

Murray rates comeback 'OK' despite defeat

Three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray said he "did OK" in his first singles match in seven months - a 6-4, 6-4 loss to Richard Gasquet at the Cincinnati Masters on Monday. **P12**

THE DAILY **tribune**



Hailey, Justin Bieber planning fall wedding

10 CELEBS

WORLD

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Over 200 dead in rain havoc

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Normal operations resume at BIA

Manama

The Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) announced that it had resumed its normal operations at the Bahrain International Airport (BIA), following the closure of the runway due to an oil leak from a plane, which arrived yesterday evening.

The runway was closed for around an hour, starting 04.27 pm in a precautionary measure for the safety of passengers, the BAC said in a statement issued last night.

Five flights were diverted to Dammam Airport and another to Kuwait International Airport.

The Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) announced that it had taken all necessary and required measures in such cases to remove the leaked oil from the runway and ensure safe plane landing and take-off.

Pakistani president congratulated

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent a cable of congratulations to President Arif Alvi of Pakistan on his country's National Day.

HM the King extended deepest congratulations to President Alvi, wishing him abundant health and happiness and the brotherly people of Pakistan further progress and prosperity.

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier also sent congratulatory cables to President Arif Alvi.

Airport mayhem



Police and protesters clashed at Hong Kong's international airport yesterday after flights were disrupted for a second day as the political crisis in the former British colony deepened. Thousands of black-clad protesters jammed the terminal chanting, singing and waving banners. Scuffles broke out in the evening after an injured man was held by a group of protesters. Medics, however, bundled him onto a stretcher and forced their way through jeering throngs to an ambulance. Several police vehicles were blocked by protesters and riot police moved in amid chaotic scenes, using pepper spray to keep people back.

Clashes kill nearly 60 Syrian fighters

Beirut

Clashes between regime loyalists and insurgents in rebel-held northwest Syria killed 59 combatants yesterday, a war monitor said.

Hayat Tahrir Al Sham (HTS), an extremist group led by Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate, has since January controlled most of Idlib province as well as parts of neighbouring Hama, Aleppo and Latakia provinces.

Several other armed rebel groups also operate in the region.

Fighting in southern Idlib and rural Latakia on Tuesday claimed the lives of 29 pro-government forces as well as 30 extremists and allied rebels, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

It came as regime warplanes pummelled the Idlib region with air strikes, killing three civilians in the town of Khan Sheikhoun, the Britain-based monitor added.

Iran claims denied

Gibraltar denies claims over releasing seized tanker Grace 1 as deadline looms

● Its Supreme Court ruled last month to extend its detention for a further 30 days.

● The 30-day deadline expires on Thursday and the court will have to decide whether or not to release the tanker.

London

The fate of the detained Iranian tanker Grace 1 in Gibraltar is to be decided as authorities prepare to head back to court on Thursday.

Six weeks ago, UK marines seized the vessel as it travelled through the Strait of Gibraltar. There were suspicions that it was taking oil to Syria in breach of EU sanctions.

Grace 1's detention led to reciprocal seizures by Iran and a diplomatic war of words in which the UK being has been accused of "piracy".

On Tuesday, Iran announced that the tanker was due to be released imminently but that was quickly denied by Gibraltar.

Its Supreme Court ruled last month to extend its detention for a further 30 days. The tanker had initially been held for 14 days.

The 30-day deadline expires on Thursday and the court will have to decide whether or not to release the tanker. It only has the power to hold it for 60 more days, until mid-October.

The deputy head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organisation, Jalil Eslami, told state news agency Irna on Tuesday that Britain was thinking of freeing the Grace 1 after an exchange of documents.

"The vessel was seized based on false allegations," Mr Eslami said. "We hope the release will



Gibraltar defence police officers guard the Iranian oil tanker Grace 1 as it sits anchored off the coast of the British Mediterranean territory.

“The investigations being conducted around the Grace 1 are a matter for the government of Gibraltar.”

GIBRALTAR SPOKESPERSON

take place soon.”

Iran's semi-official Fars news agency later quoted unidentified Gibraltar authorities as saying it would be free by Tuesday night.

A senior Gibraltar government source said that was not correct, although earlier the territory said it was seeking to ease the situation.

After the exchange, Britain's Foreign Office said on Tuesday that investigations into the tanker were a matter for Gibraltar.

"The investigations being conducted around the Grace 1 are a matter for the government of Gibraltar," a spokesman said.

"As this is an ongoing investigation, we are unable to comment further."

Last week, the government of Gibraltar said it had "clear evidence" that the tanker was heading for a Syrian oil refinery in breach of EU sanctions.

"Apart from the operational issues, which are for the police, the evidence we have entirely contradicts the statements by the captain, in particular in relation to accessing Baniyas refinery in Syria," the government said.

"We will make a fuller statement in due course setting out why the evidence now points even more clearly to the destination having been Baniyas."

TROOPS WITHDRAWAL

Afghan govt seeks guarantees from US

Kabul

The US is preparing an agreement with the Afghan government to re-assure Kabul that an American peace deal with the Taliban will not result in the insurgent group reclaiming power in Afghanistan once foreign troops withdraw.

Kabul is seeking continued

US support for Afghan security forces, and for some American forces to remain in Afghanistan to fight other insurgent groups, including ISIS.

Key points of the proposed agreement, under negotiation as the US seeks a separate deal with the Taliban to end the 18-year war, were exclusively shared

59 of the country's 407 districts are controlled by Taliban.

with The National by sources close to the Afghan government.

"The US agreement with the Taliban will not mean that there will be a Talibanisation of Afghanistan, but it will indicate a start to the intra-Afghan dialogue," said a source close to the Afghan government who spoke on condition of anonymity, as he

was not authorised to brief media.

Despite ongoing talks with the US, the Taliban has so far refused to negotiate with the Afghan government, which it considers a puppet regime.

After nearly 18 years of war, the Taliban insurgency is by some measures more powerful than at any time since the US invasion.



02 'The Wizard of Oz' takes fans by storm

03 Saudi Arabia's 'dedication' in serving pilgrims praised

11 Sharapova win sets up Barty battle

210 fils (includes VAT)





Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa yesterday visited the British Defence Ministry in the United Kingdom. He was received by General Sir Nicholas Carter, Gen Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS). The BDF chief hailed outstanding and deep-rooted historic relations of friendship binding the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Kingdom, stressing Bahrain's keenness on strengthening and consolidating joint co-operation in all fields.

Voluntary Work Prize Committee meets

Manama

The committee in charge of HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa Award for Voluntary Work held a meeting with voluntary work societies, individuals and expatriate communities clubs.

The meeting focused on the 5th edition of the Best Voluntary Project, which will be held on the sidelines of the main prize - HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa Award for Voluntary Work.

Societies, individuals and expatriate communities clubs in Bahrain have been updated on the prize which aims at enhancing the standard of projects which are vying for this year's edition, said Award HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa Award secretary-General Yacoub Bouhazaa.

7,500
Bahraini dinars will be awarded in three categories.

The meeting followed directives from HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa who is keen on developing the standard of the award as a key and efficient tool to develop voluntary work in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Members of the award jury arbitrating HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa Award, officials representing

Good Word Society attended the meeting and contributed to enriching interactive dialogue.

The attendees were updated on the terms and criteria governing HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa Award for Voluntary Work as stipulated in the application form put at the disposal of participants.

HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa had issued directives to increase the value of the voluntary work award to BD7,500 to include all three categories - Individuals, voluntary work societies and expatriate communities in Bahrain.

The prizes will be distributed to winners on the sidelines of HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al-Khalifa Award for Voluntary Work in September.

'The Wizard of Oz' takes fans by storm

The lavish production features breathtaking special effects, dazzling choreography and classic songs

● The event is a part of BTEA's extensive series of events and activities that aims to attract visitors and tourists.

● The BTEA's long-term strategy 'Ours Yours' aims to further develop the Kingdom's tourism sector.



A segment of the audience.



'The Wizard of Oz' characters were a major attraction.

Manama

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) hosted the first show of the popular Broadway Musical 'The Wizard of Oz' for the first time in the Kingdom.

The event took place in the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre and will run until the 17th of August 2019.

The show is an adapted version of the all-time classic released by MGM back in 1939 and will include beloved songs from

the Oscar winning movie score as well as favourite scenes from different characters including Dorothy, Toto and their friends the Cowardly Lion, Tin Man and Scarecrow.

The lavish production features breathtaking special effects, dazzling choreography and classic songs.

The event is a part of BTEA's extensive series of events and activities that aims to attract visitors and tourists from Bahrain and the neighbouring GCC



A boy poses for a photo with 'The Wizard of Oz' characters.

countries throughout the year and is hosted during a key peak season in Bahrain, Eid Al Adha and the summer break.

Hosting the enchanting Broadway musical comes in line with the BTEA's long term strategy to position Bahrain as a prominent destination for family tourism by attracting international events, providing all members of the family with a unique and unforgettable experience.

The BTEA's long-term strategy 'Ours Yours' aims to further

develop the Kingdom's tourism sector and strengthen its position on a regional and international level contributing directly towards Bahrain's economy and the 2030 Economic Vision.

Tickets for Wizard of Oz range from bronze priced at BD10, silver for BD20 and gold for BD30, whereas VIP tickets are sold at BD50.

For more information or to purchase tickets, kindly visit www.woz.bh or the ticket booth at The Avenues - Bahrain.

Aid agency distributes Eid gifts in Yemen

Riyadh

The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief) distributed the Eid Kiswa (gifts) among children in Yemen as part of its Your Happiness is Our Happiness program in the war-torn country.

"KSRelief has distributed toys, clothing and other items to children in the Al Ghaydah and Huswain districts of Al Mahrah governorate," said the KSRelief media centre.

The centre said the gifts were distributed to 200 families, including 600 orphans and internally displaced people (IDPs) in Al Mahrah.

As part of the project, KSRelief also distributed toys, clothing and other gift items to children in the Al Hazam district in Al Jawf governorate, to IDPs



The centre said the gifts were distributed to 200 families.

from Hodeidah and Raymah, and to children at a centre for special needs in Al Jawf.

KSRelief also launched its Eid Kiswa project in the Tuban and Al Houta districts of Lahij and to mark the festive occasion.

Gifts were handed out to children in 303 families, including 319 orphans, children

with special needs and IDPs.

The centre also implemented its project to distribute gifts, toys, clothing and others in the Hadibu district of Socotra Island.

The gifts were distributed among 80 families and included 210 orphans, IDPs and others in need.



Ashfaq Butt, Managing Director of Fidha Decore, held an Eid event at his residence in Noor Garden, Juffair. Prominent members of the community and many leading businessmen attended the event.



Aref Sadiq, Chairman of Aref Sadiq Group, held an event at his residence in Tubli to celebrate Eid. Prominent businessmen and dignitaries attended the event.

Saudi Arabia's 'dedication' in serving pilgrims praised

Shura committee lauds Saudi government's distinguished services to Hajj pilgrims

● The committee affirmed that Saudi Arabia has been keen to provide all kinds of facilities and services to all pilgrims without discrimination.

● Minister of Health Faeqa Al Saleh sent a cable of congratulations to her Saudi counterpart Dr Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabia.

Manama

The Shura Council's Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee, chaired by Hamad bin Mubarak Al Nuaimi, has stressed that the outstanding success of this year's Hajj season is the fruitful outcome of the dedicated efforts of the Saudi authorities, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Defence Minister, HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

In a statement, the committee lauded the high-level distinguished services delivered by sisterly Saudi Arabia to Hajj pilgrims.

The committee affirmed that Saudi Arabia has been keen to provide all kinds of facilities and services to all pilgrims, without discrimination, to en-



Nearly 2.5 million pilgrims took part in Hajj this year.

able them to perform Hajj rituals easily, smoothly and comfortably.

Separately, Minister of Health Faeqa Al Saleh sent a cable of congratulations to her Saudi counterpart Dr Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabia on success of the Hajj season.

She lauded the efforts of the Saudi Health Ministry in serving the pilgrims despite the great surge in their number.

The Health Minister praised the comprehensive preemptive plans put in place by the Saudi Health Ministry to prevent epidemic diseases and help in early detection of important communicable ones.

King Salman received a

phone call from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan congratulating him on the success of Hajj, praising the efforts under the king's leadership to facilitate the annual pilgrimage for millions of Muslims.

King Salman said the Kingdom would do everything it could so that pilgrims could perform their rituals with ease, security and safety, every year.

Chechnya President Ramzan Akhmadovich Kadyrov also extended his congratulations to the king and crown prince on Hajj success.

He praised Saudi Arabia for its achievements and services at the holy sites of Arafat, Muzdalifah and Mina, stressing that

these efforts were appreciated and welcomed by all Muslims.

He said the success of the Hajj was a message to anyone doubting the Kingdom's leading role in the service of the Two Holy Mosques, calling on all Muslims to support Saudi Arabia in the challenges it faced.

The secretary-general of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organisation, Dr Saleh bin Hamad Al Tuwaijri, also congratulated King Salman, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Makkah Gov Prince Khalid Al Faisal on the success of this year's Hajj season.

Mr Al Tuwaijri praised the Kingdom's massive development projects, which are aimed

at serving pilgrims and visitors to the Two Holy Mosques.

Egypt's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Omar Marwan expressed his appreciation for the king and crown prince's services to Hajj.

He said that the good planning and wealth of experience among Saudi authorities and agencies meant that pilgrims were able to move between sites smoothly, as well as perform their Hajj rituals with ease.

The chairman of the African Scholars Forum, Shaikh Mohammed Alhafiz Alnahawi, remarked on the development of services provided to pilgrims in Makkah, the holy sites and Madinah.

Houthi militia's victories are 'mere illusions'
Riyadh

Colonel Turki Al Malki, the official spokesman of the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen, said that the victories of the Yemeni National Army, supported by the coalition in reality, confused the terrorist militia leaders, and they are using their misleading media and hidden arms to spread illusions.

Colonel Al Malki said that the real and actual victories are achieved by the Yemeni National Army, with the support of the coalition forces to liberate the Yemeni territories and restore the Yemeni state from the grip of the terrorist militia.

"The militia's human and material losses have multiplied, and they have nothing but to lie and promote illusions in an effort to raise the morale of their terrorist elements, after most of them have left their positions in the face of painful blows and successive defeats.

"This is in addition to its propaganda to mislead the Yemeni tribes to involve their children in battles resulting in death and loss, in the service of the leadership of the militia and the Iranian regime."

Colonel Al Malki pointed out that the Yemeni society rejects the coup and the ideology of this sectarian and racist terrorist militia, and their grave violations against the Yemeni people as the killing outside the law, enforced disappearance, storing weapons in residential neighbourhoods, firing ballistic missiles, their random falling on civilians, using civilians as human shields, liquidating leaders and social marginalisation of the Yemeni people led tribal society to refrain from rallying to their losing fronts.

Minister shares Eid Al Adha joy with senior citizens, children



Mr Humaidan hands over Eid gifts to a child.



Mr Humaidan with children and elderly at Batelco Home.

● The minister stressed the importance of deepening communication with children and senior citizens by visiting them.

Manama

Labour and Social Development Minister, Jameel Humaidan, yesterday paid a visit to the Child Welfare Home (Batelco Home).

During the visit, also attend-

ed by members of parent day care clubs and homes, the minister aimed to share the joy of Eid Al Adha with the Batelco Home affiliates and senior citizens, in line with the Labour Ministry's interest in children and senior citizens.

The minister exchanged Eid Al Adha greetings and best

wishes with children and senior citizens, and presented them with gifts.

Children and senior citizens expressed their delight at the kind initiative reflecting the government's keenness to care for them on various occasions, which placed the Kingdom among leading countries re-

garding the provision of all aspects of social protection and care for all social segments.

The minister stressed the importance of deepening communication with children and senior citizens by visiting them to share their joy on various occasions.

Mr Humaidan also said that

his visit was an opportunity for him to be informed about the quality of services delivered to them.

The minister highlighted the Kingdom's strides in caring for children, citing efforts to support the children at the legal, social, educational and cultural fields.

world

Over 200 dead in rain havoc

● **Toll in Kerala rises to 88**

● **At least 40 people missing**

● **More than 250,000 people in relief camps**

Agencies | New Delhi, India

The death toll from India's monsoon floods climbed to 202 yesterday as heavy rainfall kept pounding coastal regions in the west and south.

Authorities have already moved more than 1.2 million people to relief camps.

The southern tourist hotspot of Kerala, which was hit by its worst floods in almost a century last year leaving 450 dead, was once again bearing the brunt of monsoon downpours.

"The death toll in the state has increased to 88... and there are still at least 40 people missing," Pramod Kumar, Kerala police spokesman, said.

More than 250,000 people across the state's worst-affected districts including Wayanad, Malappuram and Kozhikode have been shifted to relief camps.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi yesterday praised the people of his Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala, which has been battered by a flood and landslides, saying that the bravery and dignity displayed by them in the face of tragedy was "truly humbling".

"I left Wayanad with nothing but pride for the people I represent," Mr Gandhi wrote on his Facebook and Twitter pages on Tuesday after a two-day visit.

Reports of several heart-wrenching incidents also surfaced amid the situation. Rescue personnel were left with teary eyes when the lifeless bodies of a mother (Geethu) and her infant child (Dhruv) recovered in a position holding their hands tightly. Sarath, the father is the only who escaped unhurt - he lost his wife, son and mother to the landslide.

Stories of heart-warming incidents also emerged. In one such incident, Noushad, a cloth vendor in Kerala became an



Rescue workers shift a body from the debris left after a landslide at Kavalappara in Malappuram district of the south Indian state of Kerala



Artist Davinchi Suresh made a cloth portrait of Noushad - a textile dealer from Kochi whose act of kindness went viral (Courtesy of Gulf News)

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When we depart from this world, we cannot carry anything... my profit is to help the needy... isn't this the way we should celebrate Eid? My Eid is like this...

NOUSHAD, WHO RUNS A CLOTH STORE IN BROADWAY IN KOCHI

overnight sensation after a video of him donating bundles of new clothes, kept ready in his godown for Eid sale, went viral. He stuffed several packets of fresh apparel in huge carry bags and took them on his head to the parked vehicles, to be taken to relief camps.

"When we depart from this world, we cannot carry anything... my profit is to help the needy... isn't this the way we should celebrate Eid? My Eid is like this..." Noushad, who runs a cloth store in Broadway in Kochi said smiling.

"It is meant for poor people. I am not bothered about profit or loss," he added.

Noushad, *Gulf News* reported, got a surprise Eid gift from a UAE expatriate. A Malayali businessman in Dubai announced a gift of Rs.100,000 (BD530) and a family trip to Dubai to Noushad.

A person from Guruvayur posted a cheque of Rs.10,000 (BD53) addressed to Noushad online, requesting a T-shirt for his son, the *Hindu* said.

Thanks to such efforts, Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund witnessed an upswing in collection, despite several campaigns against donating.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan during a visit to a camp in Meppadi near Wayanad said, "The state government will do everything possible to give maximum help and support to all so that they come back to normal life very quickly. Our first task is to complete the rescue operations and then we will shift our focus to extensive rehabilitation work."

The biggest rescue operations are presently going on at Kavalappara where 20 earth moving equipment are working overtime to see if they can find another 39 people who have been reported missing after the landslide swept away an area close to 100 acres.

Toll hits 28 in Karnataka

At least 48 people have also lost their lives in neighbouring Karnataka state.

A state government official said that 16 people were still missing in Karnataka but the situation had improved as rains had eased.

"We have rescued around 677,000 people in the last few days and think the water level will start dropping in another 24-48 hours," the official said.

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 Gujarat and Maharashtra, with hundreds of thousands rescued from inundated regions.

The monsoon rains are crucial to replenishing water supplies in drought-stricken India, but they kill hundreds of people across the country every year.

Radiation up to '16 times' the norm near Russia blast site

Moscow, Russia

Radiation levels were up to 16 times the norm in a nearby town after an explosion at a Russian missile testing site, the national weather service said yesterday.

The explosion at the Arctic facility on Thursday killed five scientists with Russia's nuclear agency, which later confirmed they were involved in testing new weapons. More victims were hospitalised.

Rosgidromet, the weather monitoring service, said its sensors in Severodvinsk, a town about 30 kilometres (20 miles) from the Nyonoksa test site, registered gamma radiation exceeding background levels by "four to 16 times".

Rosgidromet said the levels were higher at six out of eight of its stations in Severodvinsk and that levels returned to normal after 2.5 hours.

One of the sensors registered a level of 1.78 microsieverts



Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov

per hour, well above the local average but far below dangerous levels.

Russia's Rosatom nuclear agency has said its staff were providing support for the "isotope power source" of a missile and were thrown into the sea from the testing platform by the force of the explosion.

US experts have linked the incident to the 9M730 Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile touted by President Vladimir Putin earlier this year.

Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Tuesday did not confirm that the accident was linked to the Burevestnik project.

Typhoon Lekima death toll hits 49 in China

Beijing, China

The death toll from Typhoon Lekima rose to 49 yesterday and 21 were still missing after the monster storm wreaked havoc on China's eastern coast, causing huge damage with strong gales and torrential rain.

Lekima hit the three Chinese provinces of Zhejiang, Shandong and Anhui over the weekend and forced more than a million residents to flee.

China's official news agency *Xinhua* said late Monday that at least 49 people are dead with dozens still missing.

Don't have a cow! London uni bans beef

London, United Kingdom

Students at London's Goldsmiths will no longer be munching on canteen staples such as burgers and chilli after the prestigious university announced it would ban all beef products to fight climate change.

Professor Frances Corner, the new head of Goldsmiths, said that she was taking the drastic action to pull beef from campus cafes and shops from next month because "de-

claring a climate emergency cannot be empty words".

"Though I have only just arrived at Goldsmiths, it is immediately obvious that our staff and students care passionately about the future of our environment and that they are determined to help," she added.

Goldsmiths hopes to become carbon neutral by 2025. Cambridge University's catering services have not served beef or lamb since 2016.

'When will you die?' Hong Kong leader grilled at press conference

Hong Kong, China

When Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam appeared before the press yesterday, she appeared to be expecting to deliver a brief statement and move on. Instead she faced a media onslaught.

No sooner were her prepared remarks finished than the full-frontal assault -- in both Cantonese and English -- began.

"You blame your own political misjudgement on others, and refuse to acknowledge your mistakes," one journalist said.

"When will you accept political responsibility to end citizens'



Hong Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam

fear?... When will you be willing to step down? When will you tell the police to stop?," the reporter from Hong Kong's public broadcaster RTHK asked.

Before Lam could respond, the reporter added an admonition: "You asked me in the past to take my job seriously, so please answer me seriously as well."

The embattled Beijing-backed leader began to reply but more questions were shouted.

"Citizens are afraid of you and the police, can you answer the question?"

The combative press conference was an indication of the rising tensions in the city after

a weekend of violence that left dozens of people with injuries, some of them serious.

Under the "One country, two systems" principle, the media in Hong Kong enjoys freedoms unheard of in mainland China. A broad spectrum of political leanings are represented, from feisty independent elements to strongly pro-Beijing outlets.

Lam at times appeared caught off-guard by the intensity of the questioning, with reporters repeatedly interrupting her and accusing her of failing to respond.

"Please don't interrupt," an official pleaded as reporters

shouted over Lam.

At one point she paused, looked down, and then looked up again at reporters with her eyebrows raised as they continued to fire questions at her.

At other moments, she sipped from a glass of water as the barrage of questions continued.

In her opening remarks she called for calm.

"I again ask everyone to put aside your differences and calm down," Lam said, who appeared to be on the verge of tears at one point. "Take a minute to think, look at our city, our home, do you all really want to see it pushed into an abyss?"

Lam defended the police against accusations of excessive force over the weekend, when rounds of tear gas were fired into subway stations and on crowded shopping streets.

She said she was "heartbroken" by reports of serious injuries, but offered no concessions to the demonstrators and insisted that police were facing "extremely difficult circumstances".

And the barrage continued as she abruptly left the podium: "Do you have a conscience?" shouted one journalist.

"Mrs Lam, many citizens have been asking recently when you will die," yelled another.



Pakistan celebrates

Pakistan is all set to celebrate its 73rd Independence Day today.

It commemorates the day when the nation achieved independence and was declared a sovereign state following the end of the British Raj in 1947.

The main Independence Day ceremony takes place in Islamabad, where the national flag is hoisted at the Presidential and Parliament buildings.

It is followed by the national anthem and live televised speeches by leaders.

Usual celebratory events and festivities for the day include flag-raising ceremonies, parades, cultural

events, and the playing of patriotic songs.

A number of award ceremonies are often held on this day, and Pakistanis hoist the national flag atop their homes or display it prominently on their vehicles and attire.

The day begins with special prayers for the integrity, solidarity, and development of Pakistan in mosques and religious places across the country. Citizens attending independence day parades and other events are usually dressed in Pakistan's official colours, green and white. Many people meet their friends and relatives, dine over Pakistani food, and visit recreational spots to mark the holiday.

As the month of August begins,

Independence Day

”
I pay tribute to the security personnel and officers, who had laid down their lives for the protection of the motherland

DR ARIF ALVI,
PRESIDENT OF
PAKISTAN

special stalls, fun fairs and shops are set up across the country for the sale of national flags, bunting, banners and posters, badges, pictures of national heroes, multimedia and other celebratory items. Vehicles, private buildings, homes, and streets are decorated with national flags, candles, oil lamps, pennants and bunting. Businesses engage in rigorous marketing, as do leading designer fashion outlets which stock independence-themed clothing, jewellery and self-adornments.

Public functions including elaborate firework shows, street parades, seminars, televised transmissions, music and poetry contests, children's shows and art exhibitions are a common part of the celebrations.

Along with flag hoisting, the national anthem is sung at various government places, schools, residences, and monuments on the day, and patriotic slogans such as Pakistan Zindabad are raised.

Musical concerts and dance performances are arranged both inside and outside the country, featuring popular artists. Homage is paid to the people who lost their lives during the migration and riots which followed independence in 1947, as well as martyrs of the Pakistan Army and recipients of Nishan-e-Haider, and political figures, famous artists and scientists.

The Pakistani diaspora around the world organises cultural events to celebrate independence day; public parades are held in cities with large Pakistani populations, such as New York, and London.

Towards progress and prosperity

Pakistan President Dr Arif Alvi has stressed upon unity and harmony among the ranks of the nation to face the challenges and issues confronted by the country for achieving the national objectives of progress and prosperity.

The president, in his message on the 73rd Independence Day, observed that all the strata of society had to work hard, irrespective of the factional or individual interests. He called upon all the citizens to play their due part in the progress and development of the country.

Felicitating the countrymen on the Independence Day, President Alvi said their forefathers had given immense sacrifices and due to their untiring efforts, Pakistan emerged on the world's globe as an independent country on 14th August 1947.

“No doubt, freedom is a huge



Dr Arif Alvi, President of Pakistan

bleeding. Now onus is upon us to present Pakistan as highly reputable, progressive and prosperous country among the nations and thus transforming Pakistan under the visions of its founding leaders Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal.”

While expressing satisfaction over the sincere desire of patri-

otism and urge for the development of country as nurtured by the young generation, he said they had been fully acquainted with the objectives and significance behind the creation of Pakistan.

He also paid tribute to the security personnel and officers, who had laid down their lives for the protection of the motherland.

The president observed that the Independence Day also reinvigorated the spirit of patriotism and the desire to serve the country.

He said the nature had blessed the country with huge resources and geo-strategic positioning. He called upon the countrymen to commit themselves to serve the motherland with renewed passion and vigour by transforming the country into a developed and prosperous piece of land.

A day to remember unmatched sacrifices

I extend my heartfelt felicitations to all Pakistanis, living within the country and abroad, on the occasion of 73rd Independence Day.

The day reminds us of the unmatched sacrifices rendered by our forefathers to protect and safeguard our religious, cultural and social values. It also reminds us of the objectives that led to creation of an independent Muslim state.

This day reinvigorates our spirit to make Pakistan stand out in the comity of nations as a dignified country. Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah envisioned a progressive Pakistan where one could lead one's life in accordance with the golden tenets of Islam, a state where democratic norms could flourish and rule of law prevailed, and where compassion characterised the bonds



Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan

between the state and citizens. To this end, the state of Madina is our model.

Allah Almighty has bestowed our country with great bounties and huge resources and a bright future awaits us. Quaid's principles of Unity, Faith and Discipline, are beacon of light, to overcome the challenges faced by the country. Let us today rededicate ourselves to

make Pakistan a developed and prosperous country. Let me emphasise here the role of Overseas Pakistanis and I am sure they will continue making us proud with their concerted efforts for the greater good of their homeland.

On this occasion, I also pay tribute to those sons of the soil who sacrificed their lives while protecting ideological and geographical boundaries of the motherland and kept aloft the banner of its freedom.

May Allah grant us the strength to develop Pakistan on the model of state of Madina. May Allah grant us the ability to transform Pakistan in accordance with the vision of Quaid-e-Azam and Allama Iqbal. May Allah help us secure for our country its rightful place among the comity of nations.

Pakistan Paindabad



— PAKISTAN —
INDEPENDENCE DAY
 — 14th of August —

Pakistan-Bahrain ties growing stronger

It gives me immense pleasure to convey heartfelt greetings to Pakistanis in Bahrain on the Independence Day of our beloved country. On this day in 1947, Pakistan emerged on the World Map as a sovereign state after untiring efforts of our nation under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Pakistan is blessed with tall mountains, lush green valleys, fresh water natural springs and rivers, plateaus, fertile plain farm lands, deserts and warm waters of the Arabian Sea. The country has natural resources like gold, copper, semi-precious

stones and hydrocarbons. Five seasons of Pakistan make it suitable to grow every type of fruit, vegetable and food grain. Pakistan is blessed with talented human resource which has proven its worth world over. Pakistan has produced outstanding scholars like Allama Mohammad Iqbal and Nobel Laureates such as Dr Abdul Salam and Malala Yousafzai.

While our nation has been successful in developing infrastructure and putting in place basic industry, it still faces challenges of meeting growing energy needs and diversification



Afzaal Mahmood, Pakistani Ambassador to Bahrain

of economy, including exports. We are exploring new markets for our non-traditional exports

such as traditional furniture, processed food, semi-precious stones, dates, olives, olive oil and honey.

We take pride in the excellent work being done by the Overseas Pakistanis. They not only contribute to the well-being of the people of their countries of choice but also send much needed remittances back home. They are working as a bridge between Pakistan and its friends. Pakistanis in Bahrain are recognised as law abiding hardworking and friendly people. They are our goodwill ambassadors and source of pride.

Pakistan and Bahrain enjoy thousands of years old history of friendship and co-operation for the mutual benefit. The two help each other in different areas of mutual interest, collaborate at the regional level to ensure peace and security and closely consult each other at the international forums to align their policies. The friendship between our two nations is exemplary and without any irritants. I, as the Ambassador of Pakistan and friend of Bahrain try my best to intensify economic and commercial ties for a better common future.

Frequency of forty two weekly

Gulf Airline flights to almost all major cities of Pakistan is testimony to our fraternal relations and extensive interaction. To bring our people further close, the Government of Pakistan has listed Bahrain among the countries having visa-on-arrival and online visa facility. I invite Bahraini friends to utilise the opportunity to explore history, natural beauty and hospitality offered by Pakistan.

I wish the people of Bahrain and Pakistan continued peace, progress and prosperity on this special day. May Pakistan and Bahrain friendship live long!

A vibrant community

The Pakistan Community in Bahrain is a large and vibrant community and is well connected with the local people sharing similar beliefs, culture, traditions and social norms. Pakistani community members have been living in the Kingdom of Bahrain since past many decades. The benevolent Kingdom is a homeland to over 120,000 active Pakistani community members. 'Pakistan Club' in Bahrain was founded in February 1948 soon after Pakistan got independence in August 1947 and is a focal point for the community serving as a hub for recreation, sports, cultural and community gatherings.

The Pakistan Club and the Pakistani community are celebrating the 73rd Pakistan Independence Day with great fervour and enthusiasm. Like previous years, the community has lined up many impressive programmes to celebrate the



Afzaal Mahmood, Ambassador of Pakistan, second from left, Ibrahim al Nafea, third from left, Eng Rehan Ahmed, Chairman Pakistan Club, third from right, Afzal Bhatti, second from right and Sami Aziz, first from left, and Mohammed Sajid Sheikh, first from right, at an event marking Bahrain National Day Celebrations at Pakistan Club Bahrain.



Eng Rehan Ahmed is the Chairman of Pakistan Club Bahrain.

Independence Day. As a continued tradition, the Pakistan Community members will join the flag hoisting ceremony at Pakistan Club on 14th August. Chief Guest will be Murad Ali Wazir, HOC of Pakistan Embassy. The impressive event organised by the Chairman and Board mem-

bers of Pakistan Club will enthusiastically mark the Pakistan Independence Day celebrations. The programme will include national anthem, cultural and traditional songs. This will be followed by traditional breakfast of 'halwa puri', which will be served to all participants.

The new world of fragrance

Asgharali perfumes bring a whole new level of character with a new introductory category specifically designed for the men.

After understanding that there is a lot of responsibility that comes with properly caring for one's beard, Asgharali has introduced for the first time an Asgharali BEARD OIL GIFT SET - OUD and TOBACCO spray, a new man grooming kit.

Along with the kit, which includes an Eau De Perfume 30 ml spray, the OUD is composed of oriental floral amber fragrance while the TOBACCO spray has oriental spicy fragrance.

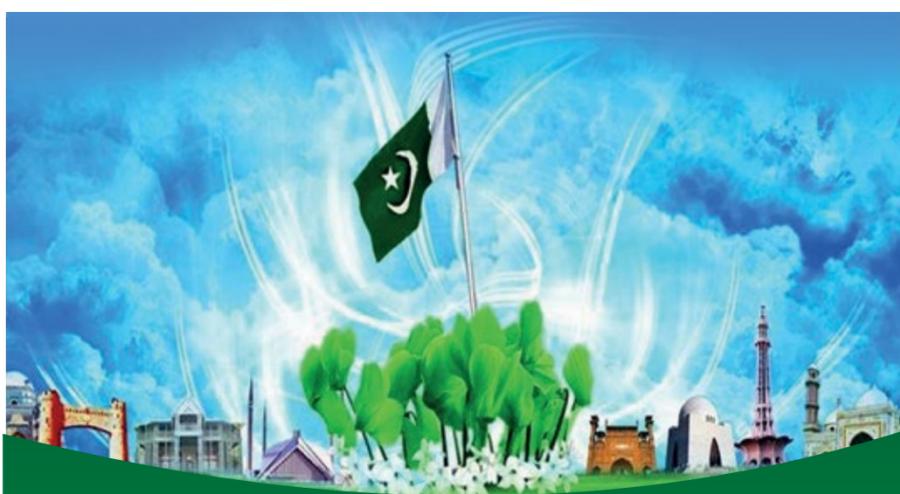
Included in the set is a 30ml beard oil that is made of all-natural ingredients such as



castor seed oil and almond oil, which compliments within the depths of our skin.

Finally, a brush comb made of natural sandalwood enables you to brush broadly and evenly distributing the naturally occurring oils without scratching and irritation.

Another beard oil Cedarwood will be launched soon. Follow Asgharali on Instagram @asgharalico or visit the website: www.asgharali.com.



Congratulates the Pakistani Community in celebration of

Pakistan's Independence Day



Muhammad Anwaar
Managing Director

كافلان للمقاولات
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 Civil - Electrical - Mechanical - Maintenance

قصر ميان المقاولات ز-م
MIAN PALACE CONSTRUCTION WLL

Mob. 33656743, 36170079, Office : 13691441 Fax : 13691891

Pakistan Independence Day

Best Wishes from

Mohammed Sabir Azeem
Manager

AKRAM CONTRACTING EST.
 P.O. Box 37991, Bldg : 1109, Block : 302
 Tel : 17233542, Mob : 33404503, Email : azeemgroupofco@gmail.com

Football industry surging ahead

The history of soccer ball production in Sialkot is traced back to British colonial era

Pakistan has the unique honour of supplying footballs for use in the Soccer World Cup of 2014 and the Football World Cup 2018 held in Russia.

The latest football manufactured by Pakistan came to be known as Telstar 18, which was manufactured by Forward Sports Company, a renowned company of the city of Sialkot famous world over for production of sports goods.

This time Forward Sports was entrusted with the task of making the footballs for the big summer tournament.

The company is contract-

ing-manufactures of global sports apparel giant Adidas for which it has made the footballs for the FIFA World Cup 2018.

Though it is not confirmed how many footballs Adidas had ordered for the World Cup but the company is approximately making around 700,000 per month.

When and how Sialkot got famous for the soccer balls is itself very interesting. The history of soccer ball production is traced back to British colonial era of the region.

Traditionally the footballs were hand stitched but so perfect were the stitching and



craftsman skills of the workers that for the first time in 1982 the city of Sialkot got the exceptional honour of a contract for manufacturing footballs for the FIFA World Cup 1982 which was hosted by Spain.

The footballs manufactured by Pakistan for the 1982 football World Cup was an improved version of Adidas Tango Ball, which was first introduced for the FIFA Football World Cup 1978.

The 1982 World Cup ball was an improved version of the leather ball which had introduced for the first time rubber inlaid over the seams meant for preventing water from seeping in through. Thus it became the first water resistant ball for a World Cup. This was much needed requirement as otherwise the ball would get heavier due to seepage of water through the seams of the ball. But the rubber used for pre-

venting the water entry would get worn due to normal kicking and needed to be replaced during the game. It proved to be the last genuine leather World Cup football.

All the major giant international sports brands like Adidas, Nike, Puma, Select, Lotto, Umbro, Wilsons etc. are sourcing their supply of footballs from this export-oriented city and hub of sports goods production. Most of the sports goods are exported to foreign countries and a reasonable amount of foreign exchange is earned in addition to provision of jobs to thousands of workers in the country.

An institution par excellence

On this glorious day of Independence, Pakistan School wishes all fellow compatriots in the Kingdom a happy Independence Day.

Let's refresh and remember the great sacrifices of the martyrs who laid down their lives for a free Pakistan.

We are happy to present a synopsis of Pakistan School, Bahrain on this joyous occasion.

The history of Pakistan School goes back to the 60s when the leading visionary members of the community realised the need for a schooling system for their children, leading to the establishment of a small primary school in Fariq Fadil area of Manama.

After a few years the school was upgraded to secondary level education following affiliation with the Federal Board, Islamabad, Pakistan.

In 1984, the new campus of the Pakistan School was constructed in Isa town, which was inau-



Mr Attiq ur Rehman, school principal

Mr Sami ur Rehman, school chairman

gurated by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.

Two new blocks, Jinnah Block and Sir Sayyed Block were constructed in the Isa town campus, between 1994-95.

Under the able leadership of the sitting Board of Management, Pakistan school has covered many distinctive landmarks over the last three years in academic and administrative areas.

Pakistan School's Federal Board results have shown consistent and impressive improvements over the last four years and this year Board exam results of SSC I and II declared in the first and second week's of July 2018, are no exception.

An internal educational quality assurance system has been introduced to ensure dynamic and resourceful classroom teaching, in line with BQA (Bahrain Quality Assurance Authority) requirements.

APOO expresses thanks to Kingdom's leadership



Board members of APOO Bahrain Chapter.

The All Pakistanis Overseas Organisation International (APOO) will hold an event to mark Pakistani Independence Day today at Pa-

kistan Club.

This was informed by APOO Bahrain Chapter Chairman Shaukat Ali.

"We are proud to celebrate

our nation's independence day. We are thankful to the Kingdom's leadership for the support extended to the community," Mr Shaukat Ali said.



Heartiest Felicitations to the Government and the people of Pakistan on the occasion of

Pakistan Independence Day



PAKISTAN SCHOOL
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
Tel : 17682304, Fax: 17682320



Think 100 times before you take a decision,
But once that decision is taken, stand by it as one man.

- Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Pakistan Independence Day

Best Wishes From:



Engr. Rehan Ahmed (Chairman) & Executive Board
The Pakistan Club

P. O. Box . 148, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. Tel.17258520 | Fax. 17255301/17716321
Email: clubpakistan@gmail.com Web Site: www.pakistanclub.org

— PAKISTAN —
INDEPENDENCE DAY
— 14th of August —

A rising tourist destination

Pakistan has been attracting a large number of tourists from across the world

Pakistan is a land of four seasons, dotted with a wide range of tourist attractions. The travellers to Pakistan can experience the heritage of oldest civilizations in the world, sacred worship places of different religions, most of the highest mountains in the world to pristine beaches in Balochistan.

Golden Beaches of Balochistan



It is a land of diverse cultures languages, cuisines and ethnicities. Pakistan offers something unique to everyone. For adventurers, trekkers, explorers and mountaineers, Pakistan offers five of the 15 highest peaks in the world. It offers water and ice sports, desert safaris, road trips, hunting expeditions and camping. The people who love culture may witness the diversity across the country from Shina people of Gilgit to the fishermen communities of Makran.

The beautiful capital city, Islamabad

Pakistan is a developing economy that presents a number of opportunities for businessmen across the world. It has a huge domestic market of 220 million consumers. A wide range of infrastructure is being developed to connect Central Asia and China to warm water ports of Gawader and Karachi. A number of Special Economic Zones are under development where incentives are being offered to foreign investors. Owing to extensive agriculture, Pakistan produces all kinds of crop, fruits, vegetable and trees which are exported all over the world.



The Karachi Port

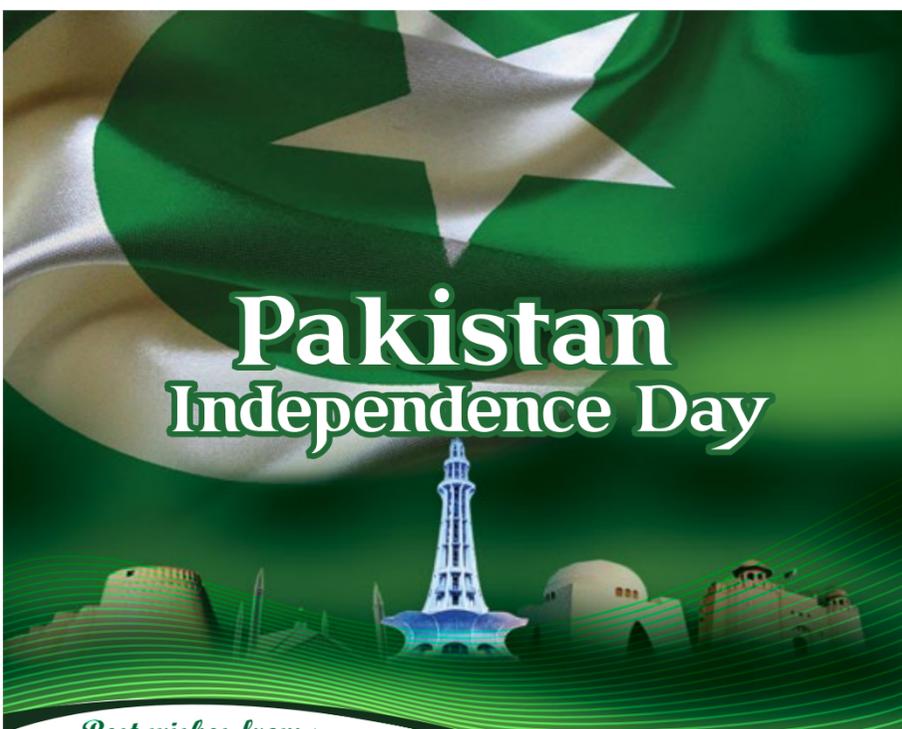


The northern Punjab and Karachi Industrial areas are a Hub of export oriented industries of textile, surgical instruments, leather goods and sports accessories. More information for businessmen and investors is available on <http://www.invest.gov.pk>. The visa can now be applied online on <http://www.visa.nadra.pk>.

Mohenjodaro



Parallel to heritage and landscapes, Pakistan boasts modern bustling metropolitans like, Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore. These cities offer international airports, high end hotels, shopping malls tourist operators, delicious Pakistani cuisine and entertainment.



Best wishes from :



Shaukat Ali
(Chairman APO World Bahrain Chapter)

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ISM MECHANICAL CONTRACTING S.P.C.

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Growing textile sector providing more jobs



In Pakistan, the textile sector contributes approximately one-fourth of industrial value-added and offers employment to about 40 per cent of industrial labour force.

Barring seasonal and cyclical fluctuations, textiles products have sustained an average share of about 60 per cent in nationwide exports.

Pakistan's textile experts also mention that the ancillary tex-

tile industry adds cotton spinning, fabric processing, home textiles, cotton cloth, cotton yarn, cotton fabric, towels, hosiery and knitwear and ready-made garments, these components are being produced both in the large scale manufacturing organised sector also as in the unorganised cottage/small and medium units.

They point out that the ready-made garment industry has

emerged as one of the significant small scale industries in the country.

Its products have large demand both at home and abroad.

The local requirements of readymade garments are approximately totally met by this industry.

They have also recorded that most of the machines utilised by this industry are imported or domestically made/assembled.

business

US public views of China plummet
Washington, United States

The US public's view of China has plummeted amid a surge in strategic and trade tensions in recent years, the Pew Research Center reported yesterday.

The survey group said that 60 per cent of Americans have an unfavorable view of China, the most in the 14 years since the survey began and up from 47 pc a year ago.

But more Americans saw China as a military threat than an economic threat.

A majority of those polled -- 53 pc -- saw economic relations with China were under strain, but half saw China's growing economy as good for the United States, while 41 pc saw it a bad thing.

Despite the rise of the Chinese economy, more Americans generally saw the United States as the world's most powerful economy, Pew said.

By comparison, 81 pc believe China's military growth, which has led to its strategic projection far into the Pacific, the Indian Ocean and the Middle East, is a bad thing.

China tied with Russia as the country seen as the biggest threat to the United States, while North Korea ran a distant third.

Republicans tended to have more negative views of China and more concern about its military might than Democrats.

The US public's view of China was much better when Pew launched its survey in 2005. At that time only 35 pc had an unfavorable view of the Asian superpower.

Favorable views took a downturn in 2012 and since then a majority has viewed China negatively.

"American opinion of China has fluctuated somewhat over time, with positive views outnumbering negative ones during President Barack Obama's first term in office, but negative views mostly predominating since," Pew said.

Indonesia ships back tonnes of Australian waste
Jakarta, Indonesia

Indonesia has shipped tonnes of Australian garbage out of the country, an official said Tuesday, as Southeast Asian nations push back against serving as dumping grounds for foreign trash.

Eight containers of trash -- weighing some 210 tonnes -- left Indonesia's second-biggest city Surabaya on Monday aboard a cargo ship bound for Singapore, the local customs agency said.

Stocks rise as investors sense US-China truce

Paris, France

Global stock markets rallied yesterday and oil prices surged in a wave of relief after US President Donald Trump delayed tariffs on electronic goods from China, giving investors hope for some detente in a US-China trade war.

The announcement caused a dramatic turnaround in equity markets, which had retreated earlier under the combined impact of tensions in Hong Kong, economic crisis in Argentina, fears of a global slowdown -- and uncertainty over US-China trade talks.

But some of that uncertainty appeared to have lifted when the US said it was delaying until December 15 the imposition of new 10 per cent tariffs on Chinese electronics.

Meanwhile, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer spoke with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He early Tuesday and has another call planned in two weeks, a USTR official told AFP.

'Ceasefire'

"US-China reach ceasefire on trade war," said Alfonso Esparza at OANDA.

"Equities surged with the news as the prolonged trade war has been the biggest negative factor hitting stocks," said

Key figures around 1450 GMT

London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.4 pc at 7,255.05 points
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▲ 0.8 pc at 11,769.97
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 1.3 pc at 5,375.54
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ 1.1 pc at 3,364.51
New York - Dow:	▲ 1.7 pc at 26,337.60
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▼ 2.1 pc at 25,281.30 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 1.1 pc at 20,455.44 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 0.6 pc at 2,797.26 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1185 from \$1.1217 at 2050 GMT
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.2072 from \$1.2076
Euro/pound:	▼ at 92.65 pence from 92.84 pence
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 106.66 from 105.28 yen
Brent North Sea crude:	▲ \$2.15 at \$60.72 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ \$2.02 at \$56.94

Esparza.

US equities saw a dramatic turnaround after the news, with the tech-heavy Nasdaq index up around two pc, and the DJIA and S&P 500 indices not far behind. Consumer electronics stocks led the way, with Apple more than four pc higher.

Oil prices, a bellwether for the global economic growth outlook, also surged, with Brent and WTI contracts up by around three pc.

Greenback surges

The dollar also firmed strongly, especially against the yen, euro and Swiss franc.

"The news of the delay of

some US tariffs on certain Chinese goods is positive for risk sentiment, although the full details aren't yet known," said analysts at ING.

But "don't get carried away with optimism", they warned. "The lack of visibility on the trade war outlook means that the above should not translate into a long-lasting trend."

Weakness in Asian stock markets had spilled first into Europe and from there into early US trading.

A big factor of worry was Hong Kong, where airport authorities yesterday suspended all check-ins as pro-democracy protesters blocked the facility.

Swarovski latest luxury brand to apologise to China

Beijing, China

Austrian jewellery company Swarovski apologised yesterday for "hurting the feelings" of Chinese people after calling Hong Kong a separate country on its website, becoming the latest luxury brand to come under fire in China.

The apology from the jewellery brand came a day after several other luxury retailers apologised for mistakes in their labelling of the semi-autonomous cities of Hong Kong and Macau as well as the self-ruled island of Taiwan.

Hong Kong has become a particularly sensitive subject for Beijing with the financial hub plunged into months of pro-democracy protests, and international brands have been caught in the crossfire.

"We are extremely sorry for the Chinese people whose feelings have been hurt," the jewellery firm said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Swarovski thanks the supervision of people from all walks of life and is willing to continue to build a harmonious society with the Chinese people."

The company also lost the support of their brand ambassador, Chinese actress Jiang Shuying, as the row deepened.

Her agency said in a statement that they had sent a notice to Swarovski to terminate their cooperation as soon as possible.

We "uphold the one Chi-



Versace apologized for its T-shirt which listed Hong Kong and Macau as independent countries. (Courtesy of abcnews)

na principle and believe that our national sovereignty and territorial integrity cannot be violated", the agency said.

Swarovski also faced anger online -- despite promising to "try our best to correct mistakes in the shortest time".

"I won't buy it anymore. There's no personal preference in front of national sovereignty," one user wrote on the Twitter-like Weibo platform.

"These foreign brands always say they firmly uphold China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. If you really mean it, such a thing would never occur," wrote another.

Versace, Coach, and Givenchy all apologized this week for making perceived affronts to China's national sovereignty with T-shirts listing Hong Kong and Taiwan as separate countries.

EU slaps anti-subsidy duties on Indonesian biodiesel

Brussels, Belgium

The European Union has imposed duties on imports of subsidised biodiesel from Indonesia in order to level the playing field for EU producers, officials said yesterday.

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, imposed temporary duties ranging from eight percent to 18 percent but warned it could impose permanent measures by the end of the year.

A Commission investigation "found that Indonesian biodiesel producers benefit from grants, tax benefits and access to raw materials below market prices," it said.

"This inflicts a threat of economic damage to EU pro-



ducers," the commission statement said.

The commission said its investigation focused on possible subsidies for biodiesel production, whether it involved palm oil or other, less-used, raw material.

It said the EU biodiesel market is worth an estimated nine billion euros (\$10.1 billion) a year, with imports from Indonesia amounting to 400 million euros.

US inflation jumps in July

Washington, United States

Rising energy, housing and medical costs pushed US consumer inflation higher in July, which showed the trade war having some impact, according to government data released Friday.

The increase was another sign the world's biggest economy may finally be starting to see inflation in the 11th year of expansion despite slowing growth -- something the Federal Reserve has been waiting to see.

And while President Donald Trump insists punitive tariffs are not hurting American consumers, economists warn the trade impact is showing up in the data.

The Consumer Price Index



Representative picture

jumped 0.3 per cent compared to June, the Labor Department reported, and accelerated to show a 1.8 pc increase for the 12 months ended in July.

Energy costs surged 1.3 pc last month and shelter costs posted another 0.3 pc increase as rents remain under pressure amid tight supply of housing.

Food prices were flat, but medical care services rose 0.5 pc, including a 1.7 pc jump in health insurance, according to the report.

Argentine peso on roller coaster after Macri defeat

Buenos Aires, Argentina

The Argentine peso took a roller coaster ride Tuesday, opening higher and then falling a day after sustaining a huge loss in the wake of pro-business President Mauricio Macri's crushing defeat in party primaries.

The currency plummeted 18.76 per cent on Monday, while the Buenos Aires stock market fell 38pc.

On Tuesday, as the market opened, the peso traded at 55 to the dollar, compared to 57.30 at the close of Monday's session for a rise of 4.18pc. But then it fell again and was down 2.29pc.

Microsoft halts development of Minecraft update

San Francisco, United States

Microsoft has halted development of an ambitious update to Minecraft, throwing in the towel after concluding it was technically too complicated, according to a blog post by the team responsible for the hit adventure and construction game.

Microsoft had unveiled the project, dubbed "Super Duper Graphics Packs," to great fanfare in 2017, at E3, the world's biggest video game trade show.



Representative picture

"Unfortunately, the pack proved too

technically demanding to implement as planned," the blog post said.

"We realize this is disappointing to some of you -- there was a lot of enthusiasm for Super Duper from inside and outside the studio -- but unfortunately, we aren't happy with how the pack performed across devices," it said.

"For this reason, we're stopping development on the pack, and looking into other ways for you to experience Minecraft with a new look," it added.

Minecraft -- with its signature pixelated characters and accessories -- enables players to build entire universes either alone or with other players online. Inspired by Lego and its plastic bricks, this digital version is immensely popular with a young public.

In May, Minecraft said 176 million versions of the game have been sold since its launch 10 years ago. In October 2018, Business Insider said the game was attracting 91 million players a month.

CELEBS

celebs

Miley teases new music following split with Liam



ANI | Los Angeles

Just days after her split with actor Liam Hemsworth, singer Miley Cyrus decided to get everyone talking about her professional life by posting

a cryptic photo which hints at new music.

The 'Can't Be Tamed' singer shared a photo from a music studio with her headphones on leaving her fans convinced that she was recording new music and based on the recent news, it's safe to say that the star has a lot to sing about these days.

Whether it's her breakup with Liam or her lavish vacation with close friend Kaitlynn Carter, there is a whole lot to take inspi-

ration from.

Previously, the 26-year-old singer released 'She Is Coming', which is the first of three EPs that tell "different chapters to a trilogy" that will together form the full-length record that was confirmed to be titled 'She Is Miley Cyrus'.

Earlier this weekend, E! News confirmed that the two broke up after less than a year of marriage.

"Liam and Miley have agreed to separate at this time," the sing-

er's rep said in a statement to the outlet.

"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. Please respect their process and privacy," the rep added.

Soon after the breakup news, photos of Miley getting cozy with

Kaitlynn surfaced online. Kaitlynn recently announced her split from 'The Hills New Beginnings' star Brody Jenner.

However, according to a source, Miley and Liam had been separated for months and things between the singer and Kaitlynn aren't serious.



Miley Cyrus

Nicki Minaj set to marry boyfriend

ANI | Los Angeles

The countdown has officially begun, as rapper Nicki Minaj revealed that she will marry her beau Kenneth Petty in "about 80 days."

The 36-year-old rapper made the announcement on Monday's episode of her 'Queen Radio' show.

The 'Barbie Dreams' singer explained that she and Petty "filed for the marriage license and still had to pick it up", but since she was travelling, she had to get the license renewed, People reported.

"From that time, you have 90 days to get married. That was about a week ago, so now I have about 80 days," Minaj shared.

Minaj revealed that she and Petty are planning to celebrate their union with a small, intimate ceremony and will plan a big wedding as per her work schedule later.

"I have to work on my album and I have a lot to focus on that I don't want to do the big wedding now. We'll do the big wedding late. I'll be married before my album comes out, but will have my wedding after the album comes out. Before the 90 days is over, yes, I will be married," Minaj said.

Minaj then gushed about her beau, saying, "I'm very happy about that because my baby makes me so happy."

The rapped had revealed in June that she and her beau got a marriage license.

"We did get our marriage license. I think I have what I was striving for, just happiness. It was so hard to get to a happy place. Now that I'm there, I don't want to compromise

that for anyone or anything," Minaj had said on Queen Radio at that time.

The two have been dating since December, last year, according to Minaj's Instagram.

"He want me to be his wife- his MISSIS like SIPPY NOW," she captioned a series of photos of the two of them laughing together.

Petty also unveiled a new tattoo of his lady love's birth name, Onika, in December, and featured in Minaj's music video for her song 'Megatron'.

The video stars Minaj and Petty in a hot tub as she sings, "I f-- him like I miss him / He just came out of prison," which could be a reference to her beau's criminal record.

Petty is a registered sex offender in the state of New York and served time in prison for manslaughter.

Many fans have expressed concern over Petty's criminal record, but Minaj doesn't appear to care about the criticism.

Responding to her followers on Instagram, Minaj said, "He was 15, she was 16 ... in a relationship. But go awf Internet. Y'all can't run my life. Y'all can't even run y'all own life. Thank you boo."

Nicki Minaj



Tom Hanks reads audio for Ann Patchett's new novel

AP | New York

The audio edition of Ann Patchett's new novel has a voice that listeners should find familiar: Tom Hanks.

HarperAudio announced Monday that the Oscar-winning actor is narrating Patchett's "The Dutch House," which comes out September 24. The book is a multigenerational story centered on siblings Danny and Maeve, and told from Danny's point of view.

Patchett said that she and Hanks have

become friendly over the past few years. She interviewed him in Washington, D.C., when he was promoting his book of stories, "Uncommon Type." He and his wife, Rita Wilson, have also met with Patchett in Nashville, where she runs Parnassus Books.

Hanks has narrated audiobooks before, including "Uncommon Type" and Stephen Colbert's "I Am a Pole (And So Can You!)"



Tom Hanks

Djimon Hounsou joins cast of 'A Quiet Place'

ANI | Los Angeles

'Shazam!' actor Djimon Hounsou has replaced Brian Tyree Henry to join the cast of 'A Quiet Place' sequel.

Hounsou has been placed

opposite Emily Blunt, Noah Jupe, Millicent Simmons and Cillian Murphy in the forthcoming horror movie.

The sequel is written and directed by John Krasinski who is returning to direct the spin-off

The upcoming film follows the story of an isolated family of four that must live in silence while hiding from creatures that hunt by sound. Krasinski is also directing and writing the upcoming sequel.



Hailey and Justin Bieber

Hailey, Justin Bieber planning fall wedding

ANI | Music

Singer-songwriter Justin Bieber and supermodel Hailey Bieber, who tied the knot in a secret courthouse ceremony in September 2018, are planning to have their second wedding this fall and want to keep the ceremony intimate.

"Justin and Hailey still don't have a wedding date but they are starting to look at fall dates. It will be very small," the source explained, adding that wedding location is still to be decided, reported Us Weekly.

The 'I Don't Care' singer and the 22-year-old model, have been planning a second wedding since January, this year, according to an insider.

In June, a source told the outlet that the couple might schedule their second wedding for this September to coincide with the first anniversary.

Apart from prepping for their wedding, Justin



Justin Bieber recently released a new song titled 'I Don't Care' with Ed Sheeran

has been working on his mental health.

"I am now very focused on repairing some of the deep-rooted issues that I have as most of us have so that I don't fall apart so that I can sustain my marriage and be the father I want to be," the Grammy-winning singer told his Instagram followers in March.

The model's cousin Ireland Baldwin told the outlet earlier this month that she's "so happy for whatever" Justin and Hailey decide to do for their second

wedding.

"I love Justin and I love Hailey. I love spending time with them. She's my little cousin, like my little baby, so I'm so excited to see her growth and her beautiful house that she's living in. She's full wife mode now, so I love it," she said.

The cousin also said that Justin and Hailey "really complement" each other.

"I think that they've really helped each other grow because before they started off having a lot of growing to do. They were just not ready. They were really young and they had a lot of growing to do and a lot of life to experience, and I think they both now are experiencing things together and learning the ways of love and marriage," she explained.

On the work front, Bieber recently released a new song titled 'I Don't Care' with Ed Sheeran.

The duo's collaboration comes nearly four years after they worked on their hit single 'Love Yourself'.

De Niro, LaBeouf to star in 'After Exile'

ANI | Hollywood

Actors Robert De Niro and Shia LaBeouf will star in the upcoming independent crime drama 'After Exile.'

The two will portray a father and son in the project, reported Variety. LaBeouf will play the role of an ex-con who, after being released from jail for killing an innocent

man after a violent robbery, must re-enter his old life with his father (De Niro) in order to save his younger brother from a life of drugs and crime.

The upcoming drama is about a difficult trajectory toward forgiveness and redemption. De Niro will play Ted Delaney, an ex-con who lost his wife years ago and now suffers from alcoholism and guilt. All he has left is the need to save his two sons from the dark and destructive paths they are on.

Joshua Michael Stern, whose credits include the Steve Jobs biopic 'Jobs' and the series 'Graves', will direct the film from a script by Anthony Thorne and Michael Tovo. Latter wrote the story, based on true events from his life.

Shia LaBeouf



SPORTS

Sharapova win sets up Barty battle

Maria Sharapova tops Alison Riske for a winning start in Cincinnati

● Venus Williams prevails in opening Cincinnati match

● Caroline Wozniacki was defeated by Dayana Yastremska

Reuters | Cincinnati

Maria Sharapova overpowered Alison Riske 6-3 7-6(4) at the Cincinnati Masters on Monday to set up a tantalising second-round battle with world number two Ash Barty, who defeated the Russian at this year's Australian Open.

Sharapova struggled at times with her accuracy but unleashed some massive serves and played stout defence at key moments on her return to the tournament after a five year absence.

Fellow tournament wild card Riske looked poised to send the match to a third set when she was serving on 5-3 and 15-0 in the second set but Sharapova upped her game to force a tie-breaker.

Former world number one and five-time Grand Slam champion Sharapova prevailed on her fourth match point to set up the



Maria Sharapova of Russia returns a shot to Alison Riske of the United States

meeting with top seeded Barty. Barty defeated Sharapova in the fourth round of the Australian Open in January and both will be looking to sharpen their games ahead of the U.S. Open later this month.

Another former world number one, Caroline Wozniacki, fell to rising Ukrainian teenager Dayana Yastremska 6-4 6-4 under the lights to close out the day's action.

The unseeded Dane had her opportunities but converted just four of her 15 break point chances against Yastremska, who was making her Cincinnati debut.

Johanna Konta suffered her second straight first-round exit at a tournament as she fell 6-3 3-6 7-5 to qualifier Rebecca Peterson in a marathon first-round match.

The 14th-seeded Konta's biggest weakness was her second serve as the Swede won 62% of those points against the error-prone Briton.

Svetlana Kuznetsova upset 11th seeded Anastasiya Sevastova 7-6(3) 6-7(4) 6-4 in their first-round battle to set up a second round clash with Yastremska.

Seven times Grand Slam champion Venus Williams

moved through the first round when she defeated compatriot Lauren Davis in straight sets earlier in the day.

Venus prevails
Wild card Williams won 7-5 6-2 on centre court as she maintained her streak of never having lost a set to Davis, having beaten her four times.

Williams fended off seven of the eight break points she faced, and won 61% of points when returning the Davis second serve.

Kazakhstan's Yulia Putintseva and Belarusian Aliaksandra Sasnovich earlier won three set matches

Dutch hero Sneijder announces retirement from football

AFP | The Hague, Netherlands

The Netherlands' most-capped player Wesley Sneijder announced on Monday his retirement from football, bringing down the curtain on a trophy-laden career that spanned 17 years.

The 35-year-old, who played 134 times for his country, made the announcement while speaking to the YouTube channel of his hometown club FC Utrecht after having bought a corporate box at their stadium.

"My connection to the town is big. Now I've retired from football I want a nice place to share my memories," he said.

Sneijder, who made his international debut in 2003 aged 19, picked up a World Cup runners-up medal in 2010 as the Oranje were beaten by a dominant Spain in the South Africa final.

His displays earned him the Silver Ball for the tournament's second best player behind Uruguay's Diego Forlan.

Four years later in Brazil he took his side to third place after missing a penalty in the semi-final shoot-out loss to Argentina. He was also named in the Euro 2008 Team of the Tournament

despite his team's quarter-final exit at the hands of Russia.

His run to the 2010 final with the Netherlands came after his finest season in club football, as the number 10 led Inter Milan's charge to a Serie A, Coppa Italia and Champions League treble under Jose Mourinho.

An Ajax academy graduate in 2002, Sneijder won the Eredivisie title and two Dutch Cups in his five years in the capital club's first team before moving to Real Madrid, where he linked up with countryman Arjen Robben.

He won the La Liga title in 2008 before making the move to Inter a year later, winning that famous treble before a succession of injuries saw him moved on to Gala, where he picked up two more league titles and three Turkish Cups in four years.

He finished his playing career Al Gharafa in Qatar's top-flight.



Wesley Sneijder

Liverpool keeper Alisson out for 'next few weeks' says Klopp

AFP | London

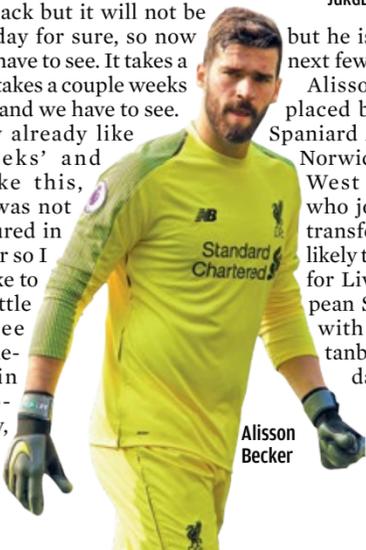
Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker was on Monday ruled out for "the next few weeks" by coach Jurgen Klopp after suffering a calf injury in their 4-1 win over Norwich.

Brazil international Alisson limped off in the first half of Liverpool's Premier League opener at Anfield on Friday.

"Not too cool. It's a calf injury which takes him obviously out for a while," Klopp told Liverpool's website.

"I don't want to make now an exact prognosis on when he will be back but it will not be Wednesday for sure, so now then we have to see. It takes a while, it takes a couple weeks for sure, and we have to see

"I saw already like 'six weeks' and stuff like this, but Ali was not a lot injured in his career so I would like to wait a little bit to see how he develops in that process now,



Alisson Becker

"I don't want to make now an exact prognosis on when he will be back but it will not be Wednesday for sure, so now then we have to see. It takes a while, it takes a couple weeks for sure, and we have to see"

JURGEN KLOPP

but he is not in for the next few weeks."

Alisson, 26, was replaced by experienced Spaniard Adrian against Norwich. The former West Ham keeper, who joined on a free transfer last week, is likely to keep his place for Liverpool's European Super Cup date with Chelsea in Istanbul on Wednesday.

Third-choice Liverpool keep-

er Caoimhin Kelleher is not fully fit after a broken wrist, so the club are set to sign 35-year-old former Middlesbrough player Andy Lonergan on a free transfer.

Lonergan was part of Liverpool's pre-season tour as cover for their other keepers.

Asked if Lonergan will be on the bench on Wednesday, Klopp said: "I think so. I didn't speak to (goalkeeping coach) John Achterberg yet about that. We spoke a lot about the goalie situation apart from what we have to do on Wednesday!"

"We will see, but we can have obviously a lot of players on the bench there, which is good and I think Andy will be one of them.

"He was in with us, he's a brilliant character, a really nice lad and helped us a lot in the pre-season, and now we decided to work together with him."



Thilo Kehrer

PSG's Kehrer out for up three weeks

AFP | Paris

Paris Saint-Germain's Germany defender Thilo Kehrer has been ruled out for up to three weeks with a foot injury, the French champions said on

Monday.

Kehrer, 22, who has made seven international appearances, was replaced after 76 minutes of PSG's 3-0 Ligue 1 victory over Nimes on Sunday.

"The medical staff will evaluate more precisely how long he will be sidelined depending on how the injury

heals, currently estimated at 15 to 21 days," the club said on their website.

The left-back, in his second season at the Parc des Princes, joins Spain midfielder Ander Herrera on Thomas Tuchel's injury list.

PSG travel to Rennes on Sunday for their second league game of the campaign.

Alex Marquez delays move to MotoGP

AFP | Paris

Moto 2 championship leader Alex Marquez has delayed his projected move into MotoGP by signing a new deal to race for Marc VDS in 2020, the Belgian team announced yesterday.

The new one-year deal puts on hold the prospect of the 23-year-old going wheel to wheel with his older brother, five-time MotoGP champion Marc Marquez.

"I am very happy to be able to announce that next season I will continue with Marc VDS in the Moto2 category," said Alex Marquez in a statement on the team website.

"I am very grateful for the confidence of the team."



Alex Marquez reacts after the Moto2 race

"With its renewed technical structure, a key part of the current success, I will be able to continue for one more year to improve as a rider, raise my riding level and prepare myself to fulfil my dream of making the leap to MotoGP."

Marquez has won five races this season and leads the Moto 2 standings by 43 points with eight races remaining.

Murray rates comeback 'OK' despite defeat

Andy Murray was beaten by Richard Gasquet on singles return in Cincinnati

● Murray decides not to play singles at US Open

AFP | Cincinnati

Three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray said he "did OK" in his first singles match in seven months -- a 6-4, 6-4 loss to Richard Gasquet at the Cincinnati Masters on Monday.

"I don't really know what I was expecting, to be honest," said Murray, sidelined since January by a career-threatening hip injury. "I did OK."

"There were a lot of things I would like to have done better in the match, but you also have to be somewhat realistic in terms of what you can expect, in terms of how you actually play and hit the ball."

Murray said he "felt fine, physically," during the match.

"My legs were a little bit heavy at the end of the match. When Richard drop-shotted me, there were a few times I didn't even run to the ball, didn't react to it."

"That's nothing to do with my hip, that's just me not running for a ball."



Andy Murray of Great Britain returns a shot to Richard Gasquet of France

Murray hadn't played a singles match since a five-set first-round exit at the Australian Open, where he tearfully acknowledged he feared his career was over.

Since undergoing right hip resurfacing surgery on January 28, he has slowly fashioned a return.

Murray has been playing doubles for the past two months, winning at Queen's Club in London with Feliciano Lopez.

Gasquet, however, was too strong for the 32-year-old, who won the title in the US Open warm-up in Cincinnati in 2008 and 2011.

Gasquet, who had groin surgery in January, ended a five-match skid against the Briton, now ranked 324th.

Murray opened the game with a double fault, and his forehead into the net gave Gasquet a match point that the 56th-

ranked Frenchman converted when Murray sent a service return wide to end the match after 96 minutes.

Tentative at times, he finished with a respectable 20 winners but struck 28 unforced errors.

No US Open singles

He was optimistic he can improve further.

"I think with a few more weeks of practice and hopeful-

There were a lot of things I would like to have done better in the match, but you also have to be somewhat realistic in terms of what you can expect

ANDY MURRAY

ly some more matches, then I could do better," said Murray, who nevertheless said after the match that he did not intend to play singles at the US Open.

"I'm not going to play the US Open singles," he confirmed, adding that US Open organizers had wanted to know by Monday if he was interested in a wild card invitation.

"I felt like I wanted to maybe try and get a couple of matches in before making a decision like that," said Murray, who knows the best-of-five set format at Grand Slams will be even more of a challenge.

The return of former world number one Murray dominated an opening day that saw another former US Open champion,

Marin Cilic, join Murray on the sidelines with a 6-4, 7-6 (8/6) loss to Radu Albot.

US wild card Sam Querrey booked a second-round date with top seed Novak Djokovic, defeating France's Pierre-Hugues Herbert 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/1).

Seven-time champion Roger Federer will start his campaign in the second round against Argentine Juan Ignacio Londero, who defeated Italy's Matteo Berrettini 7-6 (7/3), 6-3.

Australian Nick Kyrgios slammed a ball skyward in a moment of distracted anger to earn a warning but buckled down to post a 7-5, 6-4 win over Italian Lorenzo Sonego.

In the women's draw at the ATP-WTA event, 2011 winner Maria Sharapova, who last played here five years ago, came back from a pair of first-round defeats at Wimbledon and Toronto, defeating Alison Riske 6-3, 7-6 (7/4).

Venus Williams defeated fellow American Lauren Davis 7-5, 6-2 to snap a four-match losing streak.

Sweden's Rebecca Peterson defeated Britain's Jo Konta, a 2017 quarter-finalist, 6-3, 3-6, 7-5.

Mangala poised for Valencia move from Man City

AFP | Madrid

Valencia are set to sign France defender Eliaquim Mangala from Manchester City, the Spanish club announced on Monday.

The La Liga outfit said in a statement they had: "reached an initial agreement with Eliaquim Mangala for the French defender to join the club through to June 30th, 2021. The agreement is pending the completion of the definitive paperwork."

Mangala joined City from Porto in 2014 but lost his place before moving to Valencia, where he made 33 appearances, and then Everton on loan.

The 28-year-old has not

played a first-team game since February 2018 after missing eight months with a knee injury.

Valencia begin their La Liga season at home to Real Sociedad on Saturday although Mangala may need more time to regain fitness.



Eliaquim Mangala

Barcelona officials head to Paris for Neymar

AFP | Madrid

Barcelona officials headed to France yesterday for talks with Paris Saint-Germain to seal a return to the Spanish club for Brazilian star Neymar, reports said.

The club's director for football, retired French international Eric Abidal, and two other top club officials flew to Paris to meet with their Paris Saint-Germain counterparts, Catalan radio Raci and Catalan television TV3 reported.

"The breakthrough is significant as PSG had up until now refused to meet with Barcelona emissaries but it does not mean that the deal is close," Raci wrote on its website.

The deal which the Barcelona officials will propose could include other players such as Philippe Coutinho or Ivan Rakitic, it added.

Paris Saint-Germain revealed on Saturday that Neymar transfer talks are "more advanced than before" after the Brazilian was dropped for the French champions' opening Ligue 1 match.

Sporting director Leonardo confirmed to reporters that the Brazilian was near the exit door but that PSG were "not yet ready to give their approval" for the transfer.

Real Madrid or a return to Barcelona are the most likely destinations for the world's most expensive footballer, won two La Liga titles and the 2015 Champions League in four years with the Catalan side.

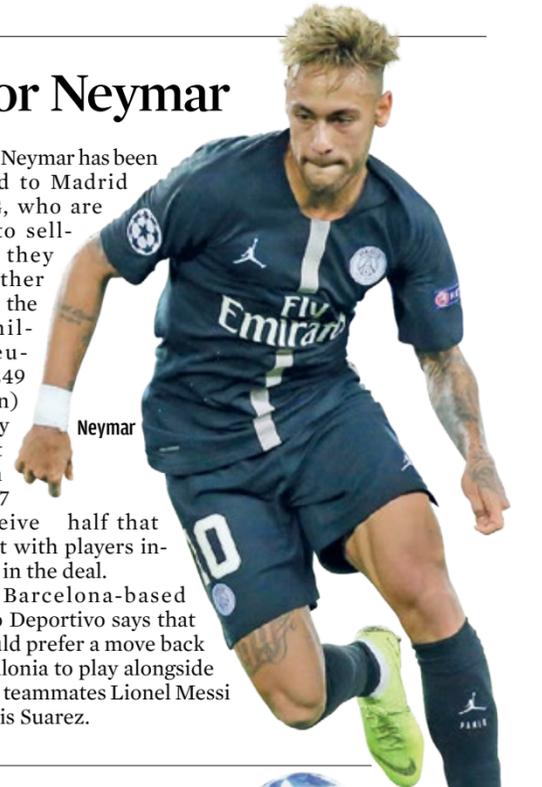
Sports newspaper AS has report-

ed that Neymar has been offered to Madrid

by PSG, who are open to selling if they can either recoup the 222 million euros (\$249 million) they spent on him in 2017

or receive half that amount with players included in the deal.

But Barcelona-based Mundo Deportivo says that he would prefer a move back to Catalonia to play alongside former teammates Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez.



Neymar

Brazilian duo fire Saudi teams into Asia's last eight

AFP | Doha

Brazilian Giuliano was on target twice as Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr booked their spot in the AFC Champions League quarter-finals with a 4-3 aggregate win over the UAE's Al Wahda on Monday.

Another Saudi side, Al Ittihad, also advanced, recording a 6-4 aggregate victory over Iran's Zobahan after winning the second leg 4-3 thanks to a brace from Romarinho.

In Abu Dhabi, a thrilling clash was on the cards in Al Nassr and Al Wahda's second leg following their 1-1 draw last week, it didn't disappoint as Al Nassr bounced back from a goal down to win 3-2

at the Al Nahyan Stadium.

Al Wahda had reached the semi-finals of the tournament in 2007 but since then have failed to win a single match in the knockout phase, while Al Nassr extended their unbeaten run to six games and will clash with either Al Sadd or Al Duhail of Qatar in the quarter-finals.

The hosts enjoyed the upper hand during the first half-hour and the pressure paid off in the 27th minute when Al Nassr captain Omar al-Hawasawi's attempted clearance sent the ball to Leonardo, who produced an accurate pass for Mohamed al-Menhali.

The defender wasted no time to half-volley the ball into the net



Wahda FC's Emirati midfielder and captain Ismail Matar (C) fights for the ball with Nassr FC's Brazilian midfielder Giuliano

to give the hosts the lead and a 2-1 advantage on aggregate.

Al Nassr, however were not disheartened and regrouped to

find the equaliser in the 41st minute, with Moroccan Abderrazak Hamdallah netting with a diving header.

Two minutes, two own goals

Hamdallah provided the assist when Al Nassr struck again five minutes later, flicking Abdullah al-Khaibari's pass to Giuliano who slotted his fourth goal of the tournament this year.

Giuliano stretched Al Nassr's lead on the rebound after goalkeeper Mohamed al-Shamshi had parried a shot from Hamad al-Mansoor in the 62nd minute.

Trailing 4-2 on aggregate, Al Wahda pulled one back with through Argentinian Sebastian Tagliabue in the 79th minute,



but Al

Nassr hung on to reach the last eight.

In the second match, which kicked off at midnight due to the Muslim festival of Eid Al Adha, Brazilian Romarinho scored twice in the second half to guide Al Ittihad into the quarters at Zobahan's expense.

Al Ittihad carried a 2-1 advantage into the match but they were given a tough fight by a determined Zobahan at the Grand Hamad Stadium.

Argentinian Emiliano Vecchio put Al Ittihad ahead in first-half stoppage time, but his teammate Luiz Jimenez then scored an own goal in the 53rd minute as he tried to block a free-kick.