

**Bahrain hold Australia**

A fighting Bahrain held Australia to a 1-1 draw last night but it was not enough to prevent their elimination from the 2020 AFC U23 Championship in Thailand.

P16

THE DAILY **tribune**



J.Lo would love to live in somewhere other than the US

Canada yet to decide if it will pay Harry, Meghan security costs

**Heavy security presence in Khartoum**

Heavy gunfire broke out in Sudan's capital yesterday as several agents of the National Intelligence and Security Service (Niss) rebelled against a restructuring plan for the body, prompting a closure of the international airport.

A teenager was wounded when shots were fired at some bases of the agency, now rebranded the Directorate of General Intelligence Service. The Niss was a security arm loyal to longtime president Omar Al Bashir who was removed from office by the military amid protests in April.

The violence was the biggest confrontation so far between the old guard and supporters of the new administration, which helped topple Al Bashir in April after 30 years in power.

Niss agents also shut two small oilfields in Darfur in protest about their severance packages, a government source told Reuters. They had an output of around 5,000 barrels per day.

**Iraqi militias meet in Iran**

Tehran

Iraqi militia chiefs met in Iran this week to resolve a power struggle and differences on how to counter Washington after the US killed a senior operative who oversaw Iranian activities in Iraq.

The January 3 killing of Qassem Suleimani brought into the open disputes among Tehran's allies in Baghdad. Suleimani was Iran's top external enforcer and oversaw pro-Iranian militia across the region.



02 Diplomatic Day marked

Stranded Bahrainis

03 'struggling' to return home from Iraqi cities

Many cafeterias 'continue to violate' rules for food outlets

04

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**Dust haze**



A thick haze caused by Shamal winds (northwesterly winds) shrouded the Kingdom's skyline yesterday, impacting horizontal visibility as winds kicked up dust. Asthmatic and skin-allergy patients have been advised to stay indoors by health experts. The Meteorological Directorate has forecast cool weather with chances of temperature further dropping for today.

PIC BY AJI MATHAI

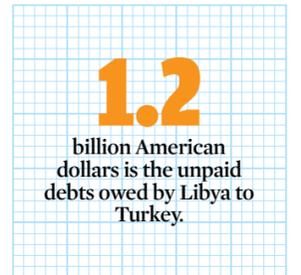
**Erdogan's \$2.7bn Tripoli cash grab**

Istanbul

Recep Tayyip Erdogan has struck a deal with the UN-backed Libyan government for Tripoli to pay \$2.7bn in compensation for debts owed to Turkey before Libya's nine-year civil war began.

Turkish companies were heavily involved in lucrative infrastructure and construction projects in Libya from the 1970s, but they collapsed when dictator Muammar Qaddafi was removed in 2011 and the country descended into chaos.

Now, as peace talks in Moscow edge toward an agreement between warring factions in Libya, the Turkish president is maneuvering to restore business links between the two countries. In addition to compensation for Turkey's losses,



the new deal paves the way for new contracts in the energy, housing and construction sectors.

The agreement is expected to be signed in February. The exact amounts have still to be negotiated, but they are thought to include a \$1bn letter of guarantee, \$500m in compensation for looted or damaged machinery and other equipment, and unpaid debts of \$1.2bn.

**Protests surge again**

Anger returns to streets of Lebanon as lira plunges in value against dollar

● Angry protesters returned to the streets on Tuesday to complain about unemployment and financial meltdown.

● President Michel Aoun said obstacles remained to the creation of a new administration.

Beirut

Protesters in Lebanon burned tires, blocked roads and brought traffic in Beirut to a standstill yesterday in renewed demonstrations against economic hardship and government corruption.

In Tripoli, protesters clashed with army and internal security forces. An officer was hit in the head by a stone, and a protester was hit by a rubber bullet.



Anti-government protesters smash a bank window, during ongoing protests against the Lebanese central bank's governor and against the deepening financial crisis, at Hamra Trade Street, in Beirut.

The demonstrations, which began in October and led swiftly to the resignation of Saad Hariiri as prime minister, had been scaled back in recent weeks amid negotiations to form a new government.

But angry protesters returned to the streets on Tuesday to complain about unemployment and financial meltdown, as the Lebanese lira plunged in value to 2,500 against the US dollar, compared with the official exchange rate of 1,515.

“We gave them a month to form a new government, so they thought we were weak and they went back to their corruption.”

PROTESTER

change rate of 1,515. “We gave them a month to form a new government, so they thought we were weak and they went back to their corruption,” said one woman standing on the Ring Bridge with protesters waving Lebanese flags.

“They proved that they do not care about the people or the economic collapse that the country is experiencing, so we decided to return to the streets.”

Another activist said: “We want a government that will save the country from the abyss

it has fallen into.” One woman from Tripoli complained: “I do not work, my children are unemployed, politicians do not care.”

Protesters from Beirut's southern suburbs joined a demonstration outside the Central Bank, chanting against the governor and his policies of restricting dollar transactions and deposit withdrawals.

Others gathered outside the Beirut home of the newly designated Prime Minister, Hassan Diab, calling for his resignation less than a month after he was appointed.

President Michel Aoun said obstacles remained to the creation of a new administration.

“Although we do not have the luxury of delay, the formation of this government requires the selection of qualified candidates, worthy of the confidence of both the people and the Parliament, which in turn requires time,” he said.

GHOSN ESCAPE

**Yamaha warns musicians not to climb in instrument cases**

Tokyo

Yamaha Corporation, has warned people not to try and squeeze inside musical instrument cases after reports former Nissan Motor boss Carlos Ghosn fled Japan concealed inside in one.

“We won't mention the reason, but there have been many tweets about climbing inside large musical instrument cases. A

warning after any unfortunate accident would be too late, so we ask everyone not to try it,” the Japanese company said in a post on its Twitter account on Jan 11.

Ghosn, who is accused of hiding earnings, transferring investment losses to Nissan and misappropriating company funds, escaped from Japan at the end of December for Lebanon. Japanese authorities have vowed to pursue him and have

“We won't mention the reason, but there have been many tweets about climbing inside large musical instrument cases.”

COMPANY STATEMENT

issued an international wanted notice for him and his wife Carole.

The former auto executive and fugitive has declined to reveal how he slipped past Japanese airport security, or confirm media reports accomplices smuggled him through a private jet lounge in Kansai Airport in western Japan hidden in large speaker box that was too large to fit through the facility's X-ray scanner.