

Nadal retains Montreal title

Rafael Nadal completed a 6-3, 6-0 demolition of Russian Daniil Medvedev to win in Montreal on Sunday and extend his record haul of Masters 1000 titles.

P12

White nationalism and gun violence are two sides of the same coin

THE DAILY tribune



Taylor Swift receives Icon Award at 2019 Teen Choice Awards

10

CELEBS

WORLD

4

184 dead in India monsoon floods

Norway honour for HRH Premier



HRH the Premier

Oslo

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has been granted the 'Norwegian Guest of Honour' award 2019 by the 14th August Committee of Norway, in recognition of his efforts to promote regional and global peace, security, tolerance and harmony.

The prestigious award was granted during a ceremony held in the Norwegian Capital, under the patronage of Norway's Prime Minister, Erna Solberg, and in the presence of Cabinet Affairs Minister, Mohammed Al Mutawa, the Chairman of the 'HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa Award for Sustainable Development', Shaikh Hussam bin Isa Al Khalifa, in addition to an elite of Norwegian personalities and officials. **See Page 2**

Typhoon disaster



Rescuers and paramilitary police officers search in the rubble of damaged buildings after torrential rain caused by Typhoon Lekima, at Yongjia, in Wenzhou, in China's eastern Zhejiang province. The death toll rose to 43 as Typhoon Lekima slammed the eastern China coast, state media said yesterday, after the storm triggered a landslide, destroyed homes and forced the evacuation of more than a million residents.

Iraq rejects Israeli role in Gulf flotilla

Baghdad

”

Iraq will work to lower tensions in our region through calm negotiations.

MR AL HAKIM

Iraq rejects any Israeli participation in a naval force to protect shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, at the heart of tensions with Iran, Foreign Minister Mohammed Ali Al Hakim said yesterday.

Tensions have escalated in past months, with drones downed and tankers mysteriously attacked in Gulf and nearby waters.

Washington and its Arab allies in the Gulf region have accused Iran of carrying out the tanker attacks. The US has since sought to assemble an international coalition it says is to guarantee freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

Israel has made no official announcement on the operation, although Israeli media have reported a possible role for the Jewish state. Iraq "rejects any participation of forces of

the Zionist entity in any military force to secure passage of ships in the Arabian Gulf," Hakim said on Twitter. "Together, the Gulf states can secure the passage of ships," he said.

He added that "Iraq will work to lower tensions in our region through calm negotiations," while "the presence of Western forces in the region would raise tensions."

Tehran and Washington have been at loggerheads since President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the US from a nuclear accord between Iran and world powers in May 2018, reimposing biting sanctions.

Naval escort mission

Britain sends navy warship to join US-led maritime coalition in the Gulf

● The UK is the only country to have joined the US coalition so far.

● US National Security Adviser John Bolton met British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and senior officials.

Portsmouth

A British Navy warship has set sail to join the US-led taskforce to protect merchant ships in the Gulf in response to the threats posed by Iran.

The Type-23 frigate HMS Kent left Portsmouth Naval Base on Monday to take over duties in



HMS Kent is on route to the Gulf.

the Strait of Hormuz from Type 45 defender HMS Duncan.

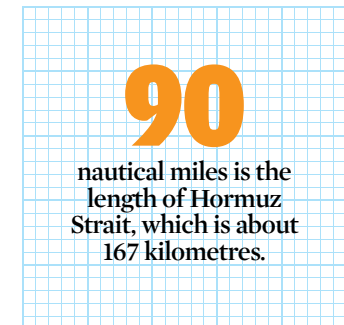
The Kent will work alongside HMS Montrose to escort British-flagged vessels through the Strait of Hormuz.

Britain announced it would join the US-led coalition after Iran's Revolutionary Guard

Corps seized the British-flagged vessel Stena Impero.

"Our focus in the Gulf remains firmly one of de-escalating the current tensions," the Kent's Commanding Officer Andy Brown said.

"But we are committed to upholding freedom of navigation



and reassuring international shipping."

US National Security Adviser John Bolton met British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and senior officials in London on Monday, where they discussed Iran, their trade relationship and the prospect of a post-Brexit agreement.

Mr Bolton, who has a history of hard-line policy towards Iran, was expected to put pressure on

British officials to take a tougher stance on Tehran during this week's trip.

Mr Bolton and Mr Johnson discussed the protests in Hong Kong and the UK's 5G plans, which previously involved Huawei, a company the Trump administration considers a security threat and an arm of the Chinese government.

During his visit, Mr Bolton highlighted the strong relationship between US President Donald Trump and Mr Johnson.

"Boris Johnson has been the Prime Minister for what, 18 days? They've already had five or six phone calls," he said.

Mr Bolton said that former prime minister Theresa May had refused to join the US-led navy coalition in the Gulf, but Mr Johnson reversed the decision this month.

YEMEN TALKS

Bahrain welcomes Saudi invitation

Manama

The Kingdom has welcomed the invitation extended by Riyadh to the Yemeni Government and all parties involved in the clashes that broke out in Aden to hold an urgent meeting in Saudi Arabia.

The invitation is an important step towards reaching a peaceful solution as it adopts the approach of dialogue and de-escalation.

In another development, Saudi Arabia's King Salman met with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed on Monday to discuss regional issues, par-

ticularly the situation in Yemen, state-run Saudi TV said.

The meeting, in the region of Makkah, came after the Arab coalition intervened in Aden on Sunday in support of the Yemeni government after southern separatists effectively took over the port city, fracturing

the alliance that had been battling the Iran-backed Houthi militia.

Speaking after the meeting Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed said dialogue was "the only way to resolve differences between Yemenis."

In a statement carried by the Emirates' official WAM news agency, the crown prince during his brief visit backed a Saudi call for an urgent meeting between the warring parties, saying it "embodies the common concern for Yemen's stability."

Sheikh Mohammed also urged Yemeni factions to "seize this opportunity, and carry out talks to reach a consensus that is in the best interest of Yemen and its people."



03 Work on Bahrain's largest public school 'completed'

05 Norway mosque terror attack suspect in court

08 Reliance-Aramco \$15bn deal set

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HRH the Premier

A champion of peace

The Guest of Honour is among the most prestigious Norwegian awards



Mr Al Mutawa and Shaikh Hussam receive the award on behalf of HRH the Premier.



A segment of the audience at the award ceremony.

- In his message, HRH the Premier expressed thanks and appreciation for the honour.
- Mr Al Mutawa stressed Bahrain's contributions to international efforts to promote the values of peace.

Oslo

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has been granted the 'Norwegian Guest of Honour' award 2019 by the 14th August Committee of Norway, in recognition of his efforts to promote regional and global peace, security, tolerance and harmony.

The prestigious award was granted during a ceremony held in the Norwegian Capital, under the patronage of Norway's Prime Minister, Erna Solberg, and in the presence of Cabinet Affairs Minister, Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al Mutawa, the Chairman of the

'HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa Award for Sustainable Development', Shaikh Hussam bin Isa Al Khalifa, in addition to an elite of Norwegian personalities and officials.

The 'Guest of Honour' is among the most prestigious Norwegian awards, and has been awarded to a number of prominent world figures who have contributed significantly to global peace, co-existence and harmony, notably Harald V of Norway, Queen Sonja of Norway, Norway's current Prime Minister, Erna Solberg, UK's Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, former Pakistani President Muhammad Rafiq, Nobel peace prize committee chairman Thorbjørn Jagland, and Prince Haakon, Crown Prince of Norway.

During the ceremony, the Chairman of the Dialogue for Peace foundation and President of the 14th August Committee of Norway, Aamir Javed Sheikh, delivered a speech in which he lauded HRH Premier's efforts and achievements in consolidating the International Community's steps aimed at ensuring a stable and secure world in which peace and co-existence among all countries and peoples prevail.

"HRH Premier's contributions and vision on the complementarity between achieving peace and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals have gone beyond the borders of the Kingdom of Bahrain to become a global model that is worthy of respect and appreciation," he said.

Then, former Norwegian Prime Minister and President of the Oslo Centre for Peace and Human Rights, Kjell Magne Bondevik, delivered a speech in which he affirmed that "HRH the Prime Minister has been doing his best for decades with a view to raising the standard of living in the Kingdom of Bahrain by focusing on sustainable development and modernisation, as well as on achieving an all-inclusive and comprehensive sustainable economic development".

He added that HRH Premier's efforts have covered many areas, including the enhancement of the role of women in Bahrain, and the consolidation of the pillars of peaceful co-existence and tolerance there.

He affirmed that United Nations General Assembly had recently endorsed HRH Premier's initiative to designate April 5 of each year as an 'International

Bahrain attaches great importance to joint international action for the sake of promoting global peace.

HRH THE PREMIER

Day of Conscience' to promote the culture of peace.

"In recognition of all these efforts and other achievements, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the distinguished Prime Minister of Bahrain, has been awarded the 'Norwegian Guest of Honour Award of 2019'," he said.

He pointed out that he has visited Bahrain and met HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, stressing that "the Kingdom of Bahrain is a country with a long history dating back thousands of years."

"After its independence, Bahrain has gradually moved towards democracy and has, since 2002, a National Assembly with two chambers, one of which is elected and the other is appointed by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa," he said, lauding the

Kingdom's strategic location and progress in various fields.

After that, a film including a message from HRH the Prime Minister to the participants in the ceremony was screened.

In his message, HRH Premier expressed thanks and appreciation for the honour.

While tackling the Kingdom's vision, the Prime Minister stressed that Bahrain attaches great importance to joint international action for the sake of promoting global peace, and supporting under-developed countries and peoples in their efforts to achieve development.

Then, the Cabinet Affairs Minister delivered a statement in which he conveyed HRH Premier's thanks and appreciation to the event organisers for selecting him as the 'Guest of Honour' of the ceremony which, he said, carries many noble goals, all of which aiming to spread the values of co-existence, security and stability among peoples of the entire world.

Under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the kingdom has been keen to participate in international efforts and gatherings aimed at contributing to promoting such

noble values, out of its belief that communities are in dire need for security and peace, as well as for ending conflicts and tensions in order to focus on achieving sustainable development and decent living for their peoples.

Mr Al Mutawa stressed that the UN's adoption of HRH Premier's initiative to declare the April 5th as an International Day of Conscience is a living proof of Bahrain's contributions to international efforts to promote the values of peace across the world.

He indicated that the ceremony is part of its organisers' efforts to enhance partnership for the sake of spreading the values of co-existence and peace, commending the efforts of the Oslo Centre for Peace and Human Rights, the Dialogue for Peace foundation and the 14th August Committee of Norway for their effective role and good efforts, and wishing them further success.

Minister Al Mutawa and Shaikh Hussam bin Isa received the award, on behalf of HRH Premier, from the former Norwegian Prime Minister and President of the Oslo Centre for Peace and Human Rights, Kjell Magne Bondevik.



Bahrain Hajj Mission held a special function to honour those who actively supported the mission, especially Hajj Caravan owners.



Members of the Ladies Working Committee at the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) distributed gifts to children at King Hamad University Hospital to provide them with joy during Eid Al Fitr. Company President Dr Abdulrahman Jawahery thanked the Chairperson and members of the Committee for the initiative which, he said, reflected the humanitarian spirit and love of others. He praised the efforts of Committee members, which translate the company's policy to build bridges of co-operation and support for all categories of Bahraini society. He said the initiative is not new to the employees of the company, who are keen to extend a helping hand and assistance to all.



Work on Bahrain’s largest public school ‘completed’

School can accommodate 1,440 students

● It includes all modern educational facilities, including multi-purpose laboratories, a library, offices for the educational and administrative staff.

● Mr Al Khayyat pointed out that the project had won the Smart School Building Award during the third Smart and Sustainable Cities Conference 2018.

Manama

The Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry (MoW) has completed the work on Shaikha Mooza bint Hamad Al Khalifa's Primary and Secondary Girls' School in Jau.

The school building has been handed over to the Ministry of Education.

Works Affairs Undersecretary at the MoW, Ahmed Abdulaziz Al Khayyat, said that the school is the largest public school in the Kingdom in terms of capacity, cost and facilities.

Covering a total area of 50,000 square metres, and a building area of 26,500 square metres, the school consists of four academic buildings that accommodate 1,440 primary, intermediate and secondary students and includes 48 classrooms.

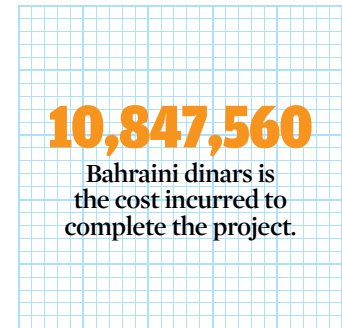


The educational facility consists of four academic buildings.

It also includes all modern educational facilities, including multi-purpose laboratories, a library, offices for the educational and administrative staff, a multi-purpose sports hall that is designed to host various sporting events in the Kingdom, in addition to service facilities, including a cafeteria, bathrooms, stores and a room for the guard, the undersecretary said.

Costing BD10,847,560, the mega project was implemented within the GCC Development Project, supported by the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) and built by the Bahraini-Saudi Arabian consortium of Al Moayed and Nasma Contracting, he added.

Mr Al Khayyat pointed out that



the project had won the Smart School Building Award during the third Smart and Sustainable Cities Conference 2018, as it was designed to meet the requirements of modern schools and sustainable green buildings, as well as to conserve energy and

preserve natural resources.

To improve the facility's ease-of-use, a parking lot was developed close to the main entrance for drivers with special needs, and slopes were developed at each building entrance, the official said.

Non-slippery vinyl flooring is used to make the school safer for special groups, for whom lifts and toilets have been specially designed as well, he added.

Sources said that solar panels have been installed on the roofs of the school buildings in co-ordination with the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA), which will contribute to rationalising energy consumption and saving about 30 per cent of energy.

Saudi leaders congratulated on Hajj success

Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud over the Hajj success.

HRH the Crown Prince extended sincerest congratulations to King Salman on the great success of the Hajj season.

HRH the Crown Prince stressed that King Salman's dedicated efforts and keenness to harness all available potentials of various sectors had contributed to the success of this year's Hajj season, and enabled pilgrims to perform the Hajj rituals smoothly and easily.

HRH the Crown Prince wished Saudi Arabia and its brotherly people many happy returns of the occasion, under King Salman's leadership. HRH the Crown Prince also wished the Arab and Islamic nations further progress and prosperity.

HRH the Crown Prince sent a similar cable to the Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Defence Minister, HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Fawzia Zainal, yesterday stressed that the outstanding success of this year's Hajj season adds to rich record of landmark achievements of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of King Salman.

In this regard, the speaker lauded the tremendous efforts exerted by Saudi Arabia, under King Salman's leadership, to ensure easy and smooth performance of Hajj rituals, citing the facilities provided by the Saudi government for Hajj pilgrims, which, she said, reflects its leading role in serving Arab and Islamic issues at all levels.

She affirmed that Saudi Arabia's keenness to harness all its potentials to serve pilgrims is a Saudi message to the whole world highlighting its leading role in promoting the principles of Islam and tolerance.

She extended deepest thanks and appreciation to the Saudi people and government for the distinguished and effective procedures they have taken to ensure the success of the Hajj season.

The speaker extended sincere thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for his sound directives to the Bahrain Hajj Mission to provide all kinds of care for Bahraini pilgrims.

People urged not to politically exploit religious occasions

TDI | Manama

The Interior Ministry yesterday urged both citizens and residents not to politically exploit religious occasions.

This came after legal proceedings were taken against some Asians for gathering in a

way that violated the law after Eid prayer.

"The case has been referred to the Public Prosecution," the Interior Ministry said in a tweet yesterday.

"Citizens are residents are urged to not politically exploit religious occasions," the tweet said.

Al Mashaaer Metro ‘transported over one million pilgrims in 45 hours’

Mina

Al Mashaaer Al Mugaddassah Metro has transported 1,087,320 pilgrims in 45 hours, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported on Sunday.

This covered several stages, including the Ascent, Nafrah and Stoning of Jamarat Al-Aqabah during this year's Hajj season, as announced by the Saudi Railways Company (SAR), operator of Al Mashaaer Al Mugaddassah Metro, in coordination with the Makkah Region Development Authority (MRDA).

The Supervisor of Al Mashaaer Al Mugaddassah Metro Muhammad Fida said that the first stage of the metro trips began at 4.00 am on the 7th of Dhul Hijjah.

The metro stopped at all the stations, ending service at 6.00 pm. During this period, over 16,000 pilgrims were transported between the nine stations.

Fida added that in the second stage 340,035 pilgrims were transported from Mina to Arafat to spend the day with the rest of the pilgrims on Arafat plain.

This stage began at 8.00 pm on Tarwiyah Day (8th of Dhul Hijjah) and ended at 11.00 am on Arafat Day.

The third stage of Al Mashaaer Metro started at 7.00 pm on Arafat Day transporting pilgrims during the Nafrah to Muzdal-



The metro network has been of great help to the pilgrims.

ifah, successfully transporting some 353,000 pilgrims in six-and-a-half hours.

Fida added: "As for the fourth stage, pilgrims were transported to stone the Jamarat Al Aqabah

via the Jamarat station.

"In this stage, we were able to exceed the target and enable

377,199 pilgrims to stone the Jamarat Al Aqabah in record time. This stage began at 1.00 am on



The MRDA hired over 15,000 employees in seasonal jobs for crowd management in Al Mashaaer Al Mugaddassah Metro.

the 10th of Dhul Hijjah and continued till 9.00 am."

Meanwhile, spokesman of Makkah Region Development Authority (MRDA) Jalal Bin Abduljaleel Kaaki said that this year the MRDA hired over 15,000 employees in seasonal jobs for crowd management in Al Mashaaer Al Mugaddassah Metro.

Kaaki said that crowd management plans this year have contributed effectively to the success of the movement of pilgrims to the Ascent and Nafrah and to the Jamarat Complex.

In this connection, the Authority provided its workers with training courses in crowd management before the onset of the Hajj season. This enabled the MRDA and the metro project to achieve the aspired goals.

world

184 dead in India monsoon floods

One million moved into camps, 76 died, 58 missing in Kerala

New Delhi, India

Indian authorities have moved around a million people into emergency camps in recent days as the death toll from monsoon floods jumped yesterday to at least 184.

The southern state of Kerala has been the worst hit region for the second consecutive year, forcing the closure of the Kochi international airport for three days last week.

"At least 76 people have died, 58 are missing and another 32 have received injuries," Pramod Kumar, Kerala police spokesman, said.

Around 288,000 people across the state's worst affected districts including Wayanad, Malappuram and Kozhikode have been moved to relief camps.

Thought the intensity of rain has reduced in the state, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that weather updates show heavy rain could persist for two more days in the state.

Authorities have been put on high alert.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted "heavy rainfall" at isolated parts over Kerala from 12 to 16 August.

Integrated Defence Staff is keeping a close watch and will review the situation in the state.

"Strong winds, speed reaching 45-55 kilometres per hour, are likely to prevail over the southwest, central and north Arabian Sea and along and off Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat coasts, Lakshadweep area, south Tamilnadu coast and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Squally weather is likely to prevail over West Bengal and Odisha coasts. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas," the IMD said in its bulletin.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, visited his Wayanad Lok



Volunteers, local residents and members of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) search for survivors in the debris left by a landslide at Puthumala at Meppadi in the Wayanad district, in the Indian state of Kerala

Sabha constituency.

In a Facebook post, the former Congress chief said, "My Parliamentary constituency Wayanad has been devastated by floods with thousands left homeless and shifted to relief camps."

At least 42 people have also lost their lives in neighbouring Karnataka state, which has seen some of its worst flooding of recent years.

"We have evacuated over 580,000 people", a senior Karnataka government official said.

Many key highways and roads across the affected regions have been damaged or cut off by rising waters.

Local emergency personnel and troops from the army, navy and air force have been deployed for search, rescue and relief operations.

Indian media have also reported 66 deaths in the western states of Maharashtra and Gu-

jarat, with tens of thousands of people shifted to relief camps.

While the monsoon rains are crucial to replenishing water supplies in drought-stricken In-

dia, they kill hundreds of people across the country every year.

Last year Kerala was hit by its worst floods in almost a century with around 450 people killed.



Indian National Congress Party former president Rahul Gandhi (L) interacts with flood victims at Bhoothanam Christian Church Camp at Pothukal Panchayath in Malappuram district in the south Indian state of Kerala.

Death toll climbs to 75 in Tanzania fuel tanker blast



Police tape cordons off the area where the carcass of a burnt out fuel tanker is seen along the side of the road following an explosion Saturday, in Morogoro, 200 kilometres (120 miles) west of the Tanzanian capital Dar es Salaam

Morogoro, Tanzania

The death toll from a fuel truck explosion in Tanzania rose to 75 yesterday as four more people succumbed to their injuries, a hospital official said.

"We deplore four new deaths. Their bodies are currently resting at the morgue while we wait for relatives to identify them," said Aminiel Aligaesha, spokesman for the National Hospital in the economic capital, Dar es Salaam.

Funeral services which began Sunday were expected to continue Monday as the country concluded a period of na-

tional mourning declared by President John Magufuli.

The explosion took place Saturday morning near the town of Morogoro, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) west of Dar es Salaam.

The dead were trying to collect leaking petrol from the overturned tanker.

Witnesses said the truck tipped over as it tried to avoid a motorcycle, and locals quickly converged on the scene to collect fuel.

The explosion was triggered when a man tried to retrieve the truck's battery, creating sparks that ignited the fuel, officials said.

Five children killed in fire at a US daycare

Washington, United States

Authorities yesterday were investigating the cause of a fire that swept through a home daycare in Erie, Pennsylvania, killing five children trapped inside.

Erie fire chief Guy Santone said the children, who ranged in age from eight months to seven years, were sleeping in second floor bedrooms when the blaze broke out early Sunday.

He said firefighters arrived on the scene about 25 minutes later, and found "heavy fire coming out of all the windows on the first floor, and reports were in that there were children trapped on the second floor. "So firefighters, obvi-

ously, they started attacking the fire, but another group of firefighters laddered the side of the building and got up into the bedrooms," Santone told local ABC News affiliate Jet24.

"We were able to rescue, or pull out, the five younger children, but unfortunately they all passed away," he said.

The woman who operated the daycare in her house, Elaine Harris, ran through the fire, and tried to drive herself to the hospital but crashed on the way, he said. She was flown to Pittsburgh for treatment.

Santone told the New York Times that one of the victims was Harris's child and the other four were siblings, possibly left overnight by parents who worked night shifts.

Tens of thousands flee homes in flood-hit Myanmar as landslide toll hits 59

Mawlamyine, Myanmar

Vast swathes of southeastern Myanmar lie under floodwaters that have already forced tens of thousands to flee their homes as the death toll from a massive landslide hit 59, firefighters said yesterday.

Seasonal monsoon rains batter the country every year, but the recent deluge has submerged entire communities, with drone footage showing only the tops of houses visible.

There are currently more than 80,000 people sheltering at evacuation sites across the



Residents look at an area affected by a landslide in Mutkyi village in Paung township, Mon state

country, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

In the town of Ye in Mon state, people scrambled to stay afloat as they tried to swim to safety through swirling, muddy waters.

Others fled to rooftops or to higher ground, calling out to rescue boats for help.

AFP reporters saw workers desperately trying to repair roads damaged or washed away by the floods.

Rescuers also found more victims three days after a deadly landslide flattened 27 homes in Mon's Ye Pyar Kone village



Climate scientists in 2015 ranked Myanmar at the top of a global list of nations hardest hit by extreme weather. That year more than 100 people died in floods that also displaced hundreds of thousands.

Friday morning.

"Another dead body was found at 16:27 bringing the death toll to 59," the fire service posted Monday afternoon on Facebook, adding that search operations were still ongoing.

Recovery teams have worked round-the-clock over the weekend, hindered by continuing downpours and deep mud as the stench of decaying bodies worsened.

Vice President Henry Van Thio visited Mon and pledged more boats for flood relief efforts, the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar reported.

Russians killed in missile test blast were working on ‘new weapons’

Moscow, Russia

Russia's nuclear agency chief yesterday confirmed that five scientists killed last week were developing “new weapons” and vowed to continue testing “until the end”, despite the explosion.

The accident took place at an Arctic military facility on the coast of the White Sea on Thursday, but Russian authorities only admitted its nuclear nature on Saturday.

The blast provoked a spike in radiation levels.

US experts have said it could be linked to the testing of the

“Burevestnik” cruise missile, touted by President Vladimir Putin earlier this year.

National nuclear agency Rosatom on Monday honoured the memory of its five dead staff.

“The best (thing) for their memory will be our further work on the new weapons,” the head of Rosatom Alexei Likhachev was quoted as saying by agencies.

“We are fulfilling the task of the motherland, its security will be reliably ensured,” he added.

Russia held a memorial service for the scientists in the



During the Cold War, Sarov was a top-secret city known as Arzamas-16. The centre produced the Soviet Union’s first nuclear weapons. It is still a closed city accessible only with special passes.

closed city of Sarov in the Nizhny Novgorod region, 500 kilometres (300 miles) east of Moscow.

Rosatom has said the accident occurred while a missile was being tested on an offshore platform in the far northern Arkhangelsk region.

Fuel exploded and the blast blew staff into the sea, it said.

The nearby city of Severodvinsk recorded elevated radiation levels following the accident and panicked residents rushed to buy iodine to counteract radiation.

French police shoot dead homeless man after knife threat

Nice, France

office in the nearby city of Nice said.

A French policeman shot and killed a homeless Belgian man in the southern town of Menton after the man, who had tried to slit his wrists, lunged at an officer with a knife, investigators said.

The incident took place in a public park on Sunday evening. Bystanders called the emergency services when they saw the man, who was in his fifties, trying to kill himself.

He had already made cuts in the veins of both arms as well as his throat and the back of his ankles when the police arrived on the scene, the prosecutor’s

The police tried in vain to get him to drop his knife.

When they failed, they tried to immobilise him with a stun gun but the man lunged at an officer with his knife, according to the prosecutor’s office.

The officer’s colleague then “used his service weapon and fired twice”, killing the man, the investigators said, adding that the emergency services, who were at the scene, tried but failed to revive the victim.

Police in Nice are investigating the incident as is the national police oversight body, the IPGN.

Singapore to ban sale of elephant ivory from 2021

Singapore, Singapore

Singapore said yesterday it will impose a blanket ban on the domestic sale of elephant ivory and products from 2021 as the government tightens its campaign against illegal wildlife trade.

The announcement on World Elephant Day followed two years of consultations with non-government groups, ivory retailers and the public.

Over 5,000 protesters at Hong Kong airport: police

Hong Kong, China

More than 5,000 protesters gathered at Hong Kong airport yesterday, police said, as authorities cancelled all the day’s remaining flights in and out of the busy international transport hub.

“The information I got before we came in was that in the airport passenger terminal building there are over 5,000 protesters,” said Kong Wing-cheung, senior superintendent of the police public relations branch, at a press conference.

Norway mosque terror attack suspect in court

Oslo, Norway

A Norwegian man suspected of killing his stepsister and opening fire at a mosque near Oslo at the weekend appeared at a court detention hearing beaten and bruised but smiling on Monday, accused of murder and a terrorist act.

The man, identified as 21-year old Philip Manshaus, appeared in the Oslo court with two black eyes and scrapes and bruises on his face, neck and hands, probably obtained when he was overpowered at the mosque.

Police say he has “extreme right views” and “xenophobic positions”. The Norway incident comes amid a rise in white supremacy attacks around the world.

Manshaus is formally suspected of murder in the death of his 17-year-old stepsister, and of a “terrorist act” at the Al-Noor mosque on Saturday, allegations he has rejected.

In Norway, being formally named as a suspect is a step prior to indictment.

Manshaus entered the courtroom smiling to cameras, wearing dark clothes and his hair



Terror suspected Philip Manshaus attends a hearing at an Oslo courthouse in Norway

cut short.

Police asked the court to detain the suspect in custody in isolation for four weeks. The judge was expected to announce a decision later Monday.

Manshaus meanwhile asked to be released, his lawyer Unni Fries said after the hearing.

“He rejects the allegations and exercises his right to not

explain himself,” she said.

‘Pretty vague’ past tip

Manshaus is accused of entering the mosque in the affluent Oslo suburb of Baerum armed with at least two weapons and opening fire before being overpowered by a 65-year-old man who suffered minor injuries. Three worshippers were present in the mosque.

Hours after the attack, the body of a young woman was found in a home in Baerum and police on Sunday confirmed it was Manshaus’s 17-year-old stepsister.

According to local media, she was of Chinese origin and had been adopted by the companion of Manshaus’s father.

On Monday, Norway’s domestic intelligence service PST said it had received a tip “about a year ago” about Manshaus, but that they chose not to act on it.

“The tip was pretty vague and was not indicative of any imminent terrorism plot,” PST chief Hans Sverre Sjøvold told reporters.

PST, which said it receives a large number of similar tips, has not raised the threat alert level in Norway from the current low level.

Biden calls for assault weapons ban, buyback programme

Washington, United States



Democratic presidential hopeful former Vice President Joe Biden

Former vice president Joe Biden, the frontrunner for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination, called yesterday for reinstating a ban on assault weapons and including a buyback programme to get them off the streets.

In a column in *The New York Times*, Biden also called for stricter background checks for gun buyers and greater use of “smart-gun technology” that allows a weapon only to be fired by its authorized owner.

“We have a huge problem with guns,” Biden said in the article published about a week after mass shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, left 31 people dead.

Biden said that if he wins the 2020 presidential election, he

would seek to reimpose a 1994 ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

The 1994 law that banned assault weapons expired in 2004. Biden said that besides stricter background checks for gun buyers he would “accelerate the development and deployment of smart-gun technology... so that guns are keyed to the individual biometrics of authorized owners.”

US to deny citizenship to immigrants who use public benefits

Washington, United States

The administration of US President Donald Trump announced yesterday new rules that aim to deny permanent residency and citizenship to migrants who receive food stamps, Medicaid and other public welfare.

The new rules threatened to set back the citizenship hopes of millions of mostly Hispanic

migrants who work for low wages and depend in part on public services to get by.

It also appeared to close the door for impoverished and low-skilled migrants outside the country hoping to legally obtain a foothold in the United States.

White House said migrants will be blocked from entering the country if they are likely to need public assistance.

Chinese Muslims celebrate annual Corban festival

Xinhua | Urumqi

Millions of Muslims celebrates the annual Eid al-Adha, known in China as Corban Festival, one of Islam’s most important holidays on Sunday.

On Sunday morning, people gathered for Shaman dance on the square in front of the Id Kah Mosque in Kashgar, northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, after morning prayers. The cheerful music and sounds of rhythmic drums attracted many tourists to join in the celebration.

It’s the peak season for the local tourism industry in the summer. The Grand Bazaar in the regional capital Urumqi is packed with visitors who came to select local specialties as souvenirs, while children are attracted by the traditional music instrument called dutar on the street.



Tourists and local residents dance to music during Corban Festival celebrations in Kashgar, northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The Corban Festival, also known as Eid al-Adha or the feast of the sacrifice, falls on Sunday.

Mohammadtuersun Wuji runs a decades-old snack bar in the Grand Bazaar. The daily turn-

over of his shop has exceeded 10,000 yuan (about 1,416 U.S. dollars) recently.

“I used to think that to earn 10,000 yuan was a long way off, but now it happens every single day. I heard that the daily average number of tourists in the Grand Bazaar has reached 100,000. I need to prepare more ingredients, or the supply won’t meet the growing demand,” he said.

Many villages in southern Xinjiang also held performances, including traditional folk songs and dances as well as tightrope walking, also known as Dawazi in Xinjiang, for the local residents.

“Thanks to the great performers, I can enjoy the wonderful show at home,” said Aymraguri, a local villager.

Railway authorities in the region increased the number of trains to meet public demand during the festival. A total of

157 trains will be added so that transportation will be easier for people of various ethnicities.

During Corban Festival, people slay livestock to share with their family or visit relatives and friends to send best wishes.

In northwest China’s Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, home to over 2.5 million Muslims, Ma Chongli, 66, an ethnic Hui, works as a custodian in a mosque in Yinchuan, the regional capital. He got up at around 4:30 a.m. on Sunday to prepare for the mosque’s prayer ritual.

Muslims shook hands and wished each other well during the ritual. After the prayers, some rushed to home to prepare the feast, while others visited markets around the mosque, buying deserts and fruit.

Ma also prepared a cow at home. Beef will be a must-have

dish and gift when he spends the next three days with his family and friends.

“Every festival, we will set up two tables for dinner. Sometimes, about 15 people will come to have dinner with us and each will be served with a bowl of stewed beef. We will eat and chat at nights. It’s such a great fun,” he said.

The festival is also celebrated by Muslims in other northwestern provinces such as Gansu, Qinghai and Shaanxi.

China has more than 20 million Muslims living in various regions.

“As people’s living standards have been greatly improved in the country, we have enough to eat and more choices during the festival, making the holiday even more colorful and interesting,” Ma said.

White nationalism and gun violence are two sides of the same coin

The right of a people to bear arms should not be more important than the right to live in peace

ADAM JEFFERS

As US President Donald Trump flew into Ohio and Texas this week, protesters lined the streets outside the venues where he was meeting survivors and families of victims of two shootings that claimed 31 lives in less than 24 hours.

Many held placards condemning his rhetoric for fuelling the hate behind the attacks and his failure to introduce better gun controls. One sign in Dayton simply read: “You are why.”

These demonstrators have been joined by a phalanx of politicians and public officials in a chorus growing ever louder over these twin evils in American society. For while the US has long wrangled over gun ownership laws, the shootings have brought into sharp focus the nation’s failure to tackle white supremacy.

The 21-year-old white male accused of killing 22 people in a Walmart supermarket in El Paso on the Mexican border allegedly wrote a manifesto filled with white supremacist language and hate aimed at the Hispanic community. Meanwhile the alleged perpetrator of the nine fatalities in Dayton, Ohio, a 24-year-old white male, was reportedly obsessed with violent ideologies.

Yet even as Mr Trump called for the country to “condemn racism, bigotry and white supremacy” in the wake of the attacks, he

followed that by saying: “Mental illness and hatred pull the trigger. Not the gun”, drawing condemnation from mental health experts and accusations that he was making excuses for violent criminal behaviour, without any psychiatric evidence to back them up. And instead of supporting gun control measures proposed by Congress, he has instead suggested reforms of mental health laws and blamed video games for glorifying violence.

Mass shootings threaten to turn the country into a 21st century powder keg. In the past few months, the nation has been shaken to its core by gun massacres from Sebring, Florida, to Gilroy, California, bringing the total number of mass shootings in the country to more than one per day. The last time mass shootings reached such a frequency was 2016, which saw 382 incidents.

Gun ownership is enshrined in the Constitution, a legacy rooted in the very foundations of the US.

Gun violence dates back to the Civil War; one of the founding fathers of the nation, Alexander Hamilton, was himself killed in a duel to the death with his political rival Aaron Burr in 1804. Texas law today still permits the open carrying of a handgun and allows two individuals to go toe-to-toe and settle their differences in a street fight. Since the violence and exploitation of the natives who first inhabited



People hold a candlelight vigil for victims of the terrorist attack at El Paso in Texas.

American soil, one might question whether our motto should actually be “in guns we trust”.

As the nation and the world watch the growing number of mass shootings with alarm,

Foreign powers will keep vying for dominance

CON COUGHLIN

The most challenging part of the US-led coalition’s involvement in the Syrian conflict was supposed to be the military campaign to defeat ISIS’s so-called caliphate. Instead, now that ISIS has been defeated and the caliphate no longer exists, dealing with the many issues that have arisen in the aftermath of its demise is proving to be no less difficult.

For, as Syria’s bitter civil war nears its endgame, with regime forces attempting to defeat the last remaining pockets of rebel resistance in Idlib province, the country is now becoming a battlefield in a wider struggle between rival powers, one that could lead to significant changes to the global landscape.

At the heart of this powerplay lies Washington’s determination to ensure the protection of pro-Western groups, such as the predominantly Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which did the lion’s share of the fighting against the caliphate. To this end, Washington is trying to set up a “buffer zone” that will afford protection to the Kurdish border region between Turkey and regime-controlled Syria.

The American initiative, though, is being challenged by Ankara, which remains deeply suspicious of any arrangement that allows the Kurds to run their own affairs, as well as by Bashar Al Assad’s regime, which remains determined to reclaim control of the entire country.

Tensions over the Kurds’ predicament came to the fore this week when Mark Esper, the new



The US is wary of making the same mistakes in Syria as it did in Iraq more than a decade ago.

US defence secretary, issued a blunt warning against any attempt by Turkey to launch a military incursion against Turkish-held areas. He told Ankara that any such move would be “unacceptable”, and that the US would resist any Turkish invasion of northern Syria.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has warned repeatedly that his country is preparing for a military offensive in Syria against the People’s Protection Units, the Kurdish militia known as the YPG, which has received US backing as the main Kurdish

element in the SDF.

The prospect of a direct confrontation between the US and Turkey has been averted after the two sides agreed to establish a joint operations centre to coordinate the running of a buffer zone for the Kurds in north-eastern Syria.

Yet, significant differences remain about the size and administration of the zone, with the Turks continuing to insist that it should be 32 kilometres deep in order to address their security concerns, while the Americans believe it should be no larger than

12km. Nor has any agreement been reached on how security is to be maintained in the proposed area, which will also be used as a “peace corridor” to allow displaced Syrians to return to their country.

The US is opposed to Turkey having responsibility for the zone because of fears they will use their military presence to confront the Kurds. But Washington has made little progress with its diplomatic efforts to persuade European and other international partners to take on the mission – yet another shameful example

of the Europeans trying to wash their hands of their involvement in the conflict.

The situation on the ground is further complicated by the double standards Turkey has demonstrated through its dealings with both Moscow and Washington in recent weeks.

Despite the Trump administration’s anger over Ankara’s recent deal with Moscow to buy S-400 anti-aircraft missile systems, which raises some serious questions about Turkey’s continued membership of the Nato alliance, the US relies heavily on the use

While the war against ISIS has been won, the struggle for post-conflict Syria is set to continue for some time to come

1961

Cold War: East Germany closes the border between the eastern and western sectors of Berlin.

1964

Peter Allen and Gwynne Evans are hanged for the Murder of John Alan West.

1967

Two young women became the first fatal victims of grizzly bear attacks.



1968

Alexandros Panagoulis attempts to assassinate **Georgios Papadopoulos**.



Americans are looking to leadership for answers on how to keep our country safe. Yet those

answers are in short supply. The president has called on government agencies to work

together and identify individuals who might commit violent acts. He has also called for legisla-

Gun violence dates back to the Civil War; one of the founding fathers of the nation, Alexander Hamilton, was himself killed in a duel to the death with his political rival Aaron Burr in 1804.

tion allowing law enforcement to take weapons from individuals thought to be a threat to themselves or others. Some might argue that should start with law enforcement officers themselves disarming.

Most would agree that anyone with a mental illness or a record of hatred, racism or bigotry should not be in possession of a firearm. However, as the shooting of unarmed black men such as Oscar Grant, Stephon Clark, Botham Jean, Jamar Clark and Emantic Bradford Junior, among others, shows, many law enforcement officers are themselves guilty of racial bias – yet the criminal justice system leans towards protecting them rather than their victims, even in cases of extreme violations with video evidence. Giving more authority to police

officers would only serve to intensify those elements of racism and corruption among the ranks of officials and further empower the white nationalist agenda.

And as the statistics show, those who are feared most are rarely those who pose the greatest threat. Last month, FBI director Christopher Wray revealed the majority of investigations into domestic terrorism – by home-grown, radicalised extremists – involved some form of white supremacy. Earlier this year, FBI officials said they were looking into about 850 cases of domestic terrorism posing a “serious and persistent threat”.

Presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg recently challenged Americans to think critically and to acknowledge that “this is terrorism and it needs to be named as such”. Mr Obama also urged Americans to reject language from any leaders that feeds hatred or normalises racism.

What is most tragic about the events that have been unfolding over the last few years is that it appears the right of a people to bear arms is more important than the right to live in peace. We might not be able to eliminate hatred and racism completely from society but we can show good moral character, strong leadership and treat all people with the same level of honour, dignity and respect that we expect for ourselves.

CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

A practical approach needed to tackle gun violence



I believe that to make any progress on gun control, we must concede that guns aren't going to disappear from this country or its culture at any time in the foreseeable future, and that we must take little steps before we can take big ones.

The shooter in South Florida is reported to have used an AR-15 style rifle. For those like me who know very little about military-grade weaponry, an AR-15 is a high-powered, semi-automatic rifle that supports magazine sizes ranging from 5 to 30 rounds. In my opinion, weapons like the AR-15, especially those with high-capacity magazines, are primarily designed to take human life as quickly and

efficiently as possible.

I don't believe that either of the two major motivations for individual gun ownership – self-defence and hunting/recreation – merit owning such a weapon. You may argue that not being able to acquire this kind of rifle would not have deterred the gunman, that he would have used a pistol or hunting rifle instead.

Maybe yes, and maybe no, but I would argue that in any case many fewer lives would have been lost given the less aggressive capabilities of his chosen weapon. If this seems a bit pedantic – “If there's still going to be a mass shooting, do numbers really matter?” – consider the victims and their families.

Every victim has a story, hopes and dreams, a family and friends; I often wonder how many of those opposed to this kind of gun control have a personal connection to someone victimised by a mass shooting (my guess would be not many).

If even one life is saved or shooting prevented by curbing the availability of weapons like the AR-15 that seem to have no purpose outside of ending multiple lives at once, legislative steps should be taken.

Simple steps include limiting available magazine sizes, more closely regulating the sale and ownership of particularly dangerous weapons and built-in biometric security mechanisms.

J Thomas

ance in Syria

Allowing ISIS to reform would be similar to what happened in Iraq a decade ago when, after the US-led coalition succeeded in defeating the Al Qaeda-led insurgency.

responsibility for their citizens and bring them to trial in their home countries – which is how the US is dealing with captured American fighters – the Europeans are refusing to cooperate, effectively abandoning the fighters to a judicial no-man's land.

American officials are seriously concerned that, if the issue is not resolved soon, it could result in many of the fighters being freed and returning to ISIS's ranks. Such a possibility cannot be overlooked as the SDF have said they do not have the resources to keep the ISIS detainees indefinitely, and security officials have warned that ISIS is already in the process of regrouping in Syria and has an estimated \$300 million to spend on launching a new wave of terror attacks.

Allowing ISIS to reform would be similar to what happened in Iraq a decade ago when, after the US-led coalition succeeded in defeating the Al Qaeda-led insurgency. It subsequently allowed Islamist militants to regroup, which ultimately resulted with the creation of the caliphate.

“We made this mistake in Iraq, and we must not make the same mistake again in Syria,” a senior US official told me recently.

The US administration is certainly losing patience with the Europeans' disinclination to accept responsibility for dealing with the captured fighters, with President Donald Trump threatening last week to forcibly repatriate them to Europe unless there was a change of policy. All of which suggests that, while the war against the caliphate has been won, the struggle for post-conflict Syria is set to continue for some time to come.

of Turkish military bases to continue prosecuting the campaign against ISIS remnants.

Add to this complicated picture the interests of countries like Iran, which aims to use its presence in Syria to increase its ability to confront Israel, and it is clear that post-caliphate Syria remains every bit as challenging as it was when ISIS was administering its barbaric regime.

The wrangling between Washington and Ankara over the administration of a Kurdish buffer zone also risks overshadowing another vital issue that needs urgent attention, namely what is to be done with the hundreds of foreign fighters that have been captured during the final assault on ISIS, the majority of whom are still being held in Kurdish-run detention camps.

An estimated 800 foreign fighters from countries like Britain, France, Germany and the Netherlands are currently being held by Kurdish forces. But despite urgent appeals from Washington for European governments to take



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Seeing how negative emotions lead to negative consequences can help us overcome them. Just as we can learn how helpful love and compassion can be, we can come to understand that anger, pride, jealousy and arrogance can be detrimental. We need to use reason and human intelligence.

@DalaiLama

02



I spent a lot of time hanging out with, parenting or just listening to teen boys over the past week and it was pretty great. They were thoughtful, self-aware, kind, intelligent and exactly the kind of people we're going to need the world to be full of in the coming decades.

@mims

03



Relieved to learn that for a third day in a row, my university contemporary & friend @arunjaitley's health condition is reported by AIIMS to be stable. I wish him a speedy & complete recovery & look forward to crossing political swords with him again!

@ShashiTharoor

04



Many incredible things are happening right now for our Country. After years of being ripped off by other nations on both Trade Deals and the Military, things are changing fast. Big progress is being made. America is respected again. KEEP AMERICA GREAT!

@realDonaldTrump

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

business

Aramco posts H1 net income of \$46.9bn

● Saudi Arabia plans to sell up to five percent of the world's largest energy firm

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi energy giant Aramco said yesterday its first half net income for 2019 slipped nearly 12 per cent to \$46.9 billion, in a first such disclosure.

The revenue drop amid lower crude prices was reported as speculation swirled that the company was preparing for its much-delayed overseas stock listing, dubbed potentially the world's biggest.

The news also coincided with an announcement by India's Reliance that it had agreed to sell a 20-per cent stake in its oil and chemicals business -- worth \$15 billion -- to Aramco, a deal that would potentially boost the Saudi giant's valuation ahead of an IPO.

Reporting its revenue, Aramco said in a statement: "The company's net income was \$46.9 billion for the first half (of) 2019,

Despite lower oil prices during the first half of 2019, we continued to deliver solid earnings and strong free cash flow underpinned by our consistent operational performance, cost management and fiscal discipline

AMIN NASSER, ARAMCO CEO



compared to \$53.0 billion for the same period last year."

The company is slated to hold its first-ever earnings call later on Monday, giving investors a chance to discuss the results with Aramco's management in another step towards greater transparency.

"Despite lower oil prices during the first half of 2019, we continued to deliver solid earnings and strong free cash flow underpinned by our consistent operational performance, cost management and fiscal discipline," Aramco CEO Amin Nasser was quoted as saying in the statement.

Analysts say record demand for a \$12-billion debut international bond launched this year has propelled the world's top oil exporter to speed up efforts to float the company.

But yesterday's statement made no mention of the planned initial public offering.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has previously said the IPO -- which could potentially be the world's biggest stock sale -- would take place in late 2020 or early 2021.

Saudi Arabia plans to sell up to five percent of the world's largest energy firm and hopes to raise up to \$100 billion based on a \$2 trillion valuation of the company.

Failure to reach a \$2 trillion val-

India's Reliance to sell \$15bn stake in refining unit to Saudi Aramco

Mumbai, India

The head of India's Reliance said yesterday it has agreed to sell a 20-per cent stake in its oil refinery and chemical unit to Saudi Aramco in a deal worth \$15 billion.

"This is the biggest foreign investment in the history of Reliance and also amongst the largest foreign investments ever in India," India's richest man Mukesh Ambani said at the company's annual general meeting in Mumbai.

The preliminary deal is based on a valuation of \$75 billion for Reliance's Oil to Chemicals (O2C) division comprising the refining, petrochemicals and



India's richest man and oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani (R) along with his wife Nita Ambani (L) pose as they arrive for the company's 42nd AGM in Mumbai

Reliance statement.

The agreement also includes Saudi Aramco supplying 500,000 barrels of oil a day to Reliance's Jamnagar refinery, the world's largest, which to date has processed some 2 billion barrels of Saudi crude.

"This signifies perfect synergy between the world's largest oil producer and the world's largest integrated refinery and petrochemicals complex," Ambani told Reliance shareholders.

"Now we have transformed our longstanding relationship of two decades, based on mutual trust, into a partnership of growth potential for many more years," he said.

uation as desired by Saudi rulers is widely considered the reason the IPO -- earlier scheduled for 2018 -- has been delayed.

The planned IPO forms the cornerstone of a reform programme envisaged by Prince Mohammed to wean the Saudi economy off its reliance on oil.

Saudi Arabia has not announced where the listing will be held, but London, New York and Hong Kong have all vied for

a slice of the much-touted IPO.

World's biggest profit

The petro-state has taken a number of key procedures in preparation for the IPO, including issuing a law for hydrocarbons tax, appointing a new board for Aramco and allowing an independent auditing of the kingdom's oil reserves, the crown prince said in June.

Aramco has also opened its accounts books for the first time to international ratings agencies, declared the size of its profits and transformed into a public shareholding company,

he added.

In April, Aramco revealed it made the world's biggest corporate profit last year, opening its accounts for the first time.

Aramco posted a net profit of \$111 billion in 2018 -- far higher than the combined net earnings of the five international oil majors -- and generated \$356 billion in revenues.

Aramco also dethroned Apple as the world's most profitable firm. Last year, the US tech giant posted nearly \$50 billion in net profits.



A general view shows the Saudi Aramco's (the national oil company) Al-Khuraish central oil processing facility under construction in the Saudi Arabian desert, 160 kms east of the capital Riyadh

Markets down as HK protests force airport closure

London, United Kingdom

Global stock markets dropped yesterday as escalating protests in Hong Kong forced the closure of the financial hub's airport, adding geopolitical worries to ongoing trade war tensions.

London, Frankfurt and Paris all slid into negative territory as news of the shutdown spread, having rallied at the open.

"Hong Kong has kind of been under the radar of most traders... but increasingly I feel like that this has the potential to spiral into a bigger market worry. Today's moves highlight the risks," said Neil Wilson, chief analyst at traders Markets.com.

All flights in and out of Hong Kong were cancelled late Monday after thousands of pro-democracy protesters flooded into the city's airport to denounce police violence.

Key figures around 1335 GMT

London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.4 pc at 7,227.09 points
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▼ 0.2 pc at 11,670.96
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.4 pc at 5,307.00
EURO STOXX 50:	▼ 0.3 pc at 3,325.81
New York - Dow:	▼ 0.8 pc at 26,078.58
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▼ 0.4 pc at 25,824.72 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 1.5 pc at 2,814.99 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	Closed for a public holiday
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1215 from \$1.1202 on Friday
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.2092 from \$1.2034
Euro/pound:	▼ at 92.76 pence from 93.09 pence
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 105.19 yen from 105.62 yen
Brent North Sea crude:	▲ 11 cents at \$58.64 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 29 cents at \$54.79 per barrel

The abrupt shutdown came as the Chinese government signalled its rising anger at the protesters, denouncing some of the violent demonstrations as "terrorism".

Hong Kong's main shares in-

pressure from Beijing.

The carrier's stock slumped more than four per cent after Beijing imposed new rules banning airline staff involved in the protests from flights to or over the mainland.

Taking their cue from Europe, US stock markets also opened lower, "with US-China trade tensions remaining elevated, global bond yields continuing to see pressure, while the markets await a heavy week of earnings from the retail sector and a flood of key economic reports," said analysts at Charles Schwab.

"Moreover, the exacerbated unrest in Hong Kong is garnering attention and dampening sentiment as protests continued over the weekend," they said.

On currency markets, the euro recovered versus the dollar having suffered Friday on Italian political woes.

Argentina peso plummets 14pc after Macri vote defeat

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Argentina's peso lost 14 per cent of its value against the dollar when exchange markets opened yesterday after President Mauricio Macri suffered a crushing defeat in party primaries over the weekend.

The peso opened at 53 to the dollar having closed on Friday at 46.55.

Macri called a meeting with Central Bank president Guido Sandleris before the markets opened on Monday, while putting back his morning cabinet meeting to 3:30 pm (1830 GMT.)

On Sunday, center-right, pro-business Macri was dealt a huge blow in his bid for re-election in October when he polled 15 points less than center-left Peronist candidate



Argentina's President and presidential hopeful for the Juntos por el Cambio (Together for Change) party Mauricio Macri

Alberto Fernandez.

Macri managed only 32 per cent in the party primaries that effectively acted as a nationwide pre-election opinion poll as all of the recession-hit South American country's major parties had already chosen their presidential candidates.

show



THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2 (PG)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE
OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 12.30 + 2.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 PM
OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): (ARABIC DUBBED) : 10.30 AM + 4.30 PM
CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM + 1.00 AM
CITY CENTRE (ARABIC DUBBED) : 11.00 AM + 1.15 + 3.30 + 5.45 + 8.00 + 10.15 + 12.30 MN
SEEF (II): 11.30 AM + 4.00 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM + 1.00 AM
SEEF (II):(ARABIC DUBBED) : 1.45 + 6.15 PM
WADI AL SAIL: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM
SAAR: 2.15 + 6.45 + 11.15 PM
SUDEIKIS, JOSH GAD, AWKWAFINA

THE KITCHEN (15+)(CRIME)
OASIS JUFFAIR :2.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM + 2.00 AM
OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 10.30 AM + 3.30 + 8.30 + 1.30 AM
CITY CENTRE: 10.45 AM + 1.00 + 3.15 + 5.30 + 7.45 + 10.00 PM + 12.15 MN + 2.30 AM
CITY CENTRE VIP (I): 10.45 AM + 3.45 + 8.45 + 1.45 AM
SEEF (II): 10.15 AM + 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM + 2.00 AM
WADI AL SAIL: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM + 1.30 AM
SAAR: 1.45 + 6.15 + 10.45 PM + 1.15 AM
MELISSA MCCARTHY, DOMHNALL GLEESON, TIFFANY HADDISH

WELAD RIZK 2 (15+)(ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)
OASIS JUFFAIR : 10.30 AM + 3.30 + 8.30 + 1.30 AM
CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN + 2.30 AM
SEEF (II): 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM + 2.00 AM
WADI AL SAIL: 11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 + 2.00 AM
SAAR: 12.00 + 5.15 + 10.30 PM
AHMAD EIZZ, AMR YOUSIF,

SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK (15+)(HORROR
OASIS JUFFAIR : 9.30 PM + 11.45 PM + 2.00 AM
CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM + 12.45 MN + 3.00 AM
SEEF (II): 10.45 AM + 1.00 + 3.15 + 5.30 + 10.00 PM + 12.15 MN + 2.30 AM

WADI AL SAIL: 10.45 AM + 3.30 + 8.15 + 1.00 AM
SAAR: 11.30 AM + 4.00 + 8.30 + 1.00 AM
ZOE MARGARET COLLETTI, MICHAEL GARZA, GABRIEL RUSH

JABARIYA JODI (PG-15)(HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC
OASIS JUFFAIR : 11.30 AM + 2.15 + 5.00 + 7.45 + 10.30 PM + 1.15 AM
CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 2.00 + 4.45 + 7.30 + 10.15 PM + 1.00 AM
SEEF (II): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM + 1.45 AM
WADI AL SAIL: 11.15 AM + 2.00 + 4.45 + 7.30 + 10.15 PM + 1.00 AM
SAAR: 2.30 + 7.45 + 1.00 AM
SIDHARTH MALHOTRA, PARINEETI CHOPRA, APARSHAKTI KHURANA

NIGHT HUNTER (NOMIS) (PG-15)(ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME)
SEEF (II): 2.45 + 6.45 + 10.45 PM + 2.45 AM
HENRY CAVILL, BEN KINGSLEY, ALEXANDRA DADDARIO

THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN (PG-13)(DRAMA
CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 3.00 + 7.30 + 12.00 MN
WADI AL SAIL: 2.15 + 7.00 + 11.45 PM
KEVIN COSTNER (VOICE OF ENZO THE DOG), AMANDA SEYFRIED, MILO VENTIMIGLIA

HELLO, LOVE, GOODBYE (PG-15)(FILIPINO/DRAMA
OASIS JUFFAIR : 10.00 AM + 12.30 + 3.00 + 5.30 + 10.15 PM + 12.45 MN
SEEF (II): 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM + 2.00 AM
KATHRYN BERNARDO, ALDEN RICHARDS, MAYMAY ENTRATA

THE BOAT (PG-13) (THRILLER)
SEEF (II): 4.45 + 8.45 + 12.45 MN
JOE AZZOPARDI

BRING THE SOUL: THE MOVIE (PG)(DOCUMENTARY
FROM 8th to 11th:
OASIS JUFFAIR : 8.00 PM
CITY CENTRE: 4.45 + 10.30 PM
SEEF (II): 7.45 PM

SUPERSTAR (PG-13)(URDU/ROMANTIC/DRAMA)
SEEF (II): 2.45 + 8.15 + 1.45 AM
MAHIRA KHAN, BILAL ASHRAF

PAREY HUT LOVE (PG-15)(URDU/ROMANTIC)
SEEF (II): 12.00 + 5.30 + 11.00 PM
SHEHERYAR MUNAWAR SIDDIQUI, MAYA ALI, AHMAD ALI BUTT

FAST & FURIOUS: HOBBS & SHAW (PG-15)(ACTION/THRILLER
OASIS JUFFAIR (ATMOS): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM + 1.45 AM
OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 12.45 + 5.45 + 10.45 AM
CITY CENTRE: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM + 2.00 AM + 2.45 AM
CITY CENTRE (ATMOS): 11.45 AM + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 PM + 1.30 AM
CITY CENTRE (IMAX2D): 10.00 AM + 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM + 2.30 AM
CITY CENTRE VIP (I): 1.00 + 6.00 + 11.00 PM
CITY CENTRE VIP (II): 11.00 AM + 1.45 + 4.30 + 7.15 + 10.00 PM + 12.45 MN
SEEF (I): 10.00 AM + 11.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.30 + 3.30 + 5.15 + 6.15 + 8.00 + 9.00 + 10.45 + 11.45 PM + 1.30 AM + 2.30 AM
WADI AL SAIL: 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM + 1.15 AM + 1.45 AM
SAAR: 11.00 AM + 1.45 + 4.30 + 7.15 + 10.00 PM + 12.45 MN
DWAYNE JOHNSON, JASON STATHAM, IDRIS ELBA

THE LION KING (PG)(ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)
OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 10.30 PM + 1.00 AM
OASIS JUFFAIR : 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 PM
CITY CENTRE: 10.00 AM + 12.30 + 3.00 + 5.30 + 8.00 + 10.30 PM + 1.00 AM + 2.15 AM
SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM + 1.30 AM
WADI AL SAIL: 1.00 + 5.45 + 10.30 PM
SAAR: 11.45 AM + 4.15 + 8.45 PM
DONALD GLOVER, SETH ROGEN, CHIWETEL EJIOFOR

ALADDIN (PG)(ADVENTURE)
CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 2.15 + 5.00 + 7.45 + 10.30 PM + 1.15 AM
SEEF (I): 12.45 + 5.45 + 10.45 PM
WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD

CRAWL (18+)(THRILLER/HORROR)
CITY CENTRE: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + 1.00 AM + 3.00 AM
KAYA SCODELARIO, BARRY PEPPER, ROSS ANDERSON

TOY STORY 4 (G)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 12.45 AM
SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 3.30 + 8.30 PM
TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK

SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15)(ACTION
CITY CENTRE: 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM + 1.45 AM
TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA

MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15)(ARABIC/COMEDY)
CITY CENTRE: 12.45 + 5.15 + 9.45 + 2.15 AM
MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHHAMED THARWAT

THE HUSTLE (PG-15)(COMEDY/CRIME)
CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM. + 3.45 + 8.00 + 12.15 MN

ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP

ANNABELLE COMES HOME (15+)(HORROR)
CITY CENTRE: 1.30 + 5.45 + 10.00 PM

VERA FARMIGA, MCKENNA GRACE, MADISON ISEMAN

CHAL MERA PUTT (PG-15) (PUNJABI)
OASIS JUFFAIR : 1.00 + 6.00 + 11.00 PM
SEEF (II): 12.00 + 5.15 + 10.30 PM
HAQI ALI, SIMI CHAHAL, AMRINDER GILL

SINGHAM (PG-15)(PUNJABI)
SEEF (II): 2.30 + 7.45 + 1.00 AM
SONAM BAJWA, KARTAR CHEEMA, PARMISH VERMA

THANNEER MATHAN DINANGAL (PG-13)(MALAYALAM)
OASIS JUFFAIR : 10.30 AM + 1.30 + 4.30 + 7.30 + 10.30 PM + 1.30 AM
SEEF (I): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM + 1.30 AM + 2.00 AM
AL HAMRA : 3.00 + 9.00 PM + (3.00 AM + 9.00 AM SUN/MON/TUES)
VINEETH SREENIVASAN, IRSHAD, MATHEW THOMAS

NERKONDA PAARVAI (PG-15)(TAMIL)(NEW)
OASIS JUFFAIR : 10.00 AM + 1.00 + 4.00 + 7.00 + 10.00 PM + 1.00 AM
SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 1.30 + 4.30 + 7.30 + 10.30 PM + 1.30 AM
AL HAMRA: 12.00 + 6.00 + 12.00 MN
VIDYA BALAN, AJITH KUMAR, SHRADDHA SRINATH

EVIDE (PG-15)(MALAYALAM)
FROM MONDAY 12th
SEEF (II): 10.15 AM + 12.30 NOON
ASHA SHARATH, SHEBIN BENSON, MANOJ K. JAYAN, BAIJU

MAN MADHUDU 2 ()(TELUGU)
FROM FRIDAY 09 th
OASIS JUFFAIR : 11.00 AM + 4.15 PM
SEEF (II): 10.00 AM + 1.00 PM
NAGARJUNA AKKINENI, RAKUL PREET SINGH, VENNELA KISHORE



MOVIE REVIEW

Midsommar: outrageous black-comic carnival of agony

Florence Pugh is plunged into a terrifying pagan bacchanal in the magnificent folk-horror tale

Midsommar is a 2019 folk horror film written and directed by Ari Aster and starring Florence Pugh, Jack Reynor, William Jackson Harper, Vilhelm Blomgren, and Will Poulter. It follows a group of friends who travel to Sweden for a festival that occurs once every ninety years and find themselves in the clutches of a pagan cult.

On the review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 82% based on 301 reviews, with an average rating of 7.51/10. The website's critical consensus reads, "Ambitious, impressively crafted, and above all unsettling, Midsommar further proves writer-director Ari Aster is a horror auteur to be reckoned with."

On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 73 out of 100, based on 53 critics, indicating "generally favourable reviews".

Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film a grade of "C+" on an A+ to F scale, while those at PostTrak gave it an average 3 out of 5 stars and a 50% "definite recommend."



Florence Pugh in a scene from 'Midsommar'

John DeFore of The Hollywood Reporter described the film as the "horror equivalent of a destination wedding", and "more unsettling than frightening, [but] still a trip worth taking."

Writing for Variety, Andrew Barker noted that it is "neither

the masterpiece nor the disaster that the film's most vocal viewers are bound to claim. Rather, it's an admirably strange, thematically muddled curiosity from a talented filmmaker who allows his ambitions to outpace his execution."

David Edelstein of Vulture

praised Pugh's performance as "amazingly vivid" and noted that Aster "paces Midsommar more like an opera (Wagner, not Puccini) than a scare picture," but concluded that the film "doesn't jell because its impulses are so bifurcated. It's a parable of a woman's religious



Filmmaker Ari Aster's follow-up to 'Hereditary' turns a break-up story into a funny, frightening 'Wicker Man' 2.0

awakening—that's also a woman's fantasy of revenge against a man who didn't meet her emotional needs—that's also a male director's masochistic fantasy of emasculation at the hands of a matriarchal cult."

Eric Kohn of IndieWire summarized the film as a "perverse breakup movie," adding that "Aster doesn't always sink the biggest surprises, but he excels at twisting the knife. After a de-flowering that makes Ken Russell's The Devils look tame, Aster finds his way to a startling reality check."

Time Out's Joshua Rothkopf awarded the film a 5/5 star-rating, writing, "A savage yet evolved slice of Swedish folk-horror, Ari Aster's hallucinatory follow-up to Hereditary proves him a horror director with no peer."

For The A.V. Club, A. A. Dowd stated that the film "rivals Hereditary in cruel shock department", and labeled it "B+ effort".

Writing for Inverse, Eric Francisco commented that the film feels "like a victory lap after Hereditary", and that Aster "takes his sweet time to lull viewers into his clutches... But like how the characters experience time, its passage is a vague notion." He described the film as "a sharp portrayal of gaslighting".

Richard Brody of The New Yorker said that the film "is built on such a void of insight and experience, such a void of character and relationships, that even the first level of the house of narrative cards can't stand." He added, "In the end, the subject of Midsommaris as simple as it is regressive: lucky Americans, stay home."

celebs

'I started to hate myself': Jonas Brothers reveal early bullying at Teen Choice Awards



Los Angeles

The Jonas Brothers weren't always so "Cool."

The chart-topping trio shared how hard their journey from child musicians to Teen Choice Decade Award recipients was during Sunday's broadcast.

The eldest of the musical trio, Kevin, said he was bullied in middle school because he sported frosted tips.

"I started to hate to go to school, I started to hate my hair, I started to hate myself," he recalled of the torment, revealing the crude nickname classmates called him. "And, at the same time, I went on my very first acting audition... and then they hired me because they liked my frosted tips."

"The same haircut ... was what started my actual career," the 31-year-old added, "and it's also the reason I'm standing on this stage receiving this award today."

Nick, 26, said he was also targeted in school, though his adversaries were teachers, not students. Early Broadway success earned him "a bit harsher treatment than everyone else," he said.

"And I still remember one birthday in particular," Nick continued, "I was quite young, I was very excited, as well all get on our birthdays (and) my teachers yelled at me saying, 'Stop drawing attention to yourself: I had enough self-doubt as it was, I didn't need to be told how little I really was. But if I had stopped what I was doing ... I wouldn't be here today receiving this award.'"

Taylor Swift receives Icon Award at 2019 Teen Choice Awards; announces new song!

Los Angeles

Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift received the inaugural Icon Award at the 2019 Teen Choice Awards and after accepting the honour, the artist announced a new song.

During Sunday night's award ceremony, the singer was in attendance to accept the first-ever Icon Award, which was presented to her by her friend and soccer player, Alex Morgan, reported E! News.

"Wow, okay," the "Me" singer began her acceptance speech, as she received the famous surfboard, which was decorated with cats that made her feel really "proud."

The 29-year-old singer was handed a personalised and bedazzled surfboard, decorated with the star's three cats, Olivia Benson, Meredith Grey, and Benjamin Button.

The 29-year-old singer took a moment to highlight Morgan and her team's incredible fight for equality.

"While they were winning the world cup, they were also taking a historic stand in terms of gender equality and gender pay. Please, please, please support her and her teammates because this is not over yet. It's not resolved. It's happening everywhere, and they are heroes and icons for standing up," she said.

During her acceptance speech, she also described that she's "having a proud moment" over the award and went on to thank her fans, calling them the "most amazing, generous people," before sharing words of wisdom to guide teenagers.

"I just want to talk to the fans for a second. You make me so happy, you make me laugh every day online. I love meeting you. I love loving you. You are just the most amazing, generous people. Thank you for giving me the life that I have. Every single minute of every day, I know that you are the reason I have the life I have and that I get to do what I love doing," she shared.



Lady Gaga

Lady Gaga to fund 162 classrooms following mass shootings

Los Angeles

Singer-songwriter Lady Gaga wants to help people by giving back to the communities who were devastated following the recent mass shootings.

In a statement on Facebook, the Grammy Award-winning singer announced that she will be funding 162 classrooms in Dayton, Ohio, El Paso, Texas and Gilroy, California.

"My heart goes out to those who were taken from us too soon and to their families, loved ones, and communities who are left to grieve. Everyone has the right to laws that make them feel safe in their communities," the 33-year-old star wrote.

Gaga added, "In this moment, I want to channel my confusion, frustration, and fury into hope. Hope that we are there for each other and for ourselves."

The 'Shallow' singer shared that her Born This Way Foundation is partnering with DonorsChoose, a non-profit organisation that allows people to donate directly to pub-

lic school classroom projects. Through this, she will be funding 162 classrooms in memory of those tragically killed in the mass shootings in each city.

"Today, I find hope in the work of DonorsChoose.org and I'm proud to partner with them and with Born This Way Foundation to fully fund the classroom project needs in Dayton, OH, El Paso, TX, and Gilroy, CA," she wrote.

"14 classrooms in Dayton, 125 classrooms in El Paso, and 23 classrooms in Gilroy will now have access to the support they need to inspire their students to work together and bring their dreams to life," she added.

As a long-time mental health advocate, the singer also urged her fans to take care of their mental health and look out for the people around them.

"Surviving and recovering from these tragedies also means prioritising your mental health and checking in on your loved ones. If you're struggling, please be brave and tell a trusted someone. Don't be scared to ask for help, I beg you," she urged.

'The Lion King' is unstoppable across India

Los Angeles

'The Lion King' is continuing its winning streak at the box-office! The film, which opened to decent reviews, is performing remarkably well and has crossed Rs. 150 crore mark.

The Disney remake has raked in a total of Rs. 150.09 crore in 24 days of its run at the box office. Indian film critic and trade analyst Taran Adarsh shared the box office collection on his Twitter handle.

The film, which hit theatres on July 19, garnered a decent Rs 11.06 crore on its first day, and quickly picked up the pace and emerged as one of the biggest opening Hollywood movies of all time.



The film crossed Rs. 50 crore mark in just three days, becoming the second Hollywood movie to join the club post opening weekend in 2019, the first one being 'Avengers: Endgame'.

With the screenplay written by Jeff Nathanson and songs by legends like Elton John and Time Rice, the movie is directed by Jon Favreau.

The Disney film features Donald Glover lending his voice to Simba as John Oliver dubs Zazu and Seth Rogen lends his voice to Pumbaa.

Matt Bellamy weds model Elle Evans

Los Angeles

The 'Muse' band frontman on Saturday married his long-time girlfriend and model Elle Evans. The couple announced the good news on their Instagram account.

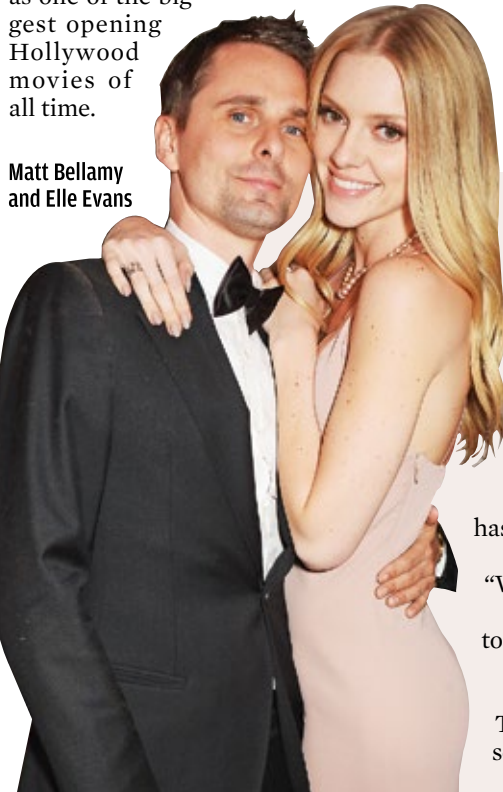
"Mr. & Mrs. Bellamy," the couple captioned their pictures of the scenic ceremony.

The pair who had announced their engagement in December 2017, after dating for almost two years, has been waiting the big day all week.

Last Wednesday, Bellamy posted a picture of the "Wedding prep" which included a trip to a hair salon. While Evans was excited to slip into her custom-made Martina Liana gown since early July.

"Still pinching myself," she wrote on social media.

Bellamy was previously engaged to Kate Hudson. The pair parted ways in 2014, and share 8-year-old son Bingham.



Matt Bellamy and Elle Evans

Liam Hemsworth seems upset post split with Miley Cyrus

Los Angeles

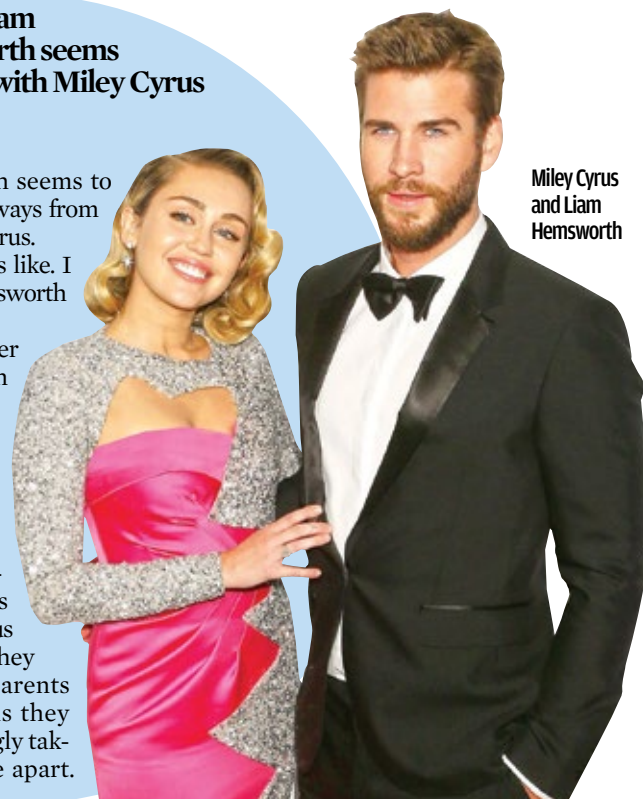
Actor Liam Hemsworth seems to be upset after parting ways from singer-actress Miley Cyrus.

"You don't understand what it's like. I don't want to talk about it mate," Hemsworth told "Daily Mail Australia".

The couple got married in December last year, but decided to separate within seven months of marriage.

Confirming the news of their split, Cyrus' representative told "US magazine" that it was a "mutual decision".

"Liam and Miley have agreed to separate at this time. Ever-evolving, changing as partners and individuals, they have decided this is what's best while they both focus on themselves and careers. They still remain dedicated parents to all of their animals they share while lovingly taking this time apart."



Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth

Janet opens up about struggles of being a working mother

Los Angeles

Singer-songwriter Janet Jackson knows how tough it can be balancing a career with being a mother and recently opened up about her own struggles of being a single working mother.

In an interview for the Daily Telegraph's Stellar magazine, the 53-year-old pop icon reflected upon the challenges of continuing to work while



Janet Jackson

raising 2-year-old son Eissa, reported People.

"It is hard being a working mother. I don't have a nanny, I do it all myself," she told the outlet.

The artist went on to share that while she has not hired anyone for help, her little boy is always looked after when she is busy with her professional commitments.

"Of course, when I'm working someone watches him, but it's my baby and me," she said.

Opening up about how much motherhood has impacted her life as well as her career, Jackson recently told The Sunday Times, as cited by People that she's "in a great space."

sports

Andreescu wins in Toronto after Serena withdraws

Serena Williams' US Open plans upended as she leaves Toronto final with back spasms

AFP | Toronto

A tearful Serena Williams saw her US Open preparation thrown into disarray Sunday as back spasms forced her out of the WTA Toronto final after just four games, handing Canadian teenager Bianca Andreescu the title.

Andreescu, 19, was up 3-1 with a break of serve when 23-time Grand Slam champion Williams decided she couldn't continue.

She called for a medical timeout, but within a minute, the umpire announced she was retiring.

"I just knew," said Williams, adding she'd undergone hours of treatment before the match to combat the back spasms she'd first felt in a semi-final win on Saturday night. "I knew I wasn't going to be able to continue."

Andreescu approached her chair, offering words of encouragement and a consolatory hug as Williams tried to fight back tears.



Serena Williams of the United States speaks with Bianca Andreescu of Canada following her withdrawal from the final match

"I'm sorry I couldn't do it today," Williams told the crowd, her voice cracking. "I tried but I just couldn't do it."

Williams said the spasms started during her come-from-behind win over Czech qualifier Marie Bouzkova on Saturday "and it just got worse."

"Just my whole back just completely spasmed, and to a point where I couldn't sleep and I couldn't really move," she said.

Nevertheless, she wanted to give it a go in the final.

"I don't want to get this far and not at least try," said the 37-year-old, who was eyeing her 73rd WTA title -- and her first since the birth of her daughter, Olympia, in September 2017.

Beaten by Simona Halep in the Wimbledon final in July, Williams was playing just her 24th match of a year already disrupted by nagging knee trouble.

Williams hasn't won a title since 2017 Australian Open.

Barcelona keeper Neto suffers wrist injury in training

AFP | Madrid

Barcelona's back-up goalkeeper Neto is a doubt for the start of the season after the club announced on Sunday he has injured his left wrist.

The required recovery time will be known yesterday but Neto is unlikely to be fit for Barca's opening La Liga game away to Athletic Bilbao on Friday.

"In the last training session, first team player Neto suffered a bruise on his left wrist," a statement read.

"The tests have diagnosed a scaphoid bone fracture. The treatment is to follow and the time the player is out for will be determined on Monday."

Neto joined Barcelona this summer from Valencia, with fellow goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen leaving Camp Nou and going the other way.

Coach Ernesto Valverde is already likely to be without Lionel Messi against Bilbao. Messi missed the friendly win over Napoli on Saturday after sustaining a calf tear in training last week.



Bale returns as Zidane stays tight-lipped on Neymar

AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid's Gareth Bale played for the first time in four pre-season matches on Sunday to suggest he could yet regain his place under coach Zinedine Zidane.

Bale came off the bench as Madrid drew 2-2 against Roma in the Stadio Olimpico, before losing the friendly on penalties.

After the game, Zidane was also asked about a possible move for Paris Saint-Germain striker Neymar but he refused to address the issue.

It was Madrid's seventh and final warm-up fixture ahead of the start of La Liga next weekend but Bale has only played three of those, and each time as a substitute.

James Rodriguez, who has also been expected to leave Madrid this summer, was not even named on the bench against



Real Madrid's Brazilian midfielder Casemiro (L) and FC Red Bull Salzburg's Norwegian forward Erling Braut Haland

Roma.

"Bale and James are players of Real Madrid," Zidane said afterwards. "Anything can happen until August 31 but we are counting on all the players."

On a potential move for Neymar, who is reportedly keen to

leave PSG and could rejoin Barcelona, Zidane said: "We are here with the squad that we have and we are only thinking about that."

Zidane had made it clear Bale was not part of his plans for a reinvigorated Real Madrid this

term and the Welshman was left out completely for their previous three friendlies against RB Salzburg, Fenerbahce and Tottenham.

But after a move to China last month fell through and the closure of the Premier League transfer window, Bale was back in the squad against Roma and came on for the last half an hour.

With the score level, he could have won it for Madrid, firing into the side-netting and then just wide in the 92nd minute after two impressive breaks forward.

It remains to be seen if Bale is now included in Zidane's squad to face Celta Vigo in Madrid's season opener on Saturday.

Their display against Roma was one of their better showings of a patchy pre-season, which has seen them register two wins, two draws and three defeats after normal time.

Atlanta's Martinez sets MLS record with goal in 10th straight match

AFP | Washington

Venezuela's Josef Martinez set a Major League Soccer record Sunday, scoring in his 10th straight match as his two goals lifted Atlanta United to a 2-1 victory over New York City FC.

Martinez, who set MLS's single-season scoring mark last year with 31 goals -- four more than the previous record of 27 shared by Roy Lassiter, Chris Wondolowski, and Bradley Wright-Phillips -- shook off an adductor muscle injury to take his season total to 20.

That's just two behind current

league scoring leader Carlos Vela.

Martinez, 26, put Atlanta up 1-0 in the 42nd minute, leaping to head in a cross from Julian Gressel.

He doubled the lead from the penalty spot in the 63rd minute. Heber pulled one back for New York with a right-footed shot past Brad Guzan in the 81st.

With 15 goals in his last 10 matches, Martinez has helped Atlanta keep pace in the MLS Eastern Conference with Philadelphia, who remained in first place after defeating Houston 2-1 on Sunday.

'It wasn't a 4-0 game': Lampard frustrated by defeat

AFP | Manchester

Frank Lampard insisted Chelsea didn't deserve to lose 4-0 at Manchester United as his reign got off to a woeful start on Sunday.

It was a chastening result for new Chelsea manager Lampard after the club's record goalscorer took over from Maurizio Sarri in the close-season.

Lampard suffered the heaviest defeat by a Chelsea boss in

their first game since Danny Blanchflower lost 7-2 at Middlesbrough in December 1978.

Marcus Rashford put United ahead with a penalty after Chelsea had hit the post through Tammy Abraham.

Emerson also struck the woodwork before the interval, but Rashford, Anthony Martial and Daniel James netted after half-time to leave Lampard frustrated.

The manner of Chelsea's sec-

ond half surrender will raise questions about former England midfielder Lampard, who has just one season of managerial experience at second tier Derby.

But he insisted the result was harsh on Chelsea because they controlled the game for long periods.

"Four mistakes for the goals, let's get that out straight away because we have to be self-critical about that," Lampard said.

"But other than that, for 60

minutes we controlled the game. It wasn't a 4-0 game for long periods but we need to accept it.

"At half-time we should be in the lead. Then all of a sudden the second and third goals, two mistakes, and it's much easier for them."

Chelsea were without injured stars Callum Hudson-Odoi and Antonio Rudiger, while France midfielder N'Golo Kante was only fit enough to come off the bench.

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Nadal retains Montreal title

Rafael Nadal dominates Medvedev in Montreal for 35th Masters title

● Spaniard wins third tour-level title of the season

AFP | Montreal

Rafael Nadal completed a 6-3, 6-0 demolition of Russian Daniil Medvedev to win in Montreal on Sunday and extend his record haul of Masters 1000 titles.

The world number two secured his 35th Masters crown, pulling clear by two in that category from Novak Djokovic, who has won 33 of the elite tournaments.

Claycourt king Nadal successfully defended a hard court title for the first time in his career.

"It was important to start the match in a good shape," the 18-time Grand Slam winner said.

"He came in playing so well, playing a lot of matches the last weeks," Nadal added of Medvedev, who was runner-up to Nick Kyrgios in Washington last week.

Nadal, in contrast, had played just three hard court matches



Rafael Nadal of Spain hits a return against Daniil Medvedev of Russia

since starting his build up to the US Open this week -- reaching the final on a walkover when

injured Gael Monfils pulled out of their scheduled semi-final. "I played a solid match, my

best of the week so far without a doubt," Nadal said. "I did a lot of things well: changing direc-



For Nadal it was a third title of 2019, after clay court success at Rome and the French Open

tions, changing rhythm during the point. The slice worked well this afternoon.

"I think I played smart, I had a good feeling on the ball."

With all that going for him, Nadal needed just 70 minutes to subdue Medvedev, breaking the Russian four times.

Hours later Nadal said he would skip the Cincinnati Masters which started -yesterday, where he was seeded second behind Djokovic and ahead of Roger Federer.

"No other reason than personally taking care of my body and trying to keep as healthy as I feel now," he said in a Facebook post.

'Incredible' Rafa

The top seed, who now owns five Canadian title dating to 2005, swept the last seven games in the hardcourt blowout against his 23-year-old Russian opponent -- who had never played Nadal before.

"I've played Roger (Federer) two times, Novak (Djokovic) four times," Medvedev said.

"I knew how it was going to be, I was kind of ready for it. But I didn't manage to probably show my best tennis. Rafa was incredible today. Congrats to him."

Despite the lopsided defeat, Medvedev was pleased with his time in Toronto.

"I believe this was the best week ever," said Medvedev, who will move up to a career high of eighth in the world on Monday, making him the highest-ranked Russian. "My level during all the matches was extremely good."

"I would have liked to do better today, but it happens. I will take experience from this match and try to do better next time."

Kohli hits 42nd ton as India defeat West Indies

AFP | Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Indian captain Virat Kohli ended a run of 10 matches without a century Sunday, setting the platform for his team's 59-run (DLS) victory over the West Indies in a rain-hit second One-Day International at Queen's Park Oval.

Kohli went a long way towards justifying his decision to bat first with a typically assertive innings of 120 off 125 deliveries, with 14 fours and four sixes adorning his 42nd ODI hundred as India totalled 279 for seven.

Set a revised target of 270 off 46 overs when rain interrupted play during their chase, West Indies were on course at 179 for four in the 35th over but then crashed to 210 all out with four overs to spare as seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar triggered the slide with figures of four for 31.

Kumar's first wicket was near the start of the innings when he removed Chris Gayle, the hard-hitting opener falling for just 11 although it was enough to take him past Brian Lara for the most runs in ODI cricket by a West Indian, a record which now stands at 10,409.

It was also Gayle's 300th ODI, making him the first West Indian to reach that landmark.

Following a no-result from the rain-ruined first ODI in Guyana three days earlier,



Virat Kohli of India runs the wickets

India will defend an unassailable 1-0 lead going into the final match, also at Queen's Park Oval, on Wednesday.

Man of the Match Kohli received excellent support from Shreyas Iyer who contributed 71 and featured in a 125-run fourth-wicket stand with his skipper.

As their partnership progressed through the middle overs of the innings a total closer to the 300-run mark seemed inevitable.

However Kohli's dismissal to Carlos Brathwaite in the 42nd over triggered a mini-collapse and the West Indies

retained their discipline through the final overs in conceding 67 runs over the last 10.

Brathwaite was the most successful of the bowlers, finishing with figures of three for 53 off 10 overs.

"It was a good outing with the bat," was Kohli's understated reaction to his chanceless innings. "You saw exactly why we wanted to bat first given the way the West Indies struggled in the latter half of their innings. It would have been even worse but for the rain during their innings."

Sheldon Cottrell got the West Indies off to an excellent start when he trapped Sharma's opening partner, Shikhar Dhawan, leg-before in his first over, a decision determined by the television official after on-field umpire Nigel Llong turned down the initial appeal.

Kohli's eighth ODI hundred against the West Indies and second in succession in the Caribbean underlined both his supreme class and ravenous appetite for runs.

At no time in his innings was he troubled and it was only with his demise, followed closely by Iyer being bowled round his legs by West Indies captain Jason Holder, which eased the mounting pressure on the home side.

Decisive slide

With the early loss of Gayle and then Shai Hope, West Indies relied on Evin Lewis to keep them in the hunt for the challenging target.

Despite wrenching an ankle and needing treatment on the field, the opening batsman kept his team up with the required rate in topscoring with 65.

However left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav dismissed the aggressive Shimron Hetmyer and then Lewis to tilt the balance in favour of India.

Perisic on verge of Bayern loan move

AFP | Berlin

Inter Milan and Croatia twinger Ivan Perisic has confirmed that he is on the verge of a move to Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich, according to reports in German media.

Perisic was spotted in Munich yesterday morning, and reportedly told Bild newspaper that he had undergone a medical check.

According to Bild, Bayern will pay a loan fee of five million Euros (\$5.6m) for the 2018 World Cup finalist, with the option to buy him outright for around 20 million Euros at the end of the season.

Perisic's current contract at Inter runs until 2022, but he is reportedly set to play less of a role under new coach Antonio Conte.

At Bayern, he will provide much-needed reinforcement on the wing following the departure of club icons Arjen Robben and Franck Ribery at the end of last season.

The German giants had initially targeted Leroy Sane, but turned their attentions to Perisic after the Manchester City winger was confirmed to have torn his anterior cruciate ligament last week, potentially ruling him out until early 2020.



Ivan Perisic

Emery impressed by Arsenal's gritty win over Newcastle

AFP | Newcastle

Unai Emery saluted Arsenal's gritty 1-0 win at Newcastle on Sunday as the Gunners erased the painful memories of last season's away-day woes.

Emery's side did not record their first Premier League clean sheet on their travels until April last term and managed only one in the top flight all season.

That wretched run played a key role in Arsenal's failure to finish in the top four.

But Emery has worked hard to overhaul Arsenal at the start

of his second season in charge, with a host of new signings and a more determined mentality fuelling the north Londoners' solid effort at St James' Park on Sunday.

While they were only sporadically effective in attack, they remained organised enough at the back to keep Newcastle at bay until Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang fired the second-half winner.

New boys Dani Ceballos, Nicolas Pepe and Gabriel Martinelli were introduced from the bench to add more optimism for



Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang celebrates his winning goal in typically acrobatic fashion

Arsenal fans.

Defensive lapse

Meanwhile, Newcastle manager Steve Bruce was left to rue a key defensive lapse in his first match in charge of the club he supported as a boy.

The 58-year-old could only look on as full-back Ainsley Maitland-Niles intercepted Paul Dummett's attempted pass to substitute Jetro Willems before feeding Aubameyang.

"That's big disappointment for us all, to lose it in the way we did," Bruce said.