

Ariana Grande donates her concert earnings

Ariana Grande is turning into a philanthropist! The singer is donating all the money generated from her concert in Atlanta, Georgia on June 8, to the cause of Planned Parenthood. **P14**

The idea of population transfer rears its head again

THE DAILY tribune

It's 'peace' between Katy Perry and Taylor Swift **14 CELEBS**

WORLD **5** Japan PM on Tehran mission

Bahrain set for plastic bag ban

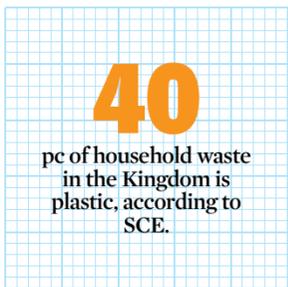
Manama

In line with the directives of the Government Executive Committee chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, the Kingdom will begin phasing out the use of plastic bags.

According to Supreme Council for Environment Chief Executive Officer Dr Mohammed Bin Daina, the technical regulations for plastic products will come into effect on July 21, 2019.

The order will regulate and phase out the use of plastic bags. The first phase will focus on single-use plastic bags as well as banning the import of non-bio-degradable plastic bags.

Later phases will witness a



permanent ban on the use of plastic bags at certain malls and supermarkets, Dr Bin Daina said.

The SCE and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism are currently working on setting the implementation phase for the remaining plastic products.

The official noted that the SCE will issue guidelines for manufacturers and suppliers on re-

ducing plastic waste to ensure a smooth transition.

He underlined the results of the SCE's intensive market research on Bahrain's plastic production, affirming that switching to the production of degradable plastic will not affect production lines.

Pointing out that the Kingdom has benefited from Saudi Arabia's expertise in this field, Dr Bin Daina said: "The SCE has implemented measures to expand the number of recycling businesses by increasing the total number of recycling bins, thereby reducing plastic waste that ends up in landfills."

He highlighted that 40 per cent of household waste is plastic, which can only be effectively reduced through prohibition and regulation.

Growing UK ties



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received yesterday at the General Command headquarters of Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), the UK's Senior Defence Adviser for Middle East General Sir John Lorimer. HM the King reviewed friendly ties binding both countries, lauding distinguished historical relations between Bahrain and the UK, mainly in the defence and military field. General Sir John Lorimer commended the major role of HM the King and efforts to boost outstanding historical relations between the two friendly countries.

Labour plan for no-deal vote rejected
 London

MPs have rejected a Labour-led effort to take control of Parliament's timetable, blocking the latest attempt to stop a no-deal Brexit. The Commons opposed the move by 309 votes to 298.

If passed, it would have given opponents of a no-deal Brexit the chance to table legislation to thwart the UK leaving without any agreement on the 31 October deadline. The result of the vote was greeted with cheers from the Tory benches.

But Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn responded by shouting "you won't be cheering in September".

Ten Tory MPs, mostly pro-Europeans, rebelled against the government by backing Labour's motion. Conversely, eight Labour MPs - mostly Eurosceptics or MPs in constituencies which voted Leave at the referendum - defied party instructions and voted against it.



02 BDF efforts stressed

Over 1,000

03 injured in worksite accidents last year, says SIO

04 Two sentenced over child's electrocution



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Saudi airport attacked

Houthi missile hits Saudi Arabia's Abha airport injuring 26 people

● The Iran-backed Houthi militia, has fired dozens of missiles into Saudi Arabia from Yemen.

● Saudi Arabia's civil aviation authorities said that airport operations and air traffic had returned to normal.

Jeddah

At least 26 people were injured yesterday when a Houthi missile fired from Yemen hit Abha International Airport in Saudi Arabia.

The Arab Coalition fighting to support Yemen's government vowed a firm response and said the attack proved Tehran's support for cross-border terrorism.

The attack took place in the early hours when the missile hit the arrival lounge of the airport in Asir Province at 2:21 a.m.

The coalition said the injured were all civilians of different nationalities and included two Saudi children and three women - a Saudi, a Yemeni and an Indian. Eight people were trans-



The airport was immediately secured after the attack.



The missile hit the arrivals hall of Abha airport.

ferred to hospital for treatment for moderate injuries, while 18 were treated at the site for minor injuries.

The general supervisor of Asir Central Hospital told Al Ekhabariya that all the patients had been discharged by 10 a.m.

Part of the airport lounge was damaged, but television pictures later showed passengers queuing inside the airport as normal services resumed.

Coalition spokesman Col Turki Al Maliki said the military and security forces were working to determine the type of "hostile projectile" used in the attack.

The Iran-backed Houthi militia, has fired dozens of missiles into Saudi Arabia from Yemen, either short range missiles



The attacks by the Iranian-backed Houthis would not affect the security and stability of Saudi Arabia.

PRINCE TURKI

across the border or longer-range ballistic missiles targeting the Kingdom's main cities.

Saudi Arabia and its allies have blamed Iran for supplying ballistic missiles and drones to the Houthis. If a cruise missile, which flies at lower altitudes than ballistic missiles, has been used in the attack, it would raise further concerns that Iran is

supplying increasingly sophisticated weaponry to the militants.

The attack "proves this terrorist militia's acquisition of new special weapons; the continuation of the Iranian regime's support and practice of cross-border terrorism," Al Maliki said.

He said the attack could amount to a war crime and that the coalition would take "urgent and timely" measures in response.

He later told Al Arabiya that the evidence so far suggests that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps provided the weapons that targeted the airport.

Prince Turki bin Talal bin Abdul Aziz, the governor of the Asir region, said that attacks by the Iranian-backed Houthis would

not affect the security and stability of Saudi Arabia and that plots to destabilize the Kingdom would not succeed.

A Houthi military spokesman Tuesday threatened that the group would target every airport in Saudi Arabia and that the coming days would reveal "big surprises".

Saudi Arabia's civil aviation authorities said that airport operations and air traffic had returned to normal.

Thousands of passengers pass through Abha airport every day.

The Yemeni government, which the Houthis drove from Sanaa in 2014 to spark the war, said that only military action will end the militia's "terrorism," Al Arabiya reported.

RISING MERCURY

Kuwait, Saudi record highest temperature on earth

Kuwait City

Kuwait has recorded the highest temperatures in the world; reaching 52.2 degrees Celsius in the shadows and 63 degrees Celsius under direct sunlight, according to various reports.

In Saudi Arabia, the mercury rose to 55 degrees Celsius in Al Majmaah at noon.

The heatwave is expected to continue well into the summer season, which officially kicks off on June 21.

Arabia Weather website stated that the heatwave has also struck Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE, with the heat being accompanied by a high humidity rate.

The National Centre of Meteorology (NCM) has predicted temperatures will

soar to 48 degrees Celsius in Al Al Ain and Delma.

Temperatures in Sharjah and Fujairah will touch 43 degrees Celsius, while in Dubai they are likely to soar to 42 degrees Celsius today, Gulf News reported.

Temperatures in Abu Dhabi are likely to touch 41 degrees Celsius.

According to NCM, the weather is fore-

cast to be fair in general, but the department warned it will be partly cloudy and hazy at times. There is probability of some convective clouds formation Eastwards towards afternoon.

Meteorologists in Kuwait have predicted a volatile summer this year, noting that temperatures could reach 68 degrees under the sun next month.

BDF efforts stressed

HM King Hamad expresses pride in the BDF and its brave servicemen



His Majesty being received at the BDF General Command.



His Majesty chairs a meeting at the BDF General Command.

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander, yesterday visited the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF)'s General Command.

Upon arrival, HM the King was welcomed by BDF Command-

er-in-Chief, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, and Minister of Defence Affairs, Lieutenant-General Abdulla bin Hassan Al Nuaimi.

HM King Hamad was accompanied by Royal Guard Commander, Major-General HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and Royal Guard's Spe-

cial Force Commander, Lieutenant-Colonel HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

HM the King held a meeting with senior officers, and lauded the success of the previous training season, stressing the need to intensify preparations for the next season in order to enhance the BDF affiliates' com-



I thank everyone in the BDF for the tireless efforts they exert to protect the gains and achievements of the Kingdom and its people.

HIS MAJESTY

petence.

HM King Hamad expressed pride in the BDF and its brave servicemen, noting that they are a source of inspiration for everyone in Bahrain.

HM the King extended thanks to everyone in the BDF for the tireless efforts they exert to protect the gains and achieve-

ments of the Kingdom and its people, hailing their constant readiness to face any challenges that would put regional security at risk.

HM King Hamad wished all the BDF servicemen, in Bahrain and abroad every success in assuming their duties in Bahrain and abroad.

BTEA holds roundtable session with its tourism partners

TD | Manama

Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) has held a roundtable dis-

ussion to present the results of its representative offices for the First Quarter and to discuss its detailed programme for tourism companies and charter flights

in partnership with the tourism stakeholders.

The event was held at the Palm Hall at the Bahrain Exhibition and Convention Centre bringing

together leading travel agencies and hotels.

The panel discussion focused on the mechanisms by which competitive pricing in charter operations could be enhanced, methods for BTEA to better determine the availability and distribution of hotel rooms, as well as provide additional with for familiarisation trips.

Commenting on the roundtable session and presenting the positive results achieved by the BTEA through the Charter Flight Programme, Hesham Al Sakan, Director of Facilities and Tourism Services at BTEA, revealed, "The Kingdom of Bahrain has received 10,075 tourists from Russia in cooperation with Coral Travel, where the average stay of tourists has reached 9 nights,

total tourist nights is approximately 34,578 nights and the estimated expenditure approximately BD 7,217,730."

Yousef Mohamed Al Khan, Director of Marketing and Tourism Promotion at the BTEA, added, "Our continued meetings and extensive efforts in collaboration with hotels and other tourism partners in the Kingdom have resulted in attracting more tourists to the Kingdom, alongside the tremendous efforts of BTEA's representative offices abroad.

"This has resulted in an increase in the tourist delegations of Bahrain from emerging markets across the world, contributing to the increase in hotel occupancy rates and playing an integral role in developing projects and various tourism activities in order to provide visitors with an integrated and transformative

tourist experience."

This roundtable meeting comes in line with BTEA'S strategy which aims to promote the Kingdom's tourist attractions and introduce tourists to the rich history of Bahrain as well as showcase the tourism facilities and destinations the Kingdom offers to tourists, thereby further developing its tourism sector and increasing its contribution to the national economy.

The BTEA is continuously working towards achieving its tourism strategy under the slogan "Bahrain. Ours. Yours", which embodies its aim to expand its reach at regional and international levels, as well as implement its plans to stimulate and promote the Kingdom's tourism sector as a major contributor to the national economy and in line with the Economic Vision 2030.



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The roundtable session in progress.

Bahrain attends ILO centenary meeting

Geneva

Labour and Social Development Minister and Chairman of the Labor Market Regulation Authority Jameel Humaidan is leading Bahrain's delegation to the International Labor Organisation (ILO) centenary meeting in Geneva.

Bahrain's participation is premised on the Kingdom's keenness on collaborating with the international community in drafting the policies and orientations of the ILO discussed during the meeting.

Bahrain is also keen on supporting labour causes and on discussing the development of employment and the quality of

renewable professions, in light of the rapid changes in the labor markets across the world.

The Kingdom is also interested in the developments of social protection systems globally and the prospects of tripartite dialogue between the parties of production.

Bahrain is also keen on identifying the challenges facing the labor markets and on solutions to the difficulties in the development and production process, thus contributing to the development of developing labor markets through providing the necessary technical support.

At its annual conference that marks its 100th anniversary, the

ILO is seeking to understand what tomorrow's jobs will look like and the ways to protect workers from violence and harassment.

In January, the ILO urged governments, employers and unions to deliver a "human-centred" agenda for decent work in the coming years based on investing in people's capabilities, places of employment and decent and sustainable jobs.

The report authors warned that the world of work faces "unprecedented transformational change" driven by new technologies such as artificial intelligence, automation and robotics as well as climate change, migration and globalisation.

Over 1,000 injured in worksite accidents last year, says SIO

613 Bahrainis, 424 expatriates suffered injuries in worksite accidents last year

● Bahrain is on the right track when it comes to curbing the number of serious worksite accidents.

● Labour Ministry has been carrying out awareness campaigns among labourers to reduce worksite accidents.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Over a thousand people were injured in worksite accidents last year, it emerged.

The statistics revealed by the Social Insurance Organisation (SIO) says 1,037 people were injured in worksite accidents, which includes 613 Bahrainis and 424 expatriates.

In the public sector last year, 221 cases of worksite accidents



Labour Ministry has been urging all workers and site supervisors to adhere to safety rules and norms.

were recorded, 198 involved Bahrainis while expatriates were the victims in 23 accidents.

However, Bahrain is on the right track when it comes to curbing the number of serious worksite accidents as the number of accidents that led to serious injuries or fatalities



The labour force is an important component of the nation and it is vital for us to ensure their safety.

LABOUR MINISTRY OFFICIAL

has reduced by more than 30 per cent in recent years, the SIO observed.

The reduction has been partly attributed to the rigorous awareness campaigns done by the Labour Ministry to bring awareness about the need to follow safety procedures when

10,000

inspection visits were carried out by different Labour Ministry teams to ensure workers' safety.

performing hazardous work.

"Various awareness campaigns have been made in recent years to reduce the number of worksite accidents and save lives. The campaigns have borne fruit as the number of such accidents have reduced in recent years," a Labour Ministry representative said.

According to the latest statistics, the ministry has carried out more than 10,000 inspection visits over the past few years.

"The inspection campaigns play a great role in bringing adherence to the rules. The labour force is an important component of the nation and it is vital

for us to ensure their safety.

"We urge workers to follow safety protocols so that they are protected at all times. We will continue the awareness programmes and inspection campaigns to further reduce the number of worksite accidents.

"Workshops, seminars and conferences will also be held as part of the efforts," the representative added.

This year has seen a few fatal worksite accidents. Earlier this month, a man was run over by a truck.

The deceased was identified as Indian national Raju, who was in his late 30s. He worked as a mason with a construction firm.

Another construction worker who died last month in a worksite accident was a Bangladeshi national.

According to sources, he fell to his death from the 11th floor of a building in Juffair.

The victim was later identified as 29 years old Sahadot who hailed from Pabna district in Bangladesh.

Goan delegation on visit to boost trade ties with Bahrain

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

The growth potential for investment and trade relations between Bahrain and the Indian state of Goa is huge, according to delegates from Goa who are on a visit to Bahrain.

This came as the Embassy of India in Bahrain in association with Vibrant Goa Foundation organised a roadshow on the embassy premises yesterday.

The delegation are in Bahrain to invite Bahraini businesses and officials to Vibrant Goa Global Expo and Summit 2019, which will be held from 17 to 19 October in Goa.

Speaking to Tribune on the sidelines of the event, delegates Anmol Modi and Arman Bakley revealed that they are in talks with Bahraini businesses and government entities to



Mr Modi speaking at the event.

further Bahrain's collaboration efforts with Goa.

"There are many areas that Bahrain and Goa can collaborate such as construction, shipbuilding, renewal energy industry and more. There is tremendous potential here.

"There are many similarities

between Goa and Bahrain. For example, both places are big on tourism. This is an area we want to collaborate in. As a matter of fact, we are going to be in discussions with the tourism authorities here to explore opportunities."

Vibrant Goa 2019 will bring

together global business leaders, investors, corporations, thought leaders, policy and opinion makers to understand and explore business opportunities in Goa.

The event aims to provide an ideal platform to meet, interact, network and discuss business possibilities for importers, exporters, investors, customers, experts and all those who matter in business and trade.

Key sectors under the spotlight in the Vibrant Goa 2019 will be Agro and Food Processing, Emerging Technologies, Construction Equipment, IT (Information Technology), Light Engineering, Medical

Tourism, Pharma and Biotech, Startups and Start-up Institutions, Ship Building, Education, Building Materials, construction and Real Estate, Film and Entertainment, Tour-



The initiatives taken by the Government of India in past three years had created an enabling environment for investments.

MR SINHA

ism and Wellness, and Services. Indian Ambassador Alok Ku-

mar Sinha addressed the gathering during which he highlighted that the initiatives taken by the Government of India in past three years had created an enabling environment for investments and that India had jumped in the 'Doing Business in India Index' by record number in the past two years from 130 to 77 on the back of policy and investment reforms.

The ambassador highlighted the importance of exchange of business delegations between the two countries and participation in specialised trade fairs to seize the emerging opportunities.

The event was attended by representatives of prominent businessmen in Bahrain from diverse sectors including investments, food processing, manufacturing, retail and hospitality.

Italian Republic Day marked



The Italian Ambassador to Bahrain, Domenico Bellato hosted a reception marking the 73rd anniversary of the Italian Republic at the Gulf Hotel. It was attended by dignitaries including the Minister of Oil, Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, Shaikha Rana bint Isa Al Khalifa, and the Governor of Manama, Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa.

Two sentenced over child's electrocution

Both landlord and tenant were charged with unintentional murder

TDT | Manama

● **The Public Prosecution was notified by Budaiya Police about finding the body of a child on a farmland.**

● **A bail amount of BD500 was fixed by the court to suspend the execution of the sentence for each defendant.**

The Third Minor Criminal Court yesterday announced its judgement in a child electrocution case, sentencing the landlord and tenant of the property where the victim died.

The tragic incident occurred on a farmland in Hajar village in the Northern Governorate.

The court sentenced the two men to six months imprisonment for unintentional murder and fixing electricity extensions without obtaining the necessary permit.

This was confirmed by Family and Child Prosecution Chief

”
The tenant said that the victim was accompanying him, admitting he had fixed the extensions himself.

PROSECUTORS

Prosecutor Ibrahim Al Binjassim, who explained in a press statement that the Public Prosecution was notified by Budaiya Police about finding the body of a child on a farmland.

Mr Al Binjassim explained

that the site was inspected and the safety of electricity extensions was checked.

“Witnesses’ testimonies, including that of a technician with the Electricity and Water Authority, were heard.

The technician confirmed that the internal extensions of the farm were unsafe, which violated the Electricity and Water Authority laws.

“The coroner’s report has proven that the victim’s cause of death was electrocution, which suddenly stopped blood circulation and respiratory functions, leading to the child’s immediate death,” Mr Al Binjassim said.

The Chief Prosecutor also clarified in his statement that the person renting the farm and the owner of the farm were interrogated.

The tenant told the prosecutors that the victim was accompanying him and admitted that he had fixed the extensions himself.

Both the tenant and the landlord were charged of unintentional murder and fixing electricity extensions without obtaining a permit, contrary to safety and security standards.

A bail amount of BD500 was fixed by the court to suspend the execution of the sentence for each defendant.

Wrong side biker loses appeal

TDT | Manama

Police officers spotted a rider steering his bike on the wrong side of the road and alerted him to pull over.

However, he refused to obey the order, fleeing the scene.

He wasn’t even wearing a helmet but police officers failed to nail him down as he succeeded to disappear by diving with his bike into small alleys unfit for car use.

Police officers gave up running after him and investigations were opened into the case. The culprit eventually fell into the police net thanks to a thorough search. And he admitted to his wrongdoing and was sent for a trial before a traffic court.

He was initially fined BD1,100, but the verdict was challenged. He yesterday appeared before the court to hear the outcome of his appeal, which was rejected.

He told judges that he can’t settle it in one stretch and requested to let him pay the amount on a monthly instalment basis.

However, the judges ordered him to pay the full amount in one stretch or face six months jail.

Expat dies of heart attack



The deceased Chandran

TDT | Manama

Indian national Panamparlamgi Raghavan Chandran died after suffering a heart attack yesterday.

His nephew, also a resident of the Kingdom, said that Mr Chandran, was taken to the hospital after noting a spike in his blood pressure.

“Within the next few hours, he would suffer a heart attack that led to his death.”

He is survived by his wife and two children, who lives in India.

Sniffer dogs foil drug smuggling attempt

TDT | Manama

A team of sniffer dogs belonging to the Customs Department were recently able to foil an attempt to smuggle drugs hidden in the front bumper of a car that was entering the Kingdom from Saudi Arabia.

Interior Ministry confirmed in a statement issued on Tuesday that the seized drugs included Hashish and captagon pills, and explained that the incident happened on King Fahad Causeway.

Quoting the Land Ports Director in the Ministry’s Customs Affairs Director, the statement mentioned: “The K9 dog suspected one of the cars in a particular lane and the search resulted in the confiscation of the substances that were hidden inside the front part of the vehicle.”



Drugs were hidden in the front bumper of the car.

According to the ministry, the case and the seized drugs were referred to the Anti-narcotics Directorate of the General Di-

rectorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science, to proceed with the legal procedures.

Man who burnt cop's car loses appeal

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal yesterday upheld the imprisonment sentence of a Bahraini man who is convicted of burning a policeman’s car in Karzakkan village the Northern Governorate.

The same court earlier reduced the imprisonment sentence of another defendant who’s involved in the same case to five years.

However, it held on to its initial decision to fine both of them BD5,804 collectively in compensation for the vehicle they burnt.

The details of the case show that both defendants have agreed to burn the victim’s car while it was parked next to his house in the village, with the intention of disturbing the peace and public order, and spreading terror among citizens and residents.

Anyhow, investigations and according to the defendants’ statements in the interrogation, the appellant was the mastermind behind the crime.

They poured petrol, which was provided by the appellant,

5,804

Bahraini dinars were imposed in fine on the defendants for committing the crime.

on the car and the latter torched the car before they both fled the spot.

On August 13 last year, both defendants were interrogated by the Public Prosecution, which accused them of intentionally burning the victim’s car, and endangering people’s lives and properties serving a terrorist purpose.

The prosecution referred the defendants to the criminal court, which earlier sentenced both to 10 years imprisonment and fined them BD5,804.

The second defendant’s appeal was accepted and his sentence was reduced by half, but the appeal of the first defendant, the mastermind, was rejected.

AGU launches first Master's programme in regenerative medicine in the region

TDT | Manama

The College of Medicine and Medical Science in the Arabian Gulf University (AGU) has announced that it is launching a Master’s programme in Regenerative Medicine by the beginning of the upcoming academic year 2019-2020, becoming the first university in Arab countries and the region to offer such a new and innovated major.

The announcement comes within several new graduate studies academic programmes that were confirmed and approved during the 85th meeting of the university’s Board of Trustees held in Oman in March this year.

On the occasion, Molecular Medicine Assistant Professor in the College of Medicine and Medical Science in AGU, Heart Surgeon and Stem Cell Specialist Dr Sfoug Al Shammary said: “This unique and innovated programme,



The AGU is at the forefront of higher education institutions in the region to introduce new and innovated majors to its students.

which is also known as the medicine of the future, is provided for the first

time in universities in Arab and regional countries.”



Regenerative medicine can also develop tissues and organs in the laboratory and assists in planting it safely when the human body cannot naturally recover.

He said that AGU is at the forefront of higher education institutions in the region to introduce new and innovated majors to its students, similarly to leading and prestigious international universities.

Dr Al Shammary announced that registration for the programme will be soon opened, adding that it is aiming to benefit doctors and medical professionals in GCC States.

He also explained that distinguished professors from Japan, Austria, the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom will be in charge of teaching the two-year programme, which focuses on two main specialisations; stem cells and anti-ageing.

The regenerative medicine tackles tissue engineering and regeneration of cells, tissues and organs of humans, making them work in a natural way. It depends on the activation mechanisms of the body’s self-repair.

Regenerative medicine can also develop tissues and organs in the laboratory and assists in planting it safely when the human body cannot naturally recover.

WORLD
world

Japan PM on Tehran mission

● **Abe is the first Japanese prime minister to visit Iran in 41 years**

Tehran

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrived in Tehran yesterday for a rare diplomatic mission, hoping to defuse tensions between the Islamic republic and Tokyo's ally Washington.

State television broadcast footage of Abe being greeted at Tehran's Mehrabad airport by Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

The first Japanese prime minister to visit Iran in 41 years, Abe was expected to go straight into talks with President Hassan Rouhani and to meet Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei on Thursday morning.

His arrival was preceded by that of Japan's Foreign Minister Taro Kono, who held closed-door talks with Zarif.

"Amid concerns over growing tension in the Middle East and with the attention of the international community on the issue, Japan wishes to do its best towards peace and stability in the region," Abe told reporters before leaving for Tehran.

"Based on traditional friendly ties between Japan and Iran, I would like to have candid exchanges of opinions with President Rouhani and supreme leader Khamenei towards easing tensions," he said.



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hopes to use Tokyo's longstanding trade ties with Tehran and strategic alliance with Washington to persuade Iranian leaders to calm soaring tensions in the Gulf



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe won Donald Trump's blessing for his mission to Tehran during a visit to Tokyo by the US president late last month



Washington's deployment to the Gulf of an aircraft carrier task force as well as B-52 bombers, an amphibious assault ship and a missile defence battery has sent tensions soaring in the region

”
Abe might touch upon the subject (of mediation) but that does not necessarily mean he is delivering a message from Washington

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

Lower the temperature

Japanese government officials said Abe would not present Tehran with a list of demands, or deliver a message from Washington, but instead wanted to play the role of neutral intermediary. Abe discussed “the situation

in Iran” in a telephone call with Trump on Tuesday, a Japanese government spokesman said.

A government official said Abe will not be in Tehran to “mediate between Iran and the US” and that “easing tensions” was the prime purpose.

“He might touch upon the subject (of mediation) but that does not necessarily mean he is delivering a message” from Washington, he added.

Japan is hoping to lower the temperature, officials say.

Abe won Trump's blessing for the mediation mission when the US president visited Tokyo last month.

“We believe it is extremely important that, at the leadership level, we call on Iran to ease tension, to adhere to the nuclear agreement and to play a constructive role for the region's stability,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said.

Iranian newspapers were divided along conservative-reformist lines in their assessment of Abe's visit.

The reformist *Sazandegi daily* ran a front-page cartoon of Abe in full samurai armour, a rolled piece of paper in one hand and

a shield on the other.

In an accompanying article headlined “A samurai in Tehran,” the paper said everyone was waiting to see “Tehran's reaction to Japan's initiative to raise its international standing by mediating as both Washington's ally and Iran's friend.”

Philippines blasts ‘cowardly Chinese boat’ over sinking

Manila

The Philippines yesterday condemned the “cowardly action” of a suspected Chinese fishing vessel accused of abandoning a Filipino fishing crew after a collision in the disputed South China Sea.

The boat on Sunday hit a Filipino craft anchored near Reed Bank -- claimed by both Manila and Beijing -- causing it to sink and leaving 22 crewmen “to the mercy of the elements”, said defence secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

“We condemn in the strongest terms the cowardly action of the suspected Chinese fishing vessel and its crew for abandoning the Filipino crew,” Lorenzana said in a statement. “This is not the expected action from a responsible and friendly people.”

Lorenzana called for an investigation into the collision, and for “diplomatic steps” to prevent a repeat of the incident.

However, Philippine defence department spokesman Arsenio Andolong said the agency had yet to confirm whether the vessel was Chi-



Philippines defence secretary Delfin Lorenzana

nese-registered, adding it was the Filipino fishermen who identified it as such.

The defence chief also thanked the crew of a Vietnamese fishing vessel in the vicinity which he said brought the Filipinos to safety.

Like the Philippines, Vietnam has partial claims over the South China Sea, where Beijing has staked “indisputable sovereignty” and built artificial islands with military facilities and airstrips. Taiwan, Brunei and Malaysia also have claims in the area.

Fish turns gloomy when separated: study

● **Tropical fish suffers from heartache when separated from its lover**

Paris

The tiny Central American convict cichlid may only be a few centimetres long but it's a fish with a big heart.

Researchers in France found that the tropical fish -- known to be a loyal and monogamous partner -- suffers from heartache when separated from its lover.

Even more heart-rending perhaps is that female cichlids, when paired with a male who is not their preferred partner, were shown in experiments to



The convict cichlid is known as a loyal lover



To effectively measure each fish's mental response to separation, researchers from the University of Burgundy in Dijon trained females to use their mouths to open two small boxes, placed either side of their tanks

exhibit “pessimistic” behaviour. Scientists believe that over the course of evolution fish species such as the convict cichlid

have developed loyal partnerships as a way to better protect their young, which are extremely vulnerable to predators.

To effectively measure each fish's mental response to separation, researchers from the University of Burgundy in Dijon trained females to use their mouths to open two small boxes, placed either side of their tanks.

The “positive” box contained fish food, and the “negative” box was empty. The boxes had either black or white lids to help the fish distinguish between them.

The team then placed a grey “ambiguous” box in the centre of the tank to see how the females would react.

They reasoned that a fish with an optimistic outlook would flip open the grey lid in the hope of snaffling a treat, whereas a pessimistic one might hesitate or leave the box alone altogether.

Their study, published in the journal *Proceedings of Royal Society B*, showed that female fish spend much more time trying to lift off the grey lids when their favoured males were in the tanks with them.

While the tale of the cichlid's lovelorn travails may warm the heart, the fish are anything but lovely: they have sharp teeth and have been shown to be extremely territorial.

86pc of internet users admit being duped by fake news



● Fake news appeared to be most prevalent on Facebook, but also appears on YouTube, blogs and Twitter

Ottawa, Canada

Eighty-six percent of internet users have been duped by fake news -- most of it spread on Facebook -- according to a global survey published Tuesday.

Respondents said they want both governments and social media companies to crack down on these activities, which are contributing to a growing distrust of the internet as well as negatively impacting economies and political discourse.

The United States took the lion's share of the blame for spreading fake news, followed by Russia and China, according to the annual Ipsos survey of more than 25,000 internet users in 25 countries.

Fake news appeared to be most prevalent on Facebook, but also appears on YouTube, blogs and Twitter, the pollsters found.

The survey results showed people in Egypt were the most gullible while respondents in Pakistan were the most skeptical.

The results also revealed widespread distrust of social media companies and growing concerns over online privacy and biases baked into algorithms used by internet companies.

The poll -- which relied on both in-person and online interviews -- was conducted between December 21, 2018 and February 10, 2019 on behalf of the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI).

"This year's survey of global attitudes not only underscores the fragility of the internet, but also netizens' growing discomfort with social media and the power these corporations wield over their daily lives," CIGI's Fen Osler Hampson said in a statement.

Sudan rivals agree to new talks

● Sudan has been led by a military council since it toppled autocratic president Omar al-Bashir on April 11

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

Khartoum, Sudan

Protest leaders have agreed to end a campaign of civil disobedience launched after a deadly crackdown on demonstrators and to resume talks with Sudan's ruling generals, an Ethiopian mediator said Tuesday.

The apparent breakthrough, which the military rulers had yet to confirm, came as a top US diplomat prepared to embark on a mission to press the generals to halt the crackdown on protesters demanding civilian rule.

Sudan has been led by a military council since it toppled autocratic president Omar al-Bashir on April 11 after months of nationwide protests against his iron-fisted rule of three decades. Following Bashir's removal, protesters camped outside military headquarters in Khartoum for weeks to demand civilian rule, before security and paramilitary forces dispersed them in a June 3 crackdown that



Sudanese vendors sell vegetables in the central market of Khartoum

killed dozens.

The protest movement launched a campaign of civil disobedience on Sunday, and most businesses stayed closed and residents hunkered indoors for the next three days.

It had threatened to pile even more pressure on the generals by releasing a list of members for a new ruling body -- the key point of dispute between the two sides.

But they agreed to end the campaign and return to talks, said an envoy of Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

"The Alliance for Freedom and Change agreed to end the civil disobedience (campaign) from today," Mahmoud Drir,

who has been mediating between the two sides since Ahmed visited Khartoum last week.

"Both sides have also agreed to resume talks soon," he told reporters. The protest movement itself said in a statement that it was calling on people "to resume work from Wednesday".

Protest 'a success'

In Khartoum, the protest strike saw most shops and businesses remain closed with some companies extending to the end of the week the Eid al-Fitr holidays marking the end of Ramadan.

"We are now getting used to living with guns as we are see-

ing so many of these men walking into restaurants with their weapons," one resident said as a group of RSF members entered an eatery.

Demonstrators declared their nationwide shutdown a success.

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

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

"The Alliance for Freedom and Change will reveal its sovereign council and a prime minister in an announcement to be made at a suitable time," the Sudanese Professionals Association, a key member of the umbrella protest movement.

Trump inadvertently reveals more of US-Mexico migrant deal

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump revealed Tuesday that Mexico agreed to take stronger legal action to halt Central American migrants if its initial efforts to stem the flow don't show results in 45 days.

In bright sunshine outside the White House, Trump waved what he said was the text of an agreement Mexican and US officials signed Friday to avert the

application of tariffs on their exports to the United States.

Photographs of the document revealed that Mexico appeared to pledge to enact or enforce certain domestic laws if Washington is not satisfied with the results of its first promised efforts -- deploying 6,000 National Guardsmen to reinforce its southern border and expanding its policy of taking back asylum-seekers as the United States



Mexico is doing a great job at the border, really helping us. They have been working very hard. We're doing very well together. Good relationship

DONALD TRUMP

processes their claims.

If, after 45 days, the US government "determines at its discretion" that the results aren't enough, the document says, "the Government of Mexico will take all necessary steps under domestic law to bring the agreement into force."

The document gives the Mexican government another 45 days to achieve that.

It was not clear what specific



measures the Mexican government would have to take.

Trump waved the ostensible agreement in front of reporters amid questions on whether his

administration really did reach a substantial agreement last week to stem the flow of hundreds of thousands of migrants who pass through Mexico to enter the United States.

The initial deal appeared to repeat previous undertakings the Mexicans have made.

But Trump has repeatedly suggested there is another secret part of the deal that would require more of Mexico.

Emissions rose an 'unsustainable' 2pc in 2018: study

London, United Kingdom

Global carbon emissions grew by 2.0 per cent last year, the highest rate since 2010-2011, a closely-watched review by energy giant BP said Tuesday, calling the trend "unsustainable".

"There is a growing mismatch between societal demands for action on climate change and the actual pace of progress, with energy demand and carbon emissions growing at their fastest rate for years," said BP chief executive Bob Dudley.

"The world is on an unsustainable path," he said.

The BP Statistical Review of World Energy is viewed as an energy industry standard, pooling data on everything from the size of countries' oil reserves to their production of renewable energy and various consumption rates.

India to evacuate 300,000 from cyclone

● Vayu, currently a cyclonic storm in the Arabian Sea, is set to intensify and make landfall in Gujarat on Thursday packing winds gusting up to 135 kilometres (85 miles) per hour and heavy rains

Ahmedabad, India

Almost 300,000 people are set to be evacuated in the western Indian state of Gujarat out of the path of a severe cyclonic storm due in two days, authorities said Tuesday.

"The weather department's latest bulletin forecasts that cyclone Vayu will make landfall... early in the morning on June 13," senior state official JN Singh told reporters.

"We have identified 2.91 lakh (291,000) people living in low-lying areas of 10 coastal districts who will be evacuated



Indian residents sit at the sea front as dark clouds gather over Mumbai's skyline

ed by Wednesday afternoon," Singh said after an emergency meeting.

"All schools and colleges in the coastal districts of Saurashtra and Kutch would remain close on June 12 and June 13 as a precautionary measure," he said.

He added that 67 shelter homes have been set up to accommodate the displaced people. Vayu, currently a cyclonic

storm in the Arabian Sea, is set to intensify and make landfall in Gujarat on Thursday packing winds gusting up to 135 kilometres (85 miles) per hour and heavy rains, forecasters say.

It is likely to damage thatched houses, blow away rooftops and metal sheets, disrupt power and communication lines and cause major damage to roads and crops, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Two giraffes killed by lightning in Florida: park

Miami, United States

Two giraffes were killed instantly when they were struck by lightning in the southeastern US state of Florida, the park where they resided said on Tuesday.

"We are deeply saddened to share the passing of two of our giraffe due to a lightning strike," the Lion Country Safari park, which is located north of Miami, said in a Facebook post.

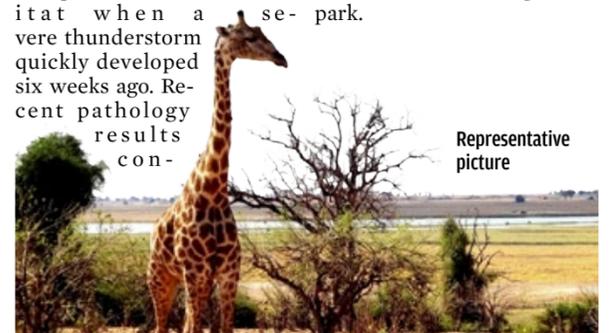
"Lily and Jioni were in the pasture in their habitat when a severe thunderstorm quickly developed six weeks ago. Recent pathology results con-

firm that the giraffe did pass as a result of the lightning and that the manner of their passing was instantaneous," it said.

The park said that the giraffes have access to "numerous shelters in the multi-acre habitat."

But "if they don't choose to seek shelter, there isn't a lot we can do to encourage them to," park spokesperson Haley Passer told the local WPTV channel.

With the death of the two giraffes, a male and a female, there are 18 remaining in the park.



Representative picture

Massacre toll in Mali cut to 35

● Twenty-four of the dead were children

● The killings stirred fears of tit-for-tat violence in the region

● The government had given a provisional figure of 95 dead and 19 missing.

Bamako, Mali

A massacre at a village in central Mali that according to early estimates killed 95 people left 35 dead, the authorities said Wednesday, giving a final toll.

Twenty-four of the dead were children, the government said in a statement which added that six people had been detained "following routine checks".

Gunmen late Sunday surrounded the village of Sobane Da, in an ethnic Dogon enclave, killing inhabitants and torching homes in a seven-hour assault, survivors said.

The killings stirred fears of tit-for-tat violence in the region, an ethnic patchwork where tensions have soared since the emergence of a violent jihadist-led movement in 2015.

The government had given a provisional figure of 95 dead and 19 missing.

That toll was based on early information from soldiers and



Officials and residents stand near ashes in the Dogon village of Sobane-Kou, near Sangha, after an attack



A destroyed home is seen in the Dogon village of Sobane-Kou, near Sangha, after an attack



About a hundred women had succeeded in fleeing to the village of Koundo, and this was one of the causes of the confusion

A GOVT OFFICIAL

the district mayor who visited the village, which is also known as Sobane-Kou.

But by Monday night there was some doubt and the revised figure was confirmed the following day, officials said.

"This number is based on a painstaking count carried out by a team comprising officials from the (Malian) civil protection force, forensic doctors (and) the public prosecutor of Mopti" region, Wednesday's statement

said. About a hundred women had succeeded in fleeing to the village of Koundo, and this was one of the causes of the confusion, it said.

The government, referring to the risk of another turn in the cycle of violence, also urged local people "not to fall into the trap of guilt by association and revenge."

Ethnic violence in central Mali surged after a predominantly Fulani jihadist group led by preacher Amadou Koufa

emerged in 2015.

On May 16, the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali, MINUSMA, announced it had recorded "at least 488 deaths" in attacks on Fulanis in the central regions of Mopti and Segou since January 2018.

Armed Fulanis "caused 63 deaths" among civilians in the Mopti region over the same timespan, it said.

In the bloodiest raid, about 160 Fulani villagers were slaughtered on March 23 at Ogossagou,

near the border with Burkina Faso, by suspected Dogon hunters. The Fulani are primarily cattle breeders and traders, while the Bambara and Dogon are traditionally sedentary farmers.

In the heart of the Sahel, Mali is one of the world's poorest countries. Unrest in its volatile central region coincides with an ongoing jihadist campaign that the government is struggling to contain, despite military support from France and UN peacekeepers.

Toothpaste firm up for auction on Chinese shopping portal



Taobao is auctioning the well-known toothpaste brand, Tianqi, and its manufacturer, Guangxi Aoji, at a starting price of Rmb163m (\$23.6m) Bloomberg

Shanghai, China

A toothpaste company has been put up for auction on e-commerce giant Alibaba's Taobao, an immensely popular shopping portal in China which sells everything from mundane household items to jumbo jets.

Tianqi toothpaste, a household name in China, and its manufacturer Guangxi Aoji were listed for auction on Tuesday at a starting price of 163.24 million yuan (\$23.6 million).

The package on offer included 57 trademarks related to Tianqi, industrial real estate and production equipment, according to the auction notice, which did not explain why the company was being sold or why Taobao was chosen for the transaction.

The company went unsold in the first round, after only two buyers signed up. The auction terms require the successful bidder to resume production

of Tianqi a month after the sale.

Tianqi was most popular in the early 2000s, but has since faded away with competitors chomping away at its market share.

The auction notice yesterday did not say if the sale would be attempted again.

Taobao is estimated to hold a huge chunk of the consumer-to-consumer market in China, and handles billions of dollars in transactions for everything from jewellery and company shares to helicopters -- and even bottled flatulence.

Among its users are courts trying to auction assets of bankrupt businesses, including the 2017 sale of a defunct cargo company's 747 freight planes.

The platform started its judicial sales platform in 2012, according to China's official Xinhua news agency, and most courts have registered with it, saving buyers billions -- Taobao says it does not charge commission fees.

India unveils spacecraft for moon-landing mission



Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientists work on the orbiter vehicle of 'Chandrayaan-2'

Bangalore, India

India yesterday unveiled a spacecraft which is expected to take off for the moon next month, making the country only the fourth to achieve the feat. The mission is India's second to the moon, and if successful it will put the nation in the league of the US, the former Soviet Union and China.

Named Chandrayaan-2, the craft is made up of an orbiter, a lander and a rover developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

It will be launched from Sriharikota space centre on July 15 and is expected to land near the lunar South Pole on September 6.

Once it touches down, the rover will carry out experiments while being controlled remotely by ISRO scientists.

"It is going to be the most complex mission ever undertaken by ISRO," chairman K. Sivan was quoted as saying by

local media.

"The aim is to use space technology for the benefit of the common man."

India has made giant strides in its space journey in recent years. It launched a record 104 satellites in a single mission in 2017, and has also built a reputation for low-cost space exploration and science missions.



In March, the country said it had destroyed a low-orbiting satellite in a missile test to prove the nation was among the world's most advanced space powers.

Boy dies of Ebola in Uganda as virus spreads from DR Congo

Kampala, Uganda

A five-year-old boy who tested positive for Ebola in Uganda has died, a health ministry official told AFP Wednesday as two of his family members also tested positive for the virus after a visit to neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

The World Health Organisation confirmed on Twitter that Uganda has now recorded

three cases of Ebola, in the first spread across the country's porous western border with the DRC where more than 2,000 cases of the highly contagious virus have been registered.

Uganda's health ministry said on Tuesday that a woman of Congolese origin, who is married to a Ugandan, had gone with her child and four other family members to take care of her father in the DRC, who later died of Ebola.

More than 200 arrested at Moscow police abuse march

Moscow, Russia

More than 200 people including opposition leader Alexei Navalny were detained yesterday as police sought to break up a peaceful Moscow rally against the alleged impunity of law enforcement agencies.

Russian police in riot gear moved in against the unsanctioned march of more 1,000 people amid screams of protesters shouting "you are criminals" and "stop police terror."

Moscow police said around 1,200 took part in the march and more than 200 people were arrested.

Some of the arrested wore T-shirts in support of Ivan Gol-



Protesters gather as they take part in a march to protest against the alleged impunity of law enforcement agencies in central Moscow

unov, an investigative journalist who was last week arrested on trumped-up drugs charges.

One detained activist brandished a placard saying, "I am Ivan Golunov" in the window of a police van.

At least four journalists were detained including a producer for Der Spiegel, a German news magazine.

The idea of population transfe

MICHAEL YOUNG

As the United States concludes with Israel's right-wing government in undermining a two-state solution with the Palestinians, it may help to revive an alarming idea. With Israel facing an expanding number of Palestinians in the West Bank, and no plan for what to do with them, this may resuscitate the idea of transferring them out of the territories, allowing for a more complete integration of the West Bank into Israel.

To put this in context, this past weekend the US ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, told the New York Times: "Under certain circumstances, I think Israel has the right to retain some, but unlikely all, of the West Bank." Such a move would make a two-state solution impossible, unless the Palestinians were to accept an entirely dependent, quasi-entity, ringed by Israel's army, with none of the attributes of sovereignty.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has long sought to extend Israeli law to parts of the West Bank. However, his annexationist designs could return us to another time in Israel's history, before the declaration of the state in 1948.

During the 1930s, the idea of "transferring" the Palestinian population out of Palestine to make room for Jewish immigration was at the heart of Zionist thinking. Many in the Zionist movement considered that Palestinians could move to fellow Arab countries, without any prejudice to them, as there was no recognition among them of a Palestinian nationalist identity.

A particularly revealing mo-

ment occurred in 1937, when the British Peel Commission proposed the partition of Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state. The Zionist leader David Ben-Gurion supported the proposals, but understood that they would only be acceptable if there were provisions for the removal of the Palestinians who remained in the Jewish state. Because Arabs represented half the population of that state, unless they were "transferred" they would have quickly formed a majority, owing to their higher birth rate.

If Israel annexes the West Bank, it will have to deal with upwards of what its Civil Administration estimated in 2012 to be some 2.6 million Palestinians in the territory. While they may be penned into areas of Palestinian autonomy, the long-term prospect that relative peace will prevail is difficult to imagine - particularly if Palestinians continue to be denied civil and political rights, and are pushed into increasingly restricted areas, as Israel consolidates and builds up the land under its control.

That is not to say that the Israelis will engage in the mass expulsions of Palestinians. Such scenes would be too reminiscent of ethnic cleansing in places such as Syria and Bosnia, and would bring international condemnation. However, Israel is aware that it is also facing a demographic time bomb and that, sooner or later, the millions of Palestinians under its control may rise up, representing a threat in the West Bank. This is all the more likely if annexation transforms many of its areas into Israel proper.

In such an event, armed



Jewish settlers walk past a market stall on the Palestinian side of the old city market in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron.

clashes between Palestinians and Israelis, particularly if the Palestinian security forces get involved, could lead to dynamics that Israel exploits. Heavy fighting could create major population movements towards safer

areas, perhaps allowing Israel to channel Palestinians into neighbouring Jordan. Certainly, the Israelis would strenuously deny any such intention, but fighting shaped the demographic landscape in 1948. So, why presume

that such a thing could not happen again?

Considering that something might happen is not the same as saying that it will. Israeli society may yet sense where all this is going, and decide that becom-

ing a rejection has t he is directed ing a

The view that it is in the interest of Israel to obtain the greatest amount of land with the fewest numbers of Palestinians stretches back decades

The end of iTunes marks the day

NICK MARCH

When Apple announced last week that it was killing iTunes, few mourned the application's impending demise. In fact, most critics described it as having become bloated over its long life. In response, Apple will break the existing version down into three parts - music, TV and podcasts - to make it more intuitive and user-friendly.

I was neither an early adopter of iTunes nor an especially late arrival, and, like millions of others around the world, I've now shifted to paying a monthly fee to stream music. Nevertheless, I will miss the idea of iTunes, if not the overgrown mess it became.

When it was launched, two years after the iPod's 2001 unveiling, the iTunes store was envisaged as a rebuttal to peer-to-peer file sharing websites, principally Napster, which had risen to prominence in the free-for-all of the dot-com boom years.

The late Apple boss Steve

Jobs pitched it to a generation of consumers who still lived by the old-world rules that it was better to buy than to rent, and that it was better to do things legally than to hang out with a bunch of internet pirates.

He also gambled that there were millions of music lovers who wanted to replicate the experience of browsing through new albums and spending money, just as they had done for many years in the physical space of a record shop.

"People want to own the music they love," Jobs insisted in 2003. He was right.

Even those of us who had been coerced by the music industry into buying the same music in successive formats - vinyl, cassette, CD and Minidisc - understood that iTunes and the iPod represented an exciting new destination point.

Where Sony's Walkman and its successors had allowed users to take their music wherever they went, they were limited by their inability to carry more than an amuse bouche of the songs a person might want to



Although a digital service, Apple's iTunes was inspired by the ownership of physical music.

By bringing the model of a traditional record shop online, Apple kept the idea of owning and keeping songs alive

1967

U.S. President **Lyndon B. Johnson** nominates Solicitor-General Thurgood Marshall to become the first black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

1971

Vietnam War: The New York Times begins publication of the Pentagon Papers.

1977

Convicted **Martin Luther King Jr.** assassin James Earl Ray is recaptured after escaping from prison three days before.



1981

At the Trooping the Colour ceremony in London, a teenager, **Marcus Sarjeant**, fires six blank shots at **Queen Elizabeth II**.

er rears its head again



If Israel annexes the West Bank, it will have to deal with upwards of what its Civil Administration estimated in 2012 to be some 2.6 million Palestinians in the territory. While they may be penned into areas of Palestinian autonomy, the long-term prospect that relative peace will prevail is difficult to imagine.

braced by the Israeli right, and that is not about to change. In advancing Israeli expansionism, the leaders on the right will do whatever it takes to secure their aims.

Would such “transfer” of the Palestinians work? In a region where millions of people have been forcibly displaced, with anaemic responses from the international community, it is difficult to rule out such an option. Moreover, if a Palestinian exodus were the result of fighting, Israel could spin it all as an act of self-defence. It has done so time and again in Gaza, despite the overwhelming level of Israeli destruction in the territory. We’re not in a region where victims are used to getting satisfaction.

Hopefully, this will not occur. However, everything points to a profoundly destructive deadlock on the Palestinian-Israeli front in the years ahead. Such deadlock already has existential implications, and so may bring about existential reactions. It is in such fraught environments that ethnic cleansing often takes place.

pariah is a prospect to be feared. However, Mr Netanyahu does not believe that Israel will give up land, and in this he is backed by the US. There is a stark line between such thinking and the view before 1948

that it was in the interest of the Jewish community in Palestine to obtain the greatest amount of land with the fewest numbers of Palestinians.

The Jordanians are particularly worried by the direction

of Israeli policy today. They don’t really believe that Mr Netanyahu, or a successor, will do everything possible to avoid a Palestinian takeover of their country. The “Jordan is Palestine” mantra has long been em-

y music really died



listen to. In comparison, the iPod, marketed as “1,000 songs in your pocket”, offered an entire banquet.

With iTunes, it was like having your local record shop repositioned as a 24-hour convenience store. The software’s other bit of genius was to enable users to create a vast digital jukebox from their old CDs and their new digital purchases.

But Jobs was also wrong. The world has now moved on. Few people want to buy any more. Most of us want to rent. In fact, with the notable exception of vinyl enthusiasts, who have grown in number over recent years, we are far more likely to buy a latte than a long-player. That’s what makes me mourn for iTunes.

There is an argument to say that the music industry has never been more vibrant, more diverse or, indeed, more able to support so many different genres than it is today.

But my biggest problem with the death of iTunes is the modern-day business model that it effectively rubber stamps.

There is an argument to say that the music industry has never been more vibrant, more diverse or, indeed, more able to support so many different genres than it is today.

Don’t get me wrong, monthly subscription models work well for TV streaming services. In fact, they work so well that they’ve ushered in a new “golden age” of programming.

By contrast, the music business was a disruptive industry long before that phrase came into common usage. Popular music spurred rebellion, but recurring monthly subscriptions can never be seen as a counter-cultural act of defiance.

The publishing industry has,

uniquely, found a halfway house between e-books and the paper variety, in which many of us buy a new release on an electronic device, but also still appreciate the experience of reading and owning a paperback or hardback.

I doubt that the “people want to own the music they love” rallying cry that Jobs made 16 years ago will ever gather strength again. Even when Apple switches iTunes off, and the music we’ve collated over the years becomes harder to access, there will, for most of us, be no great rush back to physical music.

Years ago it became popular to describe the arrival of iTunes as the day the music died. It wasn’t. Apple seized control of the music business with its introduction, but it also wrested primacy away from the pirates.

The death of iTunes marks the point where music stopped being collectible and became a common consumable. It is the moment when we jumped to paying for nothing at all.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



It is past time to STOP the harassment of the President and the first family. We need to figure out how an accusation was able to be funded by the DNC, cooked up in the Obama White House, and then polluted by Russians. We’re gonna figure out what happened.

@RepMattGaetz

02



Introduced the Canadian Snowbird Visa Act with @RepTedDeutch this morning. This bipartisan bill will extend the time Canadians who own a home in the U.S. can travel within the United States by 2 months -- which is great for our North Country economy!

@RepStefani

03



Scorching heat of nearly 50 degree celsius in Churu, Rajasthan has not deterred the moral of these hard working employees of India Post, who are performing their duty of delivering letters to people at their doorstep, with sincerity and commitment.

@rsprasad

04



If I responded angrily to every person who seeks to provoke anger from me on social media, I’d never experience peace, purpose or progress. Be a good steward of your energy. It’s okay to let provocateurs leave empty handed.

@BerniceKing

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

Urgent climate action, a global imperative

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

Every year on 21 September, the United Nations calls on all nations and people to put down their weapons and reaffirm their commitment to living in harmony with one another. Today, as we mark the 100-day countdown to the next International Day of Peace, I invite global reflection on this year’s timely theme.

“Climate Action for Peace” brings a clear message: the global climate emergency is a threat to security and stability. As coastal areas and degraded inland areas are becoming uninhabitable, millions of people are being forced to seek safety and better lives elsewhere. With extreme weather events and disasters becoming more frequent and severe, disputes over dwindling resources risk fuelling climate-related conflict.

Last month, I visited the South Pacific and saw the challenges being endured by those on the frontlines of this existential danger. But it is not just remote islands whose future is in jeopardy. What is happening there is a sign of what is in store for all human-kind. Urgent climate action is a global imper-

To mobilise the ambition we need, I am convening a Climate Action Summit on 23 September, at UN Headquarters in New York. I have asked world leaders to come with concrete and realistic plans to rapidly accelerate action to implement the Paris Agreement.

ative. To mobilise the ambition we need, I am convening a Climate Action Summit on 23 September, at UN Headquarters in New York. I have asked world leaders to come with concrete and realistic plans to rapidly accelerate action to implement the Paris Agreement, and to make a pivotal shift toward a cleaner, safer and greener future. In this endeavour, they will be backed by the passionate voices of young women and men around the world, who understand their future is at stake.

This is the battle of our lives, and a race against time. We can win – and we must. Solutions are in our hands: tax pollution, not people; stop subsidising fossil fuels; stop building new coal plants by 2020; focus on a green economy, not a grey economy. I count on your continued support as we strive to build a world where we can live every day in harmony with the environment and with each other.

(António Guterres is the secretary-general of the United Nations).

business

Batelco implements Multi-Access Solution for Ithmaar

TDT | Manama

Batelco, a leading digital solutions provider has announced deploying a fully-redundant MPLS network with active backup capabilities for Ithmaar Bank, a leading Bahrain based Islamic retail bank.

This project positions Ithmaar Bank as the first bank in the Kingdom to deploy the service to ensure around-the-clock network resiliency even during network maintenance activities or any other causes that might result in network

interruptions.

Batelco's backup solution allows Ithmaar Bank to mitigate any risk of data loss, ultimately protecting the bank's online services, ATM connections, revenues and reputation.

Batelco said it has deployed the bespoke backup network for Ithmaar Bank while maintaining the bank's online presence with no service disruption.

Batelco provides a comprehensive suite of backup services available on multiple access media including fibre optics, Microwave, 4G LTE and ADSL.

Ebdaa Bank ready to release Home Business Guide: CEO

TDT | Manama

Ebdaa Bank for Microfinance said it is prepared to release its Guide for Home-based Entrepreneurs following the directives of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

CEO of Ebdaa Bank for Microfinance, Dr Khalid Al Ghazzawi confirmed the preparedness of Ebdaa Bank, supported by the Arab Gulf Development Programme (AGFUND), to assist home-based entrepreneurs in effectively utilizing it.

"The increasing trend towards home projects in Bahrain may result in security and safety risks. As part of its national role in adopting and implementing Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030, Ebdaa Bank is fully prepared to contribute to the formulation of this guide while supporting the efforts of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and the Ministry of Health," said Dr Al Ghazzawi.



Dr Khalid Al Ghazzawi

"We welcome the initiative and are pleased to fulfil this responsibility through our accumulated experience with home projects in the Kingdom of Bahrain and in the nine Arab countries where the banks of AGFUND operate," he said.

"We will stress the urgency of appropriate security and safety systems to our customers for their projects, and the need to rely on equipment that automatically stops in the event of a short circuit or gas leak," he added.

Saudi continues winning streak



Visitors look at stock price information displayed on a digital screen inside the Saudi Stock Exchange (file)

● 11 of 12 Saudi banks rise

● Saudi rises for a fifth day

● Aldar gains on launch of new project

● Dubai ends four-day winning streak

● Palm Hills slides on lower Q1 profit

Reuters

Saudi Arabia's stock market rose for a fifth straight session yesterday as nearly all its banks gained, while other major Middle Eastern markets were mixed.

Saudi's index closed 1.1 per cent higher with National Commercial Bank, the country's largest lender, gaining 2.7pc and Al Rajhi Bank adding 1pc.

The index has gained nearly 16pc year-to-date, outperforming its major Gulf peers in a rally led by foreign investors, who have been net buyers of Saudi stocks every month this year.

A third tranche of the FTSE

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 1.1pc	» 9,085 pts
ABU DHABI	▲ 0.5pc	» 4,991 pts
DUBAI	▼ 0.4pc	» 2,664 pts
QATAR	▲ 0.4pc	» 10,622 pts
EGYPT	▼ 0.3pc	» 14,158 pts
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.1pc	» 1,451 pts
OMAN	▼ 0.5pc	» 3,962 pts
KUWAIT	▼ 0.6pc	» 6,456 pts

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

The Abu Dhabi index added 0.4pc with First Abu Dhabi Bank, the United Arab Emirates' biggest lender, increasing 0.8pc. Aldar Properties was up 1.1pc after saying that it launched a new 1.7 billion dirhams (\$463 million) residential project.

Qatar's index gained 0.4pc, led by a 1.3pc gain in market heavyweight Industries Qatar. Commercial Bank rose 2.4pc after a stock split of its shares taking effect earlier this week.

In Dubai, the index dipped 0.4pc with Emaar Properties, the emirate's largest listed developer, shedding 0.9pc and Dubai Investments losing 1.5pc.

Egypt's blue-chip index declined 0.3pc, pressured by its tobacco producer Eastern Com-



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

pany which was down 2.9pc. Palm Hills Development fell 2.8pc after on Tuesday posting a 37pc drop in its first-quarter profit.

National Bank of Bahrain names Al Watani May winners

● Prepares to hand over US\$ 1 Million cash and a salary of USD 5,000 to a lucky winner

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) yesterday named the winners of its "Al Watani Savings Scheme" monthly prizes for May 2019 at a ceremony held in its main branch in Manama.

The winners, who won US\$25,000 in cash each, are Layla Ahmed Alnajdi, Hayah Isa Mehaiza, Sayed Hashem Al-saken and Mariam Abdulla Ali.

"It is natural for a person to rejoice in such happy and joyous news and I would like to thank the Bank for its efforts in bringing joy to the hearts of the winners," said winner Sayed Hashim. While Hayah Al-Mehaiza's family expressed her thanks and appreciation for this

joyful surprise.

Commenting, Nabeel Ahmed Mustafa, Acting- Head of Retail Banking at NBB, said, "We are delighted to be offering year-long cash prizes to our saving accounts' customers. It also gives us pleasure to announce the upcoming June prize worth of US\$1,000,000 in cash in addition to a five-year monthly salary of US\$5,000, an exceptional prize that can change the life of the lucky winner this summer".

Qualifying customers with their Savings and Savewave (kids/youth) accounts enter the draws automatically, and the average monthly balance in the account enters the draw.

While the eligibility criteria for the monthly and the semi-annual prizes, is an average monthly balance of BD50, customers with a minimum average monthly balance of BD1,000 or more in the same accounts will be eligible to win all monthly, semi-annual, grand midyear prizes as well as the yearend Dream Prize.



May prize winners of USD 25,000 each during an awarding ceremony

US states sue to block Sprint, T-Mobile deal

New York, United States

New York and California led a group of state governments in filing a lawsuit to block the proposed \$26 billion merger between Sprint and T-Mobile, asserting the deal would harm consumers.

Nine states and the District of Columbia, argued that allowing the companies to combine would cause "irreparable harm" leading to higher costs that would price out low-income consumers.

T-Mobile and Sprint, the third- and fourth-largest wireless carriers in the country, together have around 130 million subscribers, and the combination would bring the merged company closer to the dominant players Verizon and

AT&T.

The merger "would not only cause irreparable harm ... by cutting access to affordable, reliable wireless service for millions of Americans, but would particularly affect lower-income and minority communities," New York Attorney General Leticia James said in a news release.

"That's why we are going to court to stop this merger and protect our consumer."

Sprint, majority owned by Japan's SoftBank, and T-Mobile, a unit of Germany's Deutsche Telekom, have said the deal is needed to compete in developing the next-generation 5G network.

The companies have agreed not to raise rates for three years and will divest from Sprint's subsidiary Boost Mobile.

Britain sets deadline for carbon neutrality by 2050



Britain's outgoing Prime Minister Theresa May delivers a speech at the ILO International Labour Conference in Geneva.

● **The deadline is far more ambitious than Britain's current policy of cutting emissions by 80 per cent over the same period**

● **The 2050 date will be introduced in existing climate change laws through a piece of legislation known as a statutory instrument**

● **Other EU countries have also pencilled in various emission reduction deadlines**

London, United Kingdom

The British government yesterday presented draft legislation to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2050 in what it said would be a first for a major economy.

The new target was broadly welcomed across the political spectrum but environmental groups said it would require radical action to decarbonise the entire economy.

The deadline is far more ambitious than Britain's current policy of cutting emissions by 80 per cent over the same period and Finance Minister Philip Hammond has reportedly warned it could cost more than £1.0 trillion.

The 2050 date will be introduced in existing climate change laws through a piece of

legislation known as a statutory instrument that parliament is expected to approve.

"As the first country to legislate for long-term climate targets, we can be truly proud of our record in tackling climate change," Prime Minister Theresa May said.

In one of her final acts before she steps down next month, she said Britain "must lead the world to a cleaner, greener form of growth".

"Standing by is not an option," she added. Britain's top advisory body on climate change this year said the net zero target could be achieved within a budget of 1.0-2.0 per cent of gross domestic product by 2050.

The deadline would put Britain on track to fully meet its commitments under The Paris Agreement, under which countries have pledged to keep the global average temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius.

Other EU countries have also pencilled in various emission reduction deadlines, although none have been adopted into law.

In France, the government introduced a bill in April setting a 2050 target date, while Norway is discussing 2030.

The world's net carbon emissions grew by an "unsustainable" rate of 2.0 percent last year, according to a closely-watched review by energy giant BP published on Tuesday.

The review also found that global energy demand grew by 2.8 percent, with the United States recording the biggest increase of any country.

Global markets retreat

London, United Kingdom

Stock markets pulled back yesterday after a strong run over several sessions as attention returned to US-China trade tensions, dealers said.

Asian markets kicked off the losses after two days of healthy gains, with Hong Kong the worst performer -- sinking two per cent as a huge anti-government protest paralysed key roads in the city before turning violent.

European indices followed suit with losses of around half a point by the close, while Wall Street, having opened steady, slid gently downwards throughout the New York morning.

"US stocks are dipping in early action, after snapping a five-day winning streak yesterday, with the heightened US-China trade tensions countering elevated Fed rate cut expectations and the recent deal that averted increased tariffs on Mexico," brokers Charles Schwab said.

Profit-takers moved in also as traders keep a nervous eye on developments in the China-US trade saga ahead of an expected meeting between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping at the G20 summit in Japan later this month.

The dollar was mixed on Wednesday, while oil prices tumbled.

Stock markets had rallied in recent days on the prospect of a US interest rate cut and broader central bank dovishness which helped to offset lingering US-China trade war tensions.

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross tempered expectations that the US and China will reach an agreement when Trump and Xi meet.

Elsewhere, oil prices slumped after data pointed to a jump in US stockpiles, exacerbating worries about oversupply and weak-



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

Key figures around 1540 GMT

London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.4pc at 7,367.62 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▼ 0.3pc at 12,115.68 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.6pc at 5,374.92 (close)
EURO STOXX 50:	▼ 0.4pc at 3,386.63
New York - Dow:	▼ 0.2pc at 25,995.70
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 0.4pc at 21,129.72 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▼ 1.7pc at 27,308.46 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 0.6pc at 2,909.38 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1320 from \$1.1328 at 2040 GMT
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.2725 from \$1.2723
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 108.46 yen from 108.51 yen
Oil - Brent North Sea:	▼ \$1.16 at \$61.13 per barrel
Oil - West Texas Inter:	▼ \$1.21 at \$52.06 per barrel

ening demand growth.

"Oil prices have struggled to retain (recent) bullish gains as traders stay cautious over heightened geopolitical risks

and persistent weakness in the global economic backdrop," said Benjamin Lu, commodities analyst with Phillip Futures in Singapore.

Lu and other analysts said oil prices had been winning support from expectations that OPEC and Russia would agree at a meeting this month to extend output cuts beyond June.

Elsewhere in commodities, cocoa futures rose sharply after key producers Ivory Coast and Ghana stopped sales in a push for higher prices, dealers said.

The September forward contract for the commodity, listed in New York, reached an 11-month high, hitting \$2,545, a rise of around 1.6pc on the day.

The two African nations, which together account for 60pc of the world's cocoa production, summoned buyers to Accra demanding a price of \$2,600 per tonne.

The meeting reached agreement in principle, a Ghana official announced, but implementation remains an issue.

Johnson plays down no-deal Brexit

● **The former foreign minister is the favourite among the 10 candidates vying to succeed Theresa May**

● **Johnson has previously threatened to withhold the multi-billion-euro payment May agreed to cover Britain's EU liabilities**

London, United Kingdom

Boris Johnson said yesterday he would only take Britain out of the EU without a deal as a "last resort", launching his campaign to be prime minister with a promise to unify a country deeply divided over Brexit.

The former foreign minister is the favourite among the 10 candidates vying to succeed Theresa May, who is stepping down after being forced to delay Britain's departure from the European Union twice.

At a launch event in London packed with senior members of the ruling Conservative party, Johnson insisted that Brexit must happen on October 31, the latest deadline agreed with Brussels.



Conservative MP Boris Johnson speaks during his Conservative Party leadership campaign launch in London

He said Britain must prepare to leave with no new arrangements if need be, but softened his previous rhetoric, suggesting that this was "a last resort, not something that anybody desires".

However, as a protester outside shouted "Stop Brexit" and "Bollocks to Boris", Johnson offered no details of how to break the deadlock in parliament that prevented May from getting her deal through.

He said a new government with "new optimism" and "total conviction about the way forward" could find a way.

The EU has insisted repeatedly that it will not renegotiate

the terms of the divorce, while parliament has voted against leaving without an accord.

On Wednesday, a cross-party group of lawmakers made a fresh bid to block such a scenario happening in future.

Finance Minister Philip Hammond warned Johnson and other leadership rivals not to make promises on Brexit they could not keep.

"The parliamentary arithmetic remains exactly the same, the European Union's position remains exactly the same," he said at a Bloomberg event.

Labour challenge

Conservative lawmakers will

hold the first of a series of secret ballots on Thursday on the leadership candidates, who also include Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt.

They will whittle down the field to two by June 20, and that pair will then be put to a ballot of around 160,000 Conservative party members.

The winner should be in Downing Street in late July but, if they cannot break the political deadlock in parliament, an election may be inevitable.

Johnson's supporters believe he is the only leader who can win against the twin threats of leftist Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and eurosceptic Nigel Farage.

On Wednesday, he warned that his party faced "mortal retribution from the electorate" if it failed to deliver Brexit.

"Delay means defeat. Delay means Corbyn. Kick the can and we kick the bucket," he said.

But in a repeat of moves earlier this year, Labour led an effort Wednesday to try to take control of the Commons timetable to legislate against a "no deal" in the future.

The party's Brexit spokesman, Keir Starmer, said threats of crashing out of the EU were "disturbing, ludicrous and reckless".

Oil falls almost 2pc on weaker demand, rising US inventories

Reuters | London

Oil prices fell almost 2 per cent yesterday, weighed down by a weaker outlook for demand and a rise in US crude inventories despite expectations of extended supply cuts led by OPEC.

Brent crude futures, the international benchmark for oil prices, were down \$1.17, or 1.9pc, at \$61.12 a barrel by 1407 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures were down \$1.13, or 2.1pc, at \$52.14.

The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) cut its forecasts for 2019 world oil demand growth and US crude production on Tuesday.

A surprise increase in US crude stockpiles also kept oil prices under pressure.

"Yesterday's bout of paralysis is giving way to a fresh slide in prices as market players fret over a swelling glut in US oil stockpiles," brokerage firm PVM said in a note.



US crude inventories rose by 4.9 million barrels in the week ended June 7 to 482.8 million barrels, data from the American Petroleum Institute (API) showed on Tuesday. That compared with analyst expectations for a decrease of 481,000 barrels.

Trade tensions between the United States and China, the world's two biggest oil consumers, also weighed on prices. US President Donald Trump said he was holding up a trade deal with China.

European shares pulled back

from three-week highs on Wednesday as this month's recovery rally ran out of steam on the back of soft Chinese factory activity and trade frictions.

Hedge fund managers are liquidating bullish oil positions at the fastest rate since the fourth quarter of 2018.

With the next meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries set for the end of June, the market is looking to whether the world's major oil producers will prolong their supply cuts.

OPEC, along with non-members including Russia, have limited their oil output by 1.2 million barrels per day since the start of the year to prop up prices.

Goldman Sachs said an uncertain macroeconomic outlook and volatile oil production from Iran and others could lead OPEC to roll over supply cuts.

"The sell off in recent weeks shows how vulnerable the market is and it may force Russia's



OPEC is due to meet on June 25 after talks with its allies led by Russia on June 26, although sources have said that Russia has suggested a date change to July 3 to 4

hand in extending the deal," said Warren Patterson, head of commodities strategy at ING.

The energy minister of the United Arab Emirates, Suhail bin Mohammed al-Mazroui, said on Tuesday that OPEC members were close to reaching an agreement on continuing production cuts.

China inflation hits highest level in 15 months



A vendor waits for customers at his fruit stall in Shenyang in China's northeastern Liaoning province

Beijing, China

Inflation in China rose to its highest level in more than a year in May driven by surges in pork and fruit prices caused by the African swine fever epidemic and bad weather, official data showed yesterday.

But while prices are increasing, demand remains weak because of the trade war with the United States and economic uncertainty.

The consumer price index (CPI) -- a key gauge of retail inflation -- hit 2.7 per cent, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said, compared with 2.5pc in April and the highest since February 2018.

The data was in line with a forecast of analysts polled by Bloomberg News.

The rise was "largely the result of renewed acceleration in food price inflation", and pork supply disruptions caused by African swine fever, Capital Economics said in a note.

Millions of pigs have been

culled recently as the disease cuts through China and beyond, devastating global food chains and impacting pork prices from the food markets of Hong Kong to US dinner tables. The price of pork soared 18.2pc in May, China's NBS said. The price of fresh fruit on-year was up 26.7pc as bad weather hammered supplies.

Beijing's official statistics say around one million pigs have been killed since the first outbreak in August -- but that is widely considered to be an underestimate.

The producer price index (PPI), an important indicator of domestic demand, hit 0.6pc in May, from 0.9pc the previous month. Economic "growth could slow further on escalating US-China trade tensions", Nomura International said in a note.

"We expect Beijing to undertake further easing/stimulus measures to bolster confidence and to stabilise growth."

US consumer inflation slows in May on cheap energy, used cars

● Markets hoping the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates

● The central bank is due to hold its next policy meeting next week

● Food prices jumped 0.3pc in the month

Washington, United States



Representative picture

Falling prices for energy and used cars held down US inflation in May, extending the long run of soft price pressures, according to government data released yesterday.

The latest confirmation of the absence of inflation should comfort markets hoping the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates in the coming months to boost the economy, especially amid President Donald Trump's multi-front trade wars.

The central bank is due to hold its next policy meeting

next week but most investors do not expect the Fed to announce any changes so soon.

The Consumer Price Index -- which tracks costs for household goods and services -- rose a token 0.1 per cent compared to April, matching analyst forecasts, the Labor Department reported.

Food prices jumped 0.3pc in the month, but that was more than offset by a steep 0.6pc decline in energy costs.

Compared to May of last year,

prices are up 1.8pc, slowing from the 2pc increase in April.

When the volatile food and fuel categories are excluded, "core" inflation also rose 0.1pc for the fourth month in a row, falling just shy of a consensus forecast.

Compared to May of last year, the core CPI is twopc higher, slowing slightly from the 2.1pc pace of a month earlier.

Prices medical care, air fares, education, furniture and new autos all rose. But costs for auto

insurance, used motor vehicles and recreation fell.

Housing costs have been rising steadily as rents have increased 3.7pc in the latest 12 months, while the rent equivalent for homeowners in up 3.3pc, according to the data.

Economists said the price data undermine Fed's view that factors keeping inflation below the twopc goal are temporary.

"The view that the dip in core inflation is transitory -- a view that both we and Fed Chairman Powell have held to -- is coming under pressure," RDQ Economics said in a research note.

But Kathy Bostjancic of Oxford Economics said the Fed will hold off before cutting the benchmark lending rate, and watch to see the impact of tariffs on the economy.

"We believe the Fed will cut rates this year but wait until December as they want to see evidence in the hard data that heightened trade tensions are significantly eroding economic activity before pulling the easing trigger," she said in an analysis.

face off



Protesters face off with police after they fired tear gas during a rally against a controversial extradition law proposal outside the government headquarters in Hong Kong



Bahrain Airport Services Company (BAS) honoured Ahmed Ali and Khadija Tarar, the winners of the E-learning programme competition for April and May. The competition was held to encourage staff to utilize the E-learning programme. Employees who complete their online training programme will be automatically entered into the monthly draw. commenting, Sr. Manager Learning & Development, Khalid Al Bastaki, said: "This type of training has been very successful around the world, which is why BAS has launched the project." Above, BAS officials with winners during a photocall

SHOW

OASIS JUFFAIR

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

*-KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.15 + 5.00 + 7.45 + 10.30 + 1.15 AM
DAILY AT (VIP): 4.15 + 9.45 PM

2-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA) NEW

*-SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 9.45 AM + 12.45 + 3.45 + 6.45 + 9.45 + 12.45 MN

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

*-VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.00 + 4.45 + 7.30 + 10.15 + 1.00 AM
DAILY AT (VIP): 1.30 + 7.00 PM

4-X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW

*-SOPHIE TURNER, JENNIFER LAWRENCE, JESSICA CHASTAIN
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 1.30 AM
DAILY AT (VIP): 11.15 AM + 12.30 MN

5-THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

*-PATTON OSWALT, KEVIN HART, HARRISON FORD
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH AT 8.00 PM ONWARDS
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 7.00 + 9.00 PM

6-CASABLANCA (PG-15) (ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER) NEW

*-AMIR KARARA, GHADA ADEL, EYAD NASSAR
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 + 1.30 AM

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

*-ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM

8-KOLAIGARAN (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW

*-VIJAY ANTONY, ASHIMA NARWAL, ARJUN SARJA
FROM THURSDAY 6TH AT 3.00 PM ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 2.00 + 7.15 + 12.30 MN

9-CHILDREN'S PARK (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW

*-DHURVAN, VISHNU UNNIKRIISHNAN, SHARAFUDHEEN
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 4.15 + 9.30 PM

10-VIRUS (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW

*-KUNCHACKO BOBAN, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS
FROM FRIDAY 7TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.15 + 6.15 + 9.15 + 12.15 MN

11-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)

*-WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.30 + 5.00 + 7.30 + 10.00 + 12.30 MN
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 4.30 + 11.00 PM + 1.30 AM

CITYCENTRE

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

*-KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 9.00 AM + 11.45 AM + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 + 1.30 AM
DAILY AT (VIP I): 10.00 AM + 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 +



11.45 PM + 2.30 AM

2-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA) NEW

*-SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 8.00 AM + 11.00 + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 + 2.00 AM

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

*-VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 9.45 AM + 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM + 2.15 AM
DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 11.45 AM + 5.00 + 10.15 PM
DAILY AT (VIP II): 9.15 AM + 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM + 1.45 AM

4-X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW

*-SOPHIE TURNER, JENNIFER LAWRENCE, JESSICA CHASTAIN
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 8.15 AM + 8.45 AM + 10.45 AM + 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 1.45 + 3.45 + 4.15 + 6.15 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 9.15 + 11.15 + 11.45 PM + 1.45 AM + 2.15 AM
DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 9.15 AM + 2.30 + 7.45 + 1.00 AM

5-THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

*-PATTON OSWALT, KEVIN HART, HARRISON FORD
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH AT 8.00 PM ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 9.45 AM + 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM + 1.45 AM

6-CASABLANCA (PG-15) (ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER) NEW

*-AMIR KARARA, GHADA ADEL, EYAD NASSAR
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 9.00 AM + 11.15 + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM + 12.45 MN + 3.00 AM

7-SABIE AL BOROMBA (PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY) NEW

*-RAMEZ GALAL, BAYOUMI FOUAD, JAMEELA AWAD
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 8.00 AM + 10.00 AM + 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN + 2.00 AM

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

*-ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 9.00 AM + 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + 1.00 AM + 3.00 AM

9-RASHID & RAJAB (PG) (ARABIC/COMEDY) NEW

*-MARWAN ABDULLAH SALEH, SHADI ALFONS, SHEEMA
FROM EID DAY

DAILY AT: 12.30 + 6.30 + 12.30 MN

10-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)

*-WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 9.00 AM + 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN + 2.30 AM

11-MA (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR)

*-OCTAVIA SPENCER, MISSI PYLE, DIANA SILVERS
DAILY AT: 8.30 AM + 10.30 AM + 2.30 + 4.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM + 2.30 AM

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

*-BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
DAILY AT: 8.00 AM + 11.30 AM + 3.00 + 6.30 + 10.00 PM + 1.30 AM

SEEF (I)

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

*-KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 10.00 AM + 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM + 2.30 AM

2-X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW

*-SOPHIE TURNER, JENNIFER LAWRENCE, JESSICA CHASTAIN
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.15 + 4.45 + 7.15 + 9.45 + 12.15 MN + 2.45 AM

3-THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

*-PATTON OSWALT, KEVIN HART, HARRISON FORD
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH AT 8.00 PM ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + 1.00 AM (ARABIC DUBBED)
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + 1.00 AM

4-CASABLANCA (PG-15) (ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER) NEW

*-AMIR KARARA, GHADA ADEL, EYAD NASSAR
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN + 2.15 AM

5-SABIE AL BOROMBA (PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY) NEW

*-RAMEZ GALAL, BAYOUMI FOUAD, JAMEELA AWAD
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + 1.00 AM + 3.00 AM

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

*-ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM + 12.45 MN + 2.45 AM

7-RASHID & RAJAB (PG) (ARABIC/COMEDY) NEW

*-MARWAN ABDULLAH SALEH, SHADI ALFONS, SHEEMA
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 4.30 + 8.30 PM + 12.30 MN

8-BLOOD BOUND (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER) NEW

*-TIMOTHY HUGHES, EDEN BROLIN, ROSA ARREDONDO
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 2.30 + 6.30 + 10.30 PM + 2.30 AM

9-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)

*-WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM + 1.30 AM

SEEF (I)

1-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA) NEW

*-SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 10.00 AM + 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 11.00 PM + 1.00 AM + 2.00 AM

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

*-VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 PM + 1.30 AM

3-CHHALAWA (PG-15) (URDU/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW

*-MEHWISH HAYAT, AZFAZ REHMAN, ZARA NOOR ABBAS
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 4.15 + 9.00 PM + 1.45 AM

4-WRONG NO.2 (PG-13) (URDU/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW

*-SAMI KHAN, NEELAM MUNEEB, MEHMOOD ASLAM
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 1.45 + 6.30 + 11.15 PM

5-VIRUS (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW

*-KUNCHACKO BOBAN, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS
FROM FRIDAY 7TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.30 + 4.30 + 7.30 + 10.30 PM + 1.30 PM

SAAR

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

*-KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.15 + 7.30 + 10.15 PM + 1.00 AM

2-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA) NEW

*-SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.30 + 6.30 + 9.30 PM + 12.30 MN

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

*-VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.00 + 4.45 + 10.00 PM + 12.45 MN

4-X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW

*-SOPHIE TURNER, JENNIFER LAWRENCE, JESSICA CHASTAIN
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS

DAILY AT: 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM + 1.15 AM

5-THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

*-PATTON OSWALT, KEVIN HART, HARRISON FORD
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH AT 8.00 PM ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 PM

6-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)

*-WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 10.00 AM + 5.00 + 7.30 PM

AL HAMRA

1-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA) NEW

*-SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 9.00 AM + 12.00 MN

2-VIRUS (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW

*-KUNCHACKO BOBAN, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS
FROM FRIDAY 7TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 9.00 PM + 3.00 AM

3-CHILDREN'S PARK (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW

*-DHURVAN, VISHNU UNNIKRIISHNAN, SHARAFUDHEEN
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 3.00 PM

4-KOLAIGARAN (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW

*-VIJAY ANTONY, ASHIMA NARWAL, ARJUN SARJA
FROM THURSDAY 6TH AT 3.00 PM ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 6.00 PM

WADI AL SAIL

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

*-KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.00 + 4.45 + 7.30 + 10.15 + 1.00 AM

2-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA) NEW

*-SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 9.30 AM + 12.30 + 3.30 + 6.30 + 9.30 + 12.30 MN

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

*-VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.45 + 4.30 + 7.15 + 10.00 + 12.45 MN

4-X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW

*-SOPHIE TURNER, JENNIFER LAWRENCE, JESSICA CHASTAIN
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 + 1.15 AM

5-THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

*-PATTON OSWALT, KEVIN HART, HARRISON FORD
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH AT 8.00 PM ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 PM

6-CASABLANCA (PG-15) (ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER) NEW

*-AMIR KARARA, GHADA ADEL, EYAD NASSAR
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 + 1.30 AM

7-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)

*-WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 + 1.30 AM

MOVIE REVIEW

Phantom Thread: Daniel Day-Lewis bows out in style with drama of delicious pleasure

In his final film, Day-Lewis reunites with Paul Thomas Anderson to deliver a masterful performance as a society dressmaker beguiled by a young waitress

Phantom Thread is a 2017 American period-drama film written and directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, set in the haute couture world of London in the 1950s.

It stars Daniel Day-Lewis as a couturier who takes a young waitress, played by Vicky Krieps, as his muse; it is Day-Lewis's final role before his retirement.

The film is the first Anderson film shot outside the United States, with principal photography beginning in January 2017 in Lythe, England. It is Anderson's second collaboration with Day-Lewis, following *There Will Be Blood* (2007), and his fourth with composer Jonny Greenwood.

On review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, the film has an approval rating of 91% based on 317 reviews, and an average rating of 8.47/10. The website's critical consensus reads, "Phantom Thread's finely woven narrative is filled out nicely by humor, intoxicating romantic tension, and yet another impressively committed performance from Daniel Day-Lewis."

On Metacritic, which assigns a normalized rating to reviews, the film has a weighted average score of 90 out of 100, based on 51 critics, indicating "universal acclaim."

The A.V. Club's A. A. Dowd gave the film an A-, calling it a "charitable and even poignantly hopeful take on the subject [of being in a relationship with an artist]" and said that "in the simple, refined timelessness of its technique, Phantom Thread is practically a love letter to classic aesthetic values—cinematic,



Vicky Krieps and Daniel Day-Lewis in Phantom Thread

sartorial, or otherwise."

Observer critic Mark Kermode gave the film five stars, describing it as "a deftly spun yarn," and praised Daniel Day-Lewis' performance, calling his role as a "perfect fit [in a] beautifully realised tale of 50s haute couture."

Christy Lemire of the LAFCA placed the film second on her list of ten best films of 2017, describing it as "captivating" and "one of Paul Thomas Anderson's absolute best," as well as singling out Jonny Greenwood's score as "intoxicating."



Katy Perry and Taylor Swift

Jude Law to star in limited series 'The Third Day'

Los Angeles

Jude Law is all set to headline a six-part limited series by HBO and Sky, titled "The Third Day".

The drama is the latest original collaboration between HBO and Sky and comes after the critical success of "Chernobyl", according to the Hollywood Reporter.

The series is set on a mysterious island off the coast of Britain and revolves around Sam (Law) who encounters the island's secretive inhabitants and their strange rituals.

Fantasy and reality began to blur for Sam, triggering past traumas, and brings him into conflict with the islanders, according to the official logline.

Oscar dates shifted in 2021 and 2022 for Olympics, Super Bowl

Los Angeles

The Oscars will take place in late February in 2021 and 2022 to accommodate the Olympics, Super Bowl and other events, organizers said Tuesday.

Next year, the 92nd Oscars is set for February 9, but the following ceremonies will be on February 28, 2021 and February 27, 2022 -- the final Sundays of the month.

"Timing of the 2022 Olympics, the Super Bowl and national holidays will keep the 2021 and 2022 dates on the last Sunday in February," the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and US network ABC said.

"The Academy and ABC continue to evaluate dates for future years." The annual Academy Awards ceremony, which recognizes the best in cinema, is broadcast live from Hollywood on ABC and in more than 225 countries and territories worldwide.



It's 'peace' between Katy Perry and Taylor Swift

Los Angeles

It seems that everything is good between pop singers Katy Perry and Taylor Swift and the hatred is buried somewhere.

Katy posted a picture of baked chocolate chip cookies on Instagram with "peace at last" written on the edge of the plate and tagged her former foe in the post.

"Feels good," the 'California Gurls' singer captioned the photo Swift commented on the adorable post by posting a heart emoji.

According to some media reports, the feud is suspected to be over Swift's 2014 track "Bad Blood" which the fans assumed to be on Perry, and Swift told Rolling Stone, that when the song came out, it was about another female artist who tried to "sabotage an entire arena tour."

Swift has never publicly revealed who the alleged artist was.

This appears to be the first time that the two pop singers have been vocal about their relationship since Katy literally extended an olive branch as a peace offering.



Ariana Grande

Ariana Grande donates her concert earnings

Los Angeles

Ariana Grande is turning into a philanthropist! The singer is donating all the money generated from her concert in Atlanta, Georgia on June 8, to the cause of Planned Parenthood.

Grande will make the donations totalling about USD 250,000 amid the wave of anti-abortion laws prevailing the southern states in the US, confirmed People.

"Ariana Grande's generous donation comes at a critical time -- in Georgia and across the country, anti-women's health politicians are trying to ban all safe, legal abortion," said Dr Leana Wen, Planned Parenthood Action Fund President.

Sophie Turner reveals secret behind 'GoT' auditions

Los Angeles

Sophie Turner has shared a funny anecdote with her fans that she forgot to inform her parents about her auditions and role in 'Game of Thrones.'

According to People, the 23-year-old actor auditioned for her HBO series when she was just 13 years old.

The actor who rose to fame for her eight-season run as Sansa Stark on 'GoT', shared the funny incident when she sat down with her Dark Phoenix co-star Jessica Chastain for Vogue Paris and as People cited, explaining that her mother was unaware of her initial audition for the role.

The topic popped up when the two actors chatted about their families, and after Chastain asked, "so what did your parents say when you told them you wanted to get involved?"

"Well, I didn't tell my parents I auditioned for Game of Thrones. They just kind of found out," Turner surprised all with her reply.

The actor who recently got hitched to Joe Jonas went on to narrate that the fantasy drama's casting director, Nina Gold, went on a search hunt in various schools

to find the appropriate characters for the hit series and that is when she casually thought to audition for it.

Sophie Turner



Tyler Perry

Tyler Perry to be named 'Ultimate Icon' at BET Awards 2019

Los Angeles

Actor-filmmaker Tyler Perry is set to receive Ultimate Icon Award at the 2019 BET Awards.

According to Variety, the 49-year-old multifaceted talent will be bestowed with the honour for his outstanding cultural impact in the entertainment industry.

Popular for his "Madea" franchise, his recent directorial venture was "A Madea Family Funeral", which he both wrote and featured in.

The ceremony will be held on June 23 at the 19th edition of BET Awards.

Actor-comedian Regina Hall will host the awards show.



Priyanka Chopra to receive UNICEF USA humanitarian award

Los Angeles

Actor Priyanka Chopra will be awarded the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award by UNICEF's American chapter at their Snowflake Ball in December.

The award is named after actor-philanthropist Danny Kaye, who was UNICEF's first Goodwill Ambassador.

The 36-year-old actor took to Twitter to express her gratitude on Wednesday.

"So humbled. Thank you @UNICEFUSA for honouring me with the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award at the #UNICEFSnowflake Ball in December!"

"My work with @UNICEF on behalf of all the world's children means

everything to me. Here's to peace freedom and the right to education #ForEveryChild," Priyanka tweeted.

Priyanka Chopra

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MAHIMA JOHNSON** D/o **PHILIP JOHNSON** holding Indian Passport No. **K 0791611** dated 14-03-2012 issued at **BAHRAIN** having permanent residence at **TC 24/540, AMBALLORE LANE, THYCAUD PO, TRIVANDRUM, KERALA, INDIA**. Presently residing at **House 424, Road 4809, Block 748, A'ALI - BAHRAIN** will henceforth be known as (Given Name) **MAHIMA** (Surname) **JOHNSON** Objection(s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box No. 26106, Bldg. 1090, Road 2819, Block 428, Al-Seeif, Bahrain.

Is Lady Gaga the reason for Bradley Cooper's split with Irina Shayk?

Los Angeles

It seems that Bradley Cooper and Irina Shayk drifted apart because of the former's closeness with Lady Gaga.

According to People, there was a possibly a romance brewing between Cooper and Gaga, who made headlines with their film 'A Star Is Born'. This inflamed the rift between Cooper and his former girlfriend.

"The rumours about Bradley and Gaga having a love affair didn't help especially with his constant travels [promoting the film]," a source told the magazine.



"He (Cooper) has a huge and overwhelming connection to Gaga but whether it becomes a real love story in their lives for all the world to see is premature, and it's difficult to speculate at this sensitive time," the insider added.

Gaga and Cooper stole the show with their intimate Oscars duet of 'Shallow,' which earned the singer Best Original Song award.

Although things were not going good with the couple, not many people know that Shayk always kept her romance away from the spotlight.

"Since Bradley and Irina have always been very private about their relationship few knew there was really for sure something going on," the source added.

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SPORTS
sports

Andy Murray aims for singles return this year

AFP | London

Andy Murray hopes to be back on the singles court later this year, but the British former world number one is setting no time limits on his return.

Murray will step up his comeback bid from the hip surgery he underwent in January when he competes in the doubles with Feliciano Lopez at Queen's Club next week.

The 32-year-old then plans to play doubles at Wimbledon, where he has won two of his three singles Grand Slam titles.

However, Murray still expects to take his time before returning to singles action, which probably rules out competing at the US Open at the end of August.

"It's baby steps just now," said the Scot. "I'm feeling good, pretty much pain-free and enjoying kind of just training, practising, improving all the time just now."

"I don't think when Wimbledon finishes that I will just step onto the singles court the following week and everything's good. I still have quite a lot of work to do before I'm at a level where I feel like I'll be able to be competitive."

Murray, who last played singles at the Australian Open in January, said he had been making consistent progress but he would probably plateau at some stage.

"I hope at some stage this year I would be able to get back to playing singles again."

said Murray, speaking at the launch of a new tennis support scheme in partnership with Amazon Prime at the Queen's Club in London.

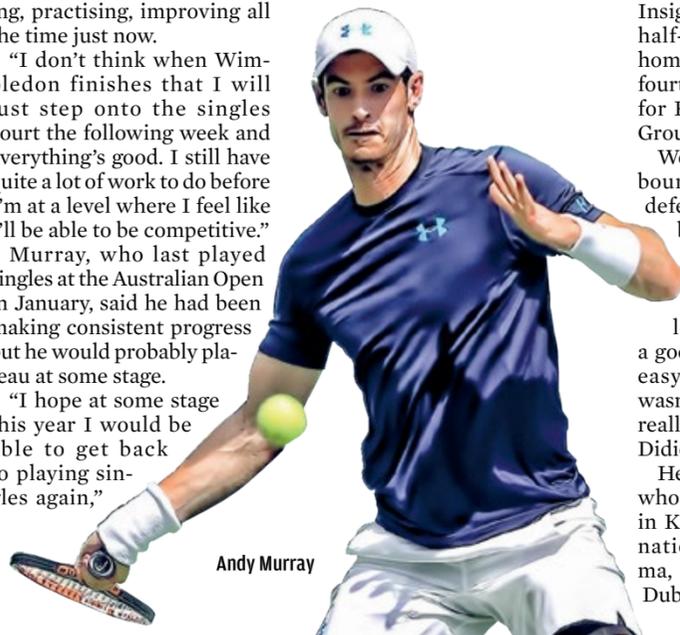
"When that is, I'm not really interested in putting a time limit on because I'm quite happy just now so I don't need to play singles after Wimbledon or at the US Open."

"If I can, that would be brilliant, but I don't think that's going to be the case. I think it's going to take a bit longer."

Murray has been training with American Frances Tiafoe but has still not fully tested his recovery with any singles practice matches.

"Earlier on I was hitting with singles players but I was more stationary. I was moving them rather than them moving me about."

"So, I have not played properly singles-wise yet. I am hoping that will come more after Wimbledon."



Andy Murray

Italy edge Bosnia as Germany, France stroll

Insigne, Verratti push Italy closer to Euro 2020 with Bosnia win

● **Mbappe Scores as France Beat Andorra 4-0**

● **Germany beat Estonia 8-0 in 2020 Euro Qualifier**

AFP | Paris

Italy needed a late winner from Marco Verratti to defeat a determined Bosnia-Herzegovina 2-1 in Euro 2020 qualifying Tuesday, while Germany and France piled up the goals in lopsided victories.

Edin Dzeko fired Bosnia in front in Turin, but Lorenzo Insigne equalised shortly after half-time and Verratti curled home on 86 minutes to earn a fourth win in as many attempts for Roberto Mancini's side in Group J.

World champions France rebounded from last weekend's defeat in Turkey with a trouble-free 4-0 win away to minnows Andorra.

"We reacted well after not playing to our usual level on Saturday against a good Turkey team. It looked easy today and the intensity wasn't the same but we played really well," said France coach Didier Deschamps.

He retained just four of those who began Saturday's 2-0 loss in Konya, handing first international starts to Kurt Zouma, Clement Lenglet and Leo Dubois.



France's forward Kylian Mbappe (L) shoot and scores

Kylian Mbappe opened the scoring with a chipped finish on 11 minutes, with Wissam Ben Yedder and Florian Thauvin adding to their lead in the first half.

Zouma bundled home a fourth on the hour as France reclaimed top spot in Group H after Iceland beat Turkey 2-1 in Reykjavik to further sour the mood in the visiting camp.

Turkish officials had denounced the "disrespect" shown to the team when they arrived in Iceland, unhappy at being kept waiting for several hours at passport control at the airport and subjected to extensive

security checks.

Two headers in the first half by centre-back Ragnar Sigurdsson saw Iceland draw level on nine points with France as well as Turkey, for whom Dorukhan Tokoz scored a consolation.

Germany made light work of Estonia as Serge Gnabry and Marco Reus fired them to a thundering 8-0 victory in Mainz.

Gnabry and Reus scored two goals each, with Leon Goretzka, Ilkay Gundogan, Timo Werner and Leroy Sane also on target, as Germany ran riot to seal a third win from three games in Group C.

Underdogs Estonia were helpless against a bright young Germany side who now appear to have left last year's World Cup woes far behind them.

Belgium extended their perfect start to Group I with a 3-0 defeat of Scotland in Brussels.

Romelu Lukaku headed in an Eden Hazard cross on the stroke of half-time and bagged a second early in the second half, with Kevin De Bruyne thumping home another at the death.

Russia followed up their 9-0 trouncing of San Marino with a much nervier win over Cyprus that came courtesy of a single goal by Aleksei Ionov.

Froome out of Criterium after training fall

AFP | Roanne, France

Chris Froome was taken to hospital Wednesday after falling on a training run for the Criterium du Dauphine 4th stage, Team Ineos said.

The team confirmed that Froome would take no further part in the race, potentially casting a shadow over the 34-year-old's bid for a fifth Tour de France which starts in Brussels on July 6.

"Team INEOS can confirm that Chris Froome crashed during a recon of stage four of the Criterium du Dauphine today. He is currently on his way to a local hospital and won't start today's fourth stage. We will provide a further update in due course," Ineos said on Twitter.



Team Ineos rider Great Britain's Christopher Froome rides during the 71st edition of the Criterium du Dauphine cycling race

Froome fell heavily during training for the Giro d'Italia opening stage time-trial in 2018, but eventually went on to win the race.

At the Criterium Froome was seeking to fine tune his form having failed to win a stage yet this season, but was eighth overall just 24 seconds off the pace in Criterium.

During Froome's training run on Wednesday conditions were windy but the roads were dry with the route presenting no difficulties apart from two well-signalled downhill bends.

Ineos also have defending champion Geraint Thomas in their ranks with the Welshman scheduled to take part at eight-stage Tour de Suisse which starts Sunday.

BOC adds water sports for Olympic Day

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Olympic Committee, organisers of the 2019 Olympic Day, has confirmed a number of water sports that will be featured at this year's edition, scheduled for June 29 at the Water Garden City, near the Bahrain City Centre in Manama.

Bahrain will join other parts of the globe in celebrating the 2019 Olympic Day, when hundreds of thousands of people, young and old, get moving and participate in sporting and cultural activities, such as runs, exhibitions, music and educational seminars.

Among activities to take place is kids competition, as well as a color run. The date, venue and programme was recently finalized by the organising committee, headed by BOC secretary general Mohammed Al Nusuf.

Other set of activities include a demonstrating shows as well as health, cultural and special corners for kids will be

presented on spot.

But the highlights of the day will be a swimming race in open water, a sailing competition, kayak race and rafting, in addition to a 2km run, taekwondo, karate and martial arts.

Meanwhile, the organising committee's sub panel had a coordinating meeting with representatives of the six sports federations that will present the day's programme.

They include the Bahrain Martial Arts Federation, Bahrain Maritime Sports Association, Bahrain Swimming Association, Bahrain Athletics Association and Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Association.

During the meeting, chaired by Olympic Day supervisor Lounes Madene, discussions on preparing the activities programme and its venues were brought up. It was decided that the committee will address the ministries of interior, health and Bahrain Defence Force, to coordinate for the build up to this much-awaited occasion.

Bangladesh confident injured Shakib will play Windies

Reuters | London

Bangladesh are optimistic that all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan will recover from a thigh injury in time for Monday's World Cup match against West Indies in Taunton, their coach Steve Rhodes has said.

Shakib strained a muscle in his left thigh while batting against England in Cardiff last week, but fought past the pain to make 121 runs as Bangladesh lost by 106 runs.

The 32-year old, who has scored 260 runs at the tournament so far, was a doubt for Tuesday's match against Sri



Shakib Al Hasan takes a catch

Lanka, which was subsequently abandoned, and Rhodes is confident the extra week's rest will do him good.

"He picked up a little injury in that game against England and he fought on and battled on and played extremely well with an injury," Rhodes told reporters on Tuesday.

Aussies survive Pakistan scare

● Mitchell Starc sinks Pakistan's pursuit of Australia after David Warner's century

● Pat Cummins claimed three wickets

AFP | Taunton

David Warner scored his first international century since completing a ball-tampering ban as Australia returned to winning ways at the World Cup with a 41-run victory over Pakistan at Taunton yesterday.

Warner made 107 and, with Australia captain Aaron Finch (82), got the defending champions off to a flying start with an opening stand of 146 -- the highest partnership for any wicket at this World Cup to date.

Mohammad Amir dragged Pakistan back into the game with career-best figures of five for 30 in 10 overs but Australia still managed to post a challenging score of 307, which ultimately proved beyond their opponents.

"It means a lot to a batter to get a century," said man-of-the-match Warner. "It was a great effort from Pakistan in the end but our bowlers bowled excellent. They probably got closer than we expected."

Pakistan, after a middle-order collapse that saw them lose three wickets for 11 runs in 15 balls, were all but beaten at 200 for seven in the 34th over.

But captain Sarfaraz Ahmed (40) and the big-hitting Wahab Riaz (45) gave them renewed hope with a stand of 64.

Australia, who lost to India on Sunday, were again looking to Mitchell Starc to get them out of a tight spot, as had done in an earlier win over the West Indies and the fast bowler duly delivered with 2-43.

He had Wahab caught behind got off a thin edge, although it needed an Australia review of an original not out decision to leave Pakistan 264-8

Two balls later, Amir played on for a duck before Glenn Maxwell ended the match with a brilliant direct hit run out of Sarfaraz.



Australia's David Warner plays a shot



David Warner hit his first ODI century since being banned for a year

Pakistan chase

Pakistan's chase started badly when Fakhar Zaman fell for a duck uppercutting Cummins to Kane Richardson at third man.

Babar Azam was in superb touch, with 28 of his 30 runs coming in fours, before he mishooked Nathan Coulter-Nile to deep backward square leg.

Opener Imam-ul-Haq was upping the tempo in his 53 when he gloved Pat Cummins (3-33) down the legside to wicket-keeper Alex Carey.

Finch, an occasional slow bowler, grabbed a real bonus wicket when Mohammad Hafeez (46) hit a rank full toss straight to Starc at deep square leg.

And when Shoaib Malik was brilliantly caught for nought by a diving Carey after inside edging Cummins, Pakistan

were in dire straits at 147-5.

Both Warner and Steve Smith, also returning from a year-long ban for ball-tampering, had been jeered by fans in previous games but Pakistan fans largely heeded an appeal from Sarfaraz not to boo the pair, preferring to roar chants of "Amir!, Amir!"

Warner completed his 15th one-day international hundred when an edge off Shaheen Shah Afridi flew past slip for four.

An elated Warner leapt in the air in celebration but his 111-ball innings ended soon afterwards when he was caught at point off Shaheen, having gone past fifty for the third time in four innings at this World Cup.

"I'm very disappointed," said Sarfaraz. "We lost three wickets in 15 balls and that's why we lost."

"We conceded too many runs in the first 20 overs apart from Mohammad Amir. We came back and restricted them well but it was a 270-280 pitch."

"We made some runs and got starts but we've got to convert them and go long. If you want to win matches your top four must score runs."

Australia have three wins in four matches while Pakistan are struggling, with just one victory in their four games so far.

India call up Pant as cover for Dhawan

AFP | Nottingham

Rishabh Pant has been called up as cover for the injured Shikhar Dhawan in India's World Cup squad, team chiefs confirmed yesterday.

Dhawan injured his hand during the team's 36-run victory against Australia on Sunday and remains a doubt for the rest of the 50-over tournament.

The left-handed opener has been put under medical observation and Pant will join the team in England and Wales and stay on as standby.

"We will be observing Dhawan and around the 10th or 12th day we will know where he stands," India's assistant coach Sanjay Bangar said ahead of Thursday's match against New Zealand at Trent Bridge.

"We do not want to rule out a precious player like Shikhar. As far as batting order goes, KL (Rahul) moves top of the order and there are various options the team can utilise going into the next game."

Bangar added: "If and when a re-



India's Rishabh Pant during nets

placement is required, it's always good to have a replacement coming in and practising with the team as a standby."

Dhawan made 117, putting on 127 for the opening wicket with Rohit Sharma to set up India's second straight win in the World Cup against defending champions Australia.

Bangar said India would miss Dhawan but the team had enough strength in

depth to maintain their momentum in the round-robin tournament.

"Shikhar will definitely be missed in the next three to four games but we have great back-up for each position," he said. "With that we should be able to make it up."

"He (Pant) bats in middle order and obviously being a left-hander helps and he was named in the standbys as well, so the team management has gone and picked him," he said of Pant's call-up.

Team management said Pant would join the side in Manchester ahead of the match against arch-rivals Pakistan, which takes place on Sunday.

The 21-year-old, a flamboyant wicket-keeper-batsman, made his Test debut in England last year and scored his maiden Test century during the series.

Pant, who is being groomed to take over from M.S. Dhoni as first-choice wicketkeeper in all formats of the game, also underlined his worth with an unbeaten 159 against Australia in Sydney earlier this year.



Cricket World Cup 2019 standings

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	No result	Run rate	Points
New Zealand	3	3	0	0	0	2.163	6
Australia	4	3	1	0	0	0.570	6
England	3	2	1	0	0	1.307	4
India	2	2	0	0	0	0.539	4
Sri Lanka	4	1	1	0	2	-1.517	4
West Indies	3	1	1	0	1	2.054	3
Bangladesh	4	1	2	0	1	-0.714	3
Pakistan	4	1	2	0	1	-1.796	3
S Africa	4	0	3	0	1	-0.952	1
Afghanistan	3	0	3	0	0	-1.493	0

Today's match

India vs New Zealand

Rohit Sharma



at Trent Bridge, Nottingham
12:30pm



Martin Guptill

- » Both teams have a very strong batting lineup
- » Both India and New Zealand are unbeaten in the world-cup up until now
- » India's bowling attack is better than New Zealand and that could be the edge it needs to win
- » Securing convincing victories against South Africa and defending champions Australia would have boosted the confidence of the Indian team.
- » Trent Boult tormented the Indian batsmen in the warm-up game and he could again put pressure on them by picking up a few early wickets.
- » India's batting has looked impressive so far but the loss of Shikhar Dhawan will now put additional pressure on Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

India

India have won 10 out of the 15 one-day internationals they have played so far this year. They lost to Australia 2-3 in a five-match ODI series at home before coming into the World Cup. They have won their first two encounters in the tournament rather convincingly and are currently placed third on the CWC 2019 points table with four points. After beating South Africa by six wickets in their campaign opener at Southampton, India got the better of Australia by 36 runs at London in their last game.

Probable XI

Lokesh Rahul, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli (c), Vijay Shankar/Dinesh Karthik, MS Dhoni (wk), Hardik Pandya, Kedar Jadhav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar/Mohammed Shami, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah

New Zealand

New Zealand have been very impressive in the game's 50-over format over the last couple of years. They have won 10 out of their 14 one-day internationals this year including the last six straight. The Kiwis have made a perfect start to their World Cup campaign, winning each of their first three games, and are leading the league standings with six points. They decimated Sri Lanka by ten wickets in their opening game at Cardiff, then pipped Bangladesh by two wickets in a close encounter at London before brushing aside Afghanistan with a seven-wicket win at Taunton.

Probable XI

Martin Guptill, Colin Munro, Kane Williamson (c), Ross Taylor, Tom Latham (wk), James Neesham, Colin de Grandhomme, Mitchell Santner, Matt Henry, Lockie Ferguson, Trent Boult

PITCH REPORT



The weather around the United Kingdom has been bad this week and the forecast in Nottingham for this match is not very good either.

A lot of rain is expected to fall in Trent Bridge and we could struggle to get any cricket in. The best case scenario looks one where a shortened match is possible to get a result.

The pitch in Trent Bridge is flat and full of runs. The batsmen are going to be able to score at their will and a score of about 330 seems to be par for the venue.

Head to Head

- India and New Zealand have played 106 one-day internationals against each other with the former winning 55 of those and the latter 45. One of those encounters has resulted in a tie while five have not produced any results.
- The men in blue have won six of their last seven ODIs against the Black Caps which includes the dominant 4-1 series win when India toured New Zealand earlier this year in January-February.
- The two countries have faced each other just once at the Trent Bridge in the fifty-over format of the game - at the 1999 World Cup - with New Zealand registering a convincing five-wicket win.

New Zealand need to grab half-chances against India: Ferguson

Reuters | Nottingham, England

New Zealand cannot afford to squander even half-chances against a team of India's calibre in Thursday's World Cup match at Trent Bridge, Kiwi fast bowler Lockie Ferguson said.

The right-arm paceman will be spending much of his 28th birthday trying to tame a formidable Indian batting order headlined by Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, the top two batsmen in ODI rankings.

"They're world-class players, you're not going to blow them out of the water, but if you can build

up enough pressure against them and then create a half-chance, that could be the wicket and you can then build from there," Ferguson told reporters on Tuesday.

"Obviously, they're playing some great cricket and they're one of the top teams in the competition but we're definitely looking forward to the opportunity of playing them in England and we haven't played them for a while in England."

India have adopted a new approach to the first powerplay overs which was evident in their clinical victory against Australia on Sunday.