GEMMA CHAN, SAMUEL L. JACKSON

DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

12-US (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER)

Ⓢ LUPITA NYONG'O, ELISABETH MOSS, ANNA DIOP

DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM

13-ESCAPE ROOM (PG-15) (THRILLER)

Ⓢ TAYLOR RUSSELL, LOGAN MILLER, DEBORAH ANN WOLL

DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN

14-WONDER PARK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

Ⓢ BRIANNA DENSKI, JENNIER GARNER, KEN HUDSON CAMPBELL

DAILY AT: 1.30 + 5.30 + 9.30 PM

DAILY AT (ARABIC DUBBED): 2.30 + 6.45 + 11.00 PM

15-THE UPSIDE (PG-15) (COMEDY/DRAMA)

Ⓢ KEVIN HART, BRYAN CRANSTON, NICOLE KIDMAN

DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 3.45 + 8.30 PM

16-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA)

Ⓢ LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN

DAILY AT: 1.45 + 6.45 + 11.45 PM

17-GLASS (PG-15) (THRILLER)

Ⓢ JAMES MCAVOY, BRUCE WILLIS, SAMUEL L. JACKSON

DAILY AT: 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM

18-NADI ELREGAL EL SERI (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)

* KARIM ABDULAZIZ, GHADA ADEL, MAJDE ALKIDDAWI

DAILY AT: 12.15 + 4.45 + 9.15 PM

19-JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN (PG) (COMEDY/ACTION/ADVENTURE)

* ROWAN ATKINSON, OLGA KURYLENKO, EMMA THOMPSON

DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 3.30 + 7.30 + 11.30 PM

20-THE PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN (PG-15) (DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY)

Ⓢ MEL GIBSON, SEAN PENN, NATALIE DORMER

DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 4.15 + 9.15 PM

SEEF (II)

1-HELL BOY (18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY) NEW

Ⓢ DAVID HARBOUR, MILLA JOVOVICH, AND IAN MCSHANE

DAILY AT: (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

2-DRAGGED ACROSS CONCRETE (18+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW

Ⓢ MEL GIBSON, JENNIFER CARPENTER, VINCE VAUGHN

DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM

3-LITTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY) NEW

Ⓢ REGINA HALL, ISSA RAE, MARSAL MARTIN

DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM

4-AFTER (15+) (ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW

Ⓢ JOSEPHINE LANGFORD, HERO FIENNES TIFFIN, KHADIJHA RED THUNDER

DAILY AT: 2.15 + 7.00 + 11.45 PM

5-MASHA AND THE BEAR THE NEW ADVENTURES (G) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

Ⓢ JOHN GOODMAN, ASHTON SANDERS, JONATHAN MAJORS

DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM

6-CAPTIVE STATE (PG-15) (THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW

Ⓢ JOHN GOODMAN, ASHTON SANDERS, JONATHAN MAJORS

DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM

7-THE WIND (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER) NEW

Ⓢ CAITLIN GERARD, JULIA GOLDANI TELLES, MILES ANDERSON

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM

8-MADHURA RAJA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW

Ⓢ MAMMOOTTY, JAI, ANUSREE, SALIM KUMAR, RAMESH PISHARODY

FROM FRIDAY 12TH

DAILY AT: (12.30 MN FRI)

9-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)

* ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL

DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)

10-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)

Ⓢ COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO

DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM

11-PET SEMATARY (18+) (HORROR/THRILLER)

Ⓢ JASON CLARKE, AMY SEIMETZ, JETE LAURENCE

DAILY AT: 8.45 + 11.00 PM

12-CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)

Ⓢ BRIE LARSON, GEMMA CHAN, SAMUEL L. JACKSON

DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.15 + 11.00 PM

13-US (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER)

Ⓢ LUPITA NYONG'O, ELISABETH MOSS, ANNA DIOP

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 2.45 + 7.00 + 11.15 PM

14-WONDER PARK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

Ⓢ BRIANNA DENSKI, JENNIER GARNER, KEN HUDSON CAMPBELL

DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 PM

15-NADI ELREGAL EL SERI (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)

* KARIM ABDULAZIZ, GHADA ADEL, MAJDE ALKIDDAWI

DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 4.00 + 8.45 PM

16-BADLA (PG-15) (HINDI/THRILLER/CRIME)

Ⓢ AMITABH BACHCHAN, TAPSEE PANNU, TONY LUKE

DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 PM

SEEF (I)

1-HELL BOY (18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY) NEW

Ⓢ DAVID HARBOUR, MILLA JOVOVICH, AND IAN MCSHANE

DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM

2-THE TASHKENT FILES (PG-15) (HINDI/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW

Ⓢ NASEERUDDIN SHAH, MITHUN CHAKRABORTY, PANKAJ TRIPATHI

DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 5.45 + 11.45 PM

3-MANJE BISTRE 2 (PG-13) (PUNJABI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC) NEW

Ⓢ GIPPY GREWAL, KARAMJIT ANMOL, BHAVKHANDAN

DAILY AT: 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

4-SHERDIL (PG-15) (URDU/ACTION/DRAMA) NEW

Ⓢ MIKAAL ZULFIQAR, ARMEENA RANA KHAN, BELAL SHAHID

DAILY AT: 2.45 + 8.45 PM

5-THE LAST PRINCE OF ATLANTIS (PG-13) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE) NEW

Ⓢ NIKOLAY DROZDOV, STANISLAV DUZHNIKOV, ARMEN DZHIGARKHANYAN

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 PM

6-MADHURA RAJA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW

Ⓢ MAMMOOTTY, JAI, ANUSREE, SALIM KUMAR, RAMESH PISHARODY

FROM FRIDAY 12TH

DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN

7-LUCIFER (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)

Ⓢ MOHANLAL, MANJU WARRIER, VIVEK OBEROI, TOVINO THOMAS

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM



SAAR

1-HELL BOY (18+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY) NEW

Ⓢ DAVID HARBOUR, MILLA JOVOVICH, AND IAN MCSHANE

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + (11.00 PM THURS/FRI)

2-DRAGGED ACROSS CONCRETE (18+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW

Ⓢ MEL GIBSON, JENNIFER CARPENTER, VINCE VAUGHN

DAILY AT: 5.00 + 8.00 + (11.00 PM THURS/FRI)

3-MADHURA RAJA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW

Ⓢ MAMMOOTTY, JAI, ANUSREE, SALIM KUMAR, RAMESH PISHARODY

FROM FRIDAY 12TH

DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + (11.00 PM FRI)

4-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)

Ⓢ ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL

DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + (11.30 PM THURS/FRI)

5-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)

Ⓢ COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO

DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.45 PM

AL HAMRA

1-MADHURA RAJA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW

Ⓢ MAMMOOTTY, JAI, ANUSREE, SALIM KUMAR, RAMESH PISHARODY

FROM FRIDAY 12TH

DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + (12.00 MN FRI)

2-LUCIFER (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)

Ⓢ MOHANLAL, MANJU WARRIER, VIVEK OBEROI, TOVINO THOMAS

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celebs

Mandy Moore



Mandy Moore is bravest, baddest wife: Husband

Los Angeles

Mandy Moore's husband Taylor Goldsmith has described the singer-actress as the "bravest and baddest" wife. Goldsmith paid tribute to the actress with a romantic message on her 35th birthday, which was on April 10, reports us-magazine.com.

"Happy Birthday to the bravest, baddest, best wife a guy could ever dream of," the Dawes lead singer said in a post shared on Instagram.

"I love you more and more with each moment I get to spend in your presence. Thanks for showing me (and anyone else who knows you) what it looks like to step into every day committed to being the best version of yourself at all times. And you do it so gracefully too," he added.

Goldsmith said Moore's "kindness and wisdom truly know no bounds".

"I'm so stoked I get to know you forever. Thanks for hanging out with me," he concluded.



Taylor Goldsmith



Amber Heard

Amber Heard claims Depp threatened to kill her

Los Angeles

Actress Amber Heard has recounted years of abuse she endured from her former husband and actor Johnny Depp, in new court documents filed in response to his \$50 million defamation lawsuit against her.

The actress referred to Depp as "the monster" multiple times in the court filings and claimed he wouldn't remember the abuse due to his excessive drinking and drug use, reports variety.com.

She has claimed that at their apartment here in December 2015, the former "Pirates of the Caribbean" star grabbed Heard by the hair and throat, slapped her in the face and screamed, "I'll kill you, you hear me?" He allegedly dragged her on a bed and began punching her head, breaking the bed frame in the process.

Barack Obama pays tribute to Nipsey Hussle



Barack Obama Nipsey Hussle

Los Angeles

Former US President Barack Obama paid tribute to the late rapper Nipsey Hussle.

"I'd never met Nipsey Hussle, but I'd heard some of his music through my daughters, and after his passing, I had the chance to learn more about his transformation and his community work," he said in a letter at his memorial service here.

"While most folks look at the Crenshaw neighbourhood where he grew up and see only gangs, bullets and despair, Nipsey saw potential. He saw hope. He saw a community that, even through its flaws, taught him to always keep going," Obama wrote in a letter.

Britney Spears makes first public appearance since entering mental health facility

Los Angeles

Seems like American singer-songwriter Britney Spears is practicing some much-needed self-love and care amid her stay at a mental health facility.

Britney was spotted at a Los Angeles-area hair salon on Thursday.

An eyewitness told E! News that the 37-year-old is "feeling refreshed" after she recently checked into a psychiatric facility after suffering from emotional distress.

"Britney arrived with three people from her team this morning to get her blonde roots touched up and extensions retouched."

According to the eyewitness, Britney sat in the chairs beside other clients rather than in a private area.



Britney Spears

Los Angeles

Los Angeles

Bonafide pop star, Ariana Grande, opened up about her mental health, by recently sharing a scanned image of her brain. The singer took to her Instagram and shared a scanned image highlighting the difference between a healthy brain, a brain dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and the third image was a scan of her own brain.

"Hilarious and terrifying. Not a joke," she captioned. The PTSD brain has several highlighted areas, whereas the other pictures hardly showed up any signs of lines.

As per an E!News report, last June, the 25-year-old singer-songwriter candidly spoke about her anxiety and "signs of PTSD" with British Vogue. The post by Ariana Grande has created a sense of worry amongst her fans who bombarded a long list of questions

Ariana Grande

Ariana Grande opens up about PTSD, shares image of her brain scan

regarding the health of the 25-year-old singer and songwriter.

On the work front, Ariana trademarked her recent song and album titled 'Thank You, Next' after its massive success. The Grammy award winner wants to come up with a beauty line based on the hit single and subsequent album which dropped in February, as reported by The Hollywood Reporter.



Iain Glen cast as Bruce Wayne on 'Titans'

Los Angeles

"Game of Thrones" star Iain Glen is all set to portray Bruce Wayne in the season two of popular web series "Titans".

The show, which premiered on streaming service DC Universe, is based on the DC Comics team Teen Titans.

It features actor Brenton Thwaites as Dick Grayson aka Robin, the leader of the Titans, alongside Anna Diop as Starfire, Teagan Croft as Raven and Ryan Potter as Beast Boy.



Iain Glen

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Brie Larson wonders why 'Captain Marvel' making \$1 billion was 'hard to comprehend'

Los Angeles

Brie Larson

"Captain Marvel" star Brie Larson has said it is amusing to her that some people are not able to comprehend that her film has crossed over USD 1 billion mark at the global box office.

The film, which feature Larson as Carol Danvers aka Captain Marvel, is Marvel Cinematic Universe's first tentpole to be fronted by a woman.

During an interview at the Women in the World conference in New York City, the 29-year-old actor said she initially felt the pressure to deliver when she started shooting for the project but believes the notion that women-fronted films cannot get good openings at the ticket window is "bogus".



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SPORTS

sports

Dhoni fined for confronting IPL umpires

Chennai Super Kings team captain MS Dhoni (C) speaks with match umpires

Reuters | Mumbai

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's uncharacteristic outburst against a controversial umpiring decision led to the Chennai Super Kings captain being fined 50 percent of his match fee in Thursday night's Indian Premier League (IPL) match in Jaipur.

Hailed as 'Captain Cool' during his trophy-laden years as India skipper, an unusually fired-up Dhoni stepped onto the field to remonstrate with umpire over a contentious no-ball call in a dramatic final over against Rajasthan Royals.

"MS Dhoni, the Chennai Super Kings captain, was fined 50 percent of his match fees for breaching the Indian Premier League's Code of Conduct during his team's match against Rajasthan Royals at Jaipur," the league said in a statement.

Confusion reigned in last over after umpire Uthas Gandhe signalled Ben Stokes' waist-high delivery a no ball but decision was overruled by square-leg umpire Bruce Oxenford, prompting Dhoni confront the umpires.

Arsenal, Chelsea put one foot in Europa League semis

● **Aaron Ramsey puts Arsenal on way to victory against Napoli**

● **Alonso strikes late to secure Chelsea victory against Slavia Prague**

AFP | London

Arsenal and Chelsea closed in on the Europa League last four on Thursday after the Gunners saw off highly-fancied Napoli 2-0 at the Emirates, while Marco Alonso's late header earned Maurizio Sarri's side a hard-fought win at Slavia Prague.

Unai Emery's Arsenal hold a healthy advantage going into next week's second leg thanks to a fine early strike from Juventus-bound Aaron Ramsey and an unfortunate Kalidou Koulibaly own goal midway through the first half, and can rue missed chances that would have put the tie completely beyond the Italians' reach.

"To keep a clean sheet and score a couple of goals is a lovely way to start the first leg. We're delighted with that," said Ramsey, who should have added the third when he blazed over with nine minutes left, to BT Sport.

"We can go into the second leg with a little bit of a cushion, but we know it will be a difficult place to go... They are a quality



Arsenal's Welsh midfielder Aaron Ramsey (R) scores the team's first goal

team."

Chelsea meanwhile escaped from Eden Arena after a bitty display that saw Kepa Arrizabalaga have to make some fine saves to keep the Czechs out before Alonso nodded home Willian's pinpoint cross four minutes from time to seal a 1-0 win.

The Blues remain unbeaten in the Europa League, keeping eight clean sheets in the competition this season, and it was that solidity that saw them through on a tricky evening in Prague.

The Premier League pair remain on a collision course for the final in Baku, with both sides set to avoid each other if they make it through next week's second legs.

Arsenal were all over Napoli from the kick-off and got their deserved opener with 14 minutes on the clock, Ramsay waltzing in at the end of a beautiful passing move to calmly stroke home Ainsley Maitland-Niles's neat lay-off.

Napoli were completely out of sorts, barely able to get the ball out of their own half at times, and 10 minutes later the Gunners doubled their lead.

Former Sampdoria midfielder Lucas Torreira won possession in midfield and charged towards goal before letting off a weak shot that flicked off Koulibaly and flew past a bamboozled Alex Meret in the Napoli goal.

Arsenal should have made

more of their first-half dominance over Carlo Ancelotti's slipshod side, but were not punished by the Serie A outfit, who through Piotr Zielinski should have bagged an away goal to take back to Naples in the second half.

"I was surprised by the lack of courage and personality from my players at the start," Carlo Ancelotti told Sky Sport.

"Turning this around will be difficult now, but we'll be home at the San Paolo, and our supporters will help us."

Record-breaking Felix

Arsenal will almost certainly take on Valencia should they hold on at what will be an in-

BETTER YOU KNOW

With Arsenal sitting fifth in the Premier League after Sunday's damaging defeat at Everton, the Gunners can no longer rely on their domestic fortunes to qualify for the Champions League

timidating Stadio San Paolo after the La Liga side scored twice in stoppage time to win 3-1 at fellow Spaniards Villarreal.

Goncalo Guedes scored twice, including what could be the decisive third three minutes into added time, as Marcelino's side struck with two clinical break-away goals to give them a great chance of making the semis.

Chelsea meanwhile will likely play Benfica should they go through after 19-year-old Joao Felix became the youngest ever player to score a Europa League hat-trick and set up the other goal in 4-2 win over Eintracht Frankfurt that leaves the Bundesliga side, who had to play with 10 men for 70 minutes, with an uphill task to make the last four in Germany next week.

Shaikh Khalid named new BOC chief

TDI | Manama

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa was declared new president of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) until the end of the 2017/2020 electoral cycle, the committee announced on Thursday.

HH Shaikh Khalid, president of the Bahrain Athletics Association and Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first deputy chairman, was the only candidate standing in the election by the end of votes submission deadlines.

He took over the committee from outgoing president HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty the King Representative for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, and Supreme Council for Youth and Sports chairman.

The elections also saw Bahrain Martial Arts Association board member Faisal Kanoo win the only vacant seat in the BOC board of directors for the next electoral cycle, and taking over in place of outgoing board member Shaikh Mohammed bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa.

Kanoo was granted his post after Bahrain Swimming Asso-



Sports federations' representatives at the General Assembly of the BOC

ciation president Mohammed Mejbel and Bahrain Triathlon Association general secretary Mai Al Haji decided to pull out of the election race.

This was announced following the BOC general assembly held at Swiss-Belhotel in Seef area on Thursday evening, where representatives of national sports federations held discussions on other subjects that made the busy agenda of the meeting.

Among other issues brought up was reviewing the 2018 financial report, the 2019 financial budget, in addition to suggestions from the general assembly.

There were also proposals

presented by members of the general assembly, including the Bahrain Cycling Association (BCA) and the Bahrain Motor Federation (BMF).

BCA proposed a dedicated race track as well as a BMX circuit for motorcycle races, in addition to creating private lanes for cycling across Bahrain's four governorates in an attempt to support talent identification programmes within clubs and youth centres.

The cycling body also requested the Youth and Sports Affairs Ministry to further support national clubs financially, while BOC secretary general affirmed his keenness to look into these requested and would

liaise with the ministry to take necessary actions.

On their part, BMF asked to set up a group of administrative, technical and financial criteria related to budgets distribution to sports federations, while forming a dedicated committee from the federations to conduct a study and submit it to the BOC Board of Directors to activate these criteria from 2020 budget.

The motor federation also presents another proposal to include a specialised technical committee to evaluate the participating teams the Kingdom at various international, continental and Arab sports events, in addition to preparation programmes, while submitting technical reports to the BOC Board of Directors and relevant federation.

Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) secretary general Mohammed Al Nusuf has extended his congratulations to HH Shaikh Khalid on his election as the new president of the committee.

In an official statement, Al Nusuf, stated that HH Shaikh Khalid enjoys a vast history of successes and achievements, in addition to significant contributions in the fields of youth and sports in Bahrain.

Baby Games set to begin today



Action from last year's Baby Games

TDI | Manama

The second edition of the Bahrain Baby Games is all set to kick off today at Isa Sports City's Bahrain Volleyball Association sports hall in Riffa, where kids aged between 3 and 5 years from all around the nation are expected to engage in a number of sports contests.

Commencing at 4.30pm, this four-day event is organized by the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) in an attempt to create an awareness among youngsters to practice sports exercises, and promote the Olympic principles and values at a young age.

Featuring a variety of entertaining sports competi-

tions, the Baby Games will be brought for the second successive year in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and promises to attract larger number of entries from different Nurseries and kindergartens across the kingdom.

A purpose-formed committee, featuring representatives of the BOC projects directorate, has put the finishing touches on this year's edition by preparing the venue as well as other necessary arrangements ahead of the event start.

The organisers had a number of coordination meetings with representatives from Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labour and Social Development to finalise their plan for the games.

Bottas recovers to outshine Hami

Valtteri Bottas shades Sebastian Vettel with Max Verstappen close behind during the second practice in Shanghai

● Vettel sets the pace in first Chinese GP practice

Reuters | Shanghai, China

Championship leader Valtteri Bottas pushed Sebastian Vettel off the top of yesterday's timesheets to end the opening day of practice for the Formula One Chinese Grand Prix with the fastest time for Mercedes.

The Finn, who leads team mate Lewis Hamilton by one point in the overall standings and was fifth in the first of yesterday's two 90-minute sessions, set a benchmark time of one minute 33.330 seconds in the afternoon.

That put him just 0.027 seconds clear of Vettel, who had gone fastest in the morning by a 0.207-second margin ahead of Hamilton.

Max Verstappen was third fastest, 0.221 seconds off Bottas' best.

The Dutchman displayed a decent turn of speed having also gone fourth quickest in the morning.



Mercedes' Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas steers his car during the second practice session

His Honda-powered Red Bull team were winners in China last year, with Tag Heuer-badged Renault engines in the back and Daniel Ricciardo behind the wheel, and have been tipped as strong outside contenders to repeat that feat this weekend.

But the 21-year-old struggled with what appeared to be problems shifting gears and clutch issues throughout the session.

Hamilton could do no better than fourth having gone second-fastest behind Vettel during

the opening 90-minutes.

The Briton is the most successful driver by far around the 5.4-kilometer long Shanghai International Circuit.

But the reigning five-times world champion can expect a stiff challenge in his bid for an



Hamilton and Bottas both spun during the second 90 minutes while Lance Stroll lost control of his Racing Point at the exit of the final corner in the morning

unprecedented sixth triumph with Ferrari tipped as favourites following their Bahrain performance and Red Bull also in with an outside chance.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc also had a disappointing session.

The Monegasque ended the day with only the seventh-fastest time, slower than the Renault and McLaren cars of Nico Hulkenberg and Carlos Sainz and 0.828 seconds off the ultimate pace.

Both the 21-year-old, third in the morning, and Vettel are running a new control electronics package on their power units as a precaution against a repeat of the engine problems that denied Leclerc his maiden win at the Sakhir desert track.

But Leclerc's session still came to an early end, as he parked up in the garage with some 20 minutes still to go to allow Ferrari to carry out precautionary cooling checks.

Lando Norris, fresh from having scored his first Formula One points in Bahrain, was eighth for McLaren ahead of Renault's Daniel Ricciardo.

Red Bull's Pierre Gasly rounded out the top 10.

Yesterday's two sessions, ahead of what will be the 1000th Formula One world championship race tomorrow, were relatively trouble free apart from a few spins as the drivers explored the limits and got to grips with the track.

Hamilton and Bottas both spun during the second 90 minutes while Lance Stroll lost control of his Racing Point at the exit of the final corner in the morning.

Kubica: 'Good sign' that Williams feels different

Autosport | Shanghai, China

Robert Kubica says he was encouraged by a "different" feeling from Williams' Formula 1 car in China Grand Prix practice, as the team continues to work on improving its FW42.

Although Kubica and his team-mate rookie George Russell again propped up the order in Shanghai practice, the one-time grand prix winner said he took heart from the fact some changes made to the car



Robert Kubica during a press meet

have worked in altering the handling.

"The car feels a bit different

to [the] last two weekends, so that's a good sign," said Kubica, who edged Russell in both Friday sessions.

"Now we have to see the data, what to do, as the balance is quite different to the previous two events."

He added: "We just did some changes just to understand and it's not that we have some improvement."

"It's just something we changed in the characteristics of the car and it seems like it's responding differently."

"Of course on this track you

have quite a lot of understeer so understeer is kind of a killer here, so we have to wait and see."

But Kubica added he was not expecting any dramatic change in the pace of the Williams.

"If we haven't done anything to turn it around in the last two months, there'll be nothing happening in 12 hours," he said.

Russell sensed, however, that a few minor upgrades brought to Shanghai have brought the team closer to the cars ahead.

"I think there were a few positives," said the Briton.

Lukaku calls for Man Utd 'arrogance' against Barcelona

AFP | Manchester

Romelu Lukaku called Ron Manchester United to play with "arrogance and confidence" against Barcelona as they seek to overturn a 1-0 defeat in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side face an uphill battle at the Camp Nou next week after Luke Shaw's own goal gave Barca a 1-0 win in Wednesday's match at Old Trafford.

United rallied after that early setback and unsettled Ernesto Valverde's side, giving Lukaku and his teammates confidence of a memorable turnaround in Spain next Tuesday.

"We have to believe and have the desire and more quality than today," said the Belgium striker. "Be better on the ball and then you never know what can happen in football."

"I don't think we played with the same arrogance and confidence on the ball (early on). Second half we tried and the first 20 minutes of the second half we were there."

"It's some-

thing we have to do for the whole 90 minutes over there and not concede a goal and score early."

That approach worked well at Paris Saint-Germain last month as United made Champions League history by becoming the first side to progress after losing the first leg at home by two or more goals.

The Parc des Princes triumph was the highlight of a topsy-turvy campaign for the Old Trafford giants, but even during the difficult Jose Mourinho era they managed to seal a last-gasp 2-1 comeback win at Juventus.

Asked if those two matches will play on Barcelona's mind, Lukaku said:

"Yeah, but I don't think they will look at us. We have to look at ourselves, get a result and give our all, run as much as we can."

Wednesday saw United fail to muster a shot on target for the first time in a Champions League match since 2005, but there was some promising build-up play.



Romelu Lukaku

Ferrari chief sees shades of father in Mick

Reuters | Shanghai, China

Mick Schumacher is "very similar" to his famous father in how he conducts himself off the track, said Ferrari's Formula One team principal yesterday.

The 20-year-old son of seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher got his first full experience of driving an F1 car during testing in Bahrain earlier this month.

Mick followed in the footsteps of his legendary father in getting behind the wheel of a Ferrari, completing 56 laps on an emotional occasion for his watching mother Corinna.

Michael has not been seen in public since suffering a severe head injury while skiing in December 2013.

"The first time I saw him (Mick) after many years when he came back, I looked at him



Mick Schumacher walks down the pit lane after driving his first laps for Ferrari during private tests in Bahrain (file photo)

and don't think he really looked similar to Michael," said Ferrari's Mattia Binotto.

"But the way he's behaving is very similar -- the approach, the way he's interested in the car, discussing conditions.

"He was always looking at the car, speaking to the mechanics. That's very similar to his father."

Speaking in Shanghai ahead of the Chinese Grand Prix, Binotto was keen not to lumber Mick with even higher expectations,



Mick was always looking at the car, speaking to the mechanics. That's very similar to his father

MATTIA BINOTTO

with interest already intense interest in the youngster.

"The objective was not really to assess the performance in the very first day in an F1 car," said Binotto.

"More important for him is the learning phase. Day by day he is advancing a completely new challenge in his F2 season."

Following his European Formula 3 title last year, Mick made his Formula 2 debut in Bahrain, finishing eighth and sixth in the two races.