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 THE FOUR SEASONS HOTEL, BAHRAIN BAY
 16TH MAY 2019
 9:15 PM - WELCOMING SPEECH
 9:45 PM - ADMISSION PRESENTATION

HRH Crown Prince hails BDF's role in Bahrain's security, stability



HRH the Crown Prince during an Iftar banquet held yesterday evening at the BDF officers' club

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Defence Force plays a vital role in protecting the Kingdom's security and stability, said HRH the Crown Prince.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister was attending an Iftar banquet of senior officers at the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Officers' Club.

Upon arrival, HRH the Crown Prince was received by the BDF Commander-in-Chief,

Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Minister of Defence Affairs, Lieutenant General Abdulla bin Hassan Al Noaimi, the BDF Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Theyab bin Saqer Al Noaimi, and several senior BDF officers.

The Crown Prince commemorated the Kingdom's fallen servicemen and hailed BDF's contribution to protecting regional security in partnership with Saudi Arabia's Armed Forces. HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa accompanied HRH the Crown Prince during the banquet.

Attacks 'imminent'

US orders non-emergency embassy staff to leave Baghdad, Arbil

Washington, United States

The US State Department yesterday ordered all non-emergency staff to leave its embassy in Baghdad and consulate in Arbil, as tensions mount between the United States and Iraq's neighbour Iran.

Washington has ramped up pressure on Tehran in recent days, accusing Iran of planning "imminent" attacks in the region, and bolstering the American military presence in the Gulf.

"Numerous terrorist and insurgent groups are active in Iraq and regularly attack both Iraqi security



Mike Pompeo (R) walks with Acting Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs at the State Department David Satterfield (L), and Charge D'affaires at the US Embassy in Baghdad Joey Hood

forces and civilians," a travel advisory warned.

"Anti-US sectarian militias may also threaten US citizens and West-

ern companies throughout Iraq."

The US last year shut its consulate in the protest-hit southern Iraqi city of Basra, blaming "indirect fire" by Iran-backed forces and warning its rival of retaliation for any damage.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo last week paid a surprise trip to Baghdad in a move to bolster ties with Iraq as it pushes ahead with its "maximum pressure" against Tehran -- a US arch-rival, but an ally of Iraq.

He told reporters he had made the trip because Iranian forces are "escalating their activity" and said the threat of attacks were "very specific."

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Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa with the US Ambassador to Bahrain, Justin Siberell. They reviewed relations between the two friendly countries and discussed issues of common interest. Public Security Chief, Major-General Tariq Hassan Al-Hassan, attended



Labour and Social Development Minister, Jameel Humaidan with the newly-formed Board of Directors of the Future Society for Youth, led by Chairman Sabah Abdulrahman Al-Zayani. The Future Society for Youth Chairman highlighted the Society's social initiatives and development projects, including the award-winning "Smile" Initiative, which provides psychological and social support to children with cancer and their parents. The minister affirmed the Labour and Social Development Ministry's support for the development and charitable projects, as well as for effective social initiatives

New realty data bank on way



Officials during a Real Estate Regulatory Authority meeting held yesterday

TDT | Manama

Plans are on the anvil to establish a 'special bank' loaded with information on the Kingdom's property market. The project, the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) said, will help provide real

estate statistics as well as information on Bahrain's real estate market to investors and developers with accurate data. The project was unveiled during a regular meeting of RERA, held yesterday. Survey and Land Registration Bureau (SLRB) President, RERA Chairman Shaikh Salman bin Abdulla

bin Hamad Al-Khalifa presided over the session. The session discussed procedures to develop the real estate sector in line with the royal directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa. The meeting commended the policies of the Government chaired by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa

bin Salman Al-Khalifa in applying modern procedures and enhance administrative performance. The meeting also paid tribute to His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

MoFA, Edamah join hands



During the deal signing

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Bahrain Real Estate Investment Company (Edamah) signed an agreement to lift the Kingdom's leadership in political and economic diplomacy.

As per the deal, Edamah will help develop the Ministry's work mechanisms and establish Bahraini embassies abroad to reflect the Kingdom's pros-

perity and success in various fields. The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Daij Al Khalifa, and the Chief Executive Officer of Edamah, Amin Alarrayed, signed the agreement.

Edamah is a real estate investment company and is one of the Kingdom's established property developing companies.

Two-hour rest for differently abled: CSB

TDT | Manama

The President of the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) Ahmed bin Zayed Al Zayed, issued a directive to allocate two hours rest for employees with disabilities or those caring for

persons with disabilities. Government entities are required to update employees' data electronically in the Human Resources Management Information System, where a new feature has been added to allow the two hours of rest.



The US Embassy hosted a Majlis for ladies to celebrate Ramadan and the friendship between the United States and Bahrain. Wife of the US Ambassador, Arnavaz Siberell, hosted the Majlis on the theme Ramadan "Jalabiya," where Bahraini designer Batool Dadabahi displayed a number of her fashionable Jalabiya models. Female government officials, academics, journalists, exchange programme participants, and NGO representatives attended the event.



Ahmed Jawahery (left), the Chairman of KIMS Bahrain Medical Centre and the President of Royal Bahrain Hospital, Dr Sherif Sahadulla (right), the Chief Executive Officer of KIMS Healthcare Group



KIMS Bahrain Healthcare which consists of Royal Bahrain Hospital, Royal Bahrain Medical Centre and KIMS Bahrain Medical Centre hosted their yearly Ghabga at the Ritz Carlton last week. Guests and dignitaries were welcomed by Ahmed Jawahery, the Chairman of KIMS Bahrain Medical Centre and the President of Royal Bahrain Hospital, Dr Sherif Sahadulla, the Chief Executive Officer of KIMS Healthcare Group and Jacob Thomas, Executive Director (GCC) of KIMS Healthcare Group. The event was attended by diplomats, government officials, corporates and media representatives. Above, Jacob Thomas (fourth from left), Executive Director (GCC) and Rahma Jaber - General Manager (GCC).

big story



Life without passports



Karim Radhi and Thampi Nagarjun with Gurendar

Gurendar was forced to accept the terrifying prospect of being stranded thousands of kilometres away from his homeland in Bahrain, when his mother died. He wanted to go but failed as his employer refused to give back his passport. He is still stranded here in Bahrain, with his passport in employer's 'safe custody'



TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Despite repeated warnings, several employers in the Kingdom are taking advantage of the ignorance and innocence of labourers to confiscate their passports, accused a prominent trade union official.

Employers have made it mandatory for foreign labourers to hand over their passports upon reaching Kingdom for safe custody, Thampi Nagarjuna, Advisor to the General Federation of Bahrain Trade Union, said.

Foreign workers' ignorant of their employment rights of the host country, or who might not have the will power to demand his rights, can be taken for exploitation.

Most of the workers, Advisor Nagarjuna said, are coming from rural backgrounds. "They look at their village heads or employers as noble people whom they could trust blindly".

"So when they are asked to sign a blank paper or hand over their passport, they promptly oblige."

This, he said, often leads the poor workers to traumatic experiences making them further more vulnerable to exploitation.

"They are subjected to workplace exploitation and are often many times cheated by the employer," he pointed out.

"Holding constant inspection visits to companies is the only remedy," he added.

Thampi Nagarjuna is currently handling the case of Indian national Gurendar who was cheated by a company here.

"When Gurendar came to Bahrain he was promised a salary of BD 120.

"However, after reaching Bahrain, the company made him sign a document saying, 'He is entitled to receive BD90.'"

"Him being illiterate and ignorant, was not able to recognise the intensity of the situation he was in until it was too late.

"He was not paid a salary at all for many months.

"His passport was also taken by the company so he could not travel back to India."

Above all, Thampi Nagarjuna

said, the company demanded him to pay BD600 to get his passport back.

For a poor person like Gurendar, Thampi Nagarjuna said, "It was impossible, especially with a BD90 salary.

Failing to get his passport back from 'safe custody, also left Gurendar to face the terrifying prospect of being stranded away from home, when his mother died.

It was a heartbreaking experience and he was helpless. His passport was with the employer and he is not getting it back.

Gurendar also tried complaining to authorities.

Gurendar, Thampi Nagarjuna said, filed a complaint against his employer for confiscating his passport. However, the employer denied having any knowledge of it.

The case is currently ongoing.

"In the meantime, he is still stranded here without a proper income," said the Advisor to the General Federation of Bahrain Trade Union.

Need regular inspections

Conducting regular inspection campaigns, Thampi Nagarjuna said, is the only option to prevent employers from doing violations. "All companies employing expatriates, especially labourers, need to be inspected to check on violations such as holding of the employees' passport."

Hold awareness campaigns

Abdulkarim Radhi, the Assistant Secretary-General For Arab and International relation at the General Federation of Bahrain Trade Union, said, "There is a need for awareness campaigns to inform the workers of their rights."

"Many workers are ignorant about their rights and allow the employers to take advantage of them. In many cases, a complaint with the concerned authorities can fix the whole situation but the employees are unaware of their rights.

"Therefore an awareness campaign is needed to teach them about the rights they are entitled to and where they can go for support if they need it," he said.

What if the employer refuses to give passport back?

- Without a court order, an employer has no right to hold an employee's passport whatsoever. That practice represents a violation of freedom of movement in contravention of Article (19) (b) of the constitution, which ensures the freedom of movement of every person on the territory of Bahrain
- This practice (although quite common) amounts to criminal misappropriation and breach of trust i.e the employer got the passport lawfully (to process the residency permit and other formalities etc.) but retained it unlawfully (without the employee's consent).
- The passport is personal property and is to be possessed solely by its rightful bearer/citizen. Also, note that most passports mention, "this passport is the property of the issuing government" therefore, no other party should be holding it.
- If the employee demands his passport back and the employer refuses to hand it over (in writing if possible), the employee should first contact the ministry of justice (diplomatic area).
- Some employers/managers claim that this is the company's policy or that they did not receive any official letters about that!
- Claiming ignorance of the law does not relieve the management from its legal responsibility. Laws must be followed once they are approved by the officials and published in the official gazette.
- Companies' internal policies must not contradict with the law, and any policy or practice deemed as illegal must be immediately abandoned.

(Labour Market Regulatory Authority)

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Woman gets 3 yrs for embezzlement

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal court awarded a three-year jail term to a woman found guilty of embezzling more than BD100,000 from Jidhafs Maternity Hospital by forging documents.

The court ordered the woman to return the BD111,708 she took from the hospital in the Capital Governorate

Chief Prosecutor Hassan Al Muhaiza said the court also ordered her to return BD111, 708 she took from the hospital in the Capital Governorate.

The woman, an employee at the hospital, landed in police custody following an investigation into a complaint filed by the Health Ministry officials.



The Jidhafs Maternity Hospital (file)

The ministry, following an audit, found unusual shortages in the institution's revenues.

The Public Prosecution im-

mediately looked into the ministry's claims and found that the records and documents were forged.

Further investigation led to

the suspect.

The woman pleaded not guilty. She was convicted by the court of embezzlement and forging official documents.

Court to announce verdict on EWA case in June



A copy of the circular issued by EWA by the beginning of this year, imposing VAT on electricity and water supply services

TDT | Manama

The Second Supreme Civilian Court of Appeal will announce its decision on an appeal filed by a Bahraini lawyer against the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) on June 25.

The appeal disputes a verdict issued by the High Administrative Court, on February 26 this year, rejecting a lawsuit filed against EWA by Bahraini Lawyer Mohammed Al Thawadi.

The lawsuit claimed that authority's decision to impose Value Added Tax (VAT) on subscribers, by the beginning of this year, is unconstitutional.

The appeal demands to scrap of an EWA decision to impose taxes on subscribers.

The lawyer argued that the decision is unconstitutional, claiming that Articles 15 and 17 of the Constitution of Bahrain stipulate that taxes should only be imposed through legislation.

Al Thawadi accused EWA of not adhering to the Unified

GCC VAT Agreement saying: "Article 29 did not stipulate the imposition of taxes on electricity supply services, but on the contrary, it gave each state the right to exempt some sectors following the local law."

"Additionally, Article 30 expressly stipulated the exemption of government bodies from paying taxes, and therefore it is not permissible for the authority to collect taxes," the lawyer told the court.

EWA was represented by the State Cases Authority, which claimed that it has the right to impose VAT on the services it provides, as it is not a sovereign authority that solely provides them.

The lawyer demanded a clarification from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism to confirm "if commercial establishments are permitted to provide electricity and water supplies in the Kingdom and the conditions required to obtain such a permit."

Man arrested for tweeting fake news

TDT | Manama

Police arrested a Bahraini man yesterday for allegedly posting fake news on Twitter with an intention to 'harm public order'.

The suspect, an attorney by profession, was arrested by the Public Prosecution on charges of spreading "fake and baseless news that may harm public order" through social media networks.

Chief Prosecutor Adnan Mattar explained that the action was taken follow-

ing a complaint filed against the suspect by the Electronic Crime Directorate in the Interior Ministry.

The suspect, Chief Prosecutor said, was accused of posting incorrect information and comments meant to cause confusion and instability in the community.

Mattar said that the man made various tweets questioning authorities and their ability to maintain security and protect society.

The prosecution or-

dered his arrest after he was summoned and interrogated yesterday.

He was accused of publishing fake news while knowing that it may cause harm to the public order, in addition to misusing social media networks.

The Chief Prosecutor warned that misusing social media networks falls outside the purview of the freedom of expression, "especially when used for personal gains without regard to public interest and rights of the community.

Appeals rejected in police vehicle torching case

TDT | Manama

The Court of Cassation yesterday rejected the appeals of two men convicted of burning a police patrol vehicle in Aali in 2017.

The first person was given a seven-year imprisonment, while the other person received a three-year jail term. The attack by a group of 30 occurred on Shaikh Zayed Highway on January 30, 2017.

Court files say, the group hurled Molotov cocktails at a riot police vehicle stationed near Aali roundabout, aka Pottery roundabout, and destroying it completely.

The ensuing investigation led to the arrest of two

suspects, who revealed the identities of the others involved.

Public Prosecution accused the men of arson, endangering people's lives and damaging the vehicle which belonged to Interior Ministry and serving terrorist purposes.

The court also rejected the appeals of two other defendants convicted in the same case recently.

Eight of the suspects, including one of the appellants, were sentenced to seven years imprisonment and ordered to collectively pay BD14, 077 in compensation for the damaged car.

A minor was sentenced to three years of imprisonment.



Middle East Medical Group - Segaya, hidd & Salmabad branches celebrated Nurses Day. A function was organised in Salmabad branch in the presence of Dr Thajudeen Habib, Dr Saji C Abraham and Dr Sarun Thomas. A candle-light pledge was taken on the occasion



A helping hand was extended to the Migrant Workers Protection Society by BIS - BHAVANS family. A cheque of BD 300/- was given to the organisation by Director-Ritu Verma and Principal - Saji Jacob. The fund was raised by the students as well as by BIS management. Neelaja Shrotre and Anju Mathur of MWPS (Migrant Workes Protection Society) received the cheque on behalf of the organisation

Bhavahara selected for Asia Indian Festival



Officials part of 'Bhavahara' during a photocall

TDT | Manama

"Bhavahara" a dance drama, presented by the Indian Institute for Performing Arts, has been selected to participate in Asia Indian Festival at Taiwan.

Asia Indian Cultural Festival is an Annual Cultural Exchange Event consecutively run for the past 19 years.

"Bhavahara" is an experimental dream project directed by Dr Nidhi S Menon under the banner of Indian Institute

for Performing Arts. "We have been preparing and improving Bhavahara for over two years and many people have worked tirelessly in finalizing the script, music selection, sound recording, property management, choreography etc..." said Ambilikuttan, Managing Director and Principal - IIPA, in a statement.

Individuals playing important characters in the play will be travelling from Bahrain for the show and the rest performers will be local talents trained at Taiwan.

Public teacher in dock for leaking question paper on WhatsApp

TDI | Manama

A female public school teacher has confessed to leaking the question papers of a seventh-grade final examination to her students through WhatsApp.

Southern Governorate Chief Prosecutor Noor Shehab said she confessed to the crime after investigators confronted with evidence.

She is looking at jail terms of up to five years if found guilty.

The High Criminal Court will begin a trial on 22 May 2019 in the case.

The intermediate school teacher allegedly took pictures of the seventh-grade question papers and sent it to some of her students through WhatsApp before the exam.

An investigation was triggered when education ministry

The intermediate school teacher allegedly took pictures of the seventh-grade question papers and sent it to some of her students through WhatsApp before the exam.

officials notified public prosecution about the leak.

The teacher was accused of a crime as per Article 371 of the Kingdom's Penal Code.

The prosecution has interrogated the suspect, heard witnesses' testimonies and viewed the evidence.

Article 371 of the Penal Code stipulates: "A punishment of imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding BD100 shall be

inflicted on a person who divulges a secret entrusted there-to in his official capacity trade, profession or art in conditions other than those prescribed by the law or uses it for his personal benefit or for the benefit of another person, unless the person concerned with the secret allows the divulgence or use thereof."

However, the article stipulates that punishment should be severe in the case of public servants.

"The punishment shall be imprisonment for a period not exceeding 5 years if the perpetrator is a public servant or an officer entrusted with a public service to whom the secret has been confided during, because or because of performing his duties or service," Article 371 mentioned.

Update WhatsApp

Anti-cybercrime cell asks to update WhatsApp to its latest version to rectify a vulnerability discovered recently

TDI/Manama Harpreet Kaur

Bahrain's Anti-cybercrime cell has asked Whatsapp users here to update to the latest version of the app to rectify a vulnerability that allows spyware to be injected into a user's phone.

As per reports, the Israeli cyber intelligence company NSO GROUP has developed the spyware.

Attackers could transmit the malicious code to a target's device by calling the user and infecting the call whether or not the recipient answered the call. Logs of the incoming calls were

often erased, the report said.

"There was a fault in the WhatsApp application which could lead to the hacking of smartphones and e-devices," the Director-General of Anti-corruption and Economic & Electronic Security said in a statement.

The Anti-cyber Crime Directorate asked people to immediately update the application to its latest version.

"We also ask individuals to contact the department on 992 if they find their devices had been hacked, to learn about the necessary steps to take," the statement added.



There was a fault in the WhatsApp application which could lead to the hacking of smartphones and e-devices

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF ANTI-CORRUPTION AND ECONOMIC & ELECTRONIC SECURITY

Migin Vincent, Threats Manager App

The Remote Code Execution (RCE) vulnerability (CVE-2019-3568) affecting the popular messaging platform WhatsApp was discovered earlier this month.

According to the recent advisory published by Facebook, a buffer overflow vulnerability in WhatsApp VOIP stack allowed remote code execution via a specially crafted series of SRTCP packets sent to a target phone number.

"It can be exploited by calling a vulnerable device via the WhatsApp calling feature, which remotely installs the surveillance software on the device.

"It should be noted that the calls did not have to be answered and often disappeared from the call logs. WhatsApp deployed a server-side fix on Friday last week and issued a patch for end-users on Monday alongside Facebook's advisory."

Users are advised to upgrade to the latest version of WhatsApp as soon as possible.

Affected Versions

1. WhatsApp for Android prior to v2.19.134,
2. WhatsApp Business for Android prior to v2.19.44,
3. WhatsApp for iOS prior to v2.19.51, WhatsApp Business for iOS prior to v2.19.51,
4. WhatsApp for Windows Phone prior to v2.18.348
5. WhatsApp for Tizen prior to v2.18.15.

Man dies after falling from eleventh floor of building

● The victim is 29-year-old Sahadot from the Pabna district in Bangladesh

TDI | Manama

Mohammed Zafran

A man has died after falling from the 11th floor of a building in Juffair in a workplace accident.

The victim, a Bangladeshi national, according to sources, was an employee of a construction firm.

"He fell from the 11th floor and landed onto one of the lower floors," the source said adding: "Unfortunately, the fall was too steep for him to survive."

"Co-workers rushed to save him but he died soon after the fall," the source said.

The victim, Sahadot, 29-year-old, hails from the Pabna district in Bangladesh.



He fell from the 11th floor and landed onto one of the lower floors. Unfortunately, the fall was too steep for him to survive

A SOURCE



Sahadot

about what led to the fall."

He added that all formalities and arrangements will be made as required by the victim's family.

"He is an employee of a construction firm and was engaged in a project at a building in Juffair," he added.

Bangladeshi Embassy Labour Consul Shaikh Tahidul Islam confirmed the incident stating, "The embassy has been informed about the incident."

"The embassy is aware of the incident and are following on this. We do not have details

Amjad Taha, British Arab journalist and political analyst, Regional director of the British Middle East Center for studies and Research

This spyware clearly shows that many applications we use are not very secure, especially social media which is quite dangerous as well.

"The incident also raises questions on a lot of cybersecurity issues.

"Bahrain has an advanced cyber security team where they have succeeded a lot in countering terrorism. A lot of applications were pulled down along with their proxies.

"Iran has been using a lot many contents to promote terrorism where Facebook has spoken about it too.

"Iran has dozens of Facebook accounts and along with more than 23,000 twitter accounts used both by Iran and Qatar regimes.

"They also put links on websites to hacks accounts of journalists and rights activists monitoring the Iranian human rights situation and Qatar's abuse of international law by supporting terrorism.

"I was one of the victims of the Qatar regime's hacking attempt.

"My case is still in the court in the USA, where the New York Times has spoken about it.

"Qatar has tried to hack a lot of journalists through various ways and one of the prominent ways is through emails and spyware and also through various texting applications.

"Lastly, Bahrain as a nation has been very successful in safeguarding cybersecurity and tackling terrorism on Whatsapp

and Facebook despite these apps putting a lot of individuals privacy in danger."



Representative picture

American University of Bahrain holds second open day

TDI | Manama

The American University of Bahrain (AUBH) is holding its second open day today at the Four Seasons Hotel, Bahrain Bay, from 9 pm to 12 am.

There will be a presentation, starting at 9:30 and ending at 10, and the opportunity to discuss enrollment with AUBH advisors, organisers said in a statement.

The Open Day is offered for students wishing to attend the September 2019 term, and their parents, teachers and guidance counsellors.

Admission process opened for the first term of AUBH in September 2019, with hundreds of



Participants during the first open day held at the Four Seasons Hotel, Bahrain Bay.

students and parents attending the University's first Open Day at the Four Seasons Hotel, Bahrain Bay.

Dr Susan E. Saxton, Founding President of AUBH stated, "We were overwhelmed with the great attendance during

the Open Day, and even more enthused with those who are visiting our 12th-floor office in the World Trade Center to en-



rol for the first term. We decided to host a second Open Day next week for those who were unable to join our first time

around." To view current openings and send your CV refer to careers@aubh.edu or call +973 17260798

WORLD

Facebook to curb livestreaming

Facebook would ban Live users who shared extremist content

AFP | Paris, France

Facebook announced yesterday it would tighten access to its livestreaming feature as New Zealand's premier Jacinda Ardern and French leader Emmanuel Macron prepared to launch the global "Christchurch Call" initiative to tackle the spread of extremism online.

Facebook boss Mark Zuckerberg has been under intense pressure since March when a white supremacist gunman used Facebook Live to stream his rampage at two mosques in the New Zealand city of Christchurch, which left 51 people dead.

The California-based platform said it would ban Facebook Live users who shared extremist content and seek to reinforce its own internal controls to stop the spread of offensive videos.

"Following the horrific recent terrorist attacks in New Zealand, we've been reviewing what more we can do to limit our services from being used to cause harm or spread hate," Facebook vice-president of integrity Guy Rosen said in a statement.

Ardern and Macron will later issue the Christchurch Call to fight the spread of hateful and terror-related content along with leaders from Britain, Canada, Norway, Jordan and Senegal, who will also be in Paris.

The largely symbolic initiative is intended to keep up the pressure on social media companies who face growing calls from politicians across the world to stop their platforms being abused.

"It's an action plan, it's the start of something," Ardern told CNN in an interview on Wednesday.

Many countries have already tightened legislation to introduce penalties for companies that fail to take down offensive content once it is flagged by authorities.

"We need to get in front of this (problem) before harm is done," Ardern added. "This is not just about regulation, but bringing companies to the table and saying they have a role too."

The political meeting in Paris will run in parallel to an initiative launched by Macron called "Tech for Good" which will bring together 80 tech chiefs to discuss how to harness technologies for the common good.

The heads of US tech giants Wikipedia, Uber, Twitter, Microsoft and Google will attend, but not Zuckerberg who held private



Following the horrific recent terrorist attacks in New Zealand, we've been reviewing what more we can do to limit our services from being used to cause harm or spread hate

GUY ROSEN
FACEBOOK VICE-PRESIDENT OF INTEGRITY

one-to-one talks with Macron last week.

The social network giant will instead be represented by its vice president for global affairs and communications Nick Clegg, the former British deputy premier.

"I've spoken to Mark Zuckerberg directly twice now... and he did give Facebook's support for this call to action," Ardern said.

The US government has not endorsed the Christchurch Call and will only be represented at a junior level at a meeting of G7 digital ministers which is also taking place on Wednesday in Paris.

'Horrifying new trend'

In an opinion piece in *The New York Times* over the weekend, Ardern said the Christchurch massacre underlined "a horrifying new trend" in extremist atrocities.

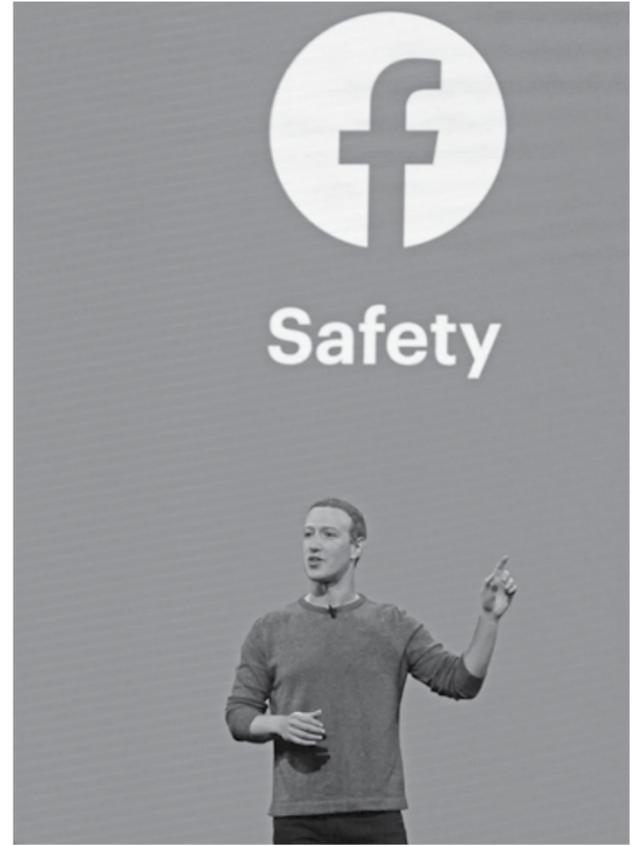
"It was designed to be broadcast on the internet. The entire event was livestreamed... the scale of this horrific video's reach was staggering," she wrote.

Ardern said Facebook removed 1.5 million copies of the video within 24 hours of the attack, but she still found herself among those who inadvertently saw the footage when it auto-played on their social media feeds.

Around 8,000 New Zealanders called a mental health hotline after seeing the video, she told CNN.

"(We're) asking both nations and private corporations to make changes to prevent the posting of terrorist content online, to ensure its efficient and fast removal and to prevent the use of livestreaming as a tool for broadcasting terrorist attacks," she wrote in *The Times*.

"One of the challenges we faced in the days after the attack was a proliferation of many different variants of the video of the attack," vice-president of integrity Rosen said.



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg delivers the opening keynote introducing new Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp, and Instagram privacy features at the Facebook F8 Conference at McEnery Convention Center in San Jose, California

"People -- not always intentionally -- shared edited versions of the video which made it hard for our systems to detect."

eSwatini says fake polygamy story 'insult' to king and country



King Mswati III, Africa's last absolute monarch

Mbabane, eSwatini

The government of eSwatini on Tuesday angrily denied viral online reports that King Mswati III, Africa's last absolute monarch who has 14 wives, had ordered men to have at least two marriages or face jail.

The story, carried by the *Zambian Observer* and picked up by several other online publications, said that Swazi men would have to marry several wives starting from June.

As well as 14 wives, King Mswati has more than 25 children and a reputation for lavish spending while 63 per cent of his 1.3 million subjects in the kingdom formerly known as Swaziland live in poverty.

The story, first published on Monday, said the government

would sponsor marriage ceremonies and offer houses to men who entered into polygamous marriages.

It said the king "has declared in... Swaziland that men will from June 2019 be required to marry at least two or more wives or be jailed if they fail to do so".

Government spokesman Percy Simelane called the story "malicious" and "poisonous".

"His Majesty has not made any pronouncement to that effect as it has never been an issue raised," by the people, Simelane said.

He said the story was "not only an insult to the monarchy and the culture of eSwatini but a disgrace to journalism".

The government has demanded that the newspaper retract its story.

China blocks all language editions of Wikipedia

Previously, most editions of Wikipedia -- besides the Chinese language version, which was reportedly blocked in 2015 -- were available

Beijing, China

Beijing has broadened its block of online encyclopedia Wikipedia to include all language editions, reported an internet censorship research group, ahead of the country's most politically explosive anniversary.

According to a report by the Open Observatory of Network Interference (OONI), China started blocking all language editions of Wikipedia last month.

Previously, most editions of Wikipedia -- besides the Chinese language version, which was reportedly blocked in 2015 -- were available, OONI said in their report.

AFP could not open any of Wikipedia's versions in China on Wednesday.

"At the end of the day, the content that really matters is Chinese-language content," said Charlie Smith, the pseudonym of one of the co-founders of Greatfire.org, which tracks online censorship in China.

"Blocking access to all language versions of Wikipedia for internet users in China is just symbolic," he told AFP. "It sym-



Representative picture

bolises the fear that the Chinese authorities have of the truth."

Wikimedia Foundation, the non-profit organisation that hosts Wikipedia, did not immediately respond to AFP's request for comment.

Topics that are deemed too "sensitive" are also scrubbed, such as the 1989 crackdown on Tiananmen pro-democracy protesters which will mark its 30th anniversary on June 4.

The expanded block of Wikipedia comes as Chinese authorities ramp up online controls and crack down on Great Firewall circumvention tools, such as virtual private network (VPN) software, under Chinese President Xi Jinping.

In November, China's cyberspace authority said it had "cleaned up" 9,800 accounts on



China's online censorship apparatus -- dubbed the "Great Firewall" -- blocks a large number of foreign sites in the country, such as Google, Facebook and The New York Times.

Chinese social media platforms like messaging app WeChat and the Twitter-like Weibo that it accused of spreading "politically harmful" information and rumours.

Chinese Twitter users have also said that they have experienced intimidation from local authorities -- and even detention -- for their tweets.

The latest move to block all versions of Wikipedia could be linked to online translation tools, which make it easy for Chinese users to read anything on Wikipedia, explained Smith.

Images can also be considered taboo, he said.

"A picture is worth a thousand words, and there is no dearth of Tiananmen-related imagery on the Wikipedia website," Smith added.

Teen took own life after Instagram poll

● **Police have classified the case as “sudden death”**

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

A Malaysian teenager who posted an Instagram poll asking if she should live or die took her own life after a majority of respondents voted for the latter, sparking calls for an investigation.

The unidentified 16-year-old from Kuching in eastern Sarawak state died after posting the poll Monday on the Facebook-owned picture-sharing platform.

Police have classified the case as “sudden death”.

“Really Important, Help Me Choose D/L,” she wrote, according to a report on the news portal Astro Awani, with the letters “D” and “L” apparently referring to “die” or “live” respectively.

Sixty-nine percent of votes cast were in favour of her ending her life, with just 31 percent against, local media quoted police as saying.

Lawmaker Ramkarpal Singh called for a probe into the circumstances of her death.

“Would the girl still be alive today if the majority of netizens on her Instagram account discouraged her from taking

her own life?” he asked.

“I urge the authorities... to investigate the social media accounts of the victim and the circumstances that led to her death to prevent further abuse of social media in similar circumstances in the future.”

Mental health worries

Youth and Sports Minister Syed Saddiq tweeted that he was “genuinely worried” about the state of mental health of young people in Malaysia.

“It’s a national issue which must be taken seriously. A national discussion must take place,” he said.

Ching Yee Wong, head of communications for Instagram APAC, said in a statement: “Our thoughts and prayers are with this young woman’s family.

“We have a deep responsibility to make sure people using Instagram feel safe and supported. As part of our own efforts, we urge everyone to use our reporting tools and to contact emergency services if they see any behaviour that puts people’s safety at risk.”

Instagram announced a clampdown on images of self-harm in February after a British teen who went online to read about suicide took her own life.

The death of 14-year-old Molly Russell sparked a debate in Britain about regulating children’s social media use.

Her parents did not

directly blame Instagram for the loss of their daughter but they cited the easy access to disturbing content as a contributing factor, and urged the network to respond.

Instagram has never allowed posts that promote or encourage suicide or self-harm.

But as part of the clampdown, it removed references to non-graphic content related to people hurting themselves from its searches and recommendation features.

It also banned hashtags relating to self-harm.

The measures are meant to make such images more difficult to find for depressed teens who might have suicidal tendencies.

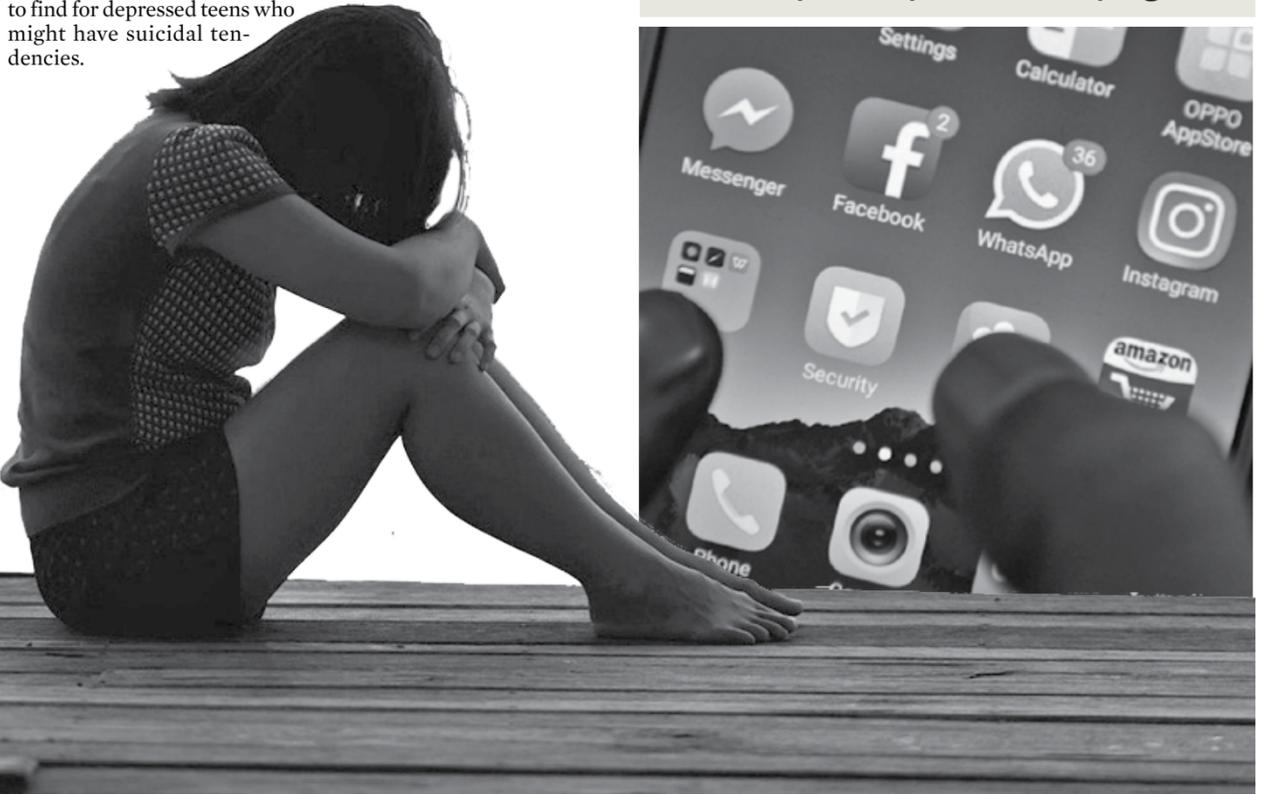
”

Would the girl still be alive today if the majority of netizens on her Instagram account discouraged her from taking her own life?

LAWMAKER RAMKARPAL SINGH

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LED light can damage eyes, health authority warns

● **Exposure to an intense and powerful [LED] light is ‘photo-toxic’ and can lead to irreversible loss of retinal cells and diminished sharpness of vision**

Maisons-Alfort, France

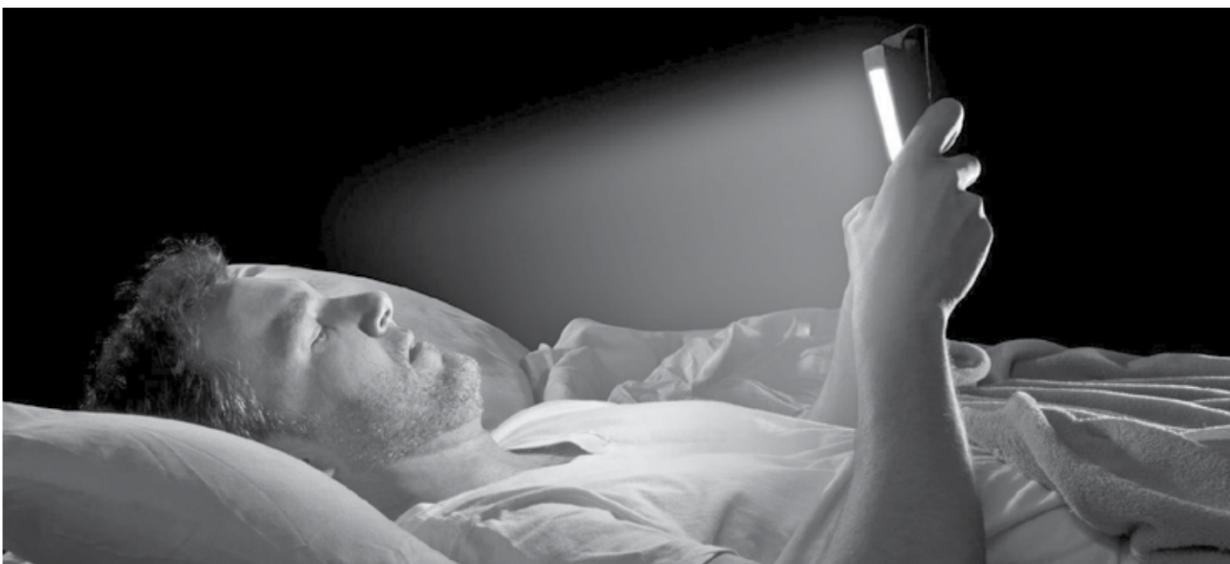
The “blue light” in LED lighting can damage the eye’s retina and disturb natural sleep rhythms, France’s government-run health watchdog said this week.

New findings confirm earlier concerns that “exposure to an intense and powerful [LED] light is ‘photo-toxic’ and can lead to irreversible loss of retinal cells and diminished sharpness of vision,” the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) warned in a statement.

The agency recommended in a 400-page report that the maximum limit for acute exposure be revised, even if such levels are rarely met in home or work environments.

The report distinguished between acute exposure of high-intensity LED light, and “chronic exposure” to lower intensity sources.

While less dangerous, even



Representative picture. (Courtesy of Harvard University)

chronic exposure can “accelerate the ageing of retinal tissue, contributing to a decline in visual acuity and certain degenerative diseases such as age-related macular degeneration,” the agency concluded.

Long-lasting, energy efficient and inexpensive, light-emitting diode (LED) technology has gobbed up half of the general lighting market in a decade, and will top 60 percent by the end of next year, according to industry projections.

LED uses only a fifth of the electricity needed for an incandescent bulb of comparable

brightness.

The world’s leading LED light-bulb makers are GE Lighting, Osram and Philips.

The basic technology for producing a white light combines a short wavelength LED such as blue or ultraviolet with a yellow phosphor coating. The whiter or “colder” the light, the greater the proportion of blue in the spectrum.

Circadian rhythm

LEDs are used for home and street lighting, as well as in offices and industry.

That are also increasingly

found in auto headlights, torches (flashlights) and some toys.

LED cellphone, tablet and laptop screens do not pose a risk of eye damage because their luminosity is very low compared to other types of lighting, Francine Behar-Cohen, an ophthalmologist and head of the expert group that conducted the review, told journalists.

But these back-lit devices -- especially when they are used at night or in a dark setting -- can “disturb biological rhythms, and thus sleep patterns,” the agency cautioned.

Because the crystalline lens in

their eyes are not fully formed, children and adolescents are particularly susceptible to such disruptions, the ANSES reports noted.

Interfering with the body’s circadian rhythm is also known to aggravate metabolic disorders such as diabetes, as well as cardiovascular disease and some forms of cancer, noted Dina Attia, a researcher and project manager at ANSES.

In addition, a stroboscopic affect in some LED lights -- provoked by tiny fluctuations in electric current -- can induce “headaches, visual fatigue and

a higher risk of accidents,” the report said.

For domestic lighting, ANSES recommended buying “warm white” LED lighting, limiting exposure to LED sources with a high concentration of blue light, and avoiding LED screens before bedtime.

ANSES also said that manufacturers should “limit the luminous intensity of vehicle headlights,” some of which are too bright.

Finally, the agency cast doubt on the efficacy of some “anti-blue light” filters and sunglasses.



Once the retina cells are destroyed by prolonged and continuous exposure to LED rays, they cannot be replaced and will not regrow, ThinkSpain.com reported.

Washington's dirty little secret: No one is running the show



The United States Capitol building



JONAH GOLDBERG

After Barack Obama got his stimulus passed on the promise that there were millions of "shovel-ready jobs," the stimulation never quite materialized as planned, and the shovels tended to stay in the shed

One of the hardest lessons for young, idealistic and educated people to learn when they come to Washington -- and some never learn it -- is that nobody is running things. Sure, they know how to hold a press conference or write a law or conduct a study. But no person or group of people has the power to impose their will on society. There are just too many chefs making the soup.

In other words, people have the power to try stuff in the same way generals have the authority to send troops into battle, but as Gen. James Mattis likes to say, "The enemy gets a vote." And in politics and public policy, the enemy isn't merely the opposing party or hostile voters, but life -- that vast realm of existence governed as much by Murphy's Law as Washington's laws. Facts are stubborn things. The world is complicated.

After Barack Obama got his stimulus passed on

the promise that there were millions of "shovel-ready jobs," the stimulation never quite materialized as planned, and the shovels tended to stay in the shed. Obama later insisted that the theory behind the stimulus was right, but "the problem is that spending it out takes a long time, because there's really nothing -- there's no such thing as shovel-ready projects."

This is a hard lesson for people who put immense faith in government to do big, important things. The technocratic New Dealers were sure they were smart enough to allocate resources better than the market. To that end, in 1933, when millions of Americans were going hungry, the government slaughtered some 6 million pigs and threw away the meat in an effort to drive up pork prices. Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace was convinced America was on the verge of creating a new society.

"Only the merest quarter-turn of the heart separates us from a material abundance beyond the fondest dream of anyone present," he told a crowd in Des Moines, Iowa. All we had to do was resist

the urge to act like dogs returning to capitalism."

Capitalism nauseates because a world with programming for a ception of clan life" as economist puts it. Our brains are wired to be in charge. When bad things be because someone intended it. perceived slights, inconvenience and our anger needs a target.

This wiring was perfectly adapted to a world where resources were finite. economic transactions were essential and communal. But in a world where a bag of rice from India is influencing turmoil in Indonesia and heavy rain never mind the overproduction of substitute for expensive rice) in Russia, erlands, blaming your local grocer for extra 50 cents is silly. But it's still

When gas prices are "too high," blame oil companies for "gouging"



A dead sperm whale that washed ashore that had nearly six kilograms (13.2 lbs) of plastic waste in its stomach, in Wakatobi National Park in Sulawesi province, Indonesia

The impact of plastic on the environment and marine life is well-documented -- but, for the first time, its effects on human health are revealed

We need an urgent



DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

Today, it has become clear that plastic is having a devastating effect not only on wildlife but on ourselves. It is now polluting every corner of our planet. I have seen first-hand, how it is choking our oceans and rivers.

It entangles animals with lethal effect. It causes perforated stomachs and starvation. Mammals, birds, fish and marine invertebrates -- over 180 different species in all -- have been identified accidentally eating it.

But the impact on humans is less well known. Now a report published jointly by the conservation organisation Fauna & Flora International and others highlights for the first time the effect of plastic waste on the health of the world's poorest people.

It shows that 400,000 to one million people are dying every year as a result of mismanaged waste. If the upper end of this estimate is correct, then one person is dying every 30 seconds as a consequence of this dreadful pollution.

A lack of waste collection in developing

countries create ideal breeding grounds for disease-carrying in plastic food containers for the mosquitoes.

Dengue is a disease leading to death. Better management lead to an estimated 10% reduction in the incidence of dengue.

Many communities are releasing toxic pollutants. This toxic cocktail of dioxins and heavy metals threatens human health. The World Bank estimates that there are 100 million people living in open burning areas around a fifth of the world.

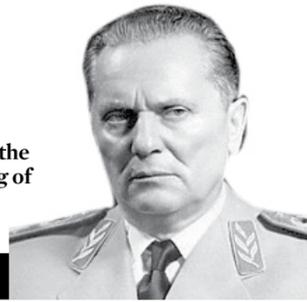
As well as the health threats there are also environmental. The United Nations programme has identified developing countries as a major source of pollution of the

1961

Park Chung-hee leads a coup d'état to overthrow the Second Republic of South Korea.

1966

The Communist Party of China issues the "May 16 Notice", marking the beginning of the Cultural Revolution.



1969

Venera program: Venera 5, a Soviet space probe, lands on Venus.

1974

Josip Broz Tito is elected president for life of Yugoslavia.



are low, these same politicians insist that oil companies shouldn't drill, build pipelines or open new refineries. That one result is correlated to the other is irrelevant to the need to aim anger at someone.

The need to blame is a core driver of conspiratorial thinking. When bad things happen, we look for beneficiaries and then reason backwards that they must have been responsible.

MSNBC's Chris Hayes recently floated the idea on Twitter that Obama's failure to goose the economy was a conspiracy. The excuses big business offered for low investment or wage growth were proven wrong by today's economic boom, Hayes argued (with varying degrees of plausibility). But then he added, "... an even less charitable interpretation: they didn't get it wrong at all. They didn't want full employment, they didn't want wage growth and empowered workers and they certainly didn't want that happening under a Democratic president."

The idea that tens of thousands of businesses chose to needlessly keep wages low -- or even go out of business -- lest they lend aid and comfort to Obama is preposterous. Because what is true of politicians is also true of everybody else. No one is really in charge of anything, except for a few things in front of their noses and in their heads, and even then control is often an illusion.

There's nobody behind the curtain pulling the strings. We're all on the stage together, playing our parts.

(Jonah Goldberg, a senior editor of National Review and the author of Suicide of the West, holds the Asness Chair in Applied Liberty at the American Enterprise Institute.)

Our brains are wired to expect someone to be in charge. When bad things happen, it must be because someone intended it. We get angry at perceived slights, inconveniences and tragedies, and our anger needs a target



TOP
4
TWEETS
01



Today as I head to Paris, my message to governments and internet companies is that we must work together to stop social media being used to promote terrorism or spread fear and hate. #ChristchurchCall @theresa_may

02



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden: "Australia experienced a massacre and changed their laws. New Zealand had its experience, and changed its laws. To be honest with you, I do not understand the United States." Via CNN

@kylegriffin1

03



To the good people of Surat. According to our 2006 MOU, Surat is not one of the designated tier-2 cities Thai carriers may fly to. This can only be rectified if the MOU is renegotiated. I am so sorry about this. We can still discuss & strategise though.

@Chutintorn_Sam

04



Peace in Yemen closer today - withdrawal of Houthis & deployment of UN monitors crucial to peace process. Thank you @OSE_Yemen Martin Griffiths and General Lollegaard 4 heroic efforts. As I told both sides in Yemen in March, patience and painstaking diplomacy can do this

@Jeremy_Hunt

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

g "to the vomit of
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"Stone Age con-
Michael Munger
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President Barack Obama greets a crowd in Fort Myers, Florida, after speaking at a town hall meeting on Feb. 10, 2009, as he campaigned for his economic stimulus plan

Urgent global response to the plague of plastic

ates dumps of rubbish that pro-
ceding grounds for rats, flies and
ing mosquitoes. Rain collecting
d packaging is considered no-
e breeding of dengue-carrying

arely fatal but it is an unpleasant
g to high fever and aching joints.
ement of water and waste could
mated 95 per cent reduction in
of dengue.

unities resort to burning waste
c chemicals and increasing air

cocktail includes black carbon,
mercury - all of which are direct
man health. They increase the
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y ailments such as asthma and
kin and eye diseases, nausea and
d damage to the reproductive
systems.

Health Organization estimates
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a result of air pollution - and
g is thought to contribute to
of these.

ese impacts on human health,
huge economic costs.

United Nations Environment Pro-
estimated that the damage to
onomies caused by plastic pol-
oceans amounts to \$13 billion



A seagull struggles to take flight covered by a plastic bag, on the seashore at Caleta Portales beach in Valparaiso, Chile

each year.

Plastic packaging in poorer countries is increasing at an alarming rate and the sheer quantity is overwhelming the ability of these countries to manage it. If production continues unabated, global production will double over the next ten to fifteen years. In sub-Saharan Africa, plastic and waste production is projected to treble by the year 2050. Growth is

fastest in the countries that are least able to deal with it.

This global problem can only be solved if there is an urgent global response. First and foremost, we need leadership from the companies and governments that are responsible for introducing plastic into countries where it cannot be properly managed.

Multinational corporations are now pack-

aging more and more of their products in single-use plastic. These companies should be required to disclose the number of single-use plastic items they sell in developing countries and to reduce this by half by the year 2025.

The throwaway culture supported by wealthy countries is worsening this crisis. Plastic is cheap because the fossil fuels used to produce it are heavily subsidised.

In the G7 alone, this amounts to more than \$100 billion. A more circular model of plastic production and use must be developed if we are to reduce this pressure on the planet.

Wealthy countries must also take more responsibilities for the waste they produce. In 2017, Europe exported one sixth of all the plastic waste it created to Asia. The UK exports 650,000 tonnes of plastic waste every year. Until recently, over half of this was sent to China. China closed its borders to this traffic last year, and now we are dumping on other countries our rubbish, our dangerous rubbish.

History is witness to the fact that when we put our minds to it, we can use our collective intelligence to solve our most pressing problems. It is now time for governments, companies and citizens to work together to find solutions to a crisis that is entirely of our own making, a crisis that now threatens the collective well-being of all the inhabitants, animal and human, that live on this planet.

(David Attenborough is a vice-president of Fauna & Flora International)

business

BAS launches Social responsibility programme



Salman Al-Mahmeed, CEO of BAS

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Airport Services Company (BAS) has launched its Social responsibility programme “BAS .. Does”. The programme aims to achieve positive change in society through 10 initiatives covering all segments of society.

Salman Al-Mahmeed, CEO of BAS, said: “BAS.. Does programme is taking place to frame the social activities of BAS in an integrated and effective manner, in line with the company’s vision and strategy.”

He also called on all BAS staff to participate in this programme and contribute to its success.

BAS’s corporate social responsibility programme includes 10 community initiatives which are: BAS caters, BAS donates, BAS helps, BAS breathes, BAS builds, BAS sponsors, BAS wellness, BAS appreciates, BAS values, & She BAS.

BAS Social Responsibility Committee is headed by Central Support Chief Fahd Issa Al-Qadi, and includes a number of senior managers and officials.

Volvo’s battery deal

Stockholm, Sweden

Swedish automobile manufacturer Volvo Cars, owned by China’s Geely, said it had signed long-term agreements with CATL and LG Chem to supply lithium ion batteries for electric vehicles. The deals represent a major step towards realising Volvo Cars’ electrification strategy, Volvo Cars said.

GFH records US\$21.36m Q1 profit

TDT | Manama

GFH Financial Group (GFH) yesterday reported a 6.47 per cent increase in revenues, which reached US\$70.12 million versus US\$65.86m in the first quarter of 2018.

Net profit attributable to shareholders was US\$21.36m compared with US\$36.48m in the prior-year period, a decrease of 41.44pc.

Consolidated net profit was US\$20.7m, compared with US\$36.89m in the first quarter of 2018.

The decrease in net profits is attributed primarily to lower contribution from the Group’s commercial banking arm and extended closure of investment funds, which are expected to realise during the second quarter.

The results were supported by a significant contribution from the proprietary investments revenue stream of the Group with a successful exit of a 40pc stake in its Bahrain-based Al Areen Hotel, against the acquisition of the Hotel Tower in Villamar development, which contributed US\$29.40m.

The Group’s Investment Banking business also contributed US\$74m. Real estate business reported a US\$8m contribution from its Harbour Row projects. The Group Treasury contribut-



We believe education is a highly specialised investment line and have plans to build on our track record and portfolio in this sector. Treasury activities have also been increasing. With momentum from the fourth quarter of 2018 and further gains in the first quarter of 2019, we see this as an important recurring business line for GFH going forward

HISHAM ALRAYES, GROUP CEO OF GFH



GFH continues to focus on and invest in diversifying our business and investment portfolio to deliver steady revenue generation through varied business lines

JASSIM AL SEDDIQI, CHAIRMAN OF GFH

ed US\$11.3m this quarter following GFH’s new strategy toward developing treasury recurring income.

Profit from continuing operations was US\$21.17m compared with US\$35.73m in the first quarter of 2018, a decrease of 40.75pc.

Operating expenses were US\$21.43m compared with US\$21.29m in the first quarter of 2018, an increase of 0.6pc.

Total assets increased from US\$ 4.99 billion at year end of 2018 to US\$ 5.91bn as at 31 March 2019, an increase of 18.44pc, liabilities of the Group also increased to US\$4.50bn at 31 March 2019 from US\$ 3.57 billion at year end of 2018, primarily due to additional money market activities.

Hisham Alrayes, Group CEO of GFH, said, “During the first quarter, we have been able to exit part of our proprietary investments to a strategic partner and took ownership of the Villamar Hotel in the Bahrain Financial Harbour. This will allow us to complete the project faster and achieve higher returns for our shareholders.”

“We have also launched our Britus US\$200m education platform during the quarter and have been able to sign to acquire six new K-12 private schools in the region.”

Tech giants vow to double number of women managers by 2022

Paris, France

Forty-five tech giants committed yesterday to doubling the number of women on their management boards to 30 percent by 2022, the French presidency said.

Alibaba, BNP Paribas, Booking.com, IBM, L’Oreal and Uber were some of the high-profile companies to sign a pledge at the second “Tech for good” summit taking place in Paris.

Businesses that reach the goal are then to pursue complete parity including on executive committees, the Elysee palace said in a statement.



Representative picture (Courtesy of Gallup)

A recent tech-sector study by the consulting firm McKinsey & Company showed that women occupied just 15 percent of management posts at present, it added.

The “Tech for good” summit aims to encourage global tech leaders to think about how new technologies can contribute to the common good, in areas such as education and health.

The initiative is the brainchild of French President Emmanuel Macron who was scheduled to dine with 180 leaders of digital companies including Jack Ma of Alibaba, and Ken Hu of Huawei on Wednesday evening.

He was also due to individual meetings with IBM boss Virginia Rometty and Dara Khosrowshahi of Uber.

Trump plans to delay auto tariffs for six months

New York, United States

President Donald Trump plans to hold off on imposing steep tariffs on imported autos while the US pursues agreements with key trading partners, industry sources said.

Trump has threatened to impose 25 percent punitive duties on autos -- a possibility that has worried the European Union and Japan in particular, as well as Mexico and Canada.

NBB takes the lead with MENA open banking services

TDT | Manama

National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) and Tarabut Gateway, a new specialist fintech and open banking infrastructure provider, have joined hands to provide open banking services.

Open banking enables account holders to share their account information and payment history externally with other banks and with licensed third parties.

This means that account holders can link multiple accounts from different banks together and view all of their financial assets and liabilities from within a single mobile app or online banking service. It also means they will be able to link their accounts to verified, independent



Officials during the deal signing to provide open banking services



Open banking enables account holders to share their account information and payment history externally with other banks and with licensed third parties.

apps that offer a broader range of services and functionality.

“Allowing our customers to get a full view of their finances in one place is an important step

in making banking more accessible and convenient for our customers and an achievement towards our digital offering,” said Yaser Alsharifi – Chief Strategy Officer at the National Bank of Bahrain.

In November 2018, the CBB mandated the adoption of open banking by all banks in the Kingdom by 30th June 2019.

“By offering a common platform to all banks in Bahrain, Tarabut enables banks to comply with open banking regulation, deliver payment and information services to customers quickly and efficiently, and provide secure and frictionless access to banks for third-party providers,” said Abdulla Almoayed – CEO, Tarabut Gateway.

Indonesia's new capital to be decided this year: minister

Jakarta, Indonesia

Indonesia will decide the site of its new capital this year with the aim of it being ready by 2024, a minister said Wednesday.

The decision to move the capital from megacity Jakarta came about two weeks ago after President Joko Widodo approved the long-mooted plan.

The government is finalising studies so they can decide this year and start the ground-breaking project in 2021, urban planning minister Bambang Brodjonegoro said.

"We've been co-ordinating to finalise the studies so we can decide this year where to move the capital to, so the process and construction can begin in a year or two," he said. "So we hope in 2024 the new capital is ready to be the new government centre."

Jakarta -- and its surrounding satellite cities -- has a population of about 30 million people and is regularly rated as one of the most traffic-congested centres in the world.

Annual flooding due to excessive groundwater extrac-



Bambang Brodjonegoro

tion has also made it one of the world's fastest-sinking cities.

Earlier this month President Widodo visited East and Central Kalimantan on the island of Borneo to scout for a new capital location.

Brodjonegoro said the only sites being considered for the new capital were "the two places we've visited earlier".

Jakarta, on the country's most populous island, Java, would remain the nation's financial hub, the government said.

Canada inflation rises

Ottawa, Canada

Canadian inflation rose slightly in April to 2.0 percent, while gasoline prices soared from the previous month due in part to new or increased carbon emission levies, official data showed yesterday.

Prices for most goods and services were up in the 12 months to April, according to Statistics Canada.

Higher year-over-year costs for mortgage interest and rents, passenger vehicles and car insurance premiums, as well as for fresh vegetables, were partially offset by lower rates for travel accommodations, gasoline, telephone services, computer equipment and children's clothing, the agency said.

But month-over-month gasoline prices rose 10 percent after the federal government rolled out a price on carbon emissions in New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Prince Edward Island introduced its own carbon levy and British Columbia increased its existing carbon tax.

Rising global crude prices due to production cuts also contributed to the higher March to April gasoline prices.

Tory-led New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan have lined up against the federal carbon tax imposed April 1 on provinces that failed to put significant curbs on their CO2 emissions.

Stock markets jump on delayed US auto tariffs

● Shanghai's main stocks index ended 1.9pc higher

● Asian equity markets surged higher

● The dollar was mixed against main rivals

● oil prices were mainly stronger

London, United Kingdom

Global stock markets gained ground yesterday, bouncing back from early losses in Europe and the US on a report that President Donald Trump planned to delay US auto tariffs.

Bloomberg said that Trump was planning to delay imposing tariffs on EU auto imports by six months, at which point European stock markets leapt back into positive territory.

Asian equity markets had already surged higher in the wake of strong gains elsewhere on Tuesday.

Early Wednesday, trading in New York bounced back even though unexpectedly poor economic data showed the US economy was off to a sluggish start in the second quarter of the year.

The dollar was mixed against main rivals, with the euro supported by official data showing a rebound in first quarter German growth.

"The fears over the possibility of a substantial reversal of trade war progress has added a substantial amount of volatility to markets, yet as the past 24 hours have shown, markets still exhibit hope that we could see some form of resolution emerge from this current standoff," noted Joshua Mahony, senior market analyst at IG trading group.

After more than doubling tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods last week -- sparking retaliation from Beijing -- US



Traders work at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)

Key figures around 1500 GMT

London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.7pc at 7,290.66 points
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▲ 0.7pc at 12,079.88
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.3pc at 5,358.55
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ 0.4pc at 3,378.30
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 0.6pc at 21,188.56 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▲ 0.5pc at 28,268.71 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ P 1.9pc at 2,938.68 (close)
New York - Dow:	▲ 0.1pc at 25,563.61
Euro/dollar:	■ at \$1.1209 from \$1.1208 at 2040 GMT
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.2868 from \$1.2907
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 109.47 yen from 109.62 yen
Oil - Brent Crude:	▲ 37 cents at \$71.61 per barrel
Oil - West Texas Inter:	■ at \$61.79 per barrel

President Donald Trump had threatened to hit a further \$300 billion with more levies if he does not get his way in high-stakes talks.

He then gave markets some hope that a deal between the economic titans would eventually be struck.

Shanghai's main stocks index

ended 1.9pc higher and Hong Kong put on 0.5pc Wednesday.

In the US, sharp drops in the April manufacturing and retail sales indices initially sent stocks lower, before the Bloomberg report turned things around.

Elsewhere, oil prices were mainly stronger amid tensions in the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude exporter, on Wednesday said that attacks on two of its tankers and a major pipeline targeted the security of global oil supplies.

Drone attacks claimed by Iran-aligned Yemeni rebels shut down one of the kingdom's main oil pipelines on Tuesday, further ratcheting up Gulf tensions after the mysterious weekend sabotage of four ships, two of them Saudi tankers.

The International Energy Agency confirmed that the world's oil supply fell last month as US sanctions on Iran tightened and OPEC+ members produced less crude in line with their pact.

In its latest monthly report on the global oil market, the Paris-based IEA said that while geopolitics and industry disruptions were clouding the outlook, it believed the market balance was set to flip from surplus into deficit, which would favour efforts by oil producing nations to keep prices high.

IMTA launches Ramadan offers on Geely 2019 models

TDT | Manama

International Motor Trading Agency (IMTA), the Bahrain distributor of China's Geely, has launched an exclusive promotion on three new 2019 models to celebrate the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Under the promotion, the new 2019 Emgrand 7 model will be available at a starting price of BD74* monthly with zero down payment; the Emgrand GS 2019 will be offered at BD91* monthly with zero down payment and the Emgrand X7 Sport 2019 will start BD104* monthly with zero down payment. All the prices are inclusive of value-added tax (VAT).

In addition, IMTA is offering a free gift of the buyer's choice worth BD100*, free insurance, free registration and free rust-proofing.

A special finance deal with three months deferred instal-



ments* and a special rate of interest of 1.99 per cent* on select finance options is also available.

Customers also stand a chance to win fabulous prizes in a raffle draw.

This offer is valid until the end of Ramadan and terms and conditions apply.

"Ramadan is a very special time for our customers and communities in the Middle East, and we want to make it even more special for them by offering more value," said IMTA President Suzan Salman Kanoo.

A trade-in facility is also available from IMTA for any make any model. There will be a free evaluation for old cars with deals provided by IMTA with hassle-free documentation if a car is exchanged. During Ramadan, Geely showroom will be open from 8.00 am to 5.00pm and from 7.30pm to 11.30 pm. It will remain closed on Friday.

Saudi Arabia up on banks

● All Saudi banks gain on MSCI inclusion

● DAMAC Properties hits life-time low

● Arabtec, Aldar decline on weak Q1 results

● 26 of 30 stocks on Egypt's index fall

● Mesaieed highest since June 2015

Reuters

Saudi Arabia's stock market rose moderately yesterday, lifted by its banking shares following index provider MSCI's decision to include multiple lenders, while Dubai was pressured by a string of disappointing corporate earnings.

Saudi Arabia's index increased 1.3 per cent with Al Rajhi Bank gaining 2.1pc and Alinma Bank rising 2.6pc, while National Commercial Bank was up 0.9pc.

"The 10pc to 15pc correction in large caps especially the top banks made them look pretty reasonable in terms of valuations," said Vrajesh Bhandari portfolio manager at Al Mal Capital.

"And therefore, we are seeing interest in these names before the MSCI inclusion gets effected later this month (potentially) driving in \$7 billion to the market. Having said that, investors need to have a close eye on geo-political factors."

The index fell as much as 2.1pc on Tuesday after drone attacks but recovered to close



Traders on the floor of Saudi Stock market (Courtesy of Amazons)

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 1.3pc at 8,481 pts
ABU DHABI	▼ 0.5pc to 4,778 pts
DUBAI	▼ 1.1pc to 2,584 pts
QATAR	▲ 0.7pc to 9,864 pts
EGYPT	▼ 1.5pc to 13,809 pts
BAHRAIN	■ at 1,409 pts
OMAN	■ at 3,828 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.2pc to 6,011 pts

0.1pc higher. Saudi Arabia said drones had struck oil pumping stations two days after its oil tankers were sabotaged off the

coast of the United Arab Emirates.

In Dubai, the index closed 1.1pc lower with real estate firm Emaar Properties dropping 2.3pc.

Arabtec Holding plunged 7pc, its biggest intraday loss since mid-November, as its first-quarter profit halved to 31.8 million dirhams (\$8.66 million) from 63.6 million dirhams the year before.

DAMAC Properties lost 2.9pc after it posted a 94pc drop in its first-quarter net profit. A slump in the Dubai property market hurt the company, which report-

ed its smallest net profit since going public in 2015.

Amusement park operator DXB Entertainment declined 5.1pc on a wider first-quarter loss.

Its aim to reach an EBITDA break-even by the second half of 2020 was challenging, considering weak first-quarter revenue growth and footfall, Arqaam Capital said in a note.

Egypt's blue-chip index, declined 1.5pc with El Sewedy Electric shedding 3.5pc and Eastern Company was down 1.5pc.

The Abu Dhabi index fell

0.5pc, led by a 0.6pc fall in First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB).

Index provider MSCI decided against increasing FAB's foreign inclusion factor, despite the lender raising its foreign ownership limit to 40pc from 25pc.

Aldar Properties dipped 2.3pc after the realtor reported a drop in its first-quarter profit.

Qatar's blue chip index added 0.7pc with Mesaieed Petrochemical soaring 9.5pc, to reach its highest in nearly four years.

On Tuesday, MSCI included Mesaieed and Qatar Fuel in the index review. Qatar Fuel was down 0.2pc.

Xi says 'no clash' of civilisations amid US trade war



Xi Jinping

Beijing, China

Chinese President Xi Jinping declared yesterday there was "no clash" of civilisations and denounced racial supremacy as "stupid" amid tensions with the United States and concerns over Beijing's rising global power.

His remarks came after a top-level US official last month described the rivalry between China and the US as "a fight with a really different civilisation and a different ideology".

Kiron Skinner, the director of policy planning at the US State Department, put it in racial terms, telling a security forum that China was the first US "great power competitor that is not Caucasian".

"Thinking that one's own race and culture are superior, and insisting on transforming or even replacing other civilisations is stupid in its understanding and disastrous in practice," Xi said at the opening ceremony of the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilisations in Beijing.

"There is no clash between different civilisations, (we) just need to have the eye to appreciate the beauty in all civilisations," he added, without mentioning the United States.

German economy returns to growth

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

The German economy bounced back in the first quarter from a weak second half of 2018, official data showed Wednesday, with gross domestic product (GDP) adding 0.4 percent between January and March.

Europe's powerhouse had only narrowly avoided a technical recession -- two quarters of negative growth -- last year, federal statistics authority Destatis also confirmed, shrinking 0.2 percent in the third quarter and remaining flat in the fourth.

Over the full year in 2018, GDP expansion in Europe's largest economy slowed from the previous year's 2.2 per cent to 1.4pc, and 2019 presents new risks to growth.

Observers are concerned that Germany and the wider 19-nation eurozone could suffer a sharp slowdown, with a resilient domestic economy and service sector but export-oriented industries weighed down by external trade conflicts.

Berlin has repeatedly slashed its growth forecasts for 2019, in April predicting just 0.5pc expansion.

Britain's May pins hopes on final June Brexit vote

London, United Kingdom

Theresa May's Brexit minister said yesterday that her EU withdrawal deal would be "dead" if parliament rejects it for a fourth time next month, after the British premier set the date for what could be the final act of her leadership.

May said MPs will vote on legislation to implement the Brexit deal in the week starting June 3, with the aim of getting Britain out of the European Union by the end of July.

But the main opposition Labour party said it will not support the bill without concessions, which have yet to be agreed despite six weeks of talks.

May's Northern Irish allies meanwhile repeated demands for changes to the divorce text, and opposition remains entrenched among many members of her own Conservative party.

The prime minister struck a deal on Britain's exit terms with Brussels in November, but it has been rejected by the House of Commons three times.

Brexit Secretary Steve Barclay said that if it failed again then the "deal is dead in that form".

"I think the House will have to then address a much more fundamental question between whether it will pursue... a no-deal option or whether it will



French President Emmanuel Macron (R) welcomes Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May (L) before a meeting at the Elysee Palace in Paris

revoke" the entire Brexit process, he said.

May's future

Britain was due to leave the EU on March 29 but the political deadlock has caused May to delay it twice, most recently to October 31.

Brexit can happen before then, if MPs back the plan.

Setting a date for a new vote is a gamble -- if she loses, May cannot hold another in the current parliamentary session.

"It's very hard to see where she goes after a further rebuff,"

former Conservative minister and Brexit supporter David Jones said.

But there is huge anger among former Conservative MPs and voters at the delays, and the party is braced for a drubbing at European parliamentary polls next week.

May is also under intense pressure to fulfil her promise to disgruntled colleagues to step down once Brexit is secured.

On Thursday, she will meet senior Conservatives who have demanded a detailed timetable for her departure.

Her ministers -- many of them already jockeying to replace her -- said this week it was "imperative" that the Brexit deal pass before MPs began their summer holiday, expected at the end of July.

Labour doubts

May's decision to set a date for the Withdrawal Agreement Bill followed a meeting with Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn on Tuesday night, which her office described as "constructive".

But Labour has called for "further movement", and expressed concern that any promises made by May -- for example, to protect workers' rights after Brexit -- would be ripped up by her successor.

"We have serious concerns about negotiating with a government that is in the process of disintegration," a spokesman said on Wednesday.

However, while stressing Labour MPs would not support the Brexit bill without a deal, he did not rule out the possibility they might abstain.

Without Labour's active opposition, the bill could pass next month. The party could then seek to amend the text as it passes through parliament.

Like the Conservatives, Labour is under pressure ahead of European Parliament elections

on May 23.

Corbyn has promised to deliver Brexit but growing numbers of his MPs want a second referendum, with an option to stay in the EU.

The Brexit Party led by Nigel Farage, a key figure in the 2016 referendum campaign, is currently topping opinion polls for the vote.

'What has changed?'

May's deal covers Britain's financial liabilities, the rights of EU citizens, proposals for a transition period and arrangements to keep open the border with EU-member Ireland after Brexit.

Opposition among Conservatives and their Northern Irish allies, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), is focused on the Irish "backstop" plan.

This could keep Britain in a customs union with the EU for years after Brexit to avoid border checks that might jeopardise peace in Northern Ireland.

"If the prime minister brings the withdrawal bill to the Commons for a vote the question will be 'what has changed?'" said DUP lawmaker Nigel Dodds.

"Unless she can demonstrate something new that addresses the problem of the backstop then it is highly likely her deal will go down to defeat once again."

SHOW

OASIS JUFFAIR

1-DE DE PYAAR DE (15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
* AJAY DEVGN, TABU, RAKUL PREET SINGH
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM

2-UGLY DOLLS (PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE) NEW
* EMMA ROBERTS, KELLY CLARKSON, GABRIEL IGLESIAS
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 11.15 PM

3-A DOG'S JOURNEY (PG-13) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA) NEW
* DENNIS QUAID, BETTY GILPIN, ABBY RYDER FORTSON
DAILY AT (VIP): 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

4-MR. LOCAL (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW
* SIVA KARTHIKEYAN, NAYAN THARA, RAADHIKA
FROM FRIDAY 17TH
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM

5-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW
* BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
DAILY AT: 1.30 + 5.00 + 8.30 PM + 12.00 MN
DAILY AT (3D): 10.30 AM + 4.45 + 11.00 PM

6-STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2 (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/COMEDY/DRAMA)
* TIGER SHROFF, TARA SUTARIA, ANANYA PANDEY
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM

7-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)
* COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 2.45 + 9.00 PM

8-MAHARSHI (PG-13) (TELUGU)
* MAHESH BABU, POOJA HEGDE, ALLARI NARESH
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.30 + 4.45 + 8.00 + 11.15 PM

9-UYARE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)
* PARVATHY THIRUVOTH, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.15 + 5.45 + 8.15 + 10.45 PM

10- ORU YAMANDAN PREMA KATHA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)
* DULQUER SALMAN, SOUBIN SAHIR, SAMYUKTHA MENON
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 2.00 + 5.15 + 8.30 + 11.45 PM

11-ATHIRAN (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)
* FAHADH FAZIL, SAI PALLAVI, ATUL KULKARNI
DAILY AT: 2.00 + 8.15 PM

CITYCENTRE

1-DE DE PYAAR DE (15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
* AJAY DEVGN, TABU, RAKUL PREET SINGH
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN

2-UGLY DOLLS (PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE) NEW
* EMMA ROBERTS, KELLY CLARKSON, GABRIEL IGLESIAS
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN

3-A DOG'S JOURNEY (PG-13) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA) NEW
* DENNIS QUAID, BETTY GILPIN, ABBY RYDER FORTSON
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN

4-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW



* BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
DAILY AT (ATMOS): 12.30 + 4.00 + 7.30 + 11.00 PM
DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 1.30 + 8.30 PM
DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 10.15 AM + 5.00 PM + 12.00 MN
DAILY AT (VIP I): 12.15 + 3.45 + 7.15 + 10.45 PM
DAILY AT (VIP II): 1.15 + 4.45 + 8.15 + 11.45 PM
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 12.00 + 3.00 + 3.30 + 6.30 + 7.00 + 10.00 + 10.30 PM

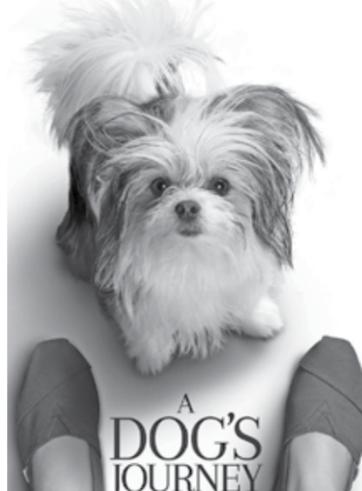
5-STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2 (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/COMEDY/DRAMA)
* TIGER SHROFF, TARA SUTARIA, ANANYA PANDEY
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN

6-BRIGHTBURN (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR)
* ELIZABETH BANKS, DAVID DENMAN, JACKSON A. DUNN
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM + 12.30 MN

7-LONG SHOT (15+) (COMEDY/ROMANTIC)
* CHARLIZE THERON, SETH ROGEN, JUNE DIANE RAPHAEL
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM

8-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)
* COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

Some friendships transcend lifetimes.



9-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)
* ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

10-WONDER PARK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
* BRIANNA DENSKI, JENNIFER GARNER, KEN HUDSON CAMPBELL
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM

11-ESCAPE ROOM (PG-15) (THRILLER)
* TAYLOR RUSSELL, LOGAN MILLER, DEBORAH ANN WOLL
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

12-THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER)
* LINDA CARDELLINI, RAYMOND CRUZ, PATRICIA VELASQUEZ
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM

13-CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)
* BRIE LARSON, GEMMA CHAN, SAMUEL L. JACKSON
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.15 + 4.45 + 7.15 + 9.45 PM + 12.15 MN

14-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA)
* LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN

15-THE UPSIDE (PG-15) (COMEDY/DRAMA)
* KEVIN HART, BRYAN CRANSTON, NICOLE KIDMAN
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 PM

16-NADI ELREGAL EL SERI (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)
* KARIM ABDULAZIZ, GHADA ADEL, MAJDE ALKIDDAWI
DAILY AT: 2.15 + 7.00 + 11.45 PM

SEEF (II)

1-UGLY DOLLS (PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE) NEW
* EMMA ROBERTS, KELLY CLARKSON, GABRIEL IGLESIAS
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

2-A DOG'S JOURNEY (PG-13) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA) NEW
* DENNIS QUAID, BETTY GILPIN, ABBY RYDER FORTSON
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

3-THE CONVENT (PG-13) (HORROR) NEW
* MICHAEL IRONSIDE, ROSIE DAY, CLARE HIGGINS
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.15 + 4.15 + 6.15 + 8.15 + 10.15 PM + 12.15 MN

4-CONTRACT TO KILL (PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER) NEW
* STEVEN SEAGAL, RUSSELL WONG, JEMMA DALLENDER
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN

5-LIZZIE (18+) (DRAMA/CRIME/BIOGRAPHY) NEW
* CHLOE SEVIGNY, KRISTEN STEWART, JAMEY SHERIDAN
DAILY AT: 2.15 + 6.45 + 11.15 PM

6-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW
* BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
DAILY AT: 1.15 + 4.45 + 8.15 + 11.45 PM
DAILY AT (3D): 12.15 + 3.45 + 7.15 + 10.45 PM

7-STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2 (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/COMEDY/DRAMA)
* TIGER SHROFF, TARA SUTARIA, ANANYA PANDEY
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

8-BRIGHTBURN (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR)
* ELIZABETH BANKS, DAVID DENMAN, JACKSON A. DUNN
DAILY AT: 2.15 + 6.45 + 11.15 PM

9-LONG SHOT (15+) (COMEDY/ROMANTIC)
* CHARLIZE THERON, SETH ROGEN, JUNE DIANE RAPHAEL
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.15 + 8.45 PM

10-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)
* COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM

11-NADI ELREGAL EL SERI (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)
* KARIM ABDULAZIZ, GHADA ADEL, MAJDE ALKIDDAWI
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.30 + 9.00 PM

SEEF (I)

1-DE DE PYAAR DE (15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
* AJAY DEVGN, TABU, RAKUL PREET SINGH
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

2-MR. LOCAL (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW
* SIVA KARTHIKEYAN, NAYAN THARA, RAADHIKA
FROM FRIDAY 17TH
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM

3-MONSTER (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW
* S.J. SURYA, PRIYA BHAVANI SHANKAR, KARUNAKARAN
FROM FRIDAY 17TH
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM

4-MAHARSHI (PG-13) (TELUGU)
* MAHESH BABU, POOJA HEGDE, ALLARI NARESH
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 2.15 + 5.30 + 8.45 PM + 12.00 MN

5-UYARE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)
* PARVATHY THIRUVOTH, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN

6-KEE (PG-15) (TAMIL)
* JIIVA, GOVIND PADMASOORYA, NIKKI GALRANI
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM

SAAR

1-DE DE PYAAR DE (15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
* AJAY DEVGN, TABU, RAKUL PREET SINGH
DAILY AT: 8.15 + 11.00 PM

2-UGLY DOLLS (PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE) NEW

* EMMA ROBERTS, KELLY CLARKSON, GABRIEL IGLESIAS
DAILY AT: 7.15 + 9.45 PM

3-A DOG'S JOURNEY (PG-13) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA) NEW
* DENNIS QUAID, BETTY GILPIN, ABBY RYDER FORTSON
DAILY AT: 7.30 + 11.45 PM

4-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW
* BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
DAILY AT: 7.30 + 11.00 PM

5-BRIGHTBURN (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR)
* ELIZABETH BANKS, DAVID DENMAN, JACKSON A. DUNN
DAILY AT: 11.45 PM

6-LONG SHOT (15+) (COMEDY/ROMANTIC)
* CHARLIZE THERON, SETH ROGEN, JUNE DIANE RAPHAEL
DAILY AT: 9.15 PM

AL HAMRA

1-MR. LOCAL (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW
* SIVA KARTHIKEYAN, NAYAN THARA, RAADHIKA
FROM FRIDAY 10TH
DAILY AT: 5.45 PM + (12.00 MN FRI)

2-MONSTER (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW
* S.J. SURYA, PRIYA BHAVANI SHANKAR, KARUNAKARAN
FROM FRIDAY 17TH
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM

3-MAHARSHI (PG-13) (TELUGU)
* MAHESH BABU, POOJA HEGDE, ALLARI NARESH
DAILY AT: 2.30 + 8.45 PM

WADI AL SAIL

1-DE DE PYAAR DE (15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
* AJAY DEVGN, TABU, RAKUL PREET SINGH
DAILY AT: 9.00 + 11.45 PM

2-UGLY DOLLS (PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE) NEW
* EMMA ROBERTS, KELLY CLARKSON, GABRIEL IGLESIAS
DAILY AT: 7.45 + 9.45 PM

3-A DOG'S JOURNEY (PG-13) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA) NEW
* DENNIS QUAID, BETTY GILPIN, ABBY RYDER FORTSON
DAILY AT: 8.45 + 11.00 PM

4-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW
* BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
DAILY AT: 11.30 PM

5-BRIGHTBURN (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR)
* ELIZABETH BANKS, DAVID DENMAN, JACKSON A. DUNN
DAILY AT: 11.45 PM

6-STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2 (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/COMEDY/DRAMA)
* TIGER SHROFF, TARA SUTARIA, ANANYA PANDEY
DAILY AT: 8.30 PM

7-MAHARSHI (PG-13) (TELUGU)
* MAHESH BABU, POOJA HEGDE, ALLARI NARESH
DAILY AT: 8.00 + 11.15 PM

8-UYARE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)
* PARVATHY THIRUVOTH, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS
DAILY AT: 9.00 + 11.30 PM

MOVIE REVIEW

First Man: Ryan Gosling shoots for the moon in Neil Armstrong biopic

First Man is a 2018 American biographical drama film directed by Damien Chazelle and written by Josh Singer.

Based on the book First Man: The Life of Neil A. Armstrong by James R. Hansen, the film stars Ryan Gosling as Neil Armstrong, alongside Claire Foy, Jason Clarke, Kyle Chandler, Corey Stoll, Ciarán Hinds, Christopher Abbott, Patrick Fugit, and Lukas Haas, and follows the years leading up to the Apollo 11 mission to the Moon in 1969. Steven Spielberg serves as an executive producer.

The project was originally announced in 2003, with Clint Eastwood slated to direct. After that rendition fell through, Chazelle, Gosling and Singer all signed on by 2015, and principal photography began in Atlanta, Georgia in November 2017.



Ryan Gosling as Neil Armstrong in First Man

On review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 87% based on 394 reviews, with an average rating of 8.05/10. The website's critical consensus reads, "First Man uses a personal focus to fuel a look back at a pivotal moment in human history – and takes audiences on a soaring dramatic journey along the way."

On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 84 out of 100, based on 56 critics, indicating "universal acclaim". Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of "B+" on an A+ to F scale, while PostTrak reported filmgoers gave it a 79% positive score.

Owen Gleiberman of Variety called the film "so revelatory in its realism, so gritty in its physicality, that it becomes a drama of

thrillingly hellbent danger and obsession."

Writing for IndieWire, Michael Nordine awarded the film a B+, describing it as "A powerful experience that will inspire renewed awe of what Armstrong and his ilk did." Nordine praised the opening flight sequence, Gosling's performance and Chazelle's direction. Peter Howell of the Toronto Star praised the Moon landing sequence, writing: "When the Eagle finally lands on the moon in First Man, the picture truly soars."

Nicholas Barber of the BBC gave it a five-star rating, stating that "Gosling and Foy's performances in First Man are probably too unshowy to win awards. But they should, because they could hardly have been bettered. The same goes for the whole of this extraordinary film."w

SITUATIONS VACANT

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Carrefour celebrates Ramadan with donation drive

TD | Manama

Carrefour, which is operated in Bahrain by Majid Al Futtaim yesterday announced its partnership with The Bahrain Mall to distribute a total of 300 food hampers filled with pantry essentials to several charitable organisations in the Kingdom.

These include: Al Sanabel Orphan Care Society, Iskan Jidhafs Charity Society, Royal Charity Organisation, and Red Crescent Society. Carrefour has also set-up designated donation boxes across its stores in City Centre Bahrain, Seef mall and The Bahrain mall so that customers can share in the spirit of the Holy Month by helping the less fortunate.

Jerome Akel, Country Manager of Carrefour Bahrain at Majid Al Futtaim Retail commented "At Carrefour we're constantly seeking ways to give back to the communities in which we operate in. This Ramadan, we set out to help segments of local society who are most in need of our assistance such as senior citizens, orphans, labourers and low-income families. Members of our staff were closely involved in assembling the hampers and selecting the charities as a result of the strong sense of citizenship that exists with-



Carrefour officials with the food hampers

in our business. On behalf of everyone at Carrefour I wish all our customers a blessed Ramadan and encourage them to join us in creating great moments for everyone everyday, by making a difference whenever possible.

Amina Bucheri and Shoq

Alawi -Al Sanabel Orphan Care Society, Mohamed Hassan Abdul Rasool Alzaimoor and Mohamad Abdali Ebrahim Mohamed - Iskan Jidhafs Charity Society, Reena Hasan and Yaqoob Ameen Royal Charity Organisation and Mohamed Ebrahim -Red Crescent Society

received hampers from Jerome Akel, Country Manager at Carrefour Bahrain, Ghassan Jaroudi General Manager of Marketing and Sourcing at Carrefour Bahrain, and Abhishek Shrivastava, manager at The Bahrain Mall accompanied by his team.

Ramadan sparks competition among young vendors in Jeddah



A shopkeeper serves food to customers

Traditional foods and beverages become particularly important to families and individuals during the holy month of Ramadan. Naturally, then, the evenings when people break their fasts become a unique opportunity for culinary-based businesses and street vendors in Saudi Arabia's towns and cities, and a chance for young Saudis to make quick cash.

Majid Al-Sahafi, from the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce, says that during Ramadan, young people in the city can do well by selling food and beverages, or by working in logistics, sales and transport, helping to deliver and sell food to people returning home following afternoon prayers, and shopping in preparation for iftar.

Qassem Al-Duraibi, a Jeddah resident, says he enjoys

seeing young people in public squares, streets and markets, selling samosas, kanafeh sweets and kibdah (fried liver). It is a useful way for youngsters to learn the value of hard work, reaffirms the importance to people of the cultural heritage that surrounds the holy month, and provides a useful injection into the economy.

As well as selling vast quantities of food, young Saudis also specialize in traditional Ramadan beverages, especially subya (made from barley, dried bread, raisins, sugar, cardamom and cinnamon).

Many continue their work even after the end of Ramadan, having honed their business and cooking skills, experienced the rush of competition to sell produce, and seen the rewards on offer by serving fellow citizens through the culinary industry.

BCCI to conduct Majlis

TD | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) announced that it will be holding its Ramadan Majlis on Friday from 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm under the pa-

tronage of Chairman Sameer Nass.

BCCI extended heartfelt congratulations to the leadership, the business community, and the people of Bahrain on the occasion of the Holy month of Ramadan.

Capital Governorate hosts Iftar for 25,500 people

TD | Manama

Harpreet Kaur Sheikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Governor of the Capital Governorate, is hosting Iftar for 850 expatriates for 30 days of Ramadan at the Manama Souq.

To celebrate the holy month of Ramadan and strengthen the relationship between the individuals and the Capital governorate for the 30 days of Ramadan, 850 meals will be distributed to individuals during Iftar, where fast-breaking meals will be distributed throughout the month to more than thousands of people during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Sheikh Hisham, Capital Governor told tribune, "We are very proud of the initiative wherein the span of 30 days we would provide food aid to 25,500 individuals at the Manama Souq. The Bahraini community is proud of the values of kindness and solidarity stemming from the teachings of the religion and is celebrating the customs and traditions of the people of Bahrain in the holy month of Ramadan."

The daily food distribution to 850 individuals is held in the presence of Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Director of Social Programs and Community Affairs Department and a number of officials in the province.

"We believe that the Kingdom of Bahrain attributes great im-



Capital Governorate officials and staff distribute food during the event

portance to the development of culture and human philanthropy as well as holds a priority to provide assistance to those in

need," Shaikh Hisham said. "Lastly, the Capital Governorate along with the help of stakeholders will continue to

provide humanitarian aid and provide all the support required for the development on the Capital and its people."

Ramadan cooking

Shish Kebabs

Serves 4 1 Hour

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tbsp. kosher salt
- 1 tbsp. ground black pepper, plus more
- 2 tsp. crushed saffron
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced
- 2 lb. boneless, skinless chicken tenders, halved crosswise
- 8 large button mushrooms
- 4 plum tomatoes, cored
- 1 red pepper, cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces
- 1 zucchini, cut into 1-inch rounds
- Kosher salt
- 4 tbsp. unsalted butter, melted
- Lavash or pita, for serving



Instructions

Stir together juice, oil, salt, pepper, saffron, garlic, and onions in a bowl; add chicken, and toss to coat. Chill for 30 minutes. Build a medium-hot fire in a charcoal grill, heat a gas grill to medium-high, or heat broiler to high. Season chicken and vegetables with salt and pepper; skewer chicken and vegetables lengthwise on metal skewers. Grill chicken and vegetables, turning often and basting with butter, until vegetables are soft and charred, about 18-20 minutes for vegetables, and chicken is cooked through and slightly charred, about 10 minutes. Serve with lavash.

SPORTS
sports

Karthik pipped Pant due to experience, says Kohli

Virat Kohli breaks silence on Dinesh Karthik's selection over Rishabh Pant in India's World Cup squad

Reuters | Mumbai

Dinesh Karthik's experience and composure in pressure situations helped him pip young sensation Rishabh Pant to the second wicketkeeper's spot in India's World Cup squad, captain Virat Kohli has said.

With Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the undisputed first-choice wicketkeeper of the side, the selectors preferred Karthik, 33, in their 15-man squad over Pant, who is known for his swash-buckling batting.

Teams can change players until May 23 and several former players believe India will miss the 21-year-old in the showpiece which gets underway on May 30.

"In pressure situations, he's shown composure," Kohli told the Times of India newspaper about Karthik. "It was something that everybody on board was convinced about.

"He has the experience. If, god forbid, something happens to MS (Dhoni), Karthik can be immensely valuable behind the wickets. As a finisher, he's done



India's Dinesh Karthik plays a shot (file photo)

“Dinesh Karthik has the experience. If, god forbid, something happens to MS (Dhoni), Karthik can be immensely valuable behind the wickets. As a finisher, he's done well

VIRAT KOHLI

well. "So, it was the overall exposure to a tournament of this magnitude that was taken into primary consideration."

Karthik made his one-day international debut in 2004 and has played 91 matches for India in the format, compared with left-handed batsman Pant who has played just five after making his 50-over debut last October.

Karthik, who has also played 26 test matches for India, has

the ability to bat anywhere in the batting order which makes him a limited-overs asset.

"We can very well imagine there's more than an opinion in place that some capable guys have missed out," India coach Ravi Shastri added. "Heart goes out to them.

"Picking 15 from an immensely talented pool is never easy. I'd say to these guys: Keep going the way you have. Be prepared, in case there's an unforeseen requirement that pops up."

Unlike the India of the past, the 1983 and 2011 winners also boast a very potent pace attack, led by top-ranked ODI bowler Jasprit Bumrah.

The death-overs specialist will be aided by Mohammed Shami and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, with both known for their ability to swing the ball both ways - something which should be handy in conditions in England.

"The one common factor binding these guys is confidence," Kohli said. "They all believe that they can be the best."

Ackermann sprints to second win in Giro d'Italia fifth stage



Team Bora rider Germany's Pascal Ackermann (R), Cyclamen jersey of King of the General Point Classification during final sprint with Team UAE Emirates rider Colombia's Fernando Gaviria in stage five of the 102nd Giro d'Italia

AFP | Terracina, Italy

German Pascal Ackermann won a sprint finish in the pouring rain for the Giro d'Italia fifth stage yesterday, claiming his second victory in this year's race.

The Bora-Hansgrohe rider finished just ahead of Colombia's Fernando Gaviria of UAE Team Emirates.

Slovenia's Primož Roglič, riding for Jumbo-Visma, holds a 35sec overall race lead after the 140km stage in which the final nine kilometres were neutralised because of poor weather conditions.

France's Arnaud Demare was third after the sprint on a rain-sodden road.

Ackermann, 25, is competing in his first Giro, but has now claimed five wins this season.

Fernando Alonso frustrated as Indianapolis 500 practice opens

AFP | Los Angeles

Two-time Formula One world champion Fernando Alonso endured a frustrating day of Indianapolis 500 practice Tuesday, completing just 50 laps as he wrestled with electrical issues.

The Spaniard posted a best lap of 224.162 mph (360.75 Km/h), on the 2.5-mile Indianapolis Motor Speedway oval in his Chevrolet powered McLaren -- 32nd-fastest out of 30.

Australia's 2018 Indy 500 winner Will Power topped the practice speeds at 229.745 mph in contrast.

Team principal Gil de Ferran told NBCSPORTS.com that it was a difficult day, all the more so since the team are "baffled" by the problem.

"Obviously, I'm disappointed and a little frustrated we had the issue in the afternoon," de Ferran said. "We are trying

our best to understand what the problem is. So far, it's baffling. We lost the entire afternoon session."

De Ferran and McLaren had not determined the cause of the electrical issue late Tuesday as they continued to scour over reams and reams of data on their computers.

NBCSports.com was allowed into the team's garage in Gasoline Alley as lead engineer Andy Brown continued to look for the cause of the issue.

"If we understood what the issue is, it would have been fixed," de Ferran said. "That's why it's so baffling. It's an electrical issue; not mechanical.

"It's been a difficult start. No doubt about that. We'll see what we can do."

Alonso, 37, led 27 laps as an Indianapolis 500 newcomer in 2017 before a mechanical problem ended his race with 20 laps remaining.



Fernando Alonso drives his McLaren

Team Faro earns tight victory



Team Faro after their match

TDT | Manama

Team Faro scored a 3-2 narrow victory against Team Manny 3-2 in division two of the 15th FCTG Team Tennis Tournament, being held at Bahrain Tennis Federation courts in Isa Town.

Team Faro took the first win when Omar and Dennis defeated Mike and Ronel in a tight match scoring 2-6, 6-3, 12-10.

Moustafa and Amin from Team Manny scored 6-4, 6-2 against Faro and Trevor to level the match at 1-1.

Team Faro took the lead 2-1 when Ed and Raul defeated Ali and Billy 6-4, 7-6.

Team Manny clawed its way back as Manny and Girish scored 6-1, 6-1 against Nilo and Pio levelling the match to 2-2. In the decisive fifth match,

Jay-ar and Ato defeated Dr. Zuhair and Albert 6-2, 6-2 a 3-2 victory for Team Faro.

In division 2, Team Ana defeated Team Ian 3-1.

Team Ana took the lead 2-0 with two walk overs. Eric and Lydia scored 3-6, 6-4, 10-5 tight victory against Elvie and Lei to secure the victory for Team Ana.

Jojo and Jona from Team Ian won a consolation victory against Jing and Hamza 6-1, 6-2

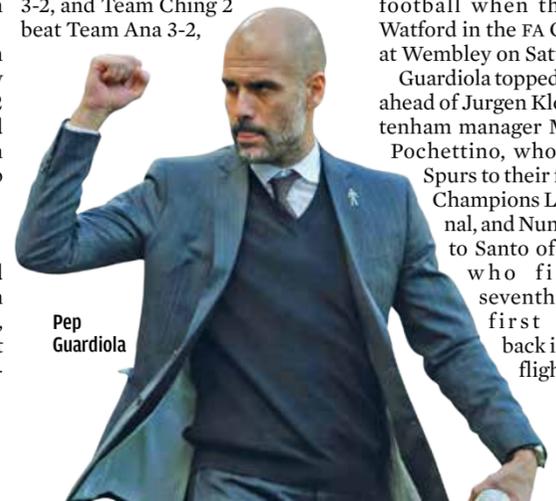
The tournament is sponsored by Grand Safir Hotel Bahrain and organized by Filipino Club Tennis Group (FCTG).

Other Results

Division One: Team Fuad beat Team Viomel 4-1, Team Aldwin beat Team Faro 5-0, Team Roni beat Team Vineet 3-2, Team Randy beat Team Vi-

omel 3-2, Team Faro beat Team Roni 4-1, and Team Fuad beat Team Mundeng 4-1.

Division Two: Team Ching 2 beat Team Alya 4-1, Team Leah beat Team Ana 3-2, Team Ching 1 beat Team Ian 3-2, Team Ching 1 beat Team Mac 3-2, Team Alya beat Team Ian 3-2, and Team Ching 2 beat Team Ana 3-2,



Pep Guardiola

Guardiola beats Klopp to manager of the year award

AFP | London

Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola edged out Jurgen Klopp to a trophy for the second time in three days as the Catalan claimed the League Managers' Association manager of the year on Tuesday.

Guardiola's City retained the Premier League title on Sunday, beating Klopp's Liverpool by a single point at the end of a thrilling title race.

Having also won the League Cup earlier in the campaign, Guardiola's side could complete a first ever domestic treble in English football when they face Watford in the FA Cup final at Wembley on Saturday.

Guardiola topped the vote ahead of Jurgen Klopp, Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino, who has led Spurs to their first ever Champions League final, and Nuno Espirito Santo of Wolves, who finished seventh in their first season back in the top flight.

Klopp plans intense training before final

● Jurgen Klopp plans to put his players through a pre-season style training schedule to prepare for the Champions League final

Reuters | London

Jurgen Klopp says he will fill the three-week gap before the Champions League final against Tottenham Hotspur by putting his Liverpool players through a two-week "pre-season".

The two Premier League clubs played their final domestic games of the season on Sunday and are in the unusual position of having a lengthy wait for the June 1 clash in Madrid.

Klopp has given his team a few days off to recover from a gruelling Premier League campaign in which they pushed Manchester City to the final day in the title race, eventually losing out by one point.

They will reconvene next week to prepare for the show-piece meeting at Atletico Madrid's Wanda Metropolitano Stadium.



Virgil van Dijk (right) looks out in wonder as Jürgen Klopp and Mohamed Salah sings 'You'll Never Walk Alone' in front of the Kop after their victory over Barcelona (file photo)

"We have to do a couple of things in preparation for the Champions League, media stuff," Klopp told the club's website.

"We have to do that, then the boys will have a couple of days off and then we have two proper weeks as a pre-season for the Champions League final.

"We will do that, we will play that, (hopefully) win it, come home and then the people get

what they deserve."

Liverpool, who defeated Barcelona to reach their second consecutive Champions League final, are bidding for their sixth European Cup, which would be their first piece of silverware under Klopp.

Tottenham, who produced a superb comeback to beat Ajax Amsterdam in the semi-final and reach their first Champions League final, will hope

to use the gap to their advantage with top striker Harry Kane recovering from an ankle injury.

Manager Mauricio Pochettino, also seeking his first silverware after five years at Tottenham, said at the weekend after they clinched a top-four spot with a 2-2 draw at home to Everton that he would not put his players through a pre-season regime.

Rain keeps Federer waiting in Rome

AFP | Rome

Roger Federer was among dozens of players kept off court by rain on a chilly Wednesday at the Italian Open as organisers refused to provide refunds in case of a total washout.

The policy promises to create ill-will after officials last weekend doubled the price of Wednesday tickets after Federer's late decision to play in Rome.

"If a session is postponed or cancelled due to weather or acts beyond our control, the Tournament Committee will attempt to accommodate the ticket holder at a subsequent session," the website statement read.

"In the event of rain during play the Committee will determine whether a session is completed. However, no refunds will be given."

The Swiss icon last appeared at the Foro Italico in the 2016 third round, losing to Dominic Thiem.

He was due to begin yesterday against Portugal's Joao Sousa.

Federer, a four-time finalist in Rome, returns to Italy after skipping the clay season for the last two years in order to concentrate on his grass game.

Once he announced his decision to come to Italy after losing a Madrid quarter-final



Switzerland's Roger Federer waves after losing to Austria's Dominic Thiem (file photo)

last week to Thiem, Rome organisers quickly hiked prices to the equivalent range of 96 to 212 dollars.

"We want to reward fans who had bought tickets before they knew Federer would play," the Italian Tennis Federation explained.

When informed of the decision on Tuesday during a media event, Federer did not seem particularly impressed.

"I heard some fans clearly were not happy about it. That's obviously disappointing to hear," the 20-time Grand Slam champion said.

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

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