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Czech teacher survives 34 years with heart transplant

Prague, Czech Republic

A Czech teacher survived more than 34 years with a heart transplant, making him one of the longest living transplant patients, Czech media and a hospital said yesterday.

Local media reported that secondary school teacher Rudolf Sekava, who underwent the transplant on October 23, 1984, died in hospital in the central Czech city of Jihlava on May 10.

"Yes, it's true, but I can't tell you more," hospital spokeswoman Monika Zachrlova said.

The website of the Czech broadsheet daily DNES said Sekava, who had received the heart of a 25-year-old woman, would have turned 83 on Wednesday.



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ON A DIET

The Moon is shrinking: study

Washington, United States

The Moon is steadily shrinking, causing wrinkling on its surface and quakes, according to an analysis of imagery captured by NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) published Monday.

A survey of more than 12,000

images revealed that lunar basin Mare Frigoris near the Moon's north pole -- one of many vast basins long assumed to be dead sites from a geological point of view -- has been cracking and shifting.

Unlike our planet, the Moon doesn't have tectonic plates;

instead, its tectonic activity occurs as it slowly loses heat from when it was formed 4.5 billion years ago.

This in turn causes its surface to wrinkle, similar to a grape that shrivels into a raisin.

The Moon has become about 150 feet (50 meters) "skinnier".

WHO to honour HRH PM as 'World Leader'

TDT | Manama

The World Health Organisation (WHO) will honour His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa as a 'World Leader', in a new international achievement reflecting the global impact and resonance of the contributions of His Royal Highness.

The Premier was chosen after a careful follow-up on the progress achieved by Bahrain's health sector, which, according to WHO, "deserves to be a role model for other countries of the world."

The award honours HRH the Premier's contributions in the field of health and for his vision, ideas, policies, initiatives and achievements.



HRH the Premier with Dr Tidros Adhanom Gibressus, the Director-General of World Health Organization, yesterday

Dr Tidros Adhanom Gibressus, the Chief of the World Health Organization (WHO) said this in an invitation to HRH to attend the 72nd World Health Assembly.

The high international honour also reflects the role HRH Prince Khalifa has played in achieving WHO's objectives, missions and functions.

Bahrain has become a suc-

cessful model in this area, and we would like to convey your experiences to other countries to benefit from," said the Director-General of the WHO during his meeting with HRH Premier

last November.

Cooperation with WHO has been a consistent approach for His Royal Highness the Prime Minister since the adoption of the Alma-Ata Declaration in 1978.

HRH Premier earlier called on the WHO Member States to provide "health for all" by the year 2000. "This should be done following the new health strategy launched in 2002/2010 to make Bahrain one of the first countries to develop a strategy for the health system in line with the goals of WHO."

The honouring ceremony will be held at WHO headquarters at the UN Palace in Geneva on May 20. Heads of states, governments and ministers of health from the 194 WHO member states will be present.

Bahrain's economy among region's fastest growing: HRH CP



HRH the Crown Prince during a Majlis yesterday

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is among the fastest growing economies in the region, said HRH the Crown Prince, citing the strong results achieved so far through policies that support financial stability and economic prosperity.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister was visiting the Majlis of Ahmed Mansoor Al A'ali, and the Majlis of the sons of the late Haji Hasan Al A'ali.

Bahrain, HRH Prince Salman said, has launched several initiatives that had contributed to the ongoing economic

development, which also further diversified the Kingdom's economy.

"There is a need to reinforce the role of the private sector as Bahrain's primary growth engine while promoting greater innovation and competitiveness," said the Crown Prince.

In this regard, Prince Salman underscored the successful partnerships between the public and private sectors, which have resulted in wide-ranging achievements at all levels.

HRH concluded his visits by recognising the vital role Bahraini citizens play in advancing Bahrain's economy.

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa accompanied His Royal Highness during the Majlis visits.

Iran hand in attacks: US

Drone attacks claimed by Iran-aligned Yemen rebels shut down one of Saudi Arabia's major oil pipelines

TDT | Manama

Iranian or Iranian-backed proxies used explosives Sunday to blow large holes in four ships anchored off the coast of the United Arab Emirates, a US official has said citing American military team's initial assessment.

The official said each ship has a 5 to 10 foot hole in it, near or just below the water line, and the team's early belief is that the holes were caused by explosive charges.

The team of US military experts was sent to investigate the damages at the request of the UAE, but American officials have not provided any details about what exactly happened or any proof as yet about the possible Iranian involvement in the explosions.

The official was not authorised to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Two Saudi oil tankers, a Norwegian-flagged vessel, and a bunkering tanker flagged in Sharjah, one of the UAE's seven emirates, all suffered similar damage Sunday.

The US has warned ships that "Iran or its proxies" could be targeting maritime traffic in the region, and America has moved into the region.

The attacks came after the



A general view of oil tanks at a plant in Haradh, about 280 kilometres (170 miles) southwest of the eastern Saudi oil city of Dhahra

Saudi shuts oil pipeline after attack

Drone attacks claimed by Iran-aligned Yemen rebels shut down one of Saudi Arabia's major oil pipelines yesterday, further ratcheting up Gulf tensions after the mysterious sabotage of several tankers.

Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said Saudi Aramco had "temporarily shut down" the pipeline to "evaluate its condition" but added that oil production and exports had not been interrupted.

In a statement carried by rebel-run Al-Masirah TV, the Huthis warned of other "unique operations."

Iran has repeatedly threatened to close the strait.

(Full story on page 3)

Holy Quran Grand Prix concludes



Winners with officials during a photocall

TDT | Manama

The 24th edition of the Bahrain Holy Quran Grand Prix, co-organised by the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments and the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (SCIA), concluded

yesterday under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

A total of 3370 contestants from various age groups participated in the 24th edition of the award. It was held last night at the Ahmed Al Fateh Islamic Centre in the presence of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endow-

ments Minister, Shaikh Khalid bin Ali bin Abdulla Al Khalifa.

SCIA President, Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Khalifa and the Justice Minister and Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Undersecretary, Dr Farid bin Yaqoob Al Mef-tah, honoured the winner of

the award, Yahya Bilal Yusef, from Morocco, other winners, the jury and all relevant parties.

The Justice Minister affirmed that the award has contributed to enhancing the teaching and memorisation of the Holy Quran across Bahrain and abroad.

Bahrain's customer satisfaction exceeds global average: report

TDT | Manama

Bahrain exceeded the global average in 'General customer satisfaction' by recording a satisfaction level of 78.1 per cent on the index.

"General customer satisfaction index has reached 78.1pc, according to the US model and scale, thus exceeding the global average in this field," said the survey conducted by e-Government Authority (IGA) and University of Bahrain.

Survey results were revealed during a meeting of the Supreme Committee for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Chaired by president and Deputy Premier HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa.

The Customer Satisfaction survey further found that around 93 per cent of the Bahraini public is well aware of the electric services provided by various government authorities in the Kingdom.

It, however, pointed out that only 88pc are aware of the 'level of their use'.

The meeting also reviewed a report on the efforts exerted by the Information and e-Government Authority (IGA) to strengthen cybersecurity in the public sector.

In this context, the deputy premier stressed the importance of the "Thiqa" programme in promoting the best standards and practices in the field of information security, preparing human competencies, building the capacities of government departments.

The committee was also briefed on the progress of the implementation of "Sehaty" (My Health) application. The deputy premier stressed the importance of devising a comprehensive plan to develop protection and response systems to address cyberattacks aimed at targeting countries' facilities, national security and vital interests.

Man dies of heart attack

TDT | Manama

Premnath Rami-ah, a 50-year-old Indian national, passed away yesterday morning after suffering a cardiac arrest,



in the Salmaniya Medical Complex.

Hailing from Tamil Nadu, India, he was a Civil Engineer at Aref Sadeq Design Consultants.

Lane closures announced

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning has announced improvement works on Khalifa Al Kabeer Highway at Mu-harraq.

"This necessitates the closure of slow and middle lanes at its junction with Abdul Rahman Al Fadel Avenue for traffic going to Arad," said a statement jointly issued by the General Directorate of Traffic at the Ministry of the Interior.

One lane on the highway will be provided for traffic movement.

The closure will be effective from Thursday at 11:00 p.m. to Friday at 11:00 a.m.

eTransactions jump 38pc

Electronic financial transactions in the Kingdom recorded a 38 per cent jump in the first quarter of 2019 compared to year-earlier quarter.

Figures showed that the number of electronic financial transactions exceeded 32 million, compared with Q1/2018.

This came as the meeting reviewed the main e-Gov-

ernment statistics during the first quarter of 2019. Statistics showed that the total number of electronic transactions had exceeded 361,000. The report revealed an increase in the use of smart applications by 17pc, as well in the overall number of active e-services through the national portal and mobile phones to reach 378.

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Death sentences upheld in policeman murder case

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal yesterday upheld the death sentences and conviction of two men who killed a policeman and wounded several others in a highway ambush.

The Supreme Criminal Court's decision upheld a lower court's decision in the case of a five-member terrorist gang, who was convicted in the 2017 murder of policeman Salman Anjam by detonating explosives.

The latest decision follows two appeals filed by the suspected against the death sentences issued against them.

The Court wrote that the evidence presented at trial was sufficient to support the murder conviction and death penalty awarded to the two for the incident occurred on October 27, 2017.

According to court files, both the men received military training on manufacturing explosives and using firearms in Iran in 2011.

The appellants are members of a five-member terrorist gang that was involved in a series of attacks that targeted security forces vehicles.

Investigations led to identifying the two appellants and another member of the same gang.

Evidence before the court proved that they were involved



The appellants were responsible for the killing of policeman Salman Anjam in 2017



The defendants targeted public security vehicles using explosives

in planting bombs on main roads and detonating them when public security vehicles pass by.

The suspects were convicted in 2017. They were both handed down capital punishment

and ordered to pay BD500 fines each.

Others got sentences varying from life in prison to seven years in jail. The court also ordered to strip all involved of their citizenships.

BIG STORY
big story

'Cowardly terrorist act'

Bahrain condemns attacks on two major oil pumping stations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- Saudi Arabia said it had stopped pumping crude oil along a major pipeline

- Iran-backed Huthis said they had targeted vital Saudi installations

- Saudi Aramco took precautionary measures and temporarily stopped operation of the pipeline

TDT | Manama

Bahrain yesterday denounced and condemned in strongest terms the terrorist attack, that targeted two oil pumping stations transporting Saudi Arabian oil, using explosive-laden drones.

The stations were used for pumping Saudi Arabian oil from the fields in the Eastern Province to the port of Yanbu on the West Coast.

Bahrain Ministry said that this 'cowardly terrorist act' is a threat to the energy safety of not only the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia but also to the world.

The Foreign Ministry statement pledged Bahrain's 'unequivocal position' in supporting Saudi Arabia against those threatening its security or harming its interests and the stability of its people.

The Ministry also called for the international community to combat all groups and terrorist organisations that seek to provoke tension, violence and chaos in the region.

The attacks were claimed by Iran-backed Huthi rebels hours



A drone which the Emirati armed forces say was used by Huthis in Yemen in battles against the coalition forces led by the UAE and Saudi Arabia

after the blast.

Following the drone attack, Saudi Arabia said it had stopped pumping crude oil along the major pipeline.

Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said two pumping stations on the pipeline from the oil-rich Eastern Province to the Red Sea had been targeted early yesterday.

The vital pipeline has a capacity of at least five million barrels per day.

"Saudi Aramco took precautionary measures and temporarily stopped the operation of the pipeline, as it is evaluating the situation and working on restoring

the operations of the affected pump station and the pipeline," Falih said in a statement cited by state news agency SPA.

The 1,200-kilometre (750-mile) pipeline carries crude from Saudi Arabia's main eastern oil fields to the Red Sea port city of Yanbu in the west.

It was created several decades ago as an alternative for Saudi crude exports if the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf were to be closed.

The pumping stations reportedly targeted lie west of the capital Riyadh, at Dawadmi and Afeef.

The reported pipeline attacks came amid spiralling tensions in the Gulf, following a series of mysterious attacks on ships off the coast of the UAE and a major US military deployment to the region.

Falih condemned the attacks. "The latest acts of terrorism and sabotage in the Arabian Gulf... not only target the Kingdom but also the security of oil supplies to the world and the global economy," he said.

"These attacks prove again that it is important for us to face terrorist entities, including the Houthi militias in Yemen that are backed by Iran."

The attacks were condemned several countries including Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan and Palestine.

Egypt's foreign ministry expressed solidarity with Saudi Arabia in confronting all attempts to undermine its security and stability.

Jordan also condemned the "cowardly terrorist attack" in the strongest terms and confirmed its stance with Saudi Arabia in the face of any threat to the security and stability of the Kingdom, according to Sufian al-Qudah, spokesman for the Jordanian foreign ministry.

The head of the Arab League Ahmed Aboul-Gheit said the attacks were a "serious threat to the regional and international security, and the world economy."

He said: "The Arab League stands by Saudi Arabia to counter these terrorist threats aimed at stabilising the region."

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said the attacks were not only aimed at the Kingdom but "are aimed at destabilizing the region as a whole."



The latest acts of terrorism and sabotage in the Arabian Gulf... not only target the Kingdom but also the security of oil supplies to the world and the global economy
Energy Minister
Khalid al-Falih

SAUDI ARABIA'S ENERGY MINISTER
KHALID AL-FALIH



A general view of an oil plant in Haradh, about 280 kilometres (170 miles) southwest of the eastern Saudi oil city of Dhahran, following its inauguration launching a project adding 300,000 barrels of oil to the kingdom's daily production capacity.

Housemaid admits setting sponsor's house on fire

- Maid claimed the sponsor prevented her from contacting her family

TDT | Manama

In a high-profile arson case in Busaiteen, the family's maid allegedly confessed to setting fire to her sponsor's house.

The suspect, a 24-year-old Kenyan national, reportedly told police that she torched the room of her sponsor's daughter to avenge the injustice done to her.

The sponsor allegedly refused to pay her salary and prevented her from contacting her family.

The maid claimed that she was not allowed to use a phone.

The incident was reported to

police on February 10.

Investigators, who reached the scene immediately, concluded the incident as an arson attack and noticed that the maid was missing.

The sponsor also confirmed to the police that they didn't find her after the fire.

The suspect, who managed to escape the fire unscathed, was tracked down and arrested a few hours later.

Further investigation confirmed that the incident in fact was an arson attack.

Explaining the reasons that led her into the attack, the maid reportedly told investigators that her sponsor treated her rudely and insulted her verbally.

She confessed that she used a matchstick to set a bed in one of the rooms on fire.

Explaining the ordeal, the sponsor told police that she managed to escape through their garage, upon finding smoke gushing out of her daughter's room.

The woman said she later noticed that the maid was missing from the house.

The Public Prosecution accused the suspect of arson and endangering people's lives and property.

She was referred to the First High Criminal Court, which adjourned the case to June 2.

Tribune reported earlier that the Director-General of Muharraq Governorate Police announced the arrest of an African maid who is suspected of setting fire to a house in Busaiteen.

Investigators suspected an arson attack and revealed that the maid is missing.



A picture released earlier by the police showing the damage caused by the fire

'FORSATI for govt employees'

iGA, Microsoft, Thinksmart in a deal to enhance the skill of government employees in digital transformation

The initiative, according to iGA, would potentially help thousands of Bahraini government employees in enhancing their capabilities as part of Bahrain's digital transformation drive



iGA, Microsoft and Thinksmart officials during a group photo session following the signing of a deal to upskill government employees

TDT | Manama

Plans are on way to upskill government employees in the Kingdom through a partnership with Microsoft and ICT training provider Thinksmart, said the Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA).

The initiative which would potentially help thousands of Bahraini government employees has been named as 'FORSATI for

Government Employees'.

Under the terms of the MoU, iGA, Microsoft and Thinksmart will work together on the initiative.

"Our collaboration with Microsoft and Thinksmart will help us build the foundations of that success and improve government eServices, accelerate innovation, boost employment and economic growth in the Kingdom. We look forward to working with our partners to

enhance the overall competitiveness of the country in line with Bahrain Vision 2030," said iGA's Chief Executive Mohamed Ali AlQaed.

Microsoft will work to provide courses, certifications and technical guidance.

Training paths will include Microsoft basic tools, professional IT, cloud training, digital transformation and exposure to technologies that have emerged as part of the Fourth Industrial

Revolution.

Each path will be customised to align with the job role of the participant.

"Microsoft has enjoyed a long and fruitful partnership with the Government of Bahrain, and our work with the iGA has continued that tradition of committing ourselves to help every Bahraini individual and organisation to achieve more," said Sheikh Saif Hilal Al Hosni, Country Manager, Bahrain and Oman, Mi-

crosoft.

"Digital transformation has the power to engage citizens, empower government employees, optimise operations and reinvent service-delivery models. It is a vital component of achieving the goals of Vision 2030 and we are delighted to work with iGA and Thinksmart to help government departments realise that vision."

Thinksmart will manage the programme, which is originally designed to enhance youth employability and productivity across the nation.

For government employees, FORSATI will help develop skills that can be used to accelerate digital transformation across all departments.

"Thinksmart exists to upskill the people of Bahrain in the technology talents they will need to be relevant in the new global digital economy," said Ahmed Al Hujairy, Group CEO, Thinksmart. "Our work with iGA and Microsoft will ensure our public servants can work without impediment towards a better life for every Bahraini."



International Nurse's Day celebrated at Shifa Al Jazeera Medical Centre. A cake cutting ceremony was organised to mark the occasion.



The official inauguration of KCA Malayalam 'Paatashala' for the term 2019 was held at KCA VKL Auditorium on 10 May 2019 at 8pm. Chief Guest Pradeep Puravankara (Director - 4PM News) inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp in the presence of KCA President Sevi Mathunny, KCA General Secretary Varghese Joseph, Vice President Nithyan Thomas, Asst. General Secretary Baiju Abraham, Core Working Group Chairman Varghese Karakkal, Golden Jubilee Committee Chairman Abraham John, KCA Executive Committee members and Malayalam class teachers. Philip John, the Master of Ceremony & Lounge Secretary, was also present.

Man abused for parking



A screen shot from a footage obtained from a near by CCTV camera

TDT | Manama

A motorist, who stopped to pick-up his colleague in Juffair, claimed that he was verbally assaulted by a furious stranger, who screamed abuses at him before splashing water and throwing mud at the car.

A case has been registered following the incident against the attacker in Nabi Saleh Police station.

Video footage of the incident has also been handed over to the police, the victim said.

The man, an Indian national, said he was alone in his car when the incident occurred.

The victim, an employee at a private hospital, said he was waiting for his colleague to arrive and has parked near to the home of the attacker.

"I was on my routine on 14th May 2019, and was in Juffair to pick my boss for a meeting."

"I was parked temporarily on the right side of the road no.2442, block 324 and there was this guy, a foreign national who was watering plants."

He kept on abusing me and "all of a sudden pounced at the car to hit it, "so I stopped for a second."

He then suddenly started splashing water on the car.



The attacker hurled mud at the car

"At one point, he also started throwing mud at the car."

The incident is currently being investigated.



Arabian Gulf University (AGU) President Dr Khalid bin Abdulrahman Al Ohaly with the participating students following a contest for the memorisation of the Holy Quran and the Prophet's Hadith. The contest was organised by the Students Affairs Deanship in the university to encourage the youth to recite and memorise the Holy Quran and the Prophet's Hadith. In the male category, Bader Naji Al Hussain won first prize. The second place was shared by Abdulrahman Ismail Janahi and Omar Redah Al Saeed. The third place went to Safuldeen Al Jowder. In the female category, first place went to Mariam Abdullah Al Ma'awdah, Ammira Ashraf Ahmed and Al Zaina Mohammed Al Binali. Second place went to Shaima Shaker Salama, Fatima Abdulkareem Al Hayki and Asmaa Husam Abu Alainain. Nayla Isa Al Khater, Aisha Khalid Ali and Razan Adnan Al Ibrahim won the third place.

WORLD
world

Sri Lanka province under curfew after first riot death



Sri Lankan security personnels stand guard in front of the Jumha mosque after a mob attack in Minuwangoda

Colombo, Sri Lanka

A Sri Lankan province north of the capital was under indefinite curfew yesterday after the first death in anti-Muslim riots in the wake of the Easter terror attacks, police said.

A nationwide night curfew was relaxed in all areas except the North-Western Province (NWP) where a Muslim man was killed by a mob on Monday, police said, in a violent backlash against last month's bombings.

The 45-year-old died of injuries sustained when a crowd stormed his carpentry workshop in the Puttalam district in the NWP and slashed him, official sources said.

Elsewhere in the province, mobs torched dozens of Muslim-owned shops, vandalised homes and mosques in a day of rioting.

"The curfew in the NWP will be continued until further notice," spokesman Ruwan Gunasekera said. "Security forces are assisting police who have been ordered to use maximum

force to contain the violence." Police said they fired in the air and used tear gas at several places to deter people attempting to attack mosques.

In the adjoining district of Gampaha, mobs smashed Muslim-owned restaurants and at least one garment factory, official sources and residents said.

In an address to the nation on Monday night, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said a countrywide curfew was declared to prevent unidentified groups orchestrating communal violence.

"At several places in the North-Western Province these groups created trouble, damaged property," Wickremesinghe said.

"Police and security forces have contained the situation, but these (unidentified) groups are still trying to create trouble."

Wickremesinghe said the unrest would hinder investigations into the April 21 attacks that targeted three Christian churches and three luxury hotels, killing 258 people and wounding nearly 500.

'Coastguard' takes over Hodeida port

AFP | Hodeida, Yemen

Yemen's Huthis have handed over security of key Red Sea ports to the "coastguard" but much work remains to remove military equipment, the UN said yesterday.

The pullback is part of a hard-won truce agreement struck in Sweden in December between Yemen's Saudi-backed government and the Iran-aligned Huthis.

But the government has accused the insurgents of merely handing over the ports to their own forces in different uniforms.

The UN said Sunday it had been monitoring the withdrawal of the Huthi rebels from the Hodeida, Saleef and Ras Issa terminals.

A UN team was there on Tuesday to verify the redeployment.

Its head, General Michael Lollesgaard, welcomed the handover "of the security of the ports to the coastguard", according to a UN statement.

"There is still a lot of work to be done on the removal of the manifestations, but cooperation has been very good.

"UN teams will continue to monitor these initial steps in an impartial and transparent manner."

Huthi spokesman Mohammed Abdulsalam wrote on Twitter that they "have completed their commitment in implementing the first phase



Michael Anker Lollesgaard, Head of the United Nations Mission in support of the Hodeida Agreement (UNMHA), speaks during a press conference to welcome the handover of the port of Hodeida

of redeployment".

Last year's deal was hailed as a breakthrough that offered the best chance so far of ending the war in Yemen, where a coalition led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates is fighting on the government's side.

The agreement stipulates a full ceasefire, followed by a withdrawal of rival forces from the city of Hodeida and its surroundings.

But although the violence has largely stopped in Hodeida, there have been intermittent clashes and the promised redeployment of the warring parties away from the front lines has failed to materialise.

Lollesgaard said Yemen's warring parties were continuing to express their commitment to the truce deal.

"Full implementation of this agreement is critical for return-

ing peace and stability to Yemen, and ensuring effective humanitarian access into the country where million continue to be in need of life-saving assistance," he said.

The UN Security Council is due to hear a briefing on Hodeida on Wednesday amid increased Gulf tensions following a Huthi-claimed drone attack on two pumping stations on a major pipeline.

The attacks were "a response to the aggressors continuing to commit genocide" against the Yemeni people", Abdulsalam tweeted.

The 1,200-kilometre (750-mile) pipeline reportedly hit on Tuesday serves as an alternative for Saudi crude exports if the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf were to be closed.

Five dead, one missing in floatplanes collision in Alaska

Washington, United States

Five people died and one person was missing Monday after two floatplanes collided mid-air in Alaska while carrying passengers from a cruise ship's sightseeing expedition, officials said.

The two aircraft -- a Beaver floatplane and an Otter floatplane -- had been carrying 16 passengers from the Royal Princess cruise ship when they crashed near Ketchikan around 1:00 pm (2100 GMT), Princess Cruises said in a statement circulated by US media.

NASA dubs 2024 Moon mission 'Artemis,' asks for \$1.6 billion

Washington, United States

NASA's next mission to the Moon will be called Artemis, the US space agency announced Monday, though it's still looking for the money to make the journey happen by its accelerated 2024 deadline.

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said the agency would need an additional \$1.6 billion to meet the deadline. "This additional investment, I want to be clear, is a downpayment on NASA's efforts to land humans on the Moon by 2024," he said.

US announces \$160 mn 'peace' funding payment to Colombia

Bogota, Colombia

The US government announced Monday it will provide \$160 million in funding to Colombia to help implement the historic peace accord signed between the state and now-disarmed FARC rebels.

The funds have been allotted for the "implementation of peace" and to "formalize land" in areas ravaged by half a century of armed conflict, US Agency for International Development Administrator

Mark Green told reporters in Bogota.

FARC rebels laid down their arms and formed a political party following the historic peace accord signed in December 2016 by the left-wing guerrillas and then-president Juan Manuel Santos.

"These funds are destined for important work, for the implementation of peace, to promote reconciliation, to help rural communities, to improve security for citizens and to strengthen the protection of human rights," said Green.

China sends 71 tons of medical aid to Venezuela

Caracas, Venezuela

A second airplane from China carrying medical supplies including medicine arrived in Venezuela on Monday as part of a "humanitarian technical" cooperation agreement between President Nicolas Maduro's government and

the Asian powerhouse.

A Boeing 747 carrying 71 tons of medicines and surgical material arrived in the capital Caracas, the government said in a press statement.

It included supplies for pregnant women and drugs to treat respiratory conditions.

CO2 levels hit historic high

Paris, France

Scientists in the United States have detected the highest levels of planet-warming carbon dioxide in Earth's atmosphere since records began, sounding new alarm over the relentless rise of man-made greenhouse gas emissions.

The Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii, which has tracked atmospheric CO2 levels since the late 1950s, on Saturday morning detected 415.26 parts per million (ppm).

It was also the first time on record that the observatory measured a daily baseline above 415 ppm.

"It shows that we are not on track with protecting the climate at all. The number keeps rising and it's getting higher year after year," Wolfgang Lucht, from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), told AFP.

"This number needs to stabilise."

But far from stabilising, levels of CO2 -- one of a trinity of greenhouse gases produced when fossil fuels are burnt -- are climbing ever more rapidly.

Ralph Keeling, director of



Representative picture

Scripps Institution of Oceanography's CO2 Programme, said the trend would probably continue throughout 2019 -- likely to be an El Nino year in which temperatures rise due to warmer ocean currents.

"The average growth rate is remaining on the high end. The increase from last year will probably be around three parts per million whereas the recent average has been 2.5 ppm," he said.

"Likely we're seeing the effect of mild El Nino conditions on top of ongoing fossil fuel use."

'Increasing at increasing rate'

The 2015 Paris Agreement

calls on humanity to block the rise in Earth's temperature at "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) compared to preindustrial levels, and 1.5C if possible.

The last four years were the four hottest on record and, in spite of the Paris deal and increasing public awareness of the problem, mankind continues to break its own emissions records, year on year.

Earth's average surface temperature has already increased 1.0C since pre-industrial times due to man-made emissions.

While there is some disagreement over what would constitute "safe" atmospheric



The last time Earth's atmosphere contained this much CO2 was more than three million years ago, when global sea levels were several metres higher and parts of Antarctica were blanketed in forest

CO2 levels, there is a broad consensus that 350 ppm -- a level surpassed in the late 1980s -- would stave off runaway global warming.

"350 ppm is a precautionary value because some of the consequences of being above 400 may still be evolving," Lucht said.

"But since we're not on track anyhow, any value that we can manage to stabilise at is a win." The 415 ppm threshold was first surpassed earlier this month and has already risen further.

Malaysia foils IS-linked plot

● The suspects were detained last week in raids around Kuala Lumpur and in eastern Terengganu state

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Malaysian police said they have arrested four militants linked to the Islamic State (IS) group who were in possession of explosives and planned to attack non-Muslim places of worship.

The suspects -- a Malaysian who led the group, two Rohingya from Myanmar and one Indonesian -- were detained last week in raids around Kuala Lumpur and in eastern Terengganu state.

Malaysia's national police chief Abdul Hamid Bador described them as an "Islamic State cell" and said they planned to "assassinate high-profile individuals and attack Hindu, Christian and Buddhist places of worship in Malaysia".

He did not give any details about who the high-profile individuals were. Police also seized six improvised explosive devices, a pistol and 15 bullets, he said.



Malaysia's Counter Terrorism Division detaining the mastermind of the cell in Terengganu

The planned attacks were to avenge the high-profile death of a Muslim fireman during riots at an Indian temple outside Kuala Lumpur last year, police said.

One of the Rohingya admitted supporting the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, a militant group blamed for attacks in Myanmar that sparked an army crackdown, and had also planned to target the Myanmar embassy in Kuala Lumpur, police said.

The second Rohingya was a

25-year-old labourer who admitted to being militant with ties to IS, police said.

The Rohingya are a Muslim minority that have long faced persecution in their Buddhist homeland.

Police are hunting for three more members of the suspected terror cell who allegedly planned to attack entertainment outlets.

Authorities in Muslim-majority Malaysia regularly announce IS-related arrests but it is rare

for police to seize explosives or weapons.

Malaysia has not seen any notable terror attacks in recent years.

But security forces are on alert for militants from Malaysia and other parts of the region heading to the country after IS lost the last of its territory in the Middle East.

Authorities say scores of Malaysian radicals flocked to fight with the jihadists in Iraq and Syria.

Microscopic remains of Nazi victims to be buried in Berlin

Berlin, Germany

More than seven decades after World War II ended, over 300 tiny pieces of human tissue from political prisoners executed by the Nazis will be buried at a Berlin cemetery.

The samples -- each a hundredth of a millimetre thin and about a square centimetre in size -- were uncovered on microscopic glass plates by the descendants of the Third Reich anatomy professor Hermann Stieve.

Stieve dissected and researched the bodies of inmates killed at the Berlin-Plötzensee jail, including those of executed resistance fighters -- in part to examine the physical impact of fear experienced by women.

A ceremony will be held, with descendants of the victims expected to attend, before the remains are finally laid to rest at 1300 GMT at the Dorotheenstadt cemetery in central Berlin with a Catholic and a Protestant priest and a rabbi present.

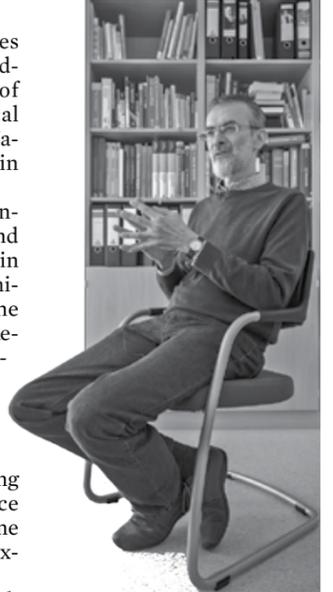
A ceremony will be held, with descendants of the victims expected to attend, before the remains are finally laid to rest at 1300 GMT at the Dorotheenstadt cemetery in central Berlin.

"With the burial of the microscopic specimens... we want to take a step toward giving the victims back their dignity," said Karl Max Einhaeupl, the head of Berlin's university hospital Charite.

He said the burial was part of a historical project by the hospital to confront its role in the medical profession's difficult relationship with Nazism.

The burial site had been picked as there are many graves and memorials for the victims of Nazism there, said Johannes Tuchel, director of the German Resistance Memorial Centre, which is organising the special event with Charite.

Tuchel said the human tissue samples were among "the last remains of people who were victims of the Nazis' unjust justice system... They were denied a grave at that time, and so today, a burial is a matter of course."



Department head at the Institute of Anatomy of the Brandenburg Medical School (MHB) Andreas Winkelmann speaks to AFP reporters in his office in Neuruppin

Noose and guillotine

More than 2,800 people held at Berlin-Plötzensee prison were put to the guillotine or hanged between 1933 and 1945, and most were then sent for dissection at the Berlin Institute of Anatomy.

Stieve was the institute's director from 1935 to 1952 and carried out controversial research on the female reproductive system.

Most of the 300 specimens found in Stieve's estate stemmed from women, adds a plaque to commemorate them, which does however not list the names of individual victims at the request of relatives.

Among those executed at Plötzensee were 42 resistance fighters from the Berlin group Red Orchestra. Stieve is believed to have dissected at least 13 of 18 executed female Red Orchestra fighters.

He was never charged with a crime and continued his medical career after the war like many other scientists who collaborated with the Nazis.

Only the highest-ranking physicians under the Third Reich were prosecuted at Nuremberg in the so-called Doctors' trial for grotesque human experimentation and mass murder under the "euthanasia" programme.

Heavy defeat for Argentina's Macri

Buenos Aires, Argentina

The ruling coalition of Argentine President Mauricio Macri suffered a heavy defeat Sunday in elections held in Cordoba province, the country's second most populous district.

Peronist governor Juan Schiaretti led comfortably after 94.2 percent of the vote had been counted, claiming 54 percent of ballots cast in his bid for re-election.

Macri's Cambiemos coalition was divided between rival candidates in the provincial elections, with Mario Negri garnering 17.8 percent and Ramon Mestre 11 percent of the vote.

Peronists also took the mayoralty of the city of Cordoba for



Argentinian President Mauricio Macri

the first time since 1974.

The contest in an electoral

district of 2.8 million voters -- some 8.7 percent of the nation-

al electorate -- had generated particular interest as Macri's success in the same province led to his victory in the 2015 presidential ballot.

Argentina will vote in the first round of presidential elections in late October.

Macri is under pressure over a misfiring economy six months ahead of the polls.

He has implemented a series of unpopular austerity policies to try to restore stability in the face of soaring inflation, huge debt obligations and a currency crisis. The measures came in exchange for a \$56 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund.

Peronists greeted the strong showing in Cordoba with chants against Macri earlier Sunday.

Breaking the bad!



People dressed in safety outfits junk a car at the Dubai Smashroom located in the back of an old tyre shop in Al Quoz Industrial Area 4. All the items come from junk yards or donations, while some participants also bring their own items to break. The Smashroom is a place where you can release all that inner anger while also sneaking in a good workout. It was founded by Hiba Balfaqih and her friend Ibrahim Abudiyak, who hope to help people in the UAE de-stress using this unique method. Right, A woman dressed in safety outfits destroys a printer at the Dubai Smashroom

South Sudan's cattle wars

Udier, Rumbek, South Sudan

Weak rays of early morning sun seep through the smoke rising from smouldering piles of dried dung, keeping flies away from the precious cattle.

Children instinctively reach down for the white ash, a natural mosquito repellent, and rub it on their skin as women set to milking and men prepare for a long day seeking pasture at the peak of the dry season.

The passing of centuries seems to have changed little in the ebb and flow of life for herders in remote South Sudan, whose cattle serve as a bank account and play a core role in every aspect of life.

There has, however, been one devastating shift.

Instead of their traditional spears, cowherds now carry automatic rifles that have transformed cattle raids, a generations-old phenomenon, into massacres that have unleashed brutal cycles of vengeance.

"It is good to have a weapon because it helps you to protect the cattle," said Puk Duoth, 25, a herder from a camp outside the north-

eastern village of Udier.

While South Sudan's elites signed a power-sharing truce in September 2018, cattle raids have worsened, highlighting the herculean task required to resolve local conflicts in a society shattered by war.

According to the UN peace-keeping mission UNMISS, 218 members of herder communities were killed in January in tit-for-tat attacks -- almost three times the toll of 73 in the four months from October 2017 to January 2018.

Observers blame a deadly cocktail of factors for the rising body count: a breakdown of law and order in the war-torn nation, an influx of guns and inflation in the bride price -- paid in cattle.

Cash cows

In these parts, cows are everything.

In the culture of the Nuer and Dinka peoples -- South Sudan's largest herder communities -- boys are named after a favoured bull, and songs are written to glorify the long-horned beasts.

"If you

are sick, then the cow can be sold and the money used for treatment," says Beny Chuer, a Dinka chief from Amading camp outside the central city of Rumbek -- one of the areas worst affected by raids and revenge killings.

"If a mother dies leaving a small baby, that child will live because a cow will be milked to feed it."

Cattle is currency -- each head worth about \$500 (440 euros). The more a man owns, the more admiration he garners.

"If you are sitting in a community meeting and you are talking rubbish, but people know you have many cows, you will be honoured," said Peter Machar, of the NGO Saferworld working on local conflicts.

In his 1940 study of the Nuer people, British anthropologist Edward Evan Evans-Pritchard found this single-minded pre-occupation frustrating in his research efforts.

"I used sometimes to despair that I never discussed anything with the young men but livestock and girls and

even the subject of girls led inevitably to that of cattle," he wrote.

Costly brides, rampant guns

"For us, a cow is the source of money," said chief Chuer, well over two metres (6 feet, 7 inches) tall -- a genetic legacy perhaps of tall women being viewed as more valuable in herder communities.

He boasts that his tallest daughter earned him a whopping 250 cows.

This is part of the cause of conflict, said Peter Machar's colleague Majok Mon, his own first name a Dinka word for the markings on a bull.

Bride prices soared as donor money poured into the country after independence from Sudan, allowing politicians, military men and the well-connected to enrich themselves and "get a lot of money" to pay for a wife, he said.

The average price went up from about 20 head of cattle to 100, in a country where the majority of people follow the tradition.

Suddenly, many young men could not afford to get married unless they raided cattle from other

communities.

Guns flooded the country between the war for independence, achieved in 2011, and the internal conflict that erupted two years later as President Salva Kiir and rival Riek Machar fell out.

Both sides armed young herders and mobilised them to fight, said Peter Machar.

As any semblance of law and order collapsed, the warring also destroyed traditional systems, managed by tribal chiefs, for settling feuds.

"What brought the issue of cattle raids is the gun... if you don't have a gun, then you will be monitored slowly, slowly until you are shot and your cows taken, but if you have your gun, then you can shoot" in defence, said Chuer.

Out of control

While fighting has stopped in most of the country as a result of the peace deal, this has changed herder groups nursing unrelated grievances to the

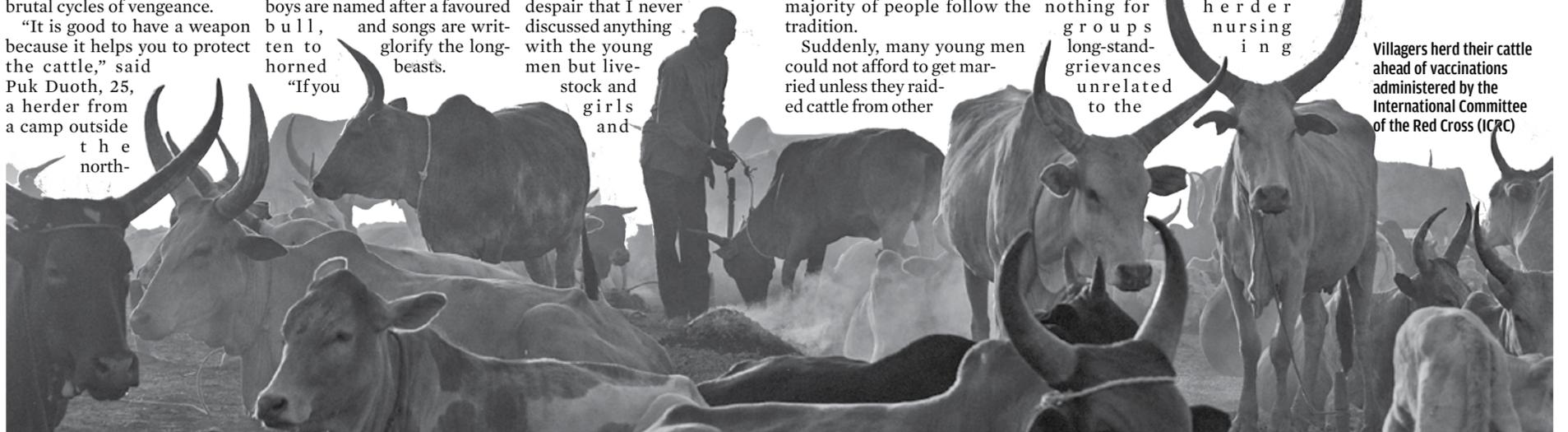
national tug of war for power.

And with the attention elsewhere, armed herders are launching increasingly deadly military-style attacks on rival camps, with women and children among the victims.

The reality in these remote communities "is very far from what is happening with the elites in Juba," United Nations special envoy David Shearer told AFP.

A report on the "militarisation" of cattle raiding in South Sudan, published last year in the Journal of International Humanitarian Action, warned that leaders like Kiir and Riek Machar, "having undermined the traditional mechanisms that once governed violence in order to further their individual political interests, no longer have control over these raiders either."

All these factors bode ill for prospects of peace in a country whose youth has known nothing but conflict.



Villagers herd their cattle ahead of vaccinations administered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Secret chamber uncovered 2,000 years on at Nero palace

● The find offers a tantalising glimpse into "the atmosphere of the 60s of the first Century AD in Rome"

Rome, Italy

A team of archaeologists have discovered a secret chamber decorated with detailed frescoes during restoration work at Emperor Nero's Domus Aurea or Golden Palace constructed two millennia ago.

The team came across an opening leading to a room covered with depictions of mythical creatures including centaurs and the god Pan, officials from the Colosseum archeological park, supervising the work, said on Friday.

The archaeologists have dubbed the chamber, which will require excavation with much of it buried and just its vault currently visible, Sala della Sfinge, or the Room of the Sphinx and say it is a significant discovery.

The find offers a tantalising glimpse into "the atmosphere of the 60s of the first Century AD in Rome," the Colosseum officials said, adding that what could be seen of the vault was "very visible and fairly well preserved."



The newly discovered room of the Nero Domus Aurea, in Rome

Set against a white background can be seen "red-edged squares finessed with yellow-ochre lines and golden bands punctuated by a dense series of floral elements," the officials said.

Each of the tiles depicts different types of animal form -- from panthers to birds, centaurs and

a sphinx, while others show musical instruments.

The archaeologists were working on a nearby area of the complex set beneath a hill next to the Colosseum in ancient Rome's historic centre when they chanced upon the chamber.

Architects and archaeologists

secured the site once home to a gigantic landscaped palace and consolidated the frescoes with a view to embarking upon a further stage of excavation to reveal the room in its full splendour.

Built between AD 64 and 68, the immense complex, which other Roman emperors later

built on, comprises buildings, gardens and an artificial lake.

After Nero, who legend has it played the fiddle during the AD 64 fire which laid waste much of the centre of the Roman Empire, died in AD 68, his successors tried to destroy traces of his rule. Emperor Trajan had the Domus



Details of a decoration in the newly discovered room

Aurea covered over with soil and built baths over it while Vespasian set in train construction of the Colosseum where the ornamental lake had been.

In the intervening centuries, much of the site was abandoned and today only few traces remain visible of what was a huge estate and of which only a fraction has been excavated with much of it lying under today's modern bustling city.

Part of the site was discovered by Renaissance artists including Raphael, some of whom managed to slide down on ropes and squeeze themselves through a hole in the ceiling to gaze upon magnificent frescoes which would inspire their own works.

Rejuvenating cultural heritage in the wake of catastrophe

Most philanthropists would hesitate to put forward their funds, or their names, to repair a city that remains in the grip of such volatility as that engulfing Aleppo today



Firefighters douse flames rising from the roof at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris (file photo)



TALA JARJOUR

When one of the oldest and most famous structures of religious significance in Europe went up in flames last month, the world was watching, and many wept. Social media platforms were also ablaze with pictures and comments, with people racing to express an array of feelings: Shock, disbelief, sadness and grief mostly. Given my

scholarly interest in religious music, and having written about Aleppo and its musical cultures, I received a number of messages from friends around the world.

The messages conveyed sorrow for the loss friends were experiencing as the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris was being engulfed by the horror of flames; but they also contained mentions of Syria. The dominant sense of loss was reminiscent of that expressed when well-known structures such as the beautiful streets of Old Aleppo were consumed by destruction and fire.

While the smoke was still subsiding at Notre-Dame, news of donations from around the world came pouring in. The flood of funds to repair the fragile Gothic structure has been astounding, bringing together 1 billion euros (\$1.1 billion) in the first two days, according to the New York Times. The star-studded donor list featured contributions from the likes of the owner of Yves Saint Laurent and Gucci; though global luxury brands were not the only benefactors rushing to fill a restoration funding gap the city had been struggling to bridge.

Capital is among many forms of input that continue to flow in support of the French cathedral. Along with emotions, much knowledge came about to satisfy the world's curiosity about the significance of a treasured church that took more than 100 years to build in medieval Europe. It might be possible to understand how cash moves faster than knowledge, but the volume and speed at which monetary benefaction was amassed has not gone down well with all observers.

Some have objected to the implied neglect of human life in the rush to save buildings and art; others remarked on the apparent double standards philanthropy displays in relation to human catastrophe. What no one seems to deny, however, is that the astonishing flow of capital for the cathedral repairs has shed a new light on what wealth management can tell us about human behavior during crises.

What interests me here is how people think and behave in relation to what we call "cultural heritage," particularly in the face of catastrophic events. This current, and first installment of a four-part column, touches on the immediately tangible sides of our shared cultural heritage — what scholars call "material culture." In the remaining parts, I will touch on the types of heritage that take forms other than those of physical objects, what (for the lack of a better name) is called "intangible culture." The focus in this series is on music, as I draw examples from the Notre-Dame Cathedral of Paris and the old city of Aleppo.

These two scenes of probably continue to ha world for some time. some circles at least, pe in equal measures at the commercial streets of C the faltering roof of the hardly the same could b efforts — or attempts o were set in motion in th

The millions (even bil the Parisian monument a results. Indeed, the fruit restoration process will according to French Pres The emotional head of world that the beautifi by the time Paris hosts t 2024. In Aleppo, by cont let alone attractive. In t catastrophe, the only ce the high likelihood that Most philanthropists w forward their funds, or the that remains in the grip engulfing Aleppo today.

While hesitation base thinking is understanda there may be other ways when it comes to fragile settings. As an intereste ly enjoyed visiting the fl river Seine as I have th find the global nature of in both places noteworth

The variety of backgro religions, interests, ages whose opinions I encour I cannot help but think, i place so much that they (cash mountains in the see it restored to its be not draw on these emoti of mountains so that love return to life and again had been for hundreds o

Perhaps this may be t which belongs to the wor my hope. After all, mainta heritage has never been boring mega-brands with

(Tala Jarjour is author of "Syriac Chant in Aleppo" recently Visiting Research Fellow at London and Associate Fellow at Yale.)



Workers take part in restoration work at the Saqatiya market in the old quarter of Syria's second city of Aleppo

2004

Arsenal F.C. go an entire league campaign unbeaten in the English Premier League, joining Preston North End F.C with the right to claim the title The Invincibles

2008

California becomes the second U.S. state after Massachusetts in 2004 to legalize same-sex marriage after the state's own Supreme Court rules a previous ban unconstitutional.



2010

Jessica Watson becomes the youngest person to sail, non-stop and unassisted around the world solo.

2013

An upsurge in violence in Iraq leaves more than 389 people dead over three days.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



China will be pumping money into their system and probably reducing interest rates, as always, in order to make up for the business they are, and will be, losing. If the Federal Reserve ever did a "match," it would be game over, we win! In any event, China wants a deal!

@realDonaldTrump

02



For decades, politicians like Joe Biden let China get away with unfair trade practices that cost us upwards of \$600 BILLION a year. Biden naively says China is "not competition." @realDonaldTrump is right to crack down on China and fight for American workers!

@GOPChairwoman

03



Unita Blackwell dedicated her life to registering black voters across Mississippi and went to jail for it at least 70 times. She went on to make history as the first black woman mayor in the state. Talk about brave. May she rest in peace and power.

@SenGillibrand

04



Meet Khalil, a Palestinian Christian who provides water & dates to Muslims as they break the fast during Ramadan. He's done so for the last 7 years. Asked why he volunteers, Khalil said: "Because we are in the land of peace & from here, the message of peace begins." I love it.

@CraigCons

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

A world without the wonders of nature can affect our happiness

As thousands of species are driven to extinction, psychological studies have found that our mental wellbeing is intrinsically linked to that of the natural world



JUSTIN THOMAS

Against the spectacular backdrop of the UAE's Hajar Mountains, I once saw an osprey. The bird of prey was gliding on a warm wind, a snake clenched in its talons – lunch for a hungry brood of hatchlings, I suspected. The scene was unforgettable: the seahawk and the serpent, a poetic snapshot of this nation's spellbinding biodiversity. Unfortunately, that great wealth of nature is now under threat.

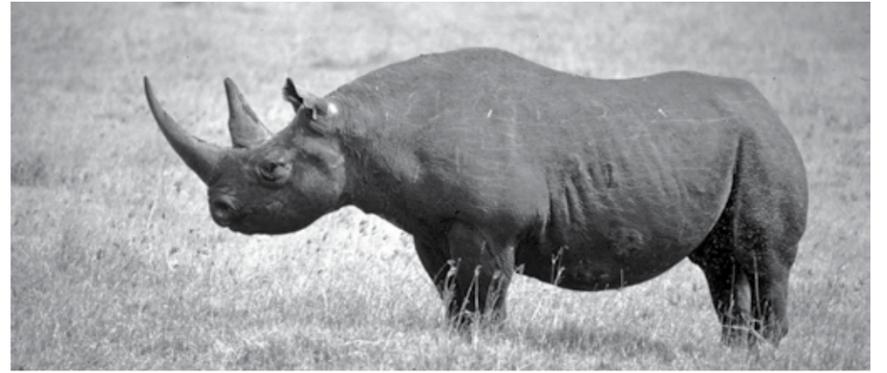
A global assessment published last week by the United Nations, suggests that 1 million animal and plant species are at risk of extinction, many within years. Compiled by 145 expert authors from 50 nations and examining 15,000 scientific and governmental sources, this landmark report is the latest and most comprehensive exploration of our planet's biodiversity to date.

It describes "dead zones" in the world oceans, where nothing lives, and forests that have fallen silent. Because all their insect life has vanished, there is no birdsong. Ominously, the report also suggests that species extinction is accelerating at an alarming rate, with potentially catastrophic consequences for humanity. The report ends with a call for transformative change and the presentation of a framework of far-reaching conservation measures.

Alongside the threats to our physical health and our long-term economic prosperity, however, the world's decreasing biodiversity also



Socotra cormorant



Africa's western black rhino

has serious implications for our psychological wellbeing. At the most basic level, the devastation of the natural world evokes a deep sense of sadness for many people.

In little more than a decade, the world has witnessed the functional extinction of the West African black rhino, the Japanese river otter, the Caribbean monk seal and many more. In 2018, alone, three bird species vanished from the planet forever. Meanwhile, closer to home, species such as the dugong and the Socotra cormorant are vulnerable.

Now, thanks to the incredible archival capacities of the internet, anyone can run an image search and be reminded of exactly what we have allowed to slip away. Psychologists believe that this sense of avoidable loss can give rise to states of grief, remorse and even depression.

We also know that the natural world has a positive impact on our psychological wellbeing, even influencing our ability to tolerate pain. In a now-classic study, published in the journal Science in 1984, post-surgical patients whose hospital windows overlooked trees, rather than a brick wall, required less pain relief and healed quicker. We can also interpret these findings as "less nature equals slower healing and more pain".

A more recent study examining the psychological impact of nature explored the biodiversity of urban green spaces and their relationship to visitor wellbeing. Published in Biological Letters, this study found that the psychological benefits of green spaces, such as city parks, increased along with the biodiversity of the location. In short: areas with greater species richness – more types of plants, birds and butterflies – were associated with better psychological health among frequent visitors.

The natural world has a positive impact on our psychological wellbeing, even influencing our ability to tolerate pain

Another psychological consequence of shrinking biodiversity and climate change is the rise of what some refer to as "eco-anxiety". Although not yet recognised as an official psychiatric disorder, the American Psychological Association makes frequent references to the condition in a 2017 report, describing it as "a chronic fear of environmental doom".

The increasing media attention given to environmental issues is a good thing. It raises eco-consciousness and, hopefully, leads to meaningful change. However, for some, concerns about the environment can escalate into extreme emotional distress. This can take the form of excessive guilt about their own ecological transgressions, intense anger about the actions of others or a persistent and unhealthy worry about the prospect of environmental catastrophe.

Debilitating anxiety, however, rarely leads to decisive action – and action is precisely what is needed.

In a highly specialised laboratory, buried deep within the Abu Dhabi campus of Zayed University, the marine biologist Henrik Stahl works tirelessly on a project aimed at helping to replenish the world's rapidly vanishing coral reefs. He often jokes with me about going back to check on "the babies", which is how he refers to the lab-grown corals he is nurturing to maturity. The plan is to, eventually, release them back into their natural habitat, in order to replenish the Arabian Gulf's depleted reefs.

From scientific research to lifestyle choices and governmental policy, we need to do much more to prevent habitat and species loss. The vital connection between nature and our personal wellbeing should be reason enough. After all, can you imagine ever being happy in a world without birdsong?

Justin Thomas is a professor of psychology at Zayed University

LETTER

US Sanctions are strangling the effort to rebuild Old Aleppo

Jwanah Qudsi's article highlights a significant problem, but rather than blame the cause, she shifts the blame to a secondary issue.

The destruction of Aleppo was by the hands and military might of

the government of Syria, supported by the Iranians and Russians.

Those who had no shame knocking down the classic Umayyad mosque or other historical and cultural icons of Aleppo, let alone

thousands of its citizens with no regard for humanity, can not be allowed to continue ruling unabated.

The US sanctions are a small token effort to stop the regime as the US and the rest of the world

has otherwise stood by idly as this tragedy has continued unabated and continues until today.

Until those responsible are brought to justice, the world should stand united against these war criminals.

Omar Haydar

business

US to hold China tariffs hearing on June 17

Washington, United States

The United States on June 17 will hold public hearings on President Donald Trump's proposal to put tariffs on another \$300 billion in Chinese goods, according to a document published Monday.

The hearing is part of Trump's escalating trade offensive against Beijing. If the tariffs are imposed, they would make virtually all Chinese imports to the United States subject to steep, punitive duties.

Beijing on Monday fired its latest counter-salvo, raising tariffs on \$60 billion in US exports in retaliation for Trump's decision to bump up duties on \$200 billion in Chinese exports.

But Trump told reporters on Monday he had not yet decided whether to proceed with the \$300 billion round.

"That is a tremendous amount of money that would come into our country," Trump said, reiterating his belief that duties are paid by trade adversaries, not US importers and consumers.

"I have not made that decision yet."

Bahrain to target InsurTech

● **Global FinTech market reaches USD150billion in 2018**

● **Bahrain EDB and Digital Jersey cooperate to strengthen digital economies**

TDT | Manama

A Bahraini delegation led by Rasheed Al Maraj, Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) concluded a successful visit to the UK.

The delegation attended the renowned Innovate Finance Global Summit (IFGS), where senior executives from the Central Bank of Bahrain, Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB), National Bank of Bahrain, Bank ABC and Al Salam Bank hosted a number of events and spoke on a variety of panels.

The roadshow focused on the latest FinTech developments in Bahrain, including the launch of open banking; robo advisory, cryptocurrency regulations, insurtech and the ongoing success of the region's first onshore reg-



A Bahraini delegation led by Rasheed Al Maraj, Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) concluded a successful visit to the UK

ulatory sandbox.

During a panel discussion on RegTech – the future of financial services regulation, Al Maraj said: "Our role as regulators is to inspire, lead and remove any roadblocks to innovation and we in Bahrain would like to lead growth in this sector in the MENA region. We have ambitious plans to disrupt the insurance sector, by focusing and enabling insurtech through enhancing the ecosystem that will allow the evolution of the sector."

The EDB also hosted a round-

table debate on the importance of diversity in driving future growth in FinTech.

The visit also saw the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the EDB and Digital Jersey in Jersey, a self-governing Crown dependency of the United Kingdom. The agreement seeks to build cooperation as an extension of Bahrain's efforts to internationalise its domestic success in digitising its financial services industry.

The cooperation between Bahrain and Jersey will build

upon the success of Bahrain's efforts to develop a sustainable FinTech industry. Bahrain FinTech Bay, the region's first and largest FinTech hub, will partner with Digital Jersey Hub and Digital Jersey Xchange.

The two sides also pledged to develop a joint Women in FinTech programme. Additional stakeholders who will contribute to areas of cooperation include Jersey Finance, Jersey Financial Services Commission and the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB).

The CBB already works along-

side Jersey Financial Services Commission in the Global Financial Innovation Network, an international partnership between regulators from over 16 countries such as the UK, United States, Australia and Hong Kong, who are working together to design supportive FinTech regulatory pilot schemes.

IFGS was attended by over 2,000 FinTech leaders from around the world, offering Bahrain an unparalleled opportunity to showcase the Kingdom as the destination of choice for FinTech in the Middle East.

Monsanto ordered to pay \$2 bn

San Francisco, United States

A jury in California on Monday ordered Bayer-owned Monsanto to pay more than \$2 billion damages to a couple that sued on grounds the weed killer Roundup caused their cancer, lawyers said.

The award was the latest in a series of court defeats for Monsanto over Roundup. The company insists the glyphosate-based product is not linked to cancer.

The couple's legal team described the damages award as "historic," saying it totaled \$2.055 billion after adding in slightly more than \$55 million in compensatory damages.

NBB names AlWatani savings scheme winner



The winner with officials during a photocall

TDT | Manama

Rana Mohamed Haji was named the first lucky semi-annual winner of its flagship "AlWatani Savings Scheme" for April 2019 for an

amount of US\$250,000.

Rana Mohamed Haji was invited to a special celebration at NBB Seef Mall branch where he was notified of the amount of his prize and was awarded by NBB's management.

Commenting, Nabeel Ahmed Mustafa, Head of Network Management and Strategy at NBB, said, "We are delighted to offer yearlong cash prizes from "AlWatani Savings Scheme".

Ebdaa Bank, SRB in deal



Dr Khalid Al Ghazzawi and Yasir Dahlawi during the deal signing

TDT | Manama

Ebdaa Bank for Microfinance has signed an agreement with the Shariyah Review Bureau (SRB) in Bahrain to ensure that the Bank's financial products comply with Shariyah requirements.

Chief Executive of Ebdaa Bank, Dr Khalid Al Ghazzawi stated that the agreement will further enhance the Bank's ability to adopt the best practices in this field.

"This agreement is in line with the Bank's initiative to expand its range of financial products to not only include loans for low-income and micro-entrepreneurs but also to those looking for Shariyah-compliant financing," said

Dr Al Ghazzawi.

Ebdaa Bank will continue to provide traditional loans to customers seeking conventional financing.

Operations Manager of Ebdaa Bank, Ghaith Al Moneim, stated that the Bank will work with SRB to implement a range of ambitious Islamic financial initiatives.

Chief Executive Officer of SRB, Yasir Dahlawi, stated that the agreement with Ebdaa Bank for Microfinance supports the joint approach of the two parties towards the development of the Kingdom's society and economy.

The Shariyah Review Bureau (SRB) is the only Shariyah advisory firm in Bahrain licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain.

Dragon City launches 'Ramadan Wonders'

TDT | Manama

Dragon City Bahrain, largest wholesale and retail trade centre on the island, is marking the advent of the Holy Month of Ramadan with a promotional campaign which began on 12 May and continues until Saturday. Themed "Ramadan Wonders", the campaign features many surprises and valuable prizes for all shoppers.

The campaign includes a Scratch-and-Win campaign for every BD 20 spent in the mall with gifts including air tickets to Dubai, cell phones, mall vouchers and many more.

Commenting on the campaign, Patrick Zheng Shou, Chairman of Chinamex, Dragon City's operating company, said: "The one-week campaign will be held twice during the Holy Month, as we are planning to have the same promotion from May 26, 2019, to June 1, 2019."

Dragon City is a first of its kind project in Bahrain and it includes Dragon Mall, Dragon Apartments, Dining Village, Dragon Plaza and an allocated area for warehouses. Dragon City is home to more than 787 commercial units, making it the largest wholesale and retail trading centre in the Bahrain.



That whatsapp call will inject spyware!

- The vulnerability allowed hackers to insert malicious software on phones by calling the target using the app
- The tool was developed by a shadowy Israel-based firm called the NSO Group
- The latest exploit was discovered earlier this month

San Francisco, United States

A security flaw in WhatsApp, one of the most popular messaging apps in the world, allowed sophisticated attackers to install spyware on phones, the company said yesterday, in the latest trouble for its parent Facebook. The vulnerability -- first reported by the *Financial Times*, and fixed in the latest WhatsApp update -- allowed hackers to insert malicious software on phones by calling the target using the app, which is used by 1.5 billion people around the world. The FT cited a spyware dealer as saying the tool was developed by a shadowy Israel-based firm called the NSO Group, which has been accused of helping governments from the Middle East to Mexico snoop on activists and journalists. Security researchers said the malicious code bore similarities to other tech developed by the firm, according to *The New York Times*. The latest exploit -- which impacts Android devices and

” WhatsApp encourages people to upgrade to the latest version of our app, as well as keep their mobile operating system up to date, to protect against potential targeted exploits designed to compromise information stored on mobile devices

A SPOKESPERSON SAID

Apple's iPhones, among others -- was discovered earlier this month and WhatsApp scrambled to fix it, rolling out an update in less than 10 days. "WhatsApp encourages people to upgrade to the latest version of our app, as well as keep their mobile operating system up to date, to protect against potential targeted exploits designed to compromise information stored on mobile devices," a spokesperson said in a statement. The firm did not comment on the number of users affected or who targeted them, and said it had reported the matter to US authorities. The breach is the latest in a series of issues troubling WhatsApp's parent Facebook, which has faced intense criticism for allowing its users' data to be harvested by research companies and over its slow response to Russia using the platform as a means to spread disinformation during the 2016 US election campaign. The WhatsApp spyware is so sophisticated and "would be avail-

able to only advanced and highly motivated actors", the company said, adding that a "select number of users were targeted". **Highly invasive software** "This attack has all the hallmarks of a private company that works with a number of governments around the world" according to initial investigations, it added, but did not name the firm. WhatsApp has briefed human rights organizations on the matter, but did not identify them. The Citizen Lab, a research group at the University of Toronto, said in a tweet it believed an attacker tried to target a human rights lawyer as recently as Sunday using this flaw, but was blocked by WhatsApp. The NSO Group came to prominence in 2016 when researchers accused it of helping spy on an activist in the United Arab Emirates. Its best-known product is Pegasus, a highly invasive tool that can reportedly switch on a target's phone camera and microphone, and access data on it. The firm said Tuesday that it only licenses its software to governments for "fighting crime and terror". The NSO Group "does not operate the system, and after a rigorous licensing and vetting process, intelligence and law enforcement determine how to use the technology to support their public safety missions", it said in a statement. "We investigate any credible allegations of misuse and if necessary, we take action, including shutting down the system."

The Citizen Lab, a research group at the University of Toronto, said in a tweet it believed an attacker tried to target a human rights lawyer as recently as Sunday using this flaw, but was blocked by WhatsApp.

WhatsApp encouraged its users to upgrade the app to plug a security breach that allowed sophisticated attackers to sneak spyware into phones, in the latest trouble for its parent Facebook.



Vulnerability exists in the following versions of WhatsApp:

- WhatsApp for Android prior to v2.19.134
- WhatsApp Business for Android prior to v2.19.44
- WhatsApp for iOS prior to v2.19.51
- WhatsApp Business for iOS prior to v2.19.51
- WhatsApp for Windows Phone prior to v2.18.348



What to do when you suspect an infection?

Experts ask to use a strong anti-virus software or application to run a security check. In case it displays results, then the software prompts you to delete the same. Not satisfied, then try resetting your phone. Resetting removes all data that is stored in the phone memory and hence, your phone is as good as new.

How to recognize that your phone is infected

- Your phone is suddenly very slow.
- You suddenly start getting unnecessary pop-ups.
- If you notice that your device is getting hotter than usual.
- You see a number of strange apps that you don't remember downloading.
- If you notice a loss of data such as documents, images, videos, etc.
- Apps suddenly are slower.

Never do this update

- People sending links saying that there is an updated version of WhatsApp. It's entirely possible to infect a message with a virus, even though the link in the message opens to Play Store or App Store.
- Never click on such messages. Set your phone to automatically update apps or to prompt you when there is such an update available. You can then avoid clicking on such messages.

Pegasus spyware can turn on a phone's camera and mic and collect emails, messages, and location data

NBK Credit Card announces buy 1 and get 1 movie ticket offer

TDI | Manama

The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has entered into its first-ever partnership with VOX Cinemas, Bahrain, to give movie lovers in Bahrain a buy one get one free ticket offer. Customers can now avail of this exclusive offer on the purchase of movie tickets from VOX Cinemas using their NBK credit card. This offer is available at The Avenues - Bahrain and City Centre Bahrain. Customers can redeem this offer both online and at the cinemas. To celebrate the partnership, NBK hosted a special screening of the Avengers Endgame movie for their premier customers, and key media and social media influencers at VOX Cinemas "The Avenues". "We are extremely happy to have entered this partnership with VOX Cinemas and are hope-



In pictures, during a special screening of the Avengers Endgame movie organised by NBK



ful that more and more people of Bahrain will start using our credit cards and benefit from our unique offers," stated Ali Fardan, General Manager, NBK.

SICO reports Q1 Profit

TDT | Manama

SICO, a conventional wholesale bank, said its first quarter consolidated net profit increased 31 per cent to BD1.9 million from BD1.4m for the corresponding period in 2018.

Growth during the quarter was primarily driven by higher investment income, which increased 76pc to BD2.5m in the first quarter of 2019 from BD1.4m in the same period last year.

SICO's performance was further supported by strong results from its assets management division, with total assets under management (AUMs) growing 11pc to BD775.2m (US\$ 2.1 billion) from BD699.1m (US\$ 1.9bn) at year-end 2018. Fee based income increased 15pc to BD954 thousand in the first quarter of 2019 versus BD828 thousand in the same period last year.

Assets under custody with the Bank's wholly-owned subsidiary, SICO Funds Services Company (SFS) grew by 6pc from BD 2.3 billion (US\$ 6.2bn) at the end of 2018 to BD2.5bn (US\$ 6.5bn) at 31 March 2019.

Net operating income grew 40pc to BD4.5m from BD3.2m achieved in the same quarter of 2018 reflecting strong growth in the top line performance.

Total operating expenses, including staff overheads, general administration and other expenses, increased 14pc to



SICO delivered an encouraging financial performance for the first quarter of the year with our various business line delivering growth and contributing positively to our bottom-line. SICO continues to demonstrate its ability to seize market opportunities and inspire investor confidence, starting 2019 on a strong path to build on our track record of success and value creation

SHAIKH ABDULLA BIN KHALIFA AL KHALIFA
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



We were particularly successful in capturing the growing appetite for regional debt products, which in-turn helped offset slower equity markets activity and pullback on sell-side businesses. Meanwhile, we continued to leverage our success as market maker on the Bahrain Bourse and liquidity providers on the DFM and ADX

NAJLA AL SHIRAWI
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BD1.9m from BD1.6m for the same period last year.

Earnings per share (EPS) were 5.03 Bahraini fils compared to 3.85 Bahraini fils in the

same period last year.

Total comprehensive income grew 26pc to BD1.9m from BD1.5m in the first quarter of 2018.

Ithmaar Bank launches new enhanced website

TDT | Manama

Ithmaar Bank, a Bahrain-based Islamic retail bank, unveiled its website: www.ithmaarbank.com with a wide range of enhancements.

The website, which marks a complete redesign, incorporates the latest trends with an emphasis on creativity, usability, functionality, navigation, visual design and ease of use.

Customers, for example, are now able to apply for credit cards and financing through the website and can also see for themselves in real time how busy each branch is and how long the queues are.

"We are pleased to launch our new, customer-focused website," said Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer Ahmed Abdul Rahim.

"The new Ithmaar Bank website has a new interface for mobile smartphones which automatically adapts itself to



Ahmed Abdul Rahim, Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer

the size of the users' screen to provide easier, more intuitive navigation. It also includes innovative functionalities which can be viewed across multiple platforms including tablets and desktops," he said.

"Another useful tool is our online live chat service, which is now more accessible than ever before," said Abdul Rahim.

"With just a click on the chat icon, our team of experts will help our customers with any query. The new website also features Modaraba profit rates which are presented graphically - making the numbers easier to understand," he said.

The enhanced website also allows users to change the font text sizes in the accessibility options available at the top of the website. The search engine has been modified to help visitors look for the banking options they are searching for. This new feature supports predictive text, which means visitors can save time by simply clicking on the search icon and type in what's required.

The Thimaar winners' page can now help visitors searching for their names. The website also provides access to the Bank's various departments that include Retail Banking, Private Banking, Business Banking and Asset Management.

Jameela Habib wins MyHassad monthly prize of BD 100,000



Jameela Habib Ahmed Al Maqabi during the award ceremony

TDT | Manama

Jameela Habib Ahmed Al Maqabi, a Bahraini Kindergarten Manager, has won the BD100,000 monthly prize of Ahli United Bank (AUB).

"The entire family was very excited about the winning, which was a dream for all of us," said Jameela.

"We were planning to buy a new house and we needed extra cash to be able to buy it... the prize was a gift from heaven to

enable us to buy the house that we have always dreamed of," Jameela added.

Since its inception, MyHassad has offered cash prizes exceeding BD67 million in Bahrain for more than 16 thousand winners from its customers.



Ahli United Bank (AUB) has announced its backing to this year's Bahraini Women's Day that celebrates the role of Bahraini women and their progress in the field of "Higher Education and Future Sciences" as a Silver Sponsor. This occasion also coincides with the 100th anniversary of the launch of Public Education in Bahrain.

Alba marks 5 million working-Hours without LTI

TDT | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) announced successfully achieving a major Safety milestone of 5 million working-hours without Lost Time Injury (LTI) on 30 April 2019.

Alba's Chief Executive Officer Tim Murray said: "With extreme preparation and mutual commitment, we will go beyond the 5 million working-hours and set a new benchmark in Safety."

Tim Murray along with members of the Executive Management team welcomed employees at Alba Gates on 05 May 2019 to congratulate them on the Safety milestone as well as wish them a safe and healthy Ramadan.



Aluminium Bahrain employees during a photocall on the occasion of successfully achieving a major Safety milestone of 5 million working-hours without Lost Time Injury (LTI)

CAMPUS

AGU organises third arts exhibition

TDT | Manama

The Deanship of Students Affairs in the Arabian Gulf University (AGU) has recently organised its third arts exhibition, showcasing around 100 works of art of 30 participants that included students from the College of Medicine and Medical Science and the College Graduate Studies in the university.

Aiming to promote the values of arts among students, the exhibition showcased a variety of artworks such as paintings, photographs and handcrafts, representing the creativity of the participating students. The activity also hosted Bahraini Calligrapher Hussain Al Qallaf, who presented his artworks to the visitors and participants.

Commenting on the exhibition, Social Supervisor at the Deanship of Students Affairs Mr. Ahmed Al Sa'ee said: "This year's show has been very well received by students and academics. Many have expressed their admiration for the show and their desire to participate in the coming times. Considering this success, we plan to organise a bigger exhibition in the near future and to allow more students to participate in it."



AGU students and staff during the exhibition



Paintings displayed during the exhibition



ISB conducts investiture ceremony for prefects



ISB officials during the inauguration ceremony

TDT | Manama

The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) Prefect Council for the academic year 2019-2020 was formally inducted during an investiture ceremony held in the Jashanmal Auditorium on Sunday.

The oath of office was administered by Principal-in-charge Anand R Nair in the presence of School Chairman Prince S. Natarajan, Secretary Saji Antony, EC Members Rajesh Nambiar, Saji George, Mohammed Nayaz Ullah, Vice Principals, Head Teachers, Co-ordinators and teachers.

Anantha Krishnan Baburaj was selected as the Head Boy and Livya Liffy as the Head Girl

of the Prefect Council for Level A which consists of classes XI and XII. For classes X and IX (Level B) John Abraham was selected as the Head Boy and Leah Teresa Joseph as the Head Girl.

For classes VI - VIII (Level C), Aditya Mangalam was selected as the Head Boy and Ivana Anto Kallookaran as the Head Girl and for classes IV-V (Level D) Rajeevan Rajkumar was selected as the Head Boy and Janaki Sajikumar Nair as the Head Girl.

The Council members consisting of 75 students from classes IV to XII were selected on the basis of personal interviews and their aptitude to interact effectively between the

students and the management. ISB Chairman Prince S. Natarajan said the Prefect Council is a forum for the teaching and student communities to interact and that the Council members should take their responsibilities in the true spirit of teamwork which will help in bringing all students together. He reminded the student leaders to be gracious and lead from the front.

The Head Boy and the Head Girl said that they would take up the task at hand with grit and determination and live for the betterment of the school and society. They would do everything to uphold the dignity of the office bestowed on them.



Prefects council office bearers with school officials



New Millennium School students with their medals they won during the 2019 Lion's Olympics, organized by the Lion's Club of Bahrain, in the Indian School. The school bagged 11 Gold, 12 Silver and 12 Bronze medals in the various track and field events



New Generation Private School (NGPS) during the Ramadan dedicated morning assemblies. Students are highlighting the fact that Ramadan is about fasting, knowing the value of our health and wealth, empathizing with the people in need as well as it is about unity and solidarity, standing together and supporting each other during the assemblies organised each day during the Holy month Ramadan

SITUATIONS VACANT

URGENTLY REQUIRED Filipino Beautician. Age between 22 to 35 year, with knowledge of manicure and housekeeping. Contact 39865012. Email: haliqhafira@gmail.com

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAYEEDUL, S/O. ISLAM, holder of Indian Passport No. **J3848398** date 04/11/2010 issued at **LUCKNOW**, having permanent residence at (Full address in India) **DOHARI GHAT MAIN CHAUK, DOHARIGHAT, MAU, INDIA**, presently residing at (Full address in Bahrain) **BLDG# 480, ROAD 55, BLOCK #565**, will henceforth be known as (New Name) **MOHAMMED** (Surname) **SAYEEDUL**. Objection(s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India P.O.Box 26106, Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

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Interfaith communities unite for Ramadan "Iftar for Peace"



Ambassadors, Diplomats and Religious Leaders during the event

TDT | Manama

In line with last year's 'Iftar for Peace' initiative, hundreds of Bahrain-based members of communities from different ethnic groups, faiths and nationality affiliations gathered at the National Evangelical Church for "Iftar" (breaking of fast) in a solidarity move among diverse inter-religious communities as a demonstration of commitment to interfaith cohesion, peace and tolerance.

Hosted by Al Bayareq Al Baydhaa "The White Flags" in cooperation with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) and IPI MENA, the event was attended by ambassadors, government officials, private sector and religious leaders who served food and beverage to interreligious guests in a united call for interfaith peace during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

The second Iftar for Peace was hailed by Ausamah Al Absi, CEO of LMRA, and Reverend Hani Azziz, Pastor of the National Evangelical Church and Head of the Bahrain Society for Tolerance and Interfaith Co-existence.

Noting that almost half of the diplomatic community in the Kingdom mobilized to serve Iftar to the interreligious fasters, Nejjib Friji, Director of IPI MENA, stated that this is a demonstration of how the culture of peace is deeply enshrined across all beliefs and faiths.

Hailing the commitment demonstrated by the Kingdom of Bahrain, IPI and all nations represented by their ambassadors towards interfaith unity, he stated: "Let our Iftar for Peace translate into



American Ambassador Justin Sberrell, with British Ambassador Simon Martin (right) serving meals and beverages.



Nepalese Ambassador Padam Sundas, IPI MENA Director Nejjib Friji, and LMRA CEO Ausamah Al Absi



IPI MENA Director Nejjib Friji serving food and beverage to the Interfaith Fasters

concrete acts of understanding, dialogue, coexistence and cohesion in these contexts marked by serious challenges to peace and sustainable development."

MKF launches Ramadan initiative

TDT | Manama

AlMabarrah AlKhalifia Foundation (MKF) has launched its fifth annual Ramadan initiative featuring a number of events and activities to mark this special occasion. This comes in line with its vision to make a social impact in the education field and empower Bahraini youth, as well as celebrate the Holy month of Ramadan.

MKF staff and Rayaat Scholarship Student Council are gearing up for a number of activities that aim to spread the value of giving back to the local community.

On this occasion, MKF expressed its appreciation to VIVA Bahrain for providing Ramadan hampers for the 5th consecutive year. MKF will also be holding a series of online



MKF staff distributes materials as part of Ramadan initiative

competitions for its followers, where participants will compete to win valuable prizes.

Additionally, MKF plans to hold a digital Ramadan-themed photography competition to encourage its followers to capture the Holy Month's best moments. MKF will also host a session by a religious scholar in the presence of students of the Foundation. Activities will conclude with distributing Eid hampers 'Qadooda' (Bahraini sweets traditionally eaten to celebrate Eid) to families in need. Also, MKF's students plan to organize a shopping trip with orphans for new Eid clothes.

Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam's Iftar



Ramadan cooking

Shami Kebabs (Spiced ground beef patties)

Ingredients

- 3 tbsp. canola oil
- 1 tsp. cumin seeds
- 1 large red onion, 1/3 minced, 1/3 thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup chana dal (yellow split peas), rinsed, soaked 30 minutes, and drained
- 1/3 cup roughly chopped mint
- 1/2 tsp. ground turmeric
- 2 cloves garlic, mashed into a paste
- 2 small green Thai chiles or 1 serrano, minced
- 1 (2") piece ginger, peeled, 1/2 mashed into a paste, 1/2 minced
- Kosher salt, to taste
- 2 lb. ground beef
- 1/2 cup minced cilantro
- 1 tbsp. garam masala
- 1 tsp. red chile powder, such as cayenne
- 1/2 cup ghee
- Lime wedges, for serving



Instructions

Heat oil in a 6-qt. saucepan over medium-high. Cook cumin seeds and half the minced onion until golden, 6-8 minutes. Add dal, mint, turmeric, garlic, chillies, ginger paste, salt, and 1 1/2 cups water; boil. Reduce heat to medium-low; cook until dal is mushy and mixture is slightly dry, about 1 hour. Let cool and transfer to a food processor. Add beef, half the cilantro, the garam masala, chilli powder, and salt; purée into a thick paste.

Stir remaining minced onion and cilantro with minced ginger in a bowl. Using wet hands, divide beef mixture into twenty-eight 1 1/2 oz. balls. Working with 1 ball at a time, press index finger into centre to create a pocket. Place 1/2 tsp. onion mixture inside; pinch edges to seal. Roll into a ball; flatten into a patty. Melt 1/2 cup ghee in a 12 skillet over medium-high. Working in batches and adding more ghee as needed, cook patties, flipping once, until cooked through and crisp, 4-6 minutes; serve with sliced onion and lime wedges.

SPORTS
sports

Serena withdraws from Italian Open with injury

Serena Williams won her first round match after two months out with a knee injury

AFP | Rome, Italy

Serena Williams withdrew from the Italian Open yesterday with a recurring left knee injury handing sister Venus a walkover into the third round.

In yesterday's statement the 23-time Grand Slam winner insisted she would still be competing in the French Open later this month.

"I must withdraw from the Italian Open due to pain in my left knee," Serena said in a statement.

"I will miss the fans and competition at one of my favourite tournaments.

"I'll be concentrating on rehab and look forward to seeing you all at the French Open and next year in Rome."

The French Open starts on May 26.

Serena's withdrawal comes a day after she beat Sweden's Rebecca Peterson in straight sets to set up a second round meeting with her older sister Venus.

She had been returning after more than two months out with a knee problem, in the final warm-up clay-court tournament before the French Open.

Four-time Rome winner Serena, 37, had eased through 6-4,



Serena Williams' withdrawal sends Venus Williams, the 1999 winner, through to a third round meeting with either Johanna Konta of Britain or American seventh seed Sloane Stephens

6-2 her first round match against Swedish qualifier Petersen.

Serena had also played Petersen in the second round at the Miami Open in March before withdrawing with a knee injury.

Her withdrawal sends Venus Williams, the 1999 winner, through to a third round meeting with either Johanna Konta of Britain or American seventh seed Sloane Stephens.

Serena -- now ranked 11th --



US Serena Williams hits a return to Sweden's Rebecca Peterson (file photo)

has completed just eight matches this year, also withdrawing from Indian Wells in March with illness.

There are now doubts that the veteran can add to her tally of Grand Slams, something which has so far proved beyond her

since returning last year after taking time out following the birth of her first child.

Her last Grand Slam singles title was won at the Australian Open in 2017, where she was pregnant, breaking a tie with Steffi Graf for the most in the

professional era.

Her win in Melbourne moved her one behind Australian Court's record of 24 major singles titles.

She is a three-time French Open winner, claiming her last title in Roland Garros in 2015.

History made as women to referee men's AFC Cup clash

AFP | Kuala Lumpur

The Asian Football Confederation announced yesterday that for the first time an all-female referee team will take charge of a men's continental club cup clash.

Japanese referee Yoshimi Yamashita and assistants Makoto Bozono and Naomi Teshirogi will officiate the AFC Cup match between Myanmar's Yangon United and Cambodia's Naga World at the Thuwunna Stadium on Wednesday.

"This will be the first time three female referees preside in the Asian Football Confederation's club competitions, marking a new milestone in Asian refereeing," the AFC said in a statement.

Watson 'gave blood' for Chennai during IPL final

AFP | New Delhi

Bloodstains on the leg of Shane Watson's trousers during the IPL final as he scored a blistering 80 for Chennai Super Kings were revealed yesterday to be from a cut that needed six stitches when he finished.

The 37-year-old Australian batsman was on the losing side in the end, but teammate Harbhajan Singh hailed Watson's courage in continuing to play despite suffering a gashed knee while diving for a catch.

Dutch GP returns

AFP | Paris

The Dutch Grand Prix will return next season at Zandvoort after a 35-year absence, Formula One organisers announced.

A deal to stage the race at the historic seaside resort circuit near Amsterdam has been signed for at least three years.

"I am pleased to see that Zandvoort will be part of the proposed calendar... and thankful for the hard work of Formula 1 to bring the sport back to the Netherlands", Jean Todt, president of the sport's ruling body the FIA, said.

Bahrain national boxing team make history

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's National Boxing team marked their participation in the Zayed Open Sports Championship with an unprecedented achievement, bagging two golds and three bronzes. Held under the patronage of Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan on May 11-12, 2019, the event took place in UAE's capital Abu Dhabi.

Gifting gold medals were Abdullah Fadel who triumphed in the 69 kg category and Mohammed Belal, who won the 52 kg class. Noor Al Nesa Jan handed Bahrain the last gold medal after his victory in the 51 kg section. Meanwhile, the two bronzes were claimed by

Ali Al Aradi (64 kg) and Yousif Al Baluchi (56 kg).

On this occasion, HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee hailed the results achieved by the Bahrainis in Abu Dhabi.

He praised the efforts behind this achievement, expressing pride at winning such a number of medals in a very important event. His Highness stressed the importance of forming a strong base to create a strong Bahrain National Boxing team that are able to conquer any arena and win everywhere.

Roma's De Rossi moving on after 18 years

AFP | Rome

Captain Daniele De Rossi will bring the curtain down on his 18-year career with Roma at the end of the season, the Serie A side announced yesterday.

The 35-year-old former World Cup winning midfielder will play his final

game at home against Parma on May 26, but will not be retiring from professional football.

"(De Rossi) plans to pursue a new adventure away from Rome," the club said in a statement.

"It will be the end of an era."

The game could be a

crucial one for Roma's Champions League ambitions next season as last year's European semi-finalists are sixth in Serie A just one point off fourth place with two games to play.



Daniele De Rossi



Badminton coaches during a technical course organized by the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) in cooperation with the Bahrain Badminton and Squash Federation. Scheduled to run until May 18 at Khalifa Sports City Hall in Isa Town, the course is supported by the International Olympic Committee's Olympic Solidarity Committee and features theoretical and practical sessions. 20 coaches from Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Syria are participating in the event



Shahzad Zafar team members with organisers after winning their match in the Ramadan Cup 2019 organised by Pakistan Club. Highlight of the day was the first individual century by Waqas who scored 106* runs in 21 balls. With the help of Nadeem's century, JOZ Group also won their match after posting a huge total of 139 runs in 6 overs which was also the highest total so far this year.

Zverev's slump continues in Rome

● Alexander Zverev's clay-court horror show continues with Italian Open exit

● Rome's Berrettini upsets Zverev for milestone win

● Goffin, Kyrgios advance in Rome

AFP | Rome

Germany's Alexander Zverev crashed out of the Italian Open yesterday with a 7-5, 7-5 loss to Italian wild card Matteo Berrettini in the second round.

"The match that I played was horrendous," said Zverev after the game which took 1hr 48min on the red clay of the Foro Italico.

Zverev, the 2017 winner and runner-up in Rome last year to Novak Djokovic, has had a terrible start to the clay-court season with the French Open starting on May 26.

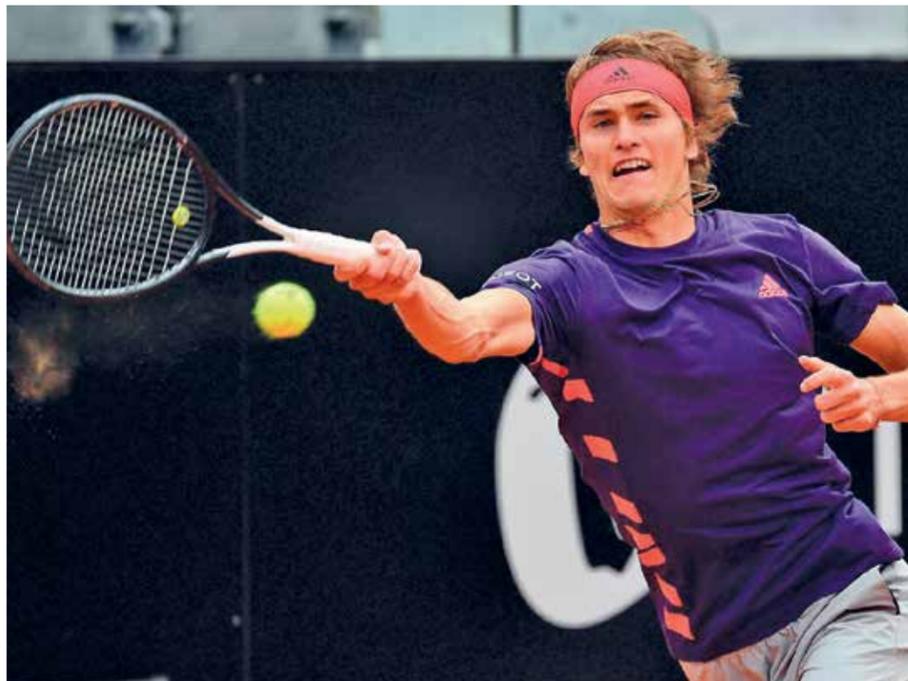
The 22-year-old lost his Madrid Open title last week, falling in the quarter-finals of both Madrid and Munich to Stefanos Tsitsipas and Cristian Garin respectively.

The German has yet to win a trophy this season and stands 4-6 on clay this spring.

Zverev had been seeded fourth in the final clay-court warm-up before Roland Garros, and was playing his first game having received a first-round bye.

Last year, Zverev reached the final in Rome beating Berrettini there in their only previous meeting.

But the 33rd-ranked Italian has been on form capturing his



Germany's Alexander Zverev returns the ball to Italy's Matteo Berrettini



Zverev, the 2017 winner and runner-up in Rome last year to Novak Djokovic, has had a terrible start to the clay-court season

second ATP title on clay in Budapest last month, and reached the final in Munich.

Zverev started with a break in the second set, but lost this advantage immediately.

The 33rd-ranked Italian sur-

vived four break points, breaking the German in the twelfth game to close 7-5 to the delight of the home crowd.

Berrettini will play Argentine Diego Schwartzman, who eased past Yoshihito Nishioka 6-1, 6-4 in 73 minutes.

Wawrinka Woes

Belgian David Goffin rallied from a set down to beat former French Open champion Stan Wawrinka in three sets and advance to the second round.

The 28-year-old Goffin won through 4-6, 6-0, 6-2 in 1hr 55min against the three-time Grand Slam winner to set up a meeting with Argentine seventh seed Juan Martin Del Potro for a place in the third round.

Ninth seed Marin Cilic beat Italian wild card Andrea Basso 6-1, 7-5 as Australian Nick Kyrgios needed three sets to get past Russian 12th seed Daniil Medvedev.

"I knew it was going to be tough today because I haven't played much on clay," said Kyrgios, who next plays Norwegian qualifier Casper Ruud.

Portugal's Joao Sousa saved four match points in the deciding set to battle past American Frances Tiafoe 6-3, 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/4).

Sousa, who also trailed 1/4 in the deciding set tie-break, will play third seed Roger Federer in the second round.

Eight time Rome winner Rafael Nadal will open his tournament against Jeremy Chardy in the second round after the Frenchman beat compatriot Richard Gasquet 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 in a match suspended overnight on Monday.

Herrera confident Solskjaer can restore United's lustre

AFP | London

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer possesses the qualities necessary to restore Manchester United as a genuine title contender, according to departing midfielder Anders Herrera.

The 29-year-old Spanish international -- who has been linked to a move to French champions Paris Saint-Germain -- believes the common decency of Solskjaer will be rewarded with better performances on the pitch.

Solskjaer's star faded almost as soon as he was given the job full-time after a terrific spell as caretaker manager following

the sacking of Jose Mourinho in December.

The former United striker guided them to 14 wins in 17 games but the end of the season has been nothing short of a disaster as they lost eight of their last 12 -- ending up 32 points off city rivals and champions Manchester City -- and missed out on Champions League football next term.

"He is one of the best people I have ever met in football," said Herrera, quitting United after the club declined to offer him a new contract when he demanded increased wages of £300,000 (\$388,000) a week.

Mahrez keen to stay at Manchester City despite limited minutes

Reuters | London

Winger Riyad Mahrez has said he will not seek a move away from Premier League champions Manchester City in search of more playing time after helping Pep Guardiola's side win their second successive title over the weekend.

Mahrez, who became the club's record signing last year at a reported 60 million pounds (\$77.78 million), started only 14 league games this season as Guardiola opted for Raheem Sterling and Leroy Sane on the wings.

The Algerian has chipped in with seven league goals and four assists this season, including one in the 4-1 win at Brighton and Hove Albion that sealed the title, and said he would not shy away from the competition for a starting spot.

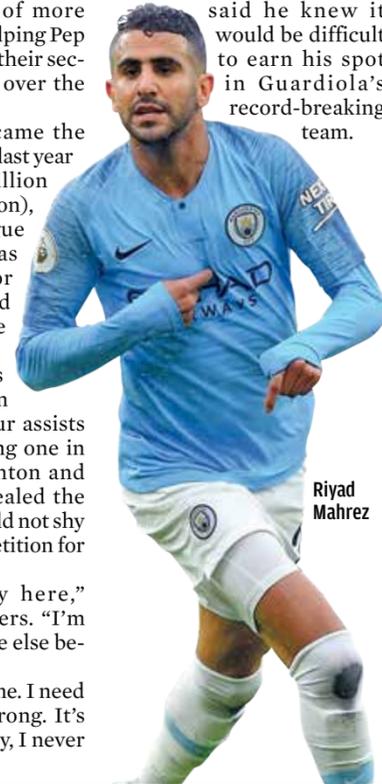
"I'm very happy here," Mahrez told reporters. "I'm not going somewhere else because I don't play."

"It's part of the game. I need to be strong, stay strong. It's part of my personality, I never

hide from things."

Mahrez, who was the Professional Footballers' Association player of the year when he led Leicester City to the 2015-16 league title,

said he knew it would be difficult to earn his spot in Guardiola's record-breaking team.



Riyad Mahrez

Federer cramming in Rome practice ahead of French Open

AFP | Rome

Roger Federer insisted Monday his focus at this week's Italian Open was on getting more match practice on clay ahead of the French Open in two weeks time.

The 20-time Grand Slam winner has not played on the red clay in the Foro Italico since his third round exit in 2016 having finished runner-up the previous year for the fourth time, losing to Novak Djokovic in the final.

"Regardless of what happens here, I just think it's good for me to play matches at this stage," said world number three Federer before his first match on

Wednesday.

He has a first-round bye as the number three seed, and will begin his tournament against Portugal's Joao Sousa, who battled past American Frances Tiafoe 6-3, 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/4) to reach the second round.

The 37-year-old's performance in the Madrid Open last week has boosted his hopes of winning the French Open, a decade after his only title there.

He fell in the quarter-finals on Friday to Dominic Thiem, but twice held match point and for a set and a half was dominant against a player considered among the favourites for Roland Garros after Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic.

"I think I was playing well in Madrid, so I just said, again, 'Let's come to Rome, a city I like so much as well'."

"Madrid is a tough place to play. I felt like playing somewhat maybe more sea level conditions would be good for me.



"I think I was playing well in Madrid, so I just said, again, 'Let's come to Rome, a city I like so much as well. Madrid is a tough place to play. I felt like playing somewhat maybe more sea level conditions would be good for me"

ROGER FEDERER

"There would be excitement, more excitement than me coming to a practice court in Switzerland. "I think this week, then next week in Paris, it's going to be interesting to see how I play the points, how I do it all."

His arrival in the Italian capital has been a boost for organisers who doubled ticket prices after it was announced he would be

playing.

"That's obviously disappointing to hear," said Federer.

"They made it in a way like they rewarded the fans who bought tickets earlier, which is sort of strange.

"Look, I just really hope it doesn't take away the fact I'm really happy to be here.

"There's going to be good crowds hopefully, good atmosphere.

"I'm pumped up to play well. I mean, my excitement couldn't be bigger."

'New wave coming through'

Federer is in the same half of the draw as eight-time Rome winner Nadal, who is looking for his first clay title this season before his French Open title defence.

"I have other problems first getting there," said Federer, who could meet the Spaniard in the semi-finals.

A potential quarter-final awaits against either Stefanos Tsitsipas,

the eighth seed, who beat Nadal in the Madrid semi-finals, or Italian 10th seed Fabio Fognini, the Monte Carlo winner.

"I thought Stefanos was very impressive against him (Nadal) last week," continued Federer.

"I think it's going to be a good season. It's going to be interesting to see who is going to make the World Tour Finals, especially if so many guys have won especially big titles, like Fabio in Monaco.

"There is a bit of a new wave coming through with the one-handed backhand that can counter some of Rafa's spins and lefty play.

"But, again, this is maybe also just a moment in time. We'll see what happens for the rest of the year.

"It's announcing to be a very exciting season, even a more complicated one for the top guys next year, I believe, because this is the year where they truly are breaking through, truly are gaining a lot of experience.



Roger Federer