

Finch, Starc shine as Australia edge Sri Lanka

Australia captain Aaron Finch and pace bowler Mitchell Starc stole the show as the holders eased to an 87-run win over Sri Lanka at the Oval on Saturday. **P16**

Daesh's demonic second coming ... stronger than ever before?

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BUSINESS 10 Gulf Air's inaugural Malaga flight touches down



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Strong response call

Saudi Arabia calls for decisive response to energy supply threats

● **Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al Falih's comments come as Kokuka Courageous and Front Altair head to ports in the UAE.**

● **GCC adds to international condemnation of attacks on two oil tankers in Gulf of Oman**



Khalid Al Falih at a meeting of G20 energy and environment ministers in Karuizawa, Japan.

Emirates' coast were carried out by a state-actor using sophisticated technology.

GCC Secretary-General Dr Abdullahif Al Zayani added to the chorus of international condemnation yesterday, describing the attacks as a dangerous escalation and violation of international laws.

He also said that it was a direct threat to maritime safety and the world's energy supply.

He said that "this attack is a terrorist act that calls for the international community to respond quickly and decisively to protect international shipping lines in this vital region of the world."

US President Donald Trump said the attack had Iran "written all over it" and Saudi Arabia said it agreed with Washington's initial assessment that Tehran was

after London also blamed it for the attacks, the Students News Agency ISNA reported.

"During the meeting with Iran's foreign ministry official, Iran strongly condemned the unfounded allegations and criticised Britain's unacceptable stance regarding the attacks in the Gulf of Oman," it said.

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt issued a statement Friday blaming Iran and its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps for the attacks, saying no other state or non-state actor could have been responsible.

Meanwhile, crew members of the Norwegian-owned oil tanker that was attacked landed Saturday in Dubai after two days in Iran.

Associated Press journalists saw the crew of the Front Altair after their Iran Air flight from Bandar Abbas, Iran, landed in the UAE.

Earlier, the oil tanker left Iran's territorial waters and was under tow to the UAE, shipping officials said Saturday.

The Norwegian company which owns the ship said specialists would board the vessel on Saturday to assess the damage.

The other tanker that was attacked, the Kokuka Courageous, was heading to port Saturday, its owners said.

“The attacks were carried out by a state-actor using sophisticated technology.”

SHAIKH ABULLAH AL NAHYAN

Bahrain 'new leader in MMA rankings'

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom has reached the top of the mixed martial arts world as the country is now the leader in IMMAF-WMMAA world rankings, surpassing Kazakhstan, Sweden, Russia, and New Zealand.

The positive results in the Asian and African Open tournaments were instrumental in the rise of Team Bahrain.

Bahrain led the African Open, ahead of hosts South Africa, with four gold medals, two bronzes, and one silver; while Team Bahrain also had a significantly positive result at the Asian Open, with 13 medals in total, including five golds, one silver, and seven bronze medals.

After four years of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa's attention turning to the development of mixed martial arts in the Kingdom and abroad, Team Bahrain has fulfilled one of its main objectives, ahead of what promises to be a historical International Combat Week.



HH Shaikh Khalid

Around 550 athletes from 60 nations will gather in Bahrain for the IMMAF-WMMAA World Championships, from November 9th to the 16th, and His Highness' vision for the sport will once again be exposed to the entire world, as his contributions continue to transform the mixed martial arts world and the sports industry as a whole, Brave Combat Federation said yesterday in a statement issued. **See Page 5**

TRAGIC END

Six years old boy dies after being forgotten on Dubai bus

● **The boy was identified as Mohammed Farhan, son of Faisal K P, who hails from the south Indian state of Kerala.**

Dubai

In a shocking incident, a six-year-old boy died after he was forgotten inside a bus for several hours in Dubai, Dubai Police said yesterday.

The Asian boy was forgotten inside a bus belonging to the Centre for Memorising Quran in the Al Quoz area from 8am onwards on Saturday.



The boy was forgotten inside the minibus in Al Quoz area. Later Dubai Police seized the minibus.

Dubai Police yesterday confirmed that the driver and bus supervisor are being questioned over negligence.

The boy was identified as Mohammed Farhan, son of Faisal K P, who hails from the south Indian state of Kerala.

Dubai Police have confirmed that the driver and bus supervisor are being questioned over negligence.

Tragedy struck Farhan's family just ahead of his eldest sister's wedding, scheduled to be held on July 25, the family friend was quoted by Gulf News.

He said Farhan was the youngest of four children.

Dubai Police said the boy was

alone inside the bus after all other children had alighted.

Colonel Faisal Al Qasim, Director of Security Media at Dubai Police, said the boy was left inside the bus for nine hours after the driver closed the door without checking if there was anyone inside.

"Command Room received a call about the body of the child inside the private bus of the centre. Officers went to the location and found that the bus was had carried a group of young children to the centre in the morning. After all students left, the bus door closed but one child got left behind. It was only at 3pm that his body was found," he said.



02 Yoga event held ahead of World Yoga Day

04 'Global peace, a collective goal'

05 BD20,000 fine planned for firms 'not prioritising hiring of citizens'



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His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday attended the Gulf Education Conference Exhibition, which was held under his patronage and organised by Future Masters. Shaikh Mohammed recognised the importance of providing wide-ranging opportunities for gifted and talented children in order to increase their contribution to the Kingdom's development. He said that today's global competitiveness has shaped a new economic landscape that requires educators to further develop the creative and innovative potential of young people.

National Ambulance Project launched

Project aims to ensure fast responses to medical emergencies

Manama

Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, yesterday announced the official launch of the National Ambulance Project after evaluating the preparedness and taking all procedures to enhance the quality of related services.

The move is part of the implementation of a Royal decree of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to form and regulate the National Ambulance Centre to manage and develop the ambulance services in Bahrain through coordination between the Interior Ministry and the concerned authorities.



“The project reflects the development levels of various service sectors in Bahrain to meet the needs of citizens.”

GENERAL SHAIKH RASHID

The project was also launched in line with the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

The services were launched in the first phase in Muharraq Governorate and the Southern Governorate, and then in the Capital Governorate and the Northern Governorate.

There will be 13 centres in all

districts by the end of the current year, which are equipped with the most advanced ambulances and qualified medics.

The project, which is managed by the Interior Ministry, operates within the highest level of discipline in performance and competency to ensure fast response to medical emergencies through benefiting from the best international experiences in this field.

The project includes linking the Operation Rooms with the latest communication and control systems and Geographical Security System to ensure swift response.

The Interior Minister stressed that the project requires co-ordination between the National



Thirteen centres in all districts will be equipped with most advanced ambulances and qualified medics by the end of the current year.

Ambulance Centre Directorate and the ambulance centres and

ERS Departments of the Salmaniya Medical Complex, the BDF Hospital and the King Hamad University Hospital.

He said that the project reflects the development levels of various services sectors in Bahrain to meet the needs of citizens and the scientific development in the ambulance, safety and emergency medicine fields.

The public could contact the main Operations Room to make requests to the National Ambulance.

The National Ambulance Project is dedicated to ensuring fast response to the medical emergencies, follow up and provide the needed medical services before reaching hospitals.

Yoga event held ahead of World Yoga Day



Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha, centre, took part in the event.



Scores took part in the event making it a big success.

TDT | Manama

Scores of yoga enthusiasts from different walks of life laid down their mats and performed 'asanas' as the Embassy of India organised an event at the iconic Bahrain Fort yesterday.

The event was held in the run up to the International Day of Yoga 2019, which will be observed on June 21.

A mega event for Fifth International Day of Yoga- 'Yogafest21' would be organised with the support of Ministry of Youth and Sport of

the Kingdom of Bahrain at Khalifa Sports City stadium on Friday, 21 June 2019 from 7:00 pm-9:00 pm, the embassy said in a statement issued.

"Yoga is the journey from 'me' to 'we'. In today's world, people suffer from stress related ailments and also lifestyle related diseases. Yoga offers a solution to these ailments.

"The lecture-demonstration at the event would bring out the salient features of how practicing Yoga help fight stress and find peace. As food plays an important role in achieving holistic health, yoga event would be followed by a vegetarian food festival," the statement added.



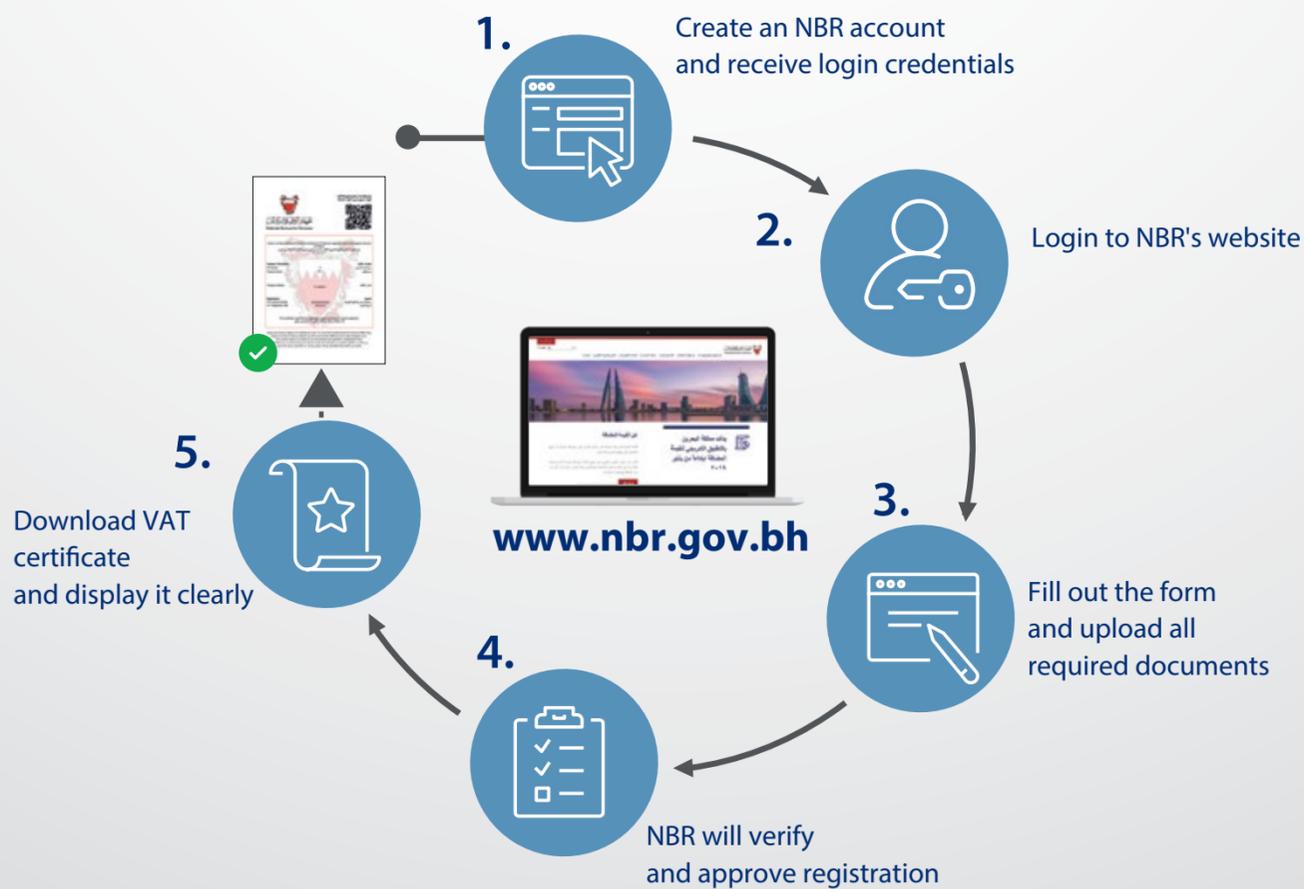
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'Global peace, a collective goal'

Foreign Minister calls for international concerted efforts to secure the world from terror threats

● **Shaikh Khalid highlighted attempts to destabilise brotherly countries such as Yemen, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq.**

● **He reiterated Bahrain's unflinching position vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue that supports the brotherly Palestinians' legitimate rights to establish their independent state.**

Dushanbe

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, has stressed that providing a secure and stable environment in light of challenges and dangers facing the region and achieving peace and prosperity is a collective responsibility.

This came as the minister took part, on behalf of His Majesty the King, in the Fifth Summit on Confidence Building Measures in Asia, held yesterday in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan.



Shaikh Khalid speaks at the summit.

In his speech, Shaikh Khalid expressed Bahrain's appreciation of efforts and the varied plans and proposals put forward by member-states to build confidence and face all challenges and threats.

The Kingdom recognises the summit's important role in promoting exchanges among the individuals and welcomes its efforts to establish the business and youth councils to involve all sectors of society in the process of co-operation for full achievement of the United Nations 2030 sustainable Development Plan, he said.

This, he continued, requires common visions and mutual understandings, based on prin-

ciples of respect for sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of states.

In this regard, he spoke of the attempts to destabilise brotherly countries such as the Republic of Yemen, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Lebanese Republic and the Republic of Iraq and the occupation of land and islands in the region.

He cited in particular the occupation of the Palestinian territories and the Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa islands of the United Arab Emirates, calling for effective cooperation and coordination to address issues and acts that undermine peaceful coexistence and well-being of the peoples



Shaikh Khalid with President Emomali Rahmon.

“**The path to peace requires common visions and mutual understandings, based on principles of respect for sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of states.**

SHAIKH KHALID

through extremism and terrorism.

In the light of the recurrent terrorist attacks against oil tank-

ers and serious threat to international maritime traffic, the minister stressed the need for the international community to shoulder its responsibilities to ensure the safety, protection and freedom of maritime navigation and the flow of energy supplies in this vital water corridors in this important region for the global economy and international peace and security.

He reiterated Bahrain's unflinching position vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue that supports the brotherly Palestinians' legitimate rights to establish their independent state on the borders of June 4, 1967, with East Jerusalem as capital within the two-state solution and accord-

ing to the Arab Peace Initiative and the relevant resolutions of the international legitimacy.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs pointed out that as part of the Kingdom's keenness to develop the Middle East and to empower the Palestinian people in particular; it will host an economic workshop entitled "Peace to Prosperity" in partnership with the United States of America.

The workshop, he explained, will support the development efforts in the region and empower the Palestinian people in order to strengthen their capabilities and resources and achieve prosperity and wellness, through investments to benefit the region as a whole.

Earlier, Shaikh Khalid, conveyed greetings from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to President Emomali Rahmon of the Republic of Tajikistan. The minister also conveyed the greetings and good wishes of His Royal Highness Prime Minister, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, to the Tajikistan President.

Kingdom to attend global human resources conference

Manama

Board Chairman of the International Federation of Training and Development Organisations, Dr Ibrahim bin Khalifa Al Dosari will head Bahrain's delegation at the 48th 'Conference on Human Resources Development in light of Digital Transformation'.

The conference, which will convene from June 24 to 26 in the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, will shed light on digital transformation and advanced technology and their effect on developing human resources.

The Bahraini delegation will hold a big pavilion representing Bahrain and highlighting



Mr Al Dosari

its civilisational image and achievements.

1,000

participants from across the globe who are interested in human resources management and development, will attend the conference.

More than 25 keynote speakers and experts from all over the world will be lecturing at the conference, which will attract over 1,000 participants from across the globe who are interested in human resources management and development.

New excom elected



The Bahrain Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India has elected its new executive committee for the year 2019-20. The executive committee's new term will begin on August 1. Above, seated from left to right are: Sunita Gupta (Joint-Treasurer), Raghupathy Iyer (Treasurer), Sandeep Shah (Vice-Chairperson), Maheshkumar Narayan (Chairperson), Ajaykumar Chettuvetty (Secretary) and Ragnathan P (Joint Secretary). Standing from left to right are: Bhavin Deliwala, Chetan Dongra, Garvita Shrivastava, Riya Bhansali and Jagadish Padmanabhan.

Arab League voices solidarity with Saudi

Cairo

The Arab League has strongly condemned the terrorist attack targeting Abha International Airport with a projectile launched by Iranian-backed Houthi terrorist militias, which left 26 people injured, including women and children, from various nationalities.

Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Aboul Gheit affirmed full solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in confronting these heinous acts, condemning any attempts to

undermine the Kingdom's security and stability.

He condemned the attacks on civilian targets, in breach of the international law provisions.

He denounced the Houthi attempts to expand the crisis, which would have serious pitfalls on the regional security and stability.

The Arab League Secretary General reiterated full solidarity with Saudi leadership, Government and people in confronting these heinous acts, wishing the injured a quick recovery.

Riyadh

CC Secretary General Dr Abdullatif Al Zayani has strongly condemned attacks targeting two oil tankers, in the Gulf of Oman.

He described the attacks as a dangerous escalation, a violation of all international norms and laws and a direct threat to the freedom of navigation and world energy supplies, in addition to jeopardising regional and international security and peace.

Mr Al Zayani said that these attacks are terrorist acts that call for a firm, crucial and deterrent response by the international community to protect the international navigation routes,



“**These attacks are terrorist acts that call for a firm, crucial and deterrent response by the international community to protect the international navigation routes.**

DR AL ZAYANI

in this vital region of the world.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump has blamed Iran for attacks on oil tankers near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, but he

also held out hope that implicit US threats to use force will yield talks with the Islamic Republic as the Pentagon considers beefing up defences in the Persian

Gulf area.

A day after explosions blew holes in two oil tankers just outside Iran's territorial waters, rattling international oil markets, the administration seemed caught between pressure to punish Iran and reassure Washington's Gulf Arab allies without drawing the US closer to war.

"Iran did it," Trump said on Friday on Fox News Channel's Fox & Friends. He did not offer evidence, but the US military released video it said showed Iran's Revolutionary Guard removing an unexploded mine from one of the oil tankers targeted near the Strait of Hormuz, suggesting Tehran wanted to cover its tracks.

BD20,000 fine planned for firms 'not prioritising hiring of citizens'

Lawmakers upset over 'majority of jobs going to expatriates'

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

● The lawmakers stated that majority of the jobs in the private sector are going to expatriates, while Bahrainis are struggling to get jobs.

● The government had, a few months ago, announced a major initiative to increase the hiring of new Bahraini graduates.

Fines, as high as BD20,000, would be imposed on companies that are not giving priority to Bahrainis during recruitment, if MPs get their proposal passed.

The proposal has been made by MP Ghazi Al Rahma alongside four other fellow lawmakers including Mohammed Al Abbasi, Ali Ishaqi, Ahmed Al Amer and Yousef Al Thawadi.

They aim to amend the labour law to add an article that states that all employer needs to give Bahrainis priority in the event of a job opening and failing to do so would result in fines.



Mr Al Rahma

The MPs stated that a fine of a minimum of BD5,000 and a maximum of BD20,000 must be imposed on violating companies.

They added that renewal of work permits of violating com-

panies should also come under scrutiny.

The lawmakers stated that majority of the jobs in the private sector are going to expatriates, while Bahrainis are struggling to get jobs.

According to them, the existing initiatives to reduce unemployment among Bahrainis is not enough.

The government had, a few months ago, announced a major initiative to increase the hiring of new Bahraini graduates.

As per the initiative, if a business decides to hire Bahraini graduates registered with the Ministry of Labour, a number of benefits will be provided to ease the hiring process, including free



professional training, as well as wage support for the candidates up to 70 per cent for the first year, 50pc for the second year, and 30pc for the third year.

The ministry would also provide administrative services, which include the candidate

search and selection process and interview proceedings.

The ministry had stated that an e-system had been established to exchange information between the the ministry and LMRA.

The National Employment Programme launched in the Kingdom in February includes an awareness campaign to encourage citizens to register with the programme, amending the unemployment insurance draft law (78/2006) in order to increase compensation fees, increasing fees associated with the Parallel Bahrainisation System and the Flexible Work Permit and Redesigning Tamkeen's Training and Wage Support Programme.

Brave to return to the UK

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Brave Combat Federation will return to the United Kingdom next month with an event in London, organisers announced.

Titled "Brave 24: London," the upcoming event at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park will be the second time Brave CF is visiting the UK.

Last year the promotion had organised an event titled "Brave 13: Europe Evolution" at The SSE Arena in Belfast, Northern Ireland, which was its first event in Europe.

"BRAVE 24 will be an invite-only event, made to connect the sport of mixed martial arts to the highest level of influencers across all walks of life, including social media, business, sports, and other ventures.

"The show is set to be a luxurious experience to all



Brave is looking to connect the biggest influencers to the best fighters in the world.

MR SHAHID

involved, as BRAVE looks to introduce MMA to a wider audience, and provide them with the unique opportunity of watching the best fighters in the world live, as well as several other attractions," organisers said.

"The fight card will be an-

nounced in the coming days, along with further details of the once-in-a-lifetime show, which promises to turn mixed martial arts upside down," organisers added.

Brave CF President Mohammed Shahid said that the promotion is aiming for more traction in Europe.

"The whole MMA community expects Brave to take up the responsibility on our shoulders to develop the sport in every place and every different continent, and that is why we are going to Europe.

"Brave is looking to connect the biggest influencers to the best fighters in the world. This is about taking MMA to the next level to expose the best and fastest-growing sport in the world to the wider audience.

"We want to make sure the sport grows. This is the vision of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and that's what we want to do."

Domestic workers 'no longer face troubles in the Kingdom'

TDT | Manama
Supriya Reginald

The implementation of insurance scheme for domestic workers is a positive step towards securing them as well as their rights, said Majeed Maarij, secretary to the board of directors at Bahrain Recruiters Society yesterday.

Mr Majeed's comments come in light of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) launching a new permit system to domestic workers a few months ago.

The system is aimed at the welfare of both the workers and their employers.

"Domestic workers now face no more troubles in the Kingdom, especially after the implementation of tripartite agreement and insurance for them.

The LMRA adopted the Tripartite Domestic Contract in March



We are monitoring the tripartite agreement and if needed, we are willing to propose amendments for the welfare of all the parties involved.

MR MAJEED

this year, which regulates the relationship between the Employment Office, the employer (the household) and the domestic

worker (domestic expatriate employees and their equivalents), and all recruitment offices are obliged to apply it.

"We are monitoring the tripartite agreement and if needed, we are willing to propose amendments for the welfare of all the parties involved."

He said the Kingdom's government and the Labour Ministry are in their best efforts to ensure the rights of each and every worker are protected.

"The Kingdom is a signatory to almost all global conventions that ensure the rights of workers. Like any advanced country in the world, no-one including domestic workers need not now worry about their rights being violated."

He added that nearly 60 per cent of domestic workers in the Kingdom are from the Philippines, followed by Indonesia (20pc), African states (15pc) and India (5pc).

MoE keen on incorporating 'citizen lessons' in curriculum

Manama

The Education Ministry has asserted that it has attached great interest in consolidating the values of citizenship among students through school curriculum and other activities, in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The ministry added that the implementation of the Citizenship and Human Rights Enhancing Schools Project, aiming to transform schools into environments to strengthen the values of citizenship, loyalty, national unity, co-existence, tolerance and human rights, has yielded outstanding results, and earned the Kingdom interna-

tional acclaim.

The ministry pointed out that the proposal submitted by the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Fawzia Zainal, to develop the current citizenship course aims to consolidate the ongoing national efforts and achieve the common goals of promoting

the values of good citizenship among students.

The proposal is part of the efforts being exerted to strengthen the national fundamentals among students according to the best educational practices, in line with the initiatives of the National Project to Develop Education and Training, the ministry said.

The initiative aims at promoting the values of openness, accepting each other, respect for human rights, cultural pluralism and co-existence, out of the belief that the culture of peace and rejection of violence and extremism are essential principles that should be instilled in the minds of youngsters through school curricula and activities.

The proposal is part of the efforts being exerted to strengthen the national fundamentals among students.

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WORLD
world

Hong Kong govt suspends divisive extradition bill

Hong Kong

Hong Kong's embattled leader yesterday said a divisive bill that would allow extraditions to China would be "suspended" in a major climbdown from her government after a week of unprecedented protests.

The city's pro-Beijing leader Carrie Lam has come under huge pressure to abandon the controversial legislation, including from her own political allies and advisers.

"The government has decided to suspend the legislative amendment exercise, restart our communication with all sectors of society, do more... work and listen to different views of society," Lam told reporters Saturday.

"We have no intention to set a deadline for this work and promise to report to and consult members of the legislative council panel on security before we decide on the next step forward."

The international finance hub was rocked by the worst political violence since its 1997 handover to China on Wednesday as tens of thousands of protesters were dispersed by riot police firing tear gas and rubber bullets.

As criticism mounted, signs also emerged of a growing discomfort among Communist Party leaders in Beijing, and Lam held her press conference Saturday at the same government complex that was besieged by protesters earlier in the week.

The South China Morning Post said Lam held an emergency meeting on Friday night with her advisers while Chinese officials were also meeting in the nearby city of Shenzhen to map a way out of the impasse.

Tensions were running high with protest organisers planning another mass rally on Sunday.

Lam, who is appointed by a committee stacked with Beijing loyalists, had previously refused



Wednesday's clashes were the worst political violence in Hong Kong since its 1997 handover to China



The government has decided to suspend the legislative amendment exercise, restart our communication with all sectors of society, do more... work and listen to different views of society

CARRIE LAM
HONG KONG CHIEF EXECUTIVE

to consider abandoning the bill, despite months of criticism from

business and legal bodies -- and a record breaking rally on Sunday where organisers said more than one million protesters hit the streets.

"I feel deep sorrow and regret that the deficiencies in our work and various other factors have stirred up substantial controversies and disputes in society following the relatively calm periods of the past two years," Lam said.

'Lost credibility'

On Friday she found herself facing growing calls from within her own political camp to reverse course and tamp down spiralling public anger -- including from hardline pro-Beijing lawmakers.

"Shouldn't (we) cool the citizens down? I think to postpone it for a little bit is not a bad thing. At this moment, the government should self-examine," Ann Chiang, a hardcore pro-Beijing lawmaker, told i-Cable News.

But others have warned against Lam bending to the protesters.

"If the government caves in to violence and external influences, in the long run that would also make Hong Kong ungovernable," pro-Beijing lawmaker Regina Ip told reporters.

Opposition to the extradition bill has united an unusually wide cross section of Hong Kong.

Protest organisers had been calling for a full withdrawal of the bill, not a postponement.

James To, a lawmaker from the city's pan-democrat camp, called on Lam to step down.

"The credibility of our chief executive has already been written off, it's a kind of government that cannot have any credibility to rule anymore," he told reporters Friday.

Beijing has vocally supported the bill and earlier this week threw its full support behind the Lam administration, calling protesters "rioters".

2003: National security law

Some half a million people marched against a controversial attempt by the government to introduce a national security law that critics feared would hammer free speech.

The bill, which came after a deadly outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome, was the first mass demonstration movement the city's pro-Beijing leaders had faced since the 1997 handover.

It was eventually shelved and set in process the resignation of then chief executive Tung Chee-hwa.

2012: Education protests

Tens of thousands of predominantly young demonstrators, many of them school children, surrounded the city government's complex for 10 days. The target of their ire was a government order for schools to teach "Moral and National Education" classes that praised China's communist and nationalist history while criticising republicanism and democracy movements.

The government abandoned the curriculum and some of the protest leaders, such as then 15-year-old Joshua Wong, went on to become leading democracy advocates.

2014: Umbrella Movement

For two months in late 2014 tens of thousands of protesters paralysed parts of the city with mass student-led demonstrations and sit-ins to demand democratic reforms such as the right to elect the city's leader.

There were clashes and scenes of violence, until then rare in the semi-autonomous territory, as police used pepper spray and tear gas to break up the demonstrations.

It becomes known as the Umbrella Movement after some demonstrators used umbrellas to protect themselves.

Police dismantled the main pro-democracy site in December, hauling off a hard core of protesters who vowed that their struggle would live on.

But the movement failed to win any concessions and many of its leaders are now in prison.

China backs suspension of bill

Shanghai, China

China's government said yesterday it supported the decision of Hong Kong's leader to suspend an unpopular bill that would allow extraditions to China and which sparked a week of protests.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang called the decision an attempt to "listen more widely to the views of the community and restore calm to the community as soon as possible". "We support, respect and understand this decision," Geng Shuang said in a statement.

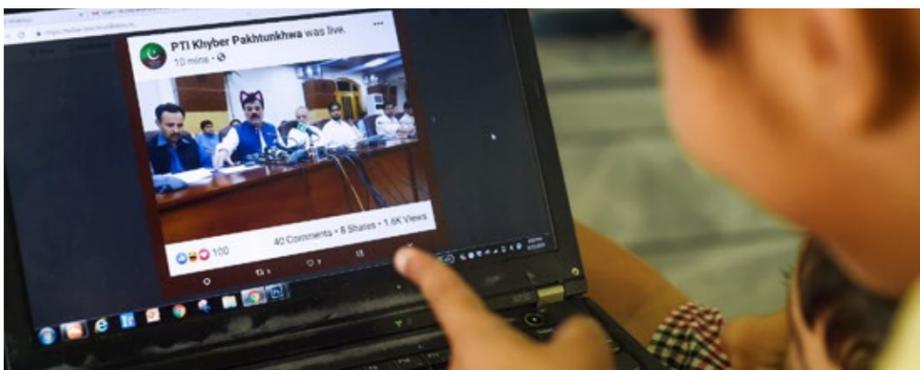
Pakistan politician does livestream with cat whiskers, ears

Peshawar, Pakistan

A politician in northwestern Pakistan was given paws for thought after his press conference was streamed live on Facebook with the "cat filter" turned on, giving him on-screen whiskers and ears.

The online stream of regional minister Shaukat Yousafzai speaking with journalists went viral on Friday after a member of his social media team accidentally activated the filter on the social network.

Comments started pouring in as Facebook users noticed pink cat-like ears and whiskers had appeared on the heads of the minister and two accompanying



Pakistani children point at a computer screen showing a screen grab of a press conference attended by provincial minister Shaukat Yousafzai and streamed live on social media, in Islamabad

officials. There's "a cat in the cabinet" one said. Others were more lit-

eral: "Shaukat Yousafzai looks like a cat -- Meow meow meow," The video -- seen by a report-

er -- was deleted minutes after the press conference from the official Facebook page of Paki-

The cat filter was turned on by mistake. Let's not take everything so seriously

SHAUKAT YOUSAFZAI

accident.

"The cat filter was turned on by mistake" Yousafzai said, adding "let's not take everything so seriously".

"I wasn't the only one -- two officials sitting along me were also hit by the cat filter," he joked.

The live stream continued with the whiskers and ears in place, even after the error was pointed out by users.

A press statement, issued by the PTI social media team said the incident happened because of "human error".

"All necessary actions have been taken to avoid such incidents in future," it said.

stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, which is in power in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Images from the press conference were still available on social media.

Yousafzai confirmed the incident and said it happened by

Tanker hit in attacks heads to port



Fire and smoke billowing from Norwegian owned Front Altair tanker (file)

- **The Kokuka Courageous was carrying highly flammable methanol**

- **The vessel was heading to port in the UAE**

- **Front Altair was towed away from Iranian waters**

- **The Front Altair was carrying naphtha**

Dubai

A Japanese tanker, one of two vessels attacked in sensitive Gulf waters this week, was heading to port yesterday, its owners said.

The United Arab Emirates called on world powers “to secure international navigation

and access to energy” after the incident Thursday, which sent crude prices soaring amid a tense standoff between Iran and the US.

The Kokuka Courageous was carrying highly flammable methanol through the Gulf of Oman when was rocked by explosions, causing a blaze that was quickly extinguished.

US President Donald Trump said the twin attack, which also targeted a tanker owned by Oslo-listed company Frontline, had Iran “written all over it”.

He was speaking hours after the US military released grainy footage it said showed an Iranian patrol boat removing an “unexploded limpet mine” from one of the tankers.

Iran has repeatedly threatened to block the Hormuz Strait, a narrow seaway vital to the world’s oil supplies, in the case of a conflict with the US.

But the UAE’s Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, whose country is bitterly opposed to Iranian in-

“We still don’t know if the tanker goes to Khor Fakkan or Fujairah as they are very close

A SPOKESMAN, REFERRING TO TWO EMIRATI PORTS ON THE GULF OF OMAN.

fluence in the region, called yesterday for a de-escalation in tensions.

“We remain hopeful in attaining a broader framework for cooperation with Iran,” he said at a summit in Bulgaria.

Acting US Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said an “international consensus” was needed to resolve the situation.

The Japanese tanker’s Tokyo-based operator Kokuka confirmed Saturday the vessel was

heading to port in the United Arab Emirates.

“We still don’t know if the tanker goes to Khor Fakkan or Fujairah as they are very close,” said a spokesman, referring to two Emirati ports on the Gulf of Oman.

Maritime experts would then seek to transfer its highly flammable cargo to shore, according to an unnamed official quoted by Japanese state media.

“From a viewpoint of global energy security, it is necessary for the international community to jointly deal with the act,” said Japanese trade minister Hiroshige Seko at a G20 energy and environment meeting in Japan on Saturday.

The other ship which came under attack, the Norwegian-operated Front Altair, was being towed away from Iranian waters and would undergo a damage assessment later Saturday, said a spokeswoman for its operator.

“The 23 crew members of the ‘Front Altair’ remain safe and well, with plans being made for

Front Altair leaves Iran waters

Tehran, Iran

The Norwegian-owned Front Altair oil tanker has left Iran’s territorial waters and was under tow to the UAE two days after it was attacked in the Gulf of Oman, shipping officials said yesterday.

The tanker was one of two vessels that were rocked by explosions as they passed through Gulf of Oman waters on Thursday.

The Front Altair is “heading toward the Fujairah-Khor Fakkan area in the United Arab Emirates”, head of ports of Iran’s southern province of Hormozgan told the semi-official news agency ISNA.

The tanker “has left Iran’s territorial waters,” he said, adding that it was being towed and sprayed with water to cool the hull.

The Norwegian company which owns the ship confirmed it had left Iranian waters and said specialists would board the vessel yesterday to assess the damage.

“The 23 crew members of the ‘Front Altair’ remain safe and well, with plans being made for their repatriation soonest,” Frontline Management said.

The crew, who were rescued by Iran after the vessel caught fire and transferred to Bandar Abbas, were to fly to Dubai on Saturday night, ISNA said.

The strategic Strait of Hormuz



their repatriation soonest,” she added.

‘Allegations against Iran’

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted that the US had “immediately jumped to make allegations against Iran without a shred of factual or circumstantial evidence.”

The United States has also accused Iran over May 12 sabotage attacks on four tankers anchored in the Gulf of Oman off Fujairah.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for an independent investigation.

“It’s very important to know the truth (and) that responsibilities are clarified,” he told reporters at UN headquarters in New York.

“Obviously that can only be done if there is an independent entity that verifies those facts.”

The oil tankers hit Thursday morning were 10 nautical miles apart and headed to Asia when they were struck by explosions after passing through the Strait of Hormuz, some 25 nautical miles off Iran’s southern coast.

The Front Altair was carrying naphtha, a refined petroleum product, when it was hit by three explosions, according to Norwegian officials.

Blocking the Hormuz Strait would be a relatively low-tech, high-impact countermeasure Iran could take against any attack by the United States, and would severely disrupt global oil supplies.

But Trump played down the threat.

“It’s not going to be closed, it’s not going to be closed for long and they know it. They’ve been told in very strong terms,” he said.

US infant boy cut out of mother’s womb dies at hospital

- **The baby had been hospitalized on life support and was considered brain dead**

Chicago

A baby cut out of his murdered teenage mother’s womb died Friday at a Chicago hospital of severe brain injury nearly two months after the attack, the family said.

Marlen Ochoa-Lopez, 19, was killed on April 23 by a Chicago woman and her daughter, who lured the expectant mother via



(L-R) Clarisa Figueroa, her daughter Desiree and her boyfriend Piotr Bobak were arrested for luring a young mother to their home, strangling her and cutting out her baby

a Facebook group to their home with the promise of free baby supplies.

Police say Clarisa Figueroa,

46, and her daughter Desiree, 24, strangled the teen, who was nine months pregnant, and cut the baby out of her.

The elder Figueroa allegedly claimed the baby as her own after calling for medical help because the child was not breath-

ing.

The baby had been hospitalized on life support and was considered brain dead, according to the family.

“It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of baby Yovanny Jadiel Lopez,” family spokeswoman Julie Contreras said in a Facebook post.

Police said they discovered Ochoa-Lopez’s body hidden in a garbage can at Figueroa’s home about three weeks after she went missing.

The two women suspects have been charged with the murder of Ochoa-Lopez and the aggravated battery of the baby.

Piotr Bobak, 40, whom police

described as the elder Figueroa’s boyfriend, was charged with concealing the murder.

With the baby’s death, family attorney Frank Avila told a news conference that new murder charges are warranted.

“The baby was murdered,” Avila said. “We’re asking the prosecutor to bring murder charges against these three vicious, evil murderers and anybody else who helped them.”

Ochoa-Lopez’s family has said undocumented members of the Latino community in Chicago did not provide crucial information about the missing person’s case because they feared speaking to police.

Daesh's demonic second coming ... s



BARIA ALAMUDDIN

Daesh will aspire to be more geographically dispersed to avoid presenting an easy target, it will consolidate its strength in the shadows to avoid provoking a decisive response

Allow me to make a bold prediction: Within a few years, not only will Daesh return to prominence, but it will become exponentially more vigorous and difficult to defeat.

Daesh continues to be the wealthiest terrorist organisation in history, with hundreds of thousands of dollars stashed away in readiness for its re-emergence. Tens of thousands of Daesh personnel may still be at large, or deployed as sleeper cells across Iraq and Syria. Meanwhile, about 100,000 detainees with various levels of Daesh affiliation languish in mass camps. Their status is problematic, because of their multinational character: Should their home countries reluctantly accept them back, or leave them to rot or hang?

Let us not forget that Daesh perpetrated the worst crimes known to humanity: Burnings, stonings, beheadings, rape, genocide and other systematic atrocities. Yet its ideology remains potent, with wide-reaching propaganda capabilities: A few symbolic victories (the recapture of a town, a spectacular terrorist attack...) could inspire thousands of confused and sick individuals to flock back into its ranks.

It is tempting to assert that because Daesh's actions were self-evidently evil, all those who lived under it must be evil too. Our failure to recognise



There have been recent deadly Daesh assaults in northern Lebanon and the Sinai, along with horrific attacks against Sri Lankan churches.

why many ordinary Iraqis and Syrians tolerated Daesh (other than simply out of fear) will be a major factor in allowing this menace to return.

Daesh's rule varied markedly across its so-called caliphate. While foreign jihadists brutally imposed alien theocratic models upon major cities, in small rural towns Daesh leaders were predominantly locals. The result was an organic hybrid between local traditions and Daesh's rigid asceticism. When Daesh was purged, local jihadists simply melted into the mountains, using their exhaustive knowledge of the land-

scape to embark on a war of attrition against security forces.

By 2011 Al-Qaeda in Iraq was a defeated force. Yet Nouri Al Maliki's sectarian policies, his purge of Sunni politicians, and his reliance on brutal paramilitaries to entrench his power alienated Sunnis and other communities. By 2013, Iraq was awash with a furious ferment of protest movements and anti-state forces — Islamists, tribes and Baathists. Daesh swept to power out of this complex milieu.

The fight-back against Daesh was partly franchised out to Iran-aligned

paramilitaries who have today been put back in control of localities reduced to ashes by coalition bombing campaigns. Iraqis are squeezed between two evils: "Hashd" militants and Daesh are equally guilty of sectarian atrocities. Before the 2018 elections, Sunnis in areas liberated from Daesh were widely prevented from accessing documentation allowing them to vote, access benefits and travel around the country. Paramilitaries terrorised returnees into fleeing back into exile. Thus, a high proportion of the population have effectively become non-persons,

with the stigma of Daesh branded upon entire regions. Aside from discredited Hashd, few respectable politicians are allowed to hold political office. Dangerous for Iraq's future, that Sunnis are left feeling alienated and angry that they have been deprived of core territory. Deprived of core territory and Iraq, Daesh has become more dangerous. Thousands of fighters who avoided capture dispersed, either returning home or migrating to other fields, pledging to work and attract new recruits.

London bomb factory, a sign of Iran

Hizbollah's secret stash of tonnes of ammonium nitrate is just

CON COUGHLIN

The latest revelation that an Iranian-backed terror group has been stockpiling bomb-making materials in London has shed fresh light on Tehran's reach in Europe.

For decades after the Islamic revolution of 1979, Iran mainly confined its terrorist activities to the Middle East region, using the Revolutionary Guard Corps and proxies such as Hizbollah to target opponents and undermine moderate Arab regimes.

There was, of course, the brief flurry of terrorist activity in Paris in the immediate aftermath of ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's emergence as the leader of the revolution, as his followers sought to neutralise opponents of the clerical regime. Other notable acts of Iranian terrorism outside the region include the infamous 1994 attack against a Jewish institution in Argentina, which killed 85 people.

But for the most part, the focus of Iran's activities has been confined to the region, where attacks have been deployed as an effective tactic in support of Tehran's drive for regional dominance.

Now, intelligence officials in Europe are undertaking a radical re-

appraisal of that view in the light of recent events. Earlier this week, it was revealed that London raided a terrorist cell with links to Hizbollah four years ago. It was stockpiling three tonnes of explosive materials on the outskirts of London in what has been described as a secret bomb factory.

The bomb-making group was discovered in the autumn of 2015, shortly after Britain had become one of the signatories to the controversial nuclear deal.

Even though former prime ministers David Cameron and Theresa May — who was then serving as home secretary — were informed of the discovery, the fact that it was not made public suggests they were kept not to reveal any information that might damage the flawed nuclear agreement.

Even now, British authorities are reluctant to disclose too many details. A brief statement issued by the Metropolitan Police this week simply stated that counter-terrorism specialists had raided four properties at addresses in north-west London — three businesses and a home — and that a man in his 40s was arrested on suspicion of plotting terrorism, although he was later released without charge.

However, British intelligence officials close to the investigation believe the stockpile was part of an international Hizbollah scheme for future terror attacks in Europe. They have drawn parallels between the stash of chemicals discovered in London and a similar case in Cyprus at around the same time. Hassan Bassam Abdallah, a 28-year-old member of Hizbollah's military wing, was convicted of possessing 65,000 ice packs filled with ammonium nitrate which he admitted were for use in future terrorist attacks in Larnaca. He was subsequently jailed for six years.

For years, whenever I have raised the subject with senior British intelligence officials, they have repeatedly denied the existence of Iranian-backed sleeper cells in the UK, maintaining the traditional line that Iran's terrorist activity was mainly confined to the Middle East.

But in reality, the discovery of this London bomb factory is part of an upsurge of Iranian terrorist activity in Europe in the past decade.

Concerns that Hizbollah had expanded its operations in Europe first surfaced in 2012 when the group carried out a bomb attack against a tour bus in Bulgaria, prompting the European Union to



Hizbollah supporters hold placards during a gathering in Beirut.

1836

The formation of the London Working Men's Association gives rise to the **Chartist Movement**.

1846

The Papal conclave of 1846 elects **Pope Pius IX**, beginning the longest reign in the history of the papacy.



1858

Abraham Lincoln delivers his House Divided speech in Springfield, Illinois.

1858

The Battle of Morar takes place during the **Indian Mutiny**.

Stronger than ever before?



Deprived of core territories in Syria and Iraq, Daesh has become more dangerous. Thousands of foreign fighters who avoided capture have dispersed, either quietly heading home or migrating to new battlefields, pledging to wreak mayhem and attract new recruits wherever they end up.

claimed attacks in Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo, two states not known as hotbeds of Islamist extremism. The group also reported pledges of loyalty from other Sahel factions, further indications of an ambitious pan-Africa strategy.

Daesh Mark II has learned a lot from defeat. It will aspire to be more geographically dispersed to avoid presenting an easy target, it will consolidate its strength in the shadows to avoid provoking a decisive response, and it will avoid unnecessarily alienating local people. Daesh is also seeking to overcome past enmities with rivals such as Al-Qaeda, which had weakened the jihadist movement. The knee-jerk racism and Islamophobia of an emergent European far-right will leave disaffected young Western Muslims increasingly vulnerable to the blandishments of extremists.

Without radical efforts to address sectarianism, militancy, injustice and social exclusion in Iraq and other

priority states, most experts concur that the necessary prerequisites are in place for Daesh to again achieve breakout capacity. However, Daesh in 2019 is a greatly more experienced, globe-straddling and organically integrated force than it ever was in 2014. Affiliated factions in Libya, Western Africa, Egypt, Yemen, Afghanistan, Indonesia and elsewhere will act in concert to make Daesh's second coming a truly globalised phenomenon. Where is the globalised response to an entity that is consolidating its strength across dozens of states?

In 2014 the world feigned astonishment when a hitherto unknown terrorist horde swarmed across much of Iraq and Syria. Yet Daesh's expansion had already been obvious for over a year to those who cared to pay attention. If history is condemned to bloodily repeat itself, it will be through criminal lack of foresight and leadership in failing to eradicate a menace that should never have been allowed to reconstitute itself as an existential global threat.

When grievances are addressed, citizens' voices are represented and a culture of tolerance is cultivated, society becomes effectively immunised against the nihilistic, hateful propaganda of both right-wing and Islamist extremists. Prevention is a thousand times better than cure. We know this, yet instead we choose once again to leave the hen-house door wide open for the wolves.

(Baria Alamuddin is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK. She is editor of the Media Services Syndicate and has interviewed numerous heads of state.)

they end up. There have been recent deadly Daesh assaults in northern Lebanon and the Sinai, along with horrific attacks against Sri Lankan churches a couple of months ago that killed over 250 worshippers. We can guarantee more such attacks, whether against Egyptian Copts, Asian tourist resorts, overcrowded African malls, or Western stadiums and other public places. Already, in a dozen states across northern and sub-Saharan Africa, a resurgent Daesh is carving out something resembling a new trans-continental "caliphate." Last week it

's terror campaign

the tip of the iceberg



One positive outcome from Iran's increased terrorist activity has been to push the British government to finally designate the entirety of Hizbollah as a terrorist organisation.

follow America's lead in designating Hizbollah's military wing as a terrorist organisation.

In June last year, two Iranian diplomats were expelled from the Netherlands for plotting political assassinations in the country, while France's intelligence ministry foiled a bomb plot the same month to target a rally of opposition groups in Paris. Then, in October, Danish authorities accused Iran of an "unusual and serious" plot to murder an Arab separatist leader.

One positive outcome from Iran's increased terrorist activity has been to push the British government to

finally designate the entirety of Hizbollah as a terrorist organisation. Previously, London sought to make a distinction between the group's political and military wings, with only the latter designated a terrorist organisation, thereby allowing representatives of the political wing to maintain links with prominent British politicians such as Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

Moreover, the growing awareness that Iran's terrorist infrastructure poses a threat to Europe comes at a time when Iranian aggression is increasing in the Middle East.

Saudi officials have accused Tehran of being behind a Houthi missile strike against Abha airport in southern Saudi Arabia this week, which injured 26 people, while Iran will inevitably be the focus of investigations into the explosions that have reportedly hit two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman. The latest incident follows accusations made by US national security adviser John Bolton that Iran was responsible for last month's attacks against four oil tankers off the coast of Fujairah.

These elements suggest that Iran has embarked on a new campaign of terror in which Europe is just as likely to be targeted as the Middle East.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Despite the Greatest Presidential Harassment of all time by people that are very dishonest and want to destroy our Country, we are doing great in the Polls, even better than in 2016, and will be packed at the Tuesday Announcement Rally in Orlando, Florida. KEEP AMERICA GREAT!

@realDonaldTrump

02



Lakhs of aspirants from Kashmir & Ladakh are made to travel to Chandigarh, Delhi, Samba, Jammu, Punjab, etc. for NET, NEET, GATE, JNU, etc. This violates our Right to Education. We demand permanent testing centres in Kashmir & Ladakh and urgent relocation of exam centres.

@Shehla_Rashid

03



Trump promised affordable health care, then tried to rip care away from millions. Said he was for working people, then passed a tax bill benefiting the top 1% & corporations. He's ripped babies from their parents & called neo-Nazis "fine people." It's time for a new president.

@KamalaHarris

04



I am close to many elderly people who live hidden away, forgotten, neglected. And I thank those who are committed to a more inclusive society, which does not need to throw away those who are weak in body and mind. #WEAAD

@Pontifex

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

Participating in the plastic ban



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

The Supreme Council for Environment has announced that Bahrain will ban single-use plastic next month. It is a much-needed move especially in our country, where land resource is limited and our maritime area is being polluted by plastic to the detriment of our marine life and coral reefs.

The use and availability of plastic is so widespread that, like tobacco and sugar, it is difficult to eliminate. After all, we all know that these items are bad for us but they are there within reach and we use them regularly.

Still, there are success stories about reduction of plastic pollution. Sri Lanka, for instance has completely banned use of plastic bags and you are given your shopping in reusable paper packaging, whether it is fruits and veg or even the gemstones that the country is famous for! The latest trend is edible or biodegradable cutlery and crockery because plastic spoons last more than 200 years in landfills.

One company in India even produces flavoured spoons and forks that can be eaten like a biscuit after the meal!

How can large corporations help the no-plastic movement? Usually we hear of fines for using plastic. However, studies have

shown that rewards work better. How about giving customers a bonus point for every time they bring their own reusable bags and give them a spending reward if they collect about 50 bonus points? That works better than a fine for using plastic.

We also need to request restaurants and hotels to switch from using plastic water bottles since this is one of the biggest polluters. In Bahrain's hot climate, how about carrying our reusable water bottle and getting eateries to recognise this right to drink water from our homes instead of highly-priced bottled water?

Finally, it boils down to our sense of responsibility. The government has taken the correct step but the cycle of change will be complete only if we, the people participate in the progress.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

business

Gulf Air's inaugural Malaga flight touches down



Gulf Air's flight GF021 was welcomed into Malaga Costa del Sol Airport with a water cannon salute



Officials during a photocall

TDT | Manama



This is a remarkable event for us to fly, for the first time, to Spain and especially to Malaga

GULF AIR'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER KRESIMIR KUCKO

Gulf Air celebrated its inaugural summer service to and from Malaga Costa del Sol in South Spain.

Gulf Air's flight GF021 was welcomed into Malaga Costa del Sol Airport with a water can-

non salute and, upon arrival, a celebratory event was held at the airport with various dignitaries, Costa del Sol Tourism Authority, a number of local media and travel industry representatives, alongside airport officials.

Before departing from Bahrain International Airport, pas-

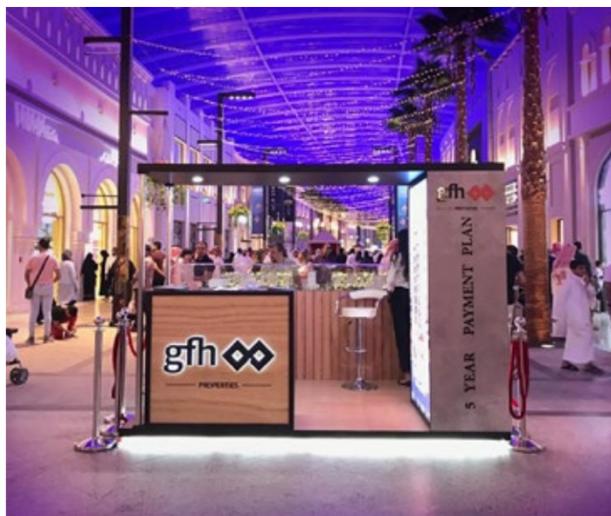
sengers were handed commemorative gifts.

Gulf Air's Chief Executive Officer Kresimir Kucko said: "This is a remarkable event for us to fly, for the first time, to Spain and especially to Malaga, which is widely popular for being a summer resort for many of our passengers. From today until

mid-September we will fly twice a week to Malaga and provide this great opportunity for everyone to try our newest Dreamliner and our newest premium leisure destination."

The seasonal flights are operated by Gulf Air's flagship aircraft Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner.

GFH launches Harbour Row sales



GFH sales centre booth



Harbour Row residences

TDT | Manama

GFH Properties, the real estate arm of GFH Financial Group, has launched sales of its landmark Harbour Row residences with an exclusive financing plan as the development continues to progress.

GFH Properties will also be showcasing offerings to visitors at The Avenues with a sales cen-

tre booth.

Harbour Row situated at the Bahrain Financial Harbour is made up of six buildings, split between the West and East side, four of which are residential buildings consisting of 322 apartments, with the other two buildings set to house a prime five-star hotel and 150 hotel apartments.

Sales and an exclusive financing package have now been

launched for luxury, state-of-the-art studios, one, two and three-bedroom apartments and exclusive penthouses with private swimming pools. The first instalment of 15 per cent is due 14 days from booking, the second instalment of 15pc due on handover, with the remaining 70pc to be paid after that in 60 equal monthly instalments.

Commenting, Laith Al Me-mar, Acting CEO of GFH Prop-

erties, said, "We look forward to furthering rapid progress at Harbour Row and to welcoming future residents to this one-of-a-kind project."

Among the works now completed on the East and West side residences are all substructure and superstructure works which are progressing aggressively on finishes. MEP works and external cladding is also well underway.

Dr Al Jalahma keynote speaker at BDFEX Forum

TDT | Manama

The organisers of BDFEX announced Dr Mariam Al Jalahma, CEO, National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA), as a keynote speaker.

The event, first forum for business development in the health sector, will take place under the patronage of Lieutenant General Doctor Sheikh Mohamed Bin Abdullah, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health, on October 23 and 24, 2019.

The International Business Consultancy and Development Company (PROACT), and United Gulf Industrial Consortia (UGICON) will organise the event.

Dr Al Jalahma will review the efforts of Bahrain to achieve comprehensive health coverage and provide the best health services.

BDFEX aims to reinforce the local content of the health-care sector by providing new technologies and investments to achieve sustainable development in the health sector in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia as well.



Dr Al Jalahma keynote speaker at BDFEX Forum

The Forum aims to create new jobs in the industry by encouraging investment in both small and medium enterprises and linking entrepreneurs with investors

US allows Iraq to import Iranian energy for three more months

Reuters | Baghdad

The United States has allowed Iraq to import Iranian gas for its power grid for another three months by extending a waiver to sanctions - but insists that Baghdad seek alternative sources.

Iraq has had several extensions to the waiver first granted last year after Washington reimposed sanctions on Tehran's oil sector forbidding countries from

purchasing Iranian energy.

"An additional 120-day waiver was granted to allow Iraq to continue to pay for electricity imports from Iran," the US State Department said in an emailed statement.

An Iraqi government source said the extension was given during a phone call between Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.



Mike Pompeo

The State Department said the United States continued to insist on "diversifying energy imports away from Iran," however.

President Donald Trump's administration has said oil-rich Iraq must become more self-reliant for its electricity, including by harnessing gas energy and reducing flaring at oil production sites.

US energy giant General Elec-

tric is in the running to win a large share of multibillion-dollar contracts to rebuild Iraq's electricity system amid intense US lobbying efforts.

Washington reimposed sanctions on Iran's oil industry in November, citing concerns about its nuclear programme and what it said was its meddling in the Middle East.

Iraqi officials have said they might need years to wean the

country of Iranian power.

Iraq relies heavily on Iranian gas to feed several power stations, importing roughly 1.5 billion standard cubic feet per day via pipelines in the south and east.

Although Iraq has one of the world's largest natural gas reserves, it has moved slowly to develop them and has relied on Iran to supply it with gas and electricity.

Pakistan gets \$3.4 billion ADB lifeline

● Last month, Pakistan reached an accord with IMF for a \$6 billion bailout package

● The government unveiled its first federal budget under the government of new Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday

● Officials had forecast growth of 4pc for the next financial year

Reuters | Islamabad

Pakistan will receive \$3.4 billion in budgetary support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the de facto finance minister said yesterday, as the government seeks help to overcome a ballooning balance of payments crisis.

Last month, Pakistan reached an accord in principle with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a three-year, \$6bn bailout package aimed at shoring up its fragile public finances and strengthening a slowing economy.

The ADB financing would come on top of the IMF loan, with most of the funds to be disbursed in the current fiscal year.

"The ADB will provide \$3.4bn in budgetary support," de facto



A Pakistan shopkeeper waits for customer at his rice shop at a market in Karachi. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's government vowed to collect more taxes and make cuts in spending in a closely watched budget presented to parliament on June 11, weeks after reaching a deal with the IMF for a \$6 billion bailout



\$2.2 billion will be released this fiscal year (FY), starting in the first quarter of FY 2019-20. This will help the reserve position and the external account

FINANCE MINISTER HAFEEZ SHAIKH

Finance Minister Hafeez Shaikh said on Twitter.

"\$2.2bn will be released this fiscal year (FY), starting in the first quarter of FY 2019-20. This will help the reserve position and the external account."

The first disbursement is to "cover such policy reform ar-

reas as trade competitiveness, energy sector and capital markets development," Pakistan's Finance Ministry said in a statement.

Financial crises have shaken the world's sixth-largest nation repeatedly over the years, threatening the stability of a

nuclear-armed state plagued by Islamist militancy.

Political analysts say that while the IMF programme may help stabilise the economy, it could bring more hardship due to austerity measures.

The government unveiled its first federal budget under the government of new Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday aimed at meeting the terms of the IMF loan, and included a number of expected belt-tightening policies.

Officials had forecast growth of 4 per cent for the next financial year, but after Revenue Minister Hammad Azhar delivered his budget speech to parliament on Tuesday, the government released a budget document showing it had trimmed its growth estimate for the coming year to 2.4pc.

The government has already slashed its year to June 2019 growth forecast to 3.3pc from the 6.2pc predicted at the time of the last budget.

The IMF estimates growth of about 2.9pc during the same period.

Inflation, which hit 9pc in May, is seen accelerating to between 11pc and 13pc during the 2019/20 fiscal year.

Under the IMF's terms, Pakistan is also expected to let the rupee currency weaken to help correct an unsustainable current account deficit and cut its debt while trying to expand the tax base in a country where only 1pc of people file returns.

India to impose tariff on 28 US goods from today

Reuters | New Delhi

India will impose higher tariffs on 28 US products including almonds, apples and walnuts, a government notification said.

The new duties take effect starting today.

It was previously reported that India was preparing to levy higher tariffs following Washington's withdrawal of key trade privileges for New

Delhi.

India initially issued an order in June last year to raise import taxes as high as 120 per cent on a slew of US items, incensed by Washington's refusal to exempt it from higher steel and aluminum tariffs.

But New Delhi repeatedly delayed raising tariffs as the two nations engaged in trade talks. Trade between them stood at about \$142.1 billion in 2018.

Drought forces Namibia to auction 1,000 wild animals

Windhoek, Namibia

Drought-hit Namibia has authorised the sale of at least 1,000 wild animals -- including elephants and giraffes -- to limit loss of life and generate \$1.1 million for conservation, the authorities confirmed Saturday.

"Given that this year is a drought year, the [environment] ministry would like to sell various type of game species from various protected areas to protect grazing and at the same time to also generate much needed funding for parks and wildlife management," environment ministry spokesman Romeo Muyunda said.

The authorities declared a national disaster last month, and the meteorological services in the southern African nation estimate that some

parts of the country faced the deadliest drought in as many as 90 years.

In April, an agriculture ministry report said 63,700 animals died in 2018 because of deteriorating grazing conditions brought on by dry weather.

Namibia's cabinet announced this week that the government would sell about 1,000 wild animals.

They include 600 disease-free buffalos, 150 springbok, 65 oryx, 60 giraffes, 35 eland, 28 elephants 20 impala and 16 kudus -- all from national parks.

The aim is to raise \$1.1 million that will go towards a state-owned Game Products Trust Fund for wildlife conservation and parks management.

There were currently about 960 buffalos in its national parks, 2,000 springbok, 780 oryx and 6,400 elephants.

New York state lawmakers pass new protections for renters

● Since 1994, about 300,000 rent-controlled apartments have vanished in the city of New York alone

New York, United States

Lawmakers in New York State on Friday passed a bill aimed at protecting lower-income families from skyrocketing rents -- a move seen as a victory for tenants amid a crippling lack of affordable housing.

The vote -- the culmination of a years-long battle between powerful real estate owners and housing rights advocates -- became possible after the November elections, which left Democrats in full control of the state legislature.

"Tenants have pounded on Albany's door for decades for

the protections they deserve. We've stood with them, fought for them tooth-and-nail, and now the wait is finally over," New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said after compromise legislation was reached this week.

The text -- which Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo quickly signed into law -- eliminates rules that allowed building owners to increase the rent when an apartment changed hands.

It also will prevent new tenants from being charged for extensive renovations via increased rents, and help keep owners from reducing the number of rent-controlled apartments.

Since 1994, about 300,000 rent-controlled apartments have vanished in the city of New York alone, according to official figures.



The new law should directly affect about 2.4 million New Yorkers, out of a population of roughly 8.5 million, who live in close to one million rent-controlled apartments. The legislation only applies to buildings built before 1974, with six or more units.

That has forced low-income and even middle-class families to move, fueling gentrification

of the Big Apple, one of the world's top 10 most expensive cities.

While rents vary by neighborhood, monthly rent for an average two-bedroom apartment in New York has increased from \$1,938 in January 2011 to \$2,831 in January 2019, according to industry data analysis from Rainmaker Insights.

The measure does not just affect New York City; it also offers protections across the state of 20 million people -- including for those renting mobile homes -- from giant rent hikes, questionable evictions and steep security deposits.

"These reforms mean we can go from just holding the line to actually growing the number of apartments New Yorkers can afford," said De Blasio, one of nearly two dozen Democratic presidential candidates.



Dadabhai Travel named Bahrain's top Travel Agency

TDI | Manama

For the third year in a row, Dadabhai Travel has been awarded as Bahrain's Leading Travel Agency 2019 at the World Travel Awards.

The award was presented at the 26th Annual World Travel Awards Middle East Gala Ceremony 2019 held at Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Established in 1993, World Travel Awards aims to acknowledge, reward and celebrate excellence across all sectors of the tourism industry.

Adnan Gilitwala, Dadabhai Travel's director, commenting on the win, said, "Once again

it is a tremendous honour to receive this award as it shows us that our valued clients, partners, and supporters continue to have faith in our ability to deliver the highest level of service in the industry. We promise to continue to repay their faith in us and will strive to maintain both their trust and our place as Bahrain's leading travel agency for many years to come."

Dadabhai travel offers services including corporate, retail and group travel as well as offshore and marine services, hotel and apartment bookings, cruise and rail bookings, and more.

G20 energy ministers to collaborate to keep stability



Japan's Industry Minister Hiroshige Seko

Japan | Karuizawa

Energy ministers from the Group of 20 major economies have shared concerns over attacks on tankers in the Gulf and will collaborate to maintain stability in the oil market, Japan's Industry Minister Hiroshige Seko said yesterday.

Two tankers, one operated by a Japanese shipping company, were attacked on Thursday. The United States blamed Iran for the attacks, raising concerns about a confrontation and driving up oil prices.

"The most important thing was that we have shared an understanding among energy ministers that we need to work together to deal with the recent incidents from energy security point of view," Seko told reporters at a meeting of G20 energy and environment ministers being held this weekend in Karuizawa.

"Same thing happened at our

bilateral meetings," he said, referring to talks with officials from several countries including Saudi Arabia and the United States.

Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih told Seko in their bilateral meeting that it took recent events, including a May 12 attack on four tankers off the United Arab Emirates, "very seriously."

The recent attacks were more harmful than physical damage to the ships as they affected global confidence in energy supply security, he said. "The Kingdom is committed to ensuring stability of global oil markets," he added.

Dan Brouillette, US deputy secretary of energy, also condemned the attacks.

"We stand firmly with Japanese and everyone else," he told a news conference on the sideline of the G20 ministerial meeting.

A G20 summit is to be held in Osaka on June 28-29.

Sudan's Bashir to appear in court on graft charge

Khartoum, Sudan

Ousted Sudanese leader Omar al-Bashir is to appear in court next week to face charges of corruption and illegal possession of foreign currency, the acting prosecutor general announced yesterday.

The announcement came more than two months after the military overthrew Bashir following mass nationwide

protests against his 30-year iron-fisted rule.

Bashir "will appear in court next week following charges of corruption and possessing foreign currency", Al-Waleed Sayyed Ahmed told reporters, without specifying the day. Bashir was facing charges including "possessing foreign funds, acquiring suspected and illegal wealth, and ordering the (state of) emergency".

Back to the Hanfu-ture

Young Chinese revive ancient fashion



Women wearing "hanfu" - traditional Chinese clothing - in a street after attending a gathering of hanfu devotees in Beijing.

Beijing, China

Dressed in a flowing long robe adorned with beaded floral embroidery from a bygone era, stylist Xiao Hang looks like she surfaced from a time machine as she strides across the bustling Beijing metro, attracting curious glances and inquisitive questions.

China has embraced Western fashion and futuristic technology as its economy boomed in recent decades, but a growing number of young people like Xiao are looking to the past for their sartorial choices and donning traditional "hanfu", or "Han clothing".

These historic costumes of the Han ethnic majority are enjoying a renaissance in part because the government is promoting traditional culture in a bid to boost patriotism and national identity.

Period dramas have also contributed to the surge in interest for traditional Chinese garb -- "The Story of Minglan", a TV series set in the Song Dynasty, garnered more than 400 million viewers in three days when it debuted earlier this year.

There is no uniform definition of what counts as hanfu since each Han-dominated dynasty had its own style, but the outfits are characterised by loose, flowing robes that drape around the body, with sleeves that hang down to the knees.

"When we were little, we would also drape sheets and duvets around ourselves to pretend we were wearing beautiful clothes," Xiao said.

Xiao, who used to work at a state-owned machine manufacturing company, now runs her own hanfu business, where

she dresses customers for photo shoots and even plans hanfu-style weddings.

Ancient style, new fashion

In modern China, the hanfu community spans the gamut: from history enthusiasts to anime fans, to students and even young professionals.

Yang Jiaming, a high school student in Beijing, wears his outfit under his school uniform.

"Two-thirds of my wardrobe is hanfu," he said, decked out in a Tang-style beige gown and black boots at a hanfu gathering, adding that his classmates and teachers have been supportive of his style.

A government-supported revival in Chinese culture has given the hanfu community a boost: since he entered office in 2012, President Xi Jinping has supported the idea of promoting a Han-centric version of heritage.

In April, the Communist Youth League of China launched a two-day conference for traditional Chinese garb, including hanfu.

A live broadcast of the event drew some 20 million viewers, alongside a visceral outpouring of emotions.

"Chinese people have abandoned their own culture and chosen Western culture. The red marriage gown has now become a wedding dress," wrote on user on Bilibili, a video streaming platform popular among young anime, comic and gaming fans in China.

Clothes are the "foundation of culture," said Jiang Xue, who is part of Beijing-based hanfu club Mowutianxia, which has received funding from the Communist Youth League.

"If we as a people and as a

country do not even understand our traditional clothing or don't wear them, how can we talk about other essential parts of our culture?" she said.

'Strange clothes'

There is some way before the style reaches mainstream acceptance in China.

In March, two students in Shijiazhuang Medical College in northern China were reportedly threatened with expulsion for wearing the outfits to school.

Others say they're deterred by the odd looks they get when wearing hanfu in public.

"I used to be very embarrassed to wear (hanfu) out," screenwriter Cheng Xia

told AFP.

The 37-year-old said she overcame her reservations after going out dressed in a full outfit last year.

Meanwhile, the movement to revive Han ethnic clothing is raising questions about nationalism and Han-ethnocentrism -- a sensitive issue in China where the government is wary of any inter-ethnic conflict.

For instance, within the hanfu community, there is long-running opposition towards the qipao, the high-collared, figure-hugging garment that used to be a staple of women's wardrobes.

Also known as cheongsam in Cantonese, the qipao -- meaning "Qi robe" -- began as a long, loose dress worn by the Manchus or "Qi" people who ruled China from the 17th century to the early 1900s.

Its popularity took off in 1920s Shanghai when it was modified into a fitted must-have, favoured by actresses and intellectuals as a symbol of femininity and refinement.

"Some people... think that the cheongsam was inspired in the Qing Dynasty, which is not enough to represent China. There are nationalist undertones in this issue," said Chinese culture scholar Gong Pengcheng.

"It is a good trend to explore traditional culture and clothing culture... There are many things we can talk about, and we need not shrink to nationalist confrontation."

Yang, the high school student, is more upbeat.

He said: "At the very least, we can wear our own traditional clothes, just like the ethnic minorities."



SHOW

OASIS JUFFAIR

1-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME) NEW

*-KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.15 + 5.00 + 7.45 + 10.30 + 1.15 AM
DAILY AT (VIP): 4.15 + 9.45 PM

2-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA) NEW

*-SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 9.45 AM + 12.45 + 3.45 + 6.45 + 9.45 + 12.45 MN

3-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY) NEW

*-VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.00 + 4.45 + 7.30 + 10.15 + 1.00 AM
DAILY AT (VIP): 1.30 + 7.00 PM

4-X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW

*-SOPHIE TURNER, JENNIFER LAWRENCE, JESSICA CHASTAIN
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00
1.30 AM
DAILY AT (VIP): 11.15 AM + 12.30 MN

5-THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

*-PATTON OSWALT, KEVIN HART, HARRISON FORD
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH AT 8.00 PM ONWARDS
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 7.00 + 9.00 PM

6-CASABLANCA (PG-15) (ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER) NEW

*-AMIR KARARA, GHADA ADEL, EYAD NASSAR
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 + 1.30 AM

7-THE HUSTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME) NEW

*-ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM

8-KOLAIGARAN (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW

*-VIJAY ANTONY, ASHIMA NARWAL, ARJUN SARJA
FROM THURSDAY 6TH AT 3.00 PM ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 2.00 + 7.15 + 12.30 MN

9-CHILDREN'S PARK (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW

*-DHURVAN, VISHNU UNNIKRISHNAN, SHARAFUDHEEN
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 4.15 + 9.30 PM

10-VIRUS (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW

*-KUNCHACKO BOBAN, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS
FROM FRIDAY 7TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.15 + 6.15 + 9.15 + 12.15 MN

11-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)

*-WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.30 + 5.00 + 7.30 + 10.00 + 12.30 MN
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 4.30 + 11.00 PM + 1.30 AM

CITYCENTRE

1-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME) NEW

*-KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 9.00 AM + 11.45 AM + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 + 1.30 AM
DAILY AT (VIP I): 10.00 AM + 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 +



11.45 PM + 2.30 AM

2-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA) NEW

*-SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 8.00 AM + 11.00 + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 + 2.00 AM

3-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY) NEW

*-VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 9.45 AM + 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM + 2.15 AM
DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 11.45 AM + 5.00 + 10.15 PM
DAILY AT (VIP II): 9.15 AM + 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM + 1.45 AM

4-X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW

*-SOPHIE TURNER, JENNIFER LAWRENCE, JESSICA CHASTAIN
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 8.15 AM + 8.45 AM + 10.45 AM + 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 1.45 + 3.45 + 4.15 + 6.15 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 9.15 + 11.15 + 11.45 PM + 1.45 AM + 2.15 AM
DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 9.15 AM + 2.30 + 7.45 + 1.00 AM

5-THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

*-PATTON OSWALT, KEVIN HART, HARRISON FORD
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH AT 8.00 PM ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 9.45 AM + 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM + 1.45 AM

6-CASABLANCA (PG-15) (ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER) NEW

*-AMIR KARARA, GHADA ADEL, EYAD NASSAR
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 9.00 AM + 11.15 + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM + 12.45 MN + 3.00 AM

7-SABIE AL BOROMBA (PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY) NEW

*-RAMEZ GALAL, BAYOUMI FOUAD, JAMEELA AWAD
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 8.00 AM + 10.00 AM + 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN + 2.00 AM

8-THE HUSTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME) NEW

*-ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 9.00 AM + 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + 1.00 AM + 3.00 AM

9-RASHID & RAJAB (PG) (ARABIC/COMEDY) NEW

*-MARWAN ABDULLAH SALEH, SHADI ALFONS, SHEEMA
FROM EID DAY

DAILY AT: 12.30 + 6.30 + 12.30 MN

10-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)

*-WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 9.00 AM + 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN + 2.30 AM

11-MA (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR)

*-OCTAVIA SPENCER, MISSI PYLE, DIANA SILVERS
DAILY AT: 8.30 AM + 10.30 AM + 2.30 + 4.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM + 2.30 AM

12-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)

*-BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
DAILY AT: 8.00 AM + 11.30 AM + 3.00 + 6.30 + 10.00 PM + 1.30 AM

SEEF (I)

1-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME) NEW

*-KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 10.00 AM + 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM + 2.30 AM

2-X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW

*-SOPHIE TURNER, JENNIFER LAWRENCE, JESSICA CHASTAIN
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.15 + 4.45 + 7.15 + 9.45 + 12.15 MN + 2.45 AM

3-THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

*-PATTON OSWALT, KEVIN HART, HARRISON FORD
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH AT 8.00 PM ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + 1.00 AM
(ARABIC DUBBED)
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + 1.00 AM

4-CASABLANCA (PG-15) (ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER) NEW

*-AMIR KARARA, GHADA ADEL, EYAD NASSAR
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN + 2.15 AM

5-SABIE AL BOROMBA (PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY) NEW

*-RAMEZ GALAL, BAYOUMI FOUAD, JAMEELA AWAD
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + 1.00 AM + 3.00 AM

6-THE HUSTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME) NEW

*-ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM + 12.45 MN + 2.45 AM

7-RASHID & RAJAB (PG) (ARABIC/COMEDY) NEW

*-MARWAN ABDULLAH SALEH, SHADI ALFONS, SHEEMA
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 4.30 + 8.30 PM + 12.30 MN

8-BLOOD BOUND (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER) NEW

*-TIMOTHY HUGHES, EDEN BROLIN, ROSA ARREDONDO
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 2.30 + 6.30 + 10.30 PM + 2.30 AM

9-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)

*-WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM + 1.30 AM

SEEF (I)

1-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA) NEW

*-SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 10.00 AM + 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 11.00 PM + 1.00 AM + 2.00 AM

2-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY) NEW

*-VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 PM + 1.30 AM

3-CHHALAWA (PG-15) (URDU/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW

*-MEHWISH HAYAT, AZFAR REHMAN, ZARA NOOR ABBAS
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 4.15 + 9.00 PM + 1.45 AM

4-WRONG NO.2 (PG-13) (URDU/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW

*-SAMI KHAN, NEELAM MUNEEB, MEHMOOD ASLAM
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 1.45 + 6.30 + 11.15 PM

5-VIRUS (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW

*-KUNCHACKO BOBAN, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS
FROM FRIDAY 7TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.30 + 4.30 + 7.30 + 10.30 PM + 1.30 PM

SAAR

1-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME) NEW

*-KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.15 + 7.30 + 10.15 PM + 1.00 AM

2-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA) NEW

*-SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.30 + 6.30 + 9.30 PM + 12.30 MN

3-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY) NEW

*-VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.00 + 4.45 + 10.00 PM + 12.45 MN

4-X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW

*-SOPHIE TURNER, JENNIFER LAWRENCE, JESSICA CHASTAIN
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS

DAILY AT: 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM + 1.15 AM

5-THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

*-PATTON OSWALT, KEVIN HART, HARRISON FORD
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH AT 8.00 PM ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 PM

6-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)

*-WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 10.00 AM + 5.00 + 7.30 PM

AL HAMRA

1-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA) NEW

*-SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 9.00 AM + 12.00 MN

2-VIRUS (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW

*-KUNCHACKO BOBAN, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 9.00 PM + 3.00 AM

3-CHILDREN'S PARK (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW

*-DHURVAN, VISHNU UNNIKRISHNAN, SHARAFUDHEEN
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 3.00 PM

4-KOLAIGARAN (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW

*-VIJAY ANTONY, ASHIMA NARWAL, ARJUN SARJA
FROM THURSDAY 6TH AT 3.00 PM ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 6.00 PM

WADI AL SAIL

1-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME) NEW

*-KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.00 + 4.45 + 7.30 + 10.15 + 1.00 AM

2-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA) NEW

*-SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 9.30 AM + 12.30 + 3.30 + 6.30 + 9.30 + 12.30 MN

3-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY) NEW

*-VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.45 + 4.30 + 7.15 + 10.00 + 12.45 MN

4-X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW

*-SOPHIE TURNER, JENNIFER LAWRENCE, JESSICA CHASTAIN
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 + 1.15 AM

5-THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

*-PATTON OSWALT, KEVIN HART, HARRISON FORD
FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH AT 8.00 PM ONWARDS
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 PM

6-CASABLANCA (PG-15) (ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER) NEW

*-AMIR KARARA, GHADA ADEL, EYAD NASSAR
FROM EID DAY
DAILY AT: 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 + 1.30 AM

7-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)

*-WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 + 1.30 AM

MOVIE REVIEW

'Slender Man' is a tedious paint-by-numbers of horror cliches

'Slender Man' misses the mark on its meme, comes up skinny on scares

Slender Man is a 2018 American supernatural horror film directed by Sylvain White and written by David Birke, based on the character of the same name.

The film stars Joey King, Julia Goldani Telles, Jaz Sinclair, Annalise Basso, Alex Fitzalan, and Taylor Richardson, with Javier Botet as the title creature.

Development of the film began in May 2016, with Birke hired to write the script and much of the cast signing on a year later. Filming took place in Massachusetts in June and July 2017.

Released in the United States on August 10, 2018, the film grossed over \$51 million worldwide and received a largely negative reception from critics and audiences. For her performance, Sinclair was nominated for the Golden Raspberry Award for Worst Supporting Actress.

On Rotten Tomatoes, Slender Man holds an approval rating of 7% based on 71 reviews and an average rating of 3.2/10. The website's critical consensus reads, "Slender Man might be thin, but



Joey King in "Slender Man"

he's positively robust compared to the flimsy assortment of scares generated by the would-be chiller that bears his name."

On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 30 out of 100 based on 15 critics, indicating "generally unfavourable reviews".

Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of "D—" on an A+ to F scale, while PostTrak reported filmgoers gave it an "awful" 38%



Based on an internet meme that led to a brutal stabbing, this doctored frightener has truly missed its moment

positive score; social media monitor RelishMix noted that "the majority's feeling toward [the] film" was negative.

David Ehrlich of IndieWire gave the film a D, writing "a tasteless and inedibly undercooked serving of the Internet's stalest creepypasta, Slender Man aspires to be for the YouTube era what The Ring was to the last gasps of the VHS generation. But... there's one fundamental difference that sets the two movies apart: The Ring is good, and Slender Man is terrible."

celebs

'Charlie's Angels' reboot will depict working women: Elizabeth Banks

Los Angeles

Elizabeth Banks says her upcoming directorial, the reboot of "Charlie's Angels", will explore the themes of women at work, which also includes movements like #MeToo and Time's Up.

In an interview with The Hollywood Reporter, the 45-year-old actor-director said she wants to show that women have more complex things going on in their lives than their relationships with other people.

"I went back to the original idea in 'Charlie's Angels', which was that women were in the workforce. And all of the things that I feel are happening in the women's movement right now, whether it be #MeToo, or I say this in a time of dire straits for women's rights in this country right now but I feel like all those things are happening because women are in the workforce in greater numbers than ever in human history," Banks said.



Elizabeth Banks

Madonna feels Instagram is designed to make one feel bad

Los Angeles

Photo and video-sharing social networking site Instagram is packed with dozens of celebrity accounts. One such celebrity Madonna, who has almost 14 million followers, feels Instagram is designed "to make you feel bad."



Madonna

In a recent interview with The Sun, the American singer expressed her displeasure with the social media platform and said it

makes people "a slave to winning other's approvals."

"You get caught up in comparing yourself to other people. Should I be like that, act like that, look like that? Will that make me more popular, or more successful?" Madonna told

the UK paper, reported Page Six.

Towards the end of the interview, the 60-year-old singer revealed that

she is also considering standing for presidential elections. She, however, immediately added: "I can't imagine a worse job."

Jennifer Lawrence gets those pre-wedding jitters

Los Angeles

Jennifer Lawrence who is all excited and busy in planning her wedding with art dealer Cooke Maroney is getting wedding jitters.

The actor who got engaged in February, and enjoyed an engagement party in New York, opened up about her relationship, wedding plans and more on Thursday during an episode of Catt Sadler's "Naked" podcast as Fox News cited it.

Aside from her excitement over the marriage with Maroney, (she said he's "the greatest human being [she's] ever met"), the 28-year-old Academy Award-winning actor also admitted that she recently had a moment where she was less than calm.



Jennifer Lawrence

Bradley Cooper in talks to star in Del Toro's 'Nightmare Alley'

Los Angeles

Actor Bradley Cooper is in negotiations to headline filmmaker Guillermo del Toro's next feature, the remake of "Nightmare Alley".

According to Variety, actor Leonardo DiCaprio was previously circling the project but has since passed it.

Sources told the outlet that Cooper, who most recently directed and acted in Academy Award nominated film "A Star is Born", has received an offer for the project. It is not yet known whether he has struck a deal for it.



Los Angeles

Actor Freida Pinto is the latest star to join the cast of filmmaker Ron Howard's next directorial venture "Hillbilly Elegy".

The project, which hails from Netflix stable, is based on the bestselling memoir of the same name by author JD Vance.

Pinto, who most recently featured in "Mowgli: Legend of the Jungle", joins Amy Adams, Glenn Close, Haley Bennett and Gabriel Byrne in the project.

Freida Pinto boards Ron Howard's 'Hillbilly Elegy'

According to Variety, actors Bo Hopkins and Owen Asztalos have also boarded the cast.

The film's story, described as a modern exploration of the American Dream, follows three generations of an Appalachian family as told by its youngest member, a Yale Law student forced to return to his hometown.

Freida Pinto



Khloe Kardashian

Khloe Kardashian doesn't wish to see Jordyn Woods again

Los Angeles

Khloe Kardashian is not ready to make peace with Jordyn Woods even after Kylie Jenner has, for cheating on her sister's then-boyfriend Tristan Thompson.

After the controversy, the Kardashian-Jenner family has decided to keep their distance from Woods including Khloe, who shares 14-month-old daughter True with ex-boyfriend Thompson. "Khloe never wants to see Jordyn again," the source said.

A source informed People that "Kylie and Jordyn are friendly, but it seems they will never be as close again as they were. They will never be BFFs again."

However, "Kylie is happy that their relationship isn't as negative and dramatic as it was," said the source.

"It's Kylie's choice to have some contact with Jordyn. She understands that it's still all very sensitive and hurtful for Khloe," the source further explained.



Jordyn Woods

Jennifer Lopez all set to tie the knot with boyfriend Alex Rodriguez

Los Angeles

American actor and singer Jennifer Lopez is on cloud nine as she is all set to marry her love, Alex Rodriguez after dating him for two years.

According to Fox News, the 49-year-old actor is excited about her fourth marriage. The actor opened up about her upcoming wedding celebrations in a new behind-the-scenes video from her 'It's My Party' tour.

"I'd like a big wedding and I'd like to get married in a church this time," she explained while rehearsing for a show. "I've never been married in a church."

"I've been married three times, and one was nine months and one was 11 months, so I don't really count those," she added. The other two marriages that the singer is referring to are her relationships with Ojani Noa from 1997 to 1998 and to Cris Judd from 2001 to 2003.

Jennifer Lopez and Alex Rodriguez



Jennifer Aniston reveals about her new crush Steve Carell

Los Angeles

Jennifer Aniston revealed that she has a huge crush on actor and comedian Steve Carell.

The 50-year-old made the revelation on Friday when she sat down to talk about her new Netflix movie and also about her upcoming series on Apple's new streaming service, Apple TV+, reported Fox News.

During her appearance, the actor admitted that all of the ladies on the comedy-drama web television show "The Morning Show" have a huge crush on Steve Carell.

"He's like a silver fox now," Aniston said. "And he just came in and no one expected, you know ... everybody was so cute, and he's so shy and fantastic. He's just better with age, it's amazing." Jennifer Aniston



CHANGE OF NAME

I, TAHSEEN D/O MOHAMMED ZAHEERUDDIN RAFI, holder of Indian Passport No. M4599470, dated 31.03.2015 issued at BAHRAIN having permanent residence at (full address in India) ASMITA UPAHAR - II, A-301, POONAM SAGAR COMPLEX, MIRA ROAD (E), THANE - 401107 and presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) FLAT NO - 25, BUILDING NO - 645, ROAD 2107, GUDAIBIYA, BAHRAIN, will henceforth be known as (Given name) TAHSEEN RAFI (Surname) MOHAMMED. Objection(s) if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O Box 26106, Bldg 1090, Road 2819, Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

SPORTS
sports

Coutinho brace helps Brazil beat Bolivia

● Philippe Coutinho scored two goals and caused havoc with his corners as hosts Brazil opened the Copa America with a 3-0 win over Bolivia

AFP | Sao Paulo, Brazil

A brace from Philippe Coutinho handed hosts Brazil a winning start to the Copa America on Friday in a 3-0 victory over Bolivia as the absence of superstar Neymar was quickly forgotten.

Barcelona's Coutinho scored from the penalty spot early in the second half and added a close-range header three minutes later.

Substitute Everton netted a sensational third five minutes from time to clinch a Group A victory for coach Tite's tournament favorites in Sao Paulo.

The build-up to the competition had been dominated by Neymar's woes, firstly when he was accused of rape by a Brazilian model, and then when he damaged ankle ligaments in a friendly last week, forcing him out of the Copa.

If Brazil's first half performance was anything to go by, the Paris Saint-Germain star was sorely missed, but Coutinho's brace at least silenced the jeers that met the team at half-time.

"Whistles are part of the



Brazil's Philippe Coutinho (2-L) scores a header against Bolivia

game, the fans want us to win and play well, so that's why they jeer," said the match-winner, whose goals papered over the cracks of an at times disjointed performance.

"We always want their support but we're focused on the objective, which is the match," Coutinho told Brazil's SportTV.

"Whistles or cheers, the important thing is to stay focused and get the win."

Brazil made a bright start and predictably dominated the early possession and chances.

But surprisingly their greatest threat came from set-pieces with Coutinho's corner delivery causing panic in the Bolivian backline.

Bolivia's goalkeeper Carlos Lampe made an instinctive



Neymar was ruled out of the Copa America because of an ankle injury

block from a Roberto Firmino flick that came straight at him.

And a few minutes later, towering center-half Thiago Silva was left unmarked eight yards out to meet another Coutinho delivery, but he inexplicably

headed well wide.

The pitch at the Morumbi stadium wasn't helping flowing football, with Bolivia in particular struggling to string passes together.

"We've got to be honest, Brazil beat us and beat us well," said Bolivia coach Eduardo Villegas.

Brazil, wearing white shirts and blue shorts, weaved almost geometric patterns around their unambitious visitors but struggled to test Lampe.

Their best chances came from Bolivian mistakes and Richarlison should have scored into an open goal when a woeful Lampe clearance went straight to him, but the Everton forward failed to lift the ball over defender Adrian Jusino, who headed clear from the edge of the 18-yard box.

Barrage of jeers

With 10 men behind the ball, Bolivia were proving hard to break down but Casemiro went close with what appeared to be a shanked cross that drifted just beyond Lampe's far post with the goalkeeper scrambling to cover it.

Tite's team were treated to a barrage of jeers from the 67,000 crowd when the half-time whistle went.

Bolivia's best moment had perhaps been a cheeky nutmeg of Casemiro by Raul Castro on the edge of his own 18-yard box. It had been slim pickings.

Fans' spirits were quickly lifted after the restart, though, as Coutinho fired home from the spot on 50 minutes after a contentious penalty award.

Richarlison's attempted cross struck Jusino's arm, which was by his side and only slightly away from his body, but after consulting the video assistant referee, Argentine handler Nestor Pitana pointed to the spot.

Bolivia were stunned and just three minutes later their defence went missing as Firmino reached the bye line and chipped the ball to the back post for Coutinho to head home from barely two yards out.

Reluctant to push men forward, Bolivia never looked like getting back into the match.

"If you want to qualify (for the knock-out stages) you have to attack a little more," admitted Villegas.

F1 to award superlicence points to Friday drivers

Reuters | London

Formula One hopefuls will be able to earn superlicence points through taking part in Friday free practice sessions at grands prix next season, the governing FIA announced on Friday.

All drivers require a superlicence to debut in Formula One and need to acquire 40 points through racing in other series across three seasons.

A free practice only superlicence requires at least 25 points.

The FIA said holders of such a limited superlicence would be granted an additional point per Formula One world championship event if they did at least 100km in a session without incurring any penalty points.

"A maximum total of 10 such additional points may be awarded per driver for free practice sessions over a three year period," it added.

The new all-female W Series, which started this year, will also be eligible for points from 2020. The FIA did not say how many would be awarded to the winner.

Windies all-rounder Brathwaite reprimanded for showing dissent



West Indies' Carlos Brathwaite during nets

Reuters | London

West Indies all-rounder Carlos Brathwaite has received an official reprimand and one demerit point for showing dissent to an umpire's decision during the World Cup match against England, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said yesterday.

Brathwaite showed his displeasure after he was adjudged caught behind off England fast bowler Jofra Archer during the 44th over of the West Indies innings on Friday.

"Brathwaite admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by David Bacon of the Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Match Referees and, as such, there was no need for a formal hearing," the ICC said in a statement.

Four demerit points within a two-year period incurs a ban from one test or two one-dayers or two T20Is, whatever comes first for the player.

Barty looking forward to fresh start on grass

Reuters | London

Newly-crowned French Open champion Ashleigh Barty is looking forward to a fresh start as she gets ready to begin her build-up to Wimbledon on Birmingham's grass-courts next week.

Against most people's predictions the 23-year-old Australian notched up her first Grand Slam title on Parisian clay rather than the lawns to which her all-court game is most suited.

All eyes will now be on the world number two as she attempts to do something only six women have ever achieved — win the French Open and Wimbledon back to back.

"In all honesty this is a fresh start, a clean slate and a new season, jumping on the grass," Barty told reporters on Friday at the Edgbaston club which again has attracted a high-class field ahead of next month's Wimbledon.

"I'm excited to be here in Birmingham. This is a time of year that I love playing ten-



Australia's Ashleigh Barty poses with the trophy at the Roland Garros

nis. It's one of the best times of the year. The bonus is I've been playing a lot of tennis and hitting a lot of balls. Now it's about adjusting to the surface.

"But I find it an easy adjustment to make. I feel fresh; I feel good."

Barty, a former junior Wimbledon champion who quit tennis in 2014 to play first-class cricket, said she was still enjoying the glow of her achievement in Paris where she beat Czech youngster Marketa Vondrousova to become the first Australian woman for 46 years to win the Roland Garros title.



Junior players with their certificate confirming their official ranks during a ranking event conducted by Bahrain Tennis Academy (BTA). Invited players participated in matches against other academy players in a round-robin format in three age groups: 8-and-under, 10-and-under and 12-and-under at the Dilmun Club, Saar. At the end of proceedings players were presented with certificates. Keagan Fernandes (8-and-under), Abdulaziz Al Betairi (10-and-under) and Rohan Mukherjee (12-and-under) achieved the number one ranking in their respective age groups

Root is England's glue, says Morgan

Reuters | Southampton

England captain Eoin Morgan heaped praise on batsman Joe Root whose polished century led the team to an emphatic eight-wicket Cricket World Cup victory over West Indies on Friday.

Root was pushed up the order to open after Jason Roy sustained a hamstring injury, and

he responded with his second century of the tournament as the hosts secured their third win in four matches.

"Exceptionally pleased, I think he is now the highest run scorer in the tournament," Morgan told a news conference.

"He's scored two hundreds. He's such an important player for us. He is the glue that holds everything together."

Root struck 11 fours and faced only 94 balls in his 100 not out as England strolled to a target of 213 with nearly 17 overs to spare, fuelling their hopes of winning the World Cup for the first time.

"It's probably a side of his batting that has got better over the last two or three years that people haven't seen a lot of, his expansive game," Morgan said.

Finch, Starc shine as Australia edge Sri Lanka

● Aaron Finch and Mitchell Starc power Australia to victory in World Cup

● Australia go top of the World Cup standings

AFP | London

Australia captain Aaron Finch and pace bowler Mitchell Starc stole the show as the holders eased to an 87-run win over Sri Lanka at the Oval on Saturday.

Finch equalled his career-best one-day international score with a masterful 153 and Steve Smith chipped in with 73 as Australia scored 334-7.

Needing a World Cup record run-chase to claim a shock win, Sri Lanka got off to a flying start thanks to a first-wicket partnership of 115 between captain Dimuth Karunaratne and Kusal Perera.

But Perera departed for 52 and when Karunaratne fell on 97 the game swung back in Australia's direction.

Starc was the catalyst with a fiery spell of three wickets in six balls, Australia eventually dismissing Sri Lanka for 247 thanks in large part to his 4-55 from 10 overs.

Kane Williamson added three wickets of his own as Australia made it four wins from their five group matches after previously beating Afghanistan, the West Indies and Pakistan.

Their lone defeat in the 10-team tournament came against India and their latest victory puts them well on course for a semi-final berth.

Sri Lanka, who lost their last seven



Aaron Finch plays a shot

wickets for 42 runs, have only one win from their five matches, a disappointing run that includes two washouts.

They face a struggle to reach the semi-finals with only four matches left, a spell that features encounters with title contenders England and India.

Sri Lanka had briefly looked capable of surpassing the World Cup chase set by Ireland, who made 329-7 to beat England in 2011.

Karunaratne and his opening partner Perera blasted 24 from the first two overs and reached their fifty partnership in just the seventh over.

But Starc bowled Perera and Jason Behrendorff dismissed Lahiru Thirimanne for 16 as Australia hit back.

A six from Kusal Mendis in the 31st over signalled Sri Lanka's intent to get cracking.

But crucially Karunaratne stumbled short of his maiden World Cup century when he carelessly flicked Richardson to Glenn Maxwell at backward point.

That left Sri Lanka 186-3 and set the stage for Starc to turn the screw by dismissing Milinda Siriwardana, Thisara Perera and Mendis in quick succession.

Mendis's mistimed drive off Starc reduced Sri Lanka to 222-7 and shattered their resistance.

Earlier, Finch took the Sri Lanka attack apart with a dazzling display that included 15 fours and five sixes.

He was well-supported by Smith's 73 from 59 balls and the pair put on 173 runs for the third wicket.

Together with opening partner David Warner, Finch took the attack to the Sri Lankans after being put in to bat under cloudy skies in south London.

Australia	
D. Warner b De Silva	26
A. Finch c Karunaratne b Udana	153
U. Khawaja c Udana b De Silva	10
S. Smith b Malinga	73
G. Maxwell not out	46
S. Marsh c Siriwardana b Udana	3
A. Carey run out (Udana)	4
P. Cummins run out (Udana)	0
M. Starc not out	5
Extras (lb4, nb1, w9)	14
Total (seven wickets, 50 overs)	334

New Zealand	
D. Karunaratne c Maxwell b Richardson	97
K. Perera b Starc	52
L. Thirimanne c Carey b Behrendorff	16
K. Mendis c Carey b Starc	30
A. Mathews c Carey b Cummins	9
M. Siriwardana b Starc	3
T. Perera c Warner b Starc	7
D. de Silva not out	16
I. Udana c Finch b Richardson	8
L. Malinga c Khawaja b Richardson	1
N. Pradeep c Carey b Cummins	0
Extras (lb2, w6)	8
Total (all out, 45 overs)	247



Cricket World Cup 2019 standings

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	No result	Run rate	Points
Australia	5	4	1	0	0	0.812	8
New Zealand	4	3	0	0	1	2.163	7
England	3	2	1	0	0	1.307	4
India	3	2	0	0	1	0.539	5
Sri Lanka	5	1	2	0	2	-1.778	4
West Indies	3	1	1	0	1	2.054	3
Bangladesh	4	1	1	0	1	-0.714	3
S Africa	5	1	3	0	1	-0.952	3
Pakistan	3	1	1	0	1	-2.412	3
Afghanistan	4	0	4	0	0	-1.264	0

Today's match

India v Pakistan



Rohit Sharma



Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester
12:30pm



Mohammad Amir

- » India is unbeaten and in excellent form but they are going to be without Shikhar Dhawan in this match
- » Pakistan won against England, the favourite to win this tournament, and cannot be counted out. Mohammad Amir is going to be very difficult to face in overcast conditions.
- » India has a very good record against Pakistan in recent times and has never lost a match against them in a World Cup

India

India have won 10 out of the 15 completed one-day internationals that they have played this year. With two wins and a wash-out from their first three matches in the ongoing World Cup, the men in blue are sitting on the third spot in the CWC 2019 standings with five points. After registering a six-wicket win over South Africa in their campaign opener at Southampton, they got the better of Australia by 36 runs in their next match at London. India, however, had to share points with New Zealand in their previous game at Nottingham due to abandonment.

Probable XI

Lokesh Rahul, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli (c), Vijay Shankar/Dinesh Karthik, MS Dhoni (wk), Hardik Pandya, Kedar Jadhav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami/Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah

PITCH REPORT



Everyone is going to have one eye in the sky because rain has already played havoc with the tournament. The weather forecast is not good. There is a lot of rain expected to fall on match day. The current forecast suggests a 50% chance of rain throughout the day. We have to hope for a miracle otherwise the most awaited match of the tournament may be a washout.

Head to Head

- India and Pakistan have played 127 completed one-day internationals against each other in the past with the scoreline reading 73-54 in favor of the latter.
- India have beaten Pakistan six times in the last eight ODI encounters between the two nations. India won both their matches against them in last year's Asia Cup at the UAE.
- The two teams have faced each other just once at the Old Trafford in the 50-over format. The match was played at the 1999 ICC Cricket World Cup with India emerging victorious by 47 runs.

South Africa eye first win after bundling out Afghanistan

AFP | Cardiff

South Africa bowled out Afghanistan for just 125 in a rain-shortened match in Cardiff on Saturday as they fought to keep their faltering World Cup hopes alive.

Faf du Plessis's side have endured a torrid campaign so far, losing their first three matches and then picking up one point from a rain-ruined match against the West Indies.

Afghanistan, who have lost all three of their matches in England and Wales, made a bright start but their middle order collapsed spectacularly and just three of their players reached double figures.

There was little sign of the carnage to come when Hazratullah Zazai and Noor Ali Zadran put on 39 runs for the first wicket.

After a short rain delay Zazai was the first to go, caught by Rassie van der Dussen for 22 off the bowling of paceman Kagiso Rabada.

Chris Morris trapped Rahmat Shah lbw for six and Afghanistan were 69-2 after 20 overs when the heavens opened again and the covers came on, with officials opting to reduce the match to 48 overs a side.



Afghanistan's Rashid Khan plays a shot as South Africa's Quinton de Kock looks on

When play resumed Hashmatullah Shahidi was out without any addition to the score, caught in the slips by Du Plessis off the bowling of Andile Phehlukwayo for eight.

Leg-spinner Tahir bowled Zadran for 32 with his first ball and then caught Asghar Afghan off his own bowling for nought in the same over to plunge Afghanistan into deep trouble.

Mohammad Nabi became the third Afghan batsmen to lose his wicket in

the space of seven balls when he was bowled by Phehlukwayo.

When Gulbadin Naib was caught by Aiden Markram of the bowling of Tahir, Afghanistan were teetering on the brink of disaster at 77-7.

Rashid Khan struck 35 from 25 balls, with six fours, but even his late flourish could only lift the score to 125, which looks hopelessly inadequate.

At the time of closing South Africa scored 87 runs in 19 overs without losing a wicket.

Harbhajan warns India stars to expect sleepless night as Pakistan loom

AFP | London

Harbhajan Singh has warned India's stars to expect a sleepless night ahead of their World Cup showdown with arch rivals Pakistan today.

India legend Harbhajan knows from bitter experience just how stressful it is to take part in one of most fierce rivalries in world sport. The tense political situation between India and Pakistan lends an extra level of animosity whenever the feuding neighbours clash on the cricket pitch.

Their latest meeting comes with the stakes even higher than usual in the World Cup at Old Trafford this weekend and Harbhajan is well aware just how high emotions will be running on the pitch and in the

stands.

The 38-year-old spinner played 17 times against Pakistan in a 236-match ODI career for India, including arguably their biggest ever match in the 2011 World Cup semi-finals on home soil in Chandigarh.

It was such a critical fixture that Harbhajan lay awake for hours tossing and turning in bed the night before the game as he visualised the furious response from the Indian public if they lost.

"The memories of that game was I couldn't sleep the night before, even though I tried my best," Harbhajan said.

"I was just worried about what would happen if we lost the game. There were a lot of thoughts coming into my mind."