

Kiwis praise team but query 'cruel' rules

Heartbroken New Zealanders expressed pride yesterday in the Black Caps' fighting spirit after defeat to England in the Cricket World Cup final, but also bemusement at the obscure rules that cost them the match. **P16**

OP-ED **8**

Is Tehran preparing for a showdown with the US?

THE DAILY **tribune**



Casting remarks were 'widely taken out of context': Scarlett Johansson

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WORLD **5** India scrubs Moon mission launch

Italy seizes missiles

Rome

Anti-terrorism police in northern Italy have seized an air-to-air missile and other sophisticated weapons during raids on far-right extremist groups.

Three people were arrested, two of them near Forli airport. Neo-Nazi propaganda was also seized, in the raids.

The raids were part of an investigation into Italian far-right help for Russian-backed separatist forces in eastern Ukraine, local media said.

The missile was one of those used by the Qatari army, Italian police said.

The Turin special police force, called Digos, led the operations, assisted by police in Milan, Varese, Forli and Novara.

Italian media named those arrested as Fabio Del Bergiolo, 50, an Italian ex-customs officer and far-right Forza Nuova party activist; Alessandro Monti, 42, a Swiss national; and Fabio Bernardi, 51, also Italian.

The missile appears to be a French-made Matra Super 530 F.

"During the operation, an air-to-air missile in perfect working order and used by the Qatari army was seized," police said in a statement.

On July 3, a court in Genoa jailed three men who were found guilty of fighting alongside the Russian-backed separatists who control a large swathe of Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk regions.



03 Al Jazeera documentary reflects Qatar regime's 'conspiracy against Kingdom'

04 Gulf national's prison term upheld in fake currency trial

07 Monsoon toll rises across South Asia

210 fils (includes VAT)



New vision for housing labourers

Special areas may be assigned exclusively for labour camps



HRH the Premier chairs the Cabinet.

● **The move follows many lawmakers complaining about the spread of labour camps into residential neighbourhoods.**

● **HRH the Premier gave directives to speed up measures to support licensed shrimpers.**

Manama

The Cabinet chaired by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday directed to address the issue of labour camps spreading into residential neighbourhoods meant for families.

HRH the Premier also instructed the Minister of Labour and Social Development to carry out inspections into the accommodation facilities of expat labourers to prevent them staying in old or dilapidated buildings.

The Cabinet noted that the



safety of labourers is of utmost importance.

The move follows many lawmakers complaining about the spread of labour camps into residential neighbourhoods, creating a panic over social security.

The Premier also asked the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning and the Ministry of Labour and Social Development to submit their visions and recommendations in this regard.

Among other things, HRH the Premier gave directives to speed up taking measures that would support licensed shrimpers who had been affected by the shrimp

trawling ban decision.

The Ministerial Committee for Financial, Economic and Fiscal Balance Affairs has been asked to submit the necessary administrative and financial recommendations to implement the Premier's directives, a post-session statement by the Cabinet Secretary-General, Dr Yasser Al Nasser, said.

HRH the Premier was informed about the progress of the implementation of his directives to increase stocks of stored food, oil, water and medicines, and to achieve self-sufficiency in some food and animal products.

In line with the Royal directives on the effective application of alternative punishment, and HRH Premier's instructions to ministries to devise programmes to expand the scope of their implementation,

The Cabinet was informed about several kinds of community service work proposed at the Industry, Commerce and Tourism Ministry, as part of the alternative punishment programme set for about 55 convicts, and expected to last between one month and one year.

Yemen sides agree Hodeidah 'ceasefire mechanism'

● **The monitors should work with the parties so that the security of the area is assured by local security forces in accordance with Yemeni law.**

Jeddah

Yemen's warring sides have agreed on a "mechanism and new measures to reinforce the ceasefire and de-escalation" around the flashpoint port of Hodeidah, as well as technical aspects of a troop pullback, the United Nations said yesterday.

Representatives of the Yemeni government and Houthi militia were picked up at different locations by a UN ship and held talks in the Red Sea off Yemen, the first such meeting since February, a UN statement said.

The agreement came as the UN special envoy to Yemen Martin Griffiths said he held a "productive meeting" with Saudi Arabia's deputy defence

minister Prince Khalid bin Salman on Monday in Jeddah.

Tweeting about the meeting, Griffiths said he discussed with Prince Khalid how to keep Yemen out of ongoing regional tensions and how to make progress in the implementation of the Stockholm agreement with the support of the Kingdom.

Also Monday, the UN Security Council voted unanimously to extend its ceasefire observation mission in Hodeidah by six months, until Jan 15, 2020.

It also called on Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to deploy a full contingent of observers "expeditiously" in the mission, which is mandated to have 75 staff but currently only has 20 on the ground.

The text adopted Monday stressed that the UN mission should "monitor the compliance of the parties to the ceasefire in Hodeida governorate and the mutual redeployment of forces from the city of Hodeida and the ports of Hodeida, Salif and Ras Issa."

The monitors should work with the parties so that the security of the area "is assured by local security forces in accordance with Yemeni law."



“ We discussed with Prince Khalid how to keep Yemen out of ongoing regional tensions and how to make progress in the implementation of the Stockholm agreement. **”**

MR GRIFFITHS

Fuel price rise claims denied

Manama

The National Oil and Gas Authority has denied allegations being circulated on several social media accounts about fuel price rise in the Kingdom.

Several social media accounts have circulated allegation saying that starting from

yesterday onwards the premium 95 octane fuel would be increased to become 234 fils/litre, the good 91 octane fuel to become 152 fils/litre and 190 fils/litre for the diesel fuel.

The National Oil and Gas Authority affirmed that the premium and good fuel prices are maintained at 200 fils/litre and 140 fils/litre respectively.

SPY CHARGE

Franco-Iranian academic arrested in Iran

● **The news of her arrest comes at a difficult time amid heightened tensions between Iran and the US and other Western countries.**

Tehran

A Franco-Iranian academic based at Paris' prestigious Sciences Po

university has been arrested in Iran and denied contact with consular staff, the French foreign ministry said yesterday.

"France calls on the Iranian authorities to shed full light on Mrs Fariba Adelkhah's situation and repeats its demands, particularly with regard to an immediate authorisation for consular access," it said in a statement.

Foreign-based Iranian media reported Adelkhah, an anthropologist, was arrested on suspicion of espionage.

France has yet to be given



Iran has detained Franco-Iranian dual national Fariba Adelkhah, an anthropology professor at Paris' prestigious Sciences Po university.

"satisfactory information" on her status, the statement also

said.

"The French authorities in this difficult context have taken steps with Iranian authorities to get information from them on her situation and the conditions of her arrest and asked for consular access," foreign ministry spokeswoman Agnes von der Muhll said in a statement.

"No satisfactory response has been given to these requests. France calls on the Iranian authorities to bring to light Mrs Adelkhah's situation and reiterates its requests, in particular

the authorisation of consular access without delay," she added.

The news of her arrest comes at a difficult time amid heightened tensions between Iran and the US and other Western countries. Sciences Po, the elite school where Abdelkhah works, confirmed her arrest but refused to comment.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency quoted government spokesman Ali Rabiei on Sunday acknowledging a dual national had been arrested, without elaborating.



BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received the Military Attaché of Yemen to Bahrain Brigadier Ahmed Saleh Laheb. The Commander-in-chief welcomed the newly-appointed Yemeni military attaché, wishing him success. They reviewed the fraternal ties between the two countries.



The Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received the Military Attaché of Kuwait to Bahrain Brigadier Nasser Abdulaziz Al Samhan. The BDF Commander-in-chief expressed his gratitude and appreciation of Brigadier Al Samhan's efforts throughout his term in the Kingdom.



BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, received Dr Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health (SCH). The commander-in-chief praised the good efforts exerted by SCH to develop and improve the quality of health services provided to citizens and residents in Bahrain.



The Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received the Royal Court's Follow-up Minister Shaikh Ahmed bin Atiyatallah Al Khalifa. They reviewed various topics pertaining to ongoing co-operation between the BDF and the Royal Court.



The Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Fawzia Zainal, yesterday received The Daily Tribune Editor-in-Chief and Chairman of Arab-African Organisation for Human Rights, Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood, who presented a copy of his book 'The King of Humanity...Human Rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain' to the Speaker.



Iraqi Prime Minister Adil Abdul Mahdi received Bahrain's Ambassador in Baghdad Salah Ali Al Malki, who conveyed greetings of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and his wishes to the people of Iraq of further progress and prosperity. The ambassador expressed Bahrain's pride in the deep-rooted brotherly relations binding the two countries, stressing the Kingdom's keenness on enhancing joint ties for the common interests of the two countries. Prime Minister Adil Abdul Mahdi extended his his greetings to HM the King hailing strong fraternal relations. He also affirmed his country's keenness on bolstering relations with the Kingdom.



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs held at the Ministry's General Court yesterday a farewell ceremony for outgoing Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Bahrain Simon Martin. Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Duaij Al Khalifa praised the ambassador's efforts to strengthen relations between the two countries at all levels. She also noted the distinguished relations of friendship between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the friendly United Kingdom. For his part, Mr. Simon Martin expressed gratitude and appreciation to the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the officials at the ministry for their support to him during his tenure, wishing the Kingdom of Bahrain further progress and prosperity.



A delegation of the Brazilian government travelled to Bahrain last week to help close a long-term deal with BRAVE Combat Federation for the Bahraini promotion's events to take place in Brazil in the next few years. The goal is to help tourism and economy through the impact that a BRAVE Combat Federation event has in those fields on the countries it goes to. Special Adviser of Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Tourism of Brazil, Thiago José Zanini Godinho met with BRAVE CF president Mohammed Shahid in His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Hamad Al Khalifa's Private Office, where they agreed that the co-operation on sports and tourism should happen in Brazil and also in the Kingdom through BRAVE Combat Federation's expansion plan.



Exempting Bahraini nationals from the Schengen visa requirements were the focus of a key meeting which was held at the Council of Representatives. Members of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee, chaired by MP Mohammed el-Sisi Al-Bouainain attended the session, along with officials representing the Ministry of Interior. They discussed a proposal urging the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take required measure to ensure Bahrainis get exempted from Schengen visa requirements or obtain on-arrival entry visas at EU airports.

Al Jazeera documentary reflects Qatar regime's 'conspiracy against Kingdom'

Documentary filled with blatant lies, says Shaikh Khalid

● **The Foreign Minister stressed the need for the GCC countries to confront Qatar's hostile practices.**

● **Information Affairs Minister Ali Al Romaihi had rapped the same channel for carrying out false news.**

Manama

Foreign Affairs Minister, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khal-

ifa, has stressed that the documentary titled "The Hidden is more Immense", aired by the Qatar-based Al Jazeera satellite channel last night, was filled with "clear and blatant lies and fallacies".

"It is the latest episode in a series of conspiracies staged by a rogue state against the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the security and stability of the entire region," the minister said.

"This affirms, beyond any doubt, that this country has become the most serious threat to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), as it is constantly seeking to undermine its march, foment strife among its countries and sow divide among its peoples,"



Qatar has become the most serious threat to the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) as it is constantly seeking to undermine its march.

SHAIKH KHALID

the Foreign Minister added.

The Foreign Minister stressed the need for the GCC countries to "confront this country's hostile practices and irresponsible conduct, and to take all resolute measures to deter it and compel

it to respond, in a transparent manner, to the just demands of the boycotting countries and implement the agreements it had signed".

"This would preserve the GCC, and maintain its achieve-

ments, as well as help attain further development, prosperity and progress for the best interests of its countries and peoples," the Foreign Minister added.

A few days ago, Information Affairs Minister Ali Al Romaihi rapped the same channel for carrying out false news and programmes blatantly targeting the Arab countries and peoples.

"Al Jazeera channel made several attempts to contact me and other officials in the ministry from unidentified telephone numbers, which is against media ethics.

"They tried to record the conversations without their official consent. And the channel also

attempted to provoke officials in the ministry using despicable methods."

Mr Al Romaihi said that all these showed to the unacceptable levels to which Qatari media have stooped.

"They have become totally unwise, detaching and drifting away from genuine Arab values."

He pointed out that the mercenaries or intruders camouflaged as journalists representing the channel are worsening the situation.

"These mercenaries have no values, no ideas, no philosophies or principles. They are only bothered about their monthly wages."

Ministerial resolution shuts down five societies

● **An accounting and auditing firm has been assigned to oversee the liquidation process.**

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

A ministerial resolution has asked for the shut down and liquidation of five societies.

The societies include social associations, a society for hearing impaired, an Islamic society and an orphan care society.

An accounting and auditing firm has been assigned to oversee the liquidation process.

"The members of the associations are prohibited from continuing any activity related to the associations.

"The associations must hand over all documents pertaining to liquidations to the assigned firm and co-operate with the liquidation process," the Ministry of Labour and Social Development stated.

Meanwhile, a prominent society is in dispute with the ministry over its decision concerning its recent elections.

The ministry had stressed that the society was not acting in compliance with the rules during the recent meeting.

However, the society has disputed the decision.

Tribune reported in March



The associations must hand over all documents pertaining to liquidations to the assigned firm and co-operate with the liquidation process.

LABOUR MINISTRY

about allegations put forward by a lawyer, saying that certain social clubs in Bahrain were 'abusing powers' and were 'discriminating against Bahrainis'.

The allegations come amidst multiple lawsuits being filed against members of the executive committee of a prominent

social club in the Kingdom.

Members of the executive committee of the social club involved has been sued for abuse of power, discrimination and for unfairly imposing a ban on its chairman.

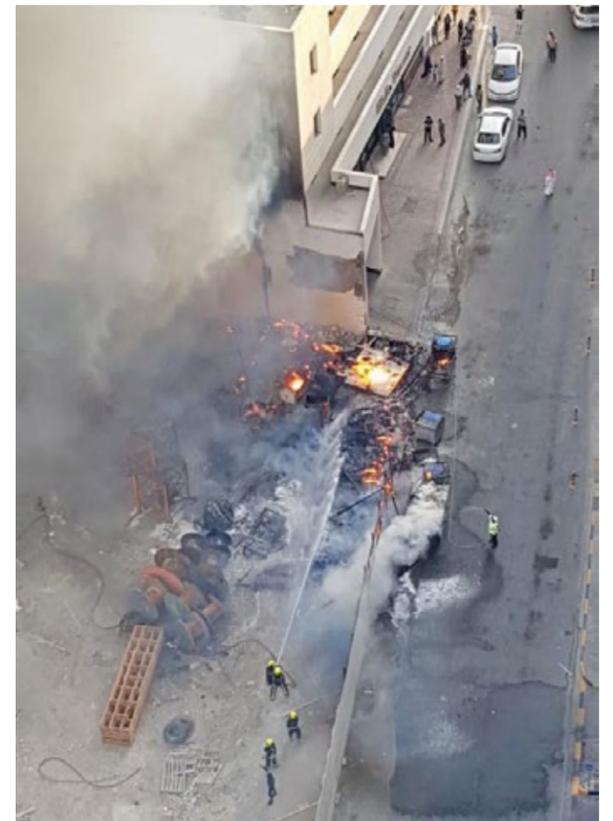
Speaking about the issue, lawyer Hasan Al Ajooz said that many social clubs have been systematically discriminating against Bahrainis.

"Some social clubs are excluding Bahraini citizens from discussions and discriminating against them.

"They are not following the rules and regulations set by the authorities," Mr Al Ajooz said.

He had also urged the authorities to take urgent action against the violating clubs.

Bin blaze



A rubbish bin caught fire in Juffair yesterday. Civil Defence team instantly rushed to the spot and put out the fire, according to sources. Reasons that led to the fire are unknown, sources added. No-one was injured in the fire.

Pharmacy closure ordered after violations

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

A pharmacy in the Kingdom was closed down after authorities discovered serious violations related to selling of unlicensed drugs.

The National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) shut down the pharmacy for three months after it found serious violations, it is learnt.

The pharmacy was found to have been dealing with unlicensed medications. The NHRA also served the pharmacy with a one year suspension for its import activities.

"The steps were taken after the alleged violations were confirmed after an investigation.

The violations were related to import of drugs that are not licensed.

"The pharmacy was found to have been in non-compliance more than once," an NHRA official stated.

Around 40 violations were found last year at the pharmacies in Bahrain related to selling, pricing and licensing of medicines.

The findings follow close to 600 inspection visits by NHRA inspection teams in 2018.

One of the most common types of violation detected during NHRA inspections was medicine-related violations.

The authority spotted 15 of them. Altogether NHRA spotted five types of violations which

The steps were taken after the alleged violations related to import of unlicensed drugs were confirmed by an investigation.

NHRA SOURCES

were recurring.

The second most detected violation was related to pricing. NHRA found eight during visits.

Others were pharmacy set up violations (5), licensing violations (6) and temperature/humidity/ fridge violation (6).

The NHRA said there are currently 263 licensed pharmacies

in the Kingdom, an increase of 50 from the prior year.

In 2017, there were 213 pharmacies. Of the 263 pharmacies, 59 are associated with hospitals, while 204 are private pharmacies.

As of now, there are a total of 95 pharmacies in the Capital. Closely following is Northern Governorate in the second spot with 61 pharmacies.

Southern has 57 and Muharraq 51.

Capital Governorate also enjoys the record for new pharmacy openings in 2018.

A total of 27 new pharmacies were launched in the capital last year - Eight in the Northern Governorate, four in the Muharraq Governorate and 13 in the Southern Governorate.

Kingdom's cybersecurity expertise to be showcased at SmartSec Conference

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom's cybersecurity expertise will be showcased at a conference to be held from September 3 to 5 at Gulf Convention Centre Hotel, under the patronage of Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr Abdulhussain Mirza, Bahrain Technology Companies Association (BTECH) announced.

In a statement issued, Ubaydli Ubaydli, chairman of BTECH said: "SmartSec Cyber Security and BlockChain Conference provides a platform that aims at highlighting the most important issues related to providing cyber security for infrastructure projects against cyber-attacks to the public and private sectors.

"This conference in compliance with the success of Bahrain as a centre of Information technology in the Middle East.

"SmartSec provides attendees with a unique opportunity to get acquainted with the latest trends, innovation, and solutions featured by the international cybersecurity and blockchain community through workshops and discus-



This conference in compliance with the success of Bahrain as a centre of Information technology in the Middle East.

MR UBAYDLI

sion panels," added Mr Ubaydli.

He further noted that the conference aims to bring the best of the best international professionals in the field of cybersecurity and blockchain.

The conference's sessions will tackle topics related to Artificial Intelligence to automate real-time threat hunting, applying artificial intelligence and machine learn-

ing in preventing cyber-attacks, developing a cybersecurity ecosystem, cloud security and cryptocurrency challenge, and telecom service operators and cyberwarfare.

The three-day event will be jointly organised by Bahrain Technology Companies Society 'BTECH' and WorkSmart for event management.

Gulf national's prison term upheld in fake currency trial

Defendant attempted to exchange fake US dollars at airport

● The employee told prosecutors that he couldn't chase the accused, leaving his stall unattended.

● The defendant was ordered to be imprisoned for five years.

TDT | Manama

A Gulf national, who was previously sentenced to five years imprisonment for attempting to exchange \$25,000 fake currency notes at Bahrain International Airport, got his verdict upheld by the Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal on Sunday.

The defendant, who was also fined BD1,000 earlier, had allegedly attempted to cheat an exchange house employee by trying to exchange the counterfeit money at the latter's workplace at the airport.

According to the employee's

1,000

Bahraini dinars in fine were imposed on the defendant for dealing in fake notes.

testimony, the defendant, along with another man, approached him and asked if he could exchange \$25,000.

The employee then requested the defendant to hand over a single note for verification before exchanging the large amount.

The defendant allegedly gave the employee a few dollars to authenticate, however, he quickly escaped after the employee discovered that the bills were fake. The employee told prosecutors that he couldn't chase the man, leaving his stall unattended.

He said he informed Bahrain International Airport Police about the incident.

Surveillance cameras showed that the defendant quickly walk-

ing out of the airport.

Anyhow, he was later arrested after a manhunt was launched to nab him.

He was accused by the Public Prosecution on January 1, 2018, of promoting fake currency and was referred to the court, which ordered to imprison him for five years, fine him BD1,000 and permanently deport him after completing his jail time.

He appealed against the verdict, but the court rejected his appeal on Sunday and ordered to uphold the previously issued judgement.

Man used 'sister to sell drugs'

● The officer in plain clothes offered the woman BD50 and she was arrested as soon as she gave the officer drugs.

TDT | Manama

A woman in her twenties exposed her drug lord brother to police officers, which also led to the arrest of six other men involved in peddling drugs, it was revealed.

According to court files, the woman was inhumanely used by her brother to distribute drugs across the Kingdom and she was arrested in a secret operation.

The woman's activities came to light after the anti-drug department in the Ministry of Interior received a tip-off, after which an undercover agent was tasked to nab the woman red-handed.

The officer in plain clothes offered the woman BD50 and she was arrested as soon as she gave the officer drugs.

"My brother was giving me the drugs to sell them to the customers," the woman told police officers, offering to help in getting him arrested too.

She called the brother and asked him to bring hashish to her under the pretext that a customer had requested to buy it from her.

They met in Hamad Town and police busted him.

His capture led to other drug lords falling in police net.

They, including the woman, were sent for trial before the High Criminal Court over accusations of selling drugs.

BRCS volunteers attend training camp in Italy

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) has sent a number of its volunteers to participate in the "Youth Camp for Relief and Humanitarian Work", being held in the Italian city of Sulfino, along with more than 10,000 volunteers from 140 countries.

The Bahraini Red Crescent volunteers met with the President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Francesco Rocca, who visited the camp and talked with everyone about the importance of relief and humanitarian work in providing assistance to needy people, victims, refugees and victims, especially in light of the increasing human suffering in conflicts, conflicts and natural disasters across the world.

The Bahrain Red Crescent volunteers participated in the discussion of the new 2030 strategy of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, where they presented their views on the development of this strategy from the perspective of young volunteers.

The Bahrain Red Crescent team was chosen to be part of the "Enamel" team, which



BRCS volunteers at the camp in Italy.

walked the front of the march carrying the great flag of the Red Crescent and the Red Cross for 13km travelled by volunteers in about four hours on foot.

The Secretary-General of the Bahrain Red Society, Dr Fawzi Amin, praised the successful participation of the volunteers of the association at the Salfrino training camp in Italy and the demonstrated discipline and competence of the volunteers in dealing with

the various training vocabulary contained in this global camp.

Dr Amin pointed out that the symbolism of this training camp emanates from the city of Salfreno, which witnessed on June 24, 1859 the outbreak of a battle that bore the name of this city. "It was an essential moment in the development of the joint global action to save the victims of wars, disasters and disasters."

Bahrain-Kuwait Consular Committee holds meeting

● The two sides discussed important consular issues reiterated shared keenness on appointing liaison officers in both countries' embassies so as to facilitate communication and cater to the needs of students.

Kuwait

The joint Bahraini-Kuwaiti Consular Committee has convened for the first round of talks. Foreign Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Consular Affairs, Resources and Information System Khalil Yaqoob Al Khayat, Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for Consular Affairs

Sami Al Hamad co-chaired the joint session.

Al Khayat expressed Bahrain's appreciation for the deep-rooted historical relations with the State of Kuwait, stressing the kinship and common destiny between the two countries.

He underscored the importance of this first round of this joint committee, which comes as a follow-up to the minutes of the tenth session of the Joint Higher Cooperation Committee, which was held in Manama last April.

He underlined the necessity of continuing joint coordination between the two countries to step up consular cooperation.

The two sides discussed important consular issues reiterated shared keenness on appointing liaison officers in both countries' embassies so as to facilitate communication and cater to the needs of students.

Kingdom of Bahrain



The Bahrain Petroleum Company BSC (Closed) hereby invites tender for the following:

Tender Title	Tender No.	Initial Bond (BD)	Tender Fees (BD)	Tender Submission		
				Day	Date	Time
CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR SITE PREPARATORY WORKS AT FISHERMAN PORTS TO INSTALL PORTABLE PETROL STATIONS	T190085 (43)	100/-	15/-	6 th Aug 2019	03:00 pm	

Interested Vendors with proven experience in providing the above services may contact Bapco Procurement Department at the Refinery on Telephone 17755845, 17757054 or 17757044 to obtain the appropriate tender documents after depositing the non-refundable tender fees as specified above in Bapco's bank account. Tender Documents can be collected from **old BBK Building** (Procurement Department - Tendering Unit) located outside the Refinery near North Gate from **Wednesday July 17, 2019 to Wednesday July 31, 2019** between 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm on Mondays & Wednesdays only. Vendors should deposit full contact details with the Procurement Department. An Initial Bond should be enclosed for the amount specified above (BD 100/-), payable by a Certified Cheque, Cash, Manager cheque, letter of guarantee or insurance policy. The bond shall remain valid throughout the tender period specified in the relevant tender documents.

- Quotation should be deposited in the tender box provided at the **Bapco Refinery North Gate Security Office Reception**, before 03.00 pm on the tender submission date.
- This tender is subject to the provisions of Legislative Decree No.36 of 2002 with respect to Regulating Government Tenders & Purchases and the Legislative Decree No.37 of 2002 with respect to the Tender Law's implementing regulations.
- The following conditions shall be complied with:
 - Enclose a copy of the Commercial Registration Certificate valid for the current year, and be in conformity with the subject tender.
 - Submit quotations on Form No.Bapco 3499/2(5/99).
 - Enclose a copy of Certificate of Compliance with the Employment Percentage for Bahraini Manpower issued by the Ministry of Labour.
 - Ensure to stamp with the official seal on all the original documents and copies thereof, which form part of the offer.
 - Award of Purchase Agreement to a Contractor who is not on Bapco's Approved List of Contractors will be subject to successful pre-qualification.
- This announcement is to be read as part of the Tender Documents.**

world

India scrubs Moon mission launch

● The agency did not say when it would attempt the launch again

● Scores of enthusiasts, including schoolchildren, had gathered to witness the launch

● A soft landing on the Moon would be a huge leap forward in India's space programme

Sriharikota, India

India yesterday postponed the launch of a lunar probe less than an hour before blast-off because of a technical problem, delaying its bid to become only the fourth nation to land a spacecraft on the Moon.

The Chandrayaan-2 -- or Moon Chariot 2 -- mission is part of India's ambitious space programme, and its success would have propelled the South Asian nation into rarefied company: Russia, the United States and China are the only countries to have landed craft on the lunar surface. The spacecraft looked set for launch atop a Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV)



GSLV MkIII-M1 / Chandrayaan 2 vehicle night view at the Second Launch Pad

Mk III -- India's most powerful rocket -- from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, but countdown was halted 56 minutes and 24 seconds before the planned liftoff at 2:51 am (2121 GMT Sunday). "A technical snag was observed in launch vehicle system at one hour before the launch," the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said.

"As a measure of abundant precaution Chandrayaan-2

launch has been called off for today. Revised launch date will be announced later."

The agency did not say when it would attempt the launch again, and did not share any details about the technical issue.

The spacecraft's Moon landing had originally been scheduled for September 6.

Scores of enthusiasts, including schoolchildren, had gathered to witness the launch.



India's first lunar mission -- Chandrayaan-1 in 2008 -- did not land on the Moon, but orbited the Moon searching for water using radar. New Delhi also has ambitions to land a probe on Mars, following the success of the Mangalyaan orbiter

million on Chandrayaan-2 -- designing and building almost all of its components domestically -- and hailed the mission as one of the cheapest ever.

A soft landing on the Moon would be a huge leap forward in India's space programme.

National pride is at stake as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has vowed to launch a crewed space mission by 2022.

It follows another high-pro-

file but low-cost Indian mission -- Mangalyaan -- which put a spacecraft in orbit around Mars in 2014 at a fraction of the cost of comparable projects by established space powers like the United States, which often cost billions of dollars.

Chandrayaan-2 will follow Chang'e-4, launched by India's regional rival China, which in January became the first spacecraft to successfully land on the far side of the Moon.

The Indian mission will involve a 2.4-tonne (5,300-pound) orbiter that will circle the Moon for about a year, imaging and studying the surface -- including a search for water -- and will also examine the lunar atmosphere.

A 1.4-tonne lander Vikram -- named after Vikram A. Sarabhai, the father of India's space programme -- will head to the lunar south pole.

It will carry with it a solar-powered rover named Pragyan -- "wisdom" in Sanskrit -- which will roam as far as 500 metres away from the lander to study the composition of the Moon's surface for one lunar day -- the equivalent of 14 Earth days.

Aussie kids take stolen car on 1,000-kilometre road trip

Sydney, Australia

Four children took a stolen four-wheel drive on a 1,000-kilometre (620-mile) road trip across the Australian outback before being nabbed by police, officials said Monday.

A 14-year-old boy, two 13-year-old boys and a 10-year-old girl began their epic journey on Saturday when they took cash and packed fishing rods in a vehicle belonging to one of their families in the coastal Queensland town of Rockhampton, police said.

One of the children left a note for his family telling them of his plans.

Queensland police said the car was spotted early on Sunday morning in the outback town of Banana, where the kids allegedly stole petrol, before travelling south.

The car was found on Sunday night near Grafton, in the neighbouring state of New South Wales, about 11 hours' drive from Rockhampton.

New South Wales police said officers had to force their way into the vehicle after the children refused to get out.

"They have locked themselves in the car and police have had to use a baton to get in to arrest them," Coffs-Clarence district acting inspector Darren Williams told reporters.

It was not clear which of the



Queensland police said the car was spotted early on Sunday morning in the outback town of Banana



The children, who were found unharmed, have been taken into care

children had been behind the wheel, but Williams said it was likely they had shared the driving.

"It is a long way, in excess of 1,000 (km) from Rockhampton down to Grafton," he said.

"I couldn't imagine one person driving that way in two days."

Police are investigating several alleged offences committed during the road trip, Williams said.

Williams said it was unclear what prompted the children to take the trip, but one of the boys was originally from Grafton.



BAHRAIN AIRPORT COMPANY wishes to invite proposals for the following Public Tender:

Tender Title	Tender No.	Tender Doc. Fees	Initial Bond	Tender Closing	
				Day/ Date	Time
Operation Readiness and Airport Transfer (ORAT) Registration Call Center	BAC/COM/54/2019	BD 15/- non-refundable	BD 500/-	30 th July 2017	1:30 pm

- Companies with the required experience are kindly requested to collect the appropriate tender Documents at Bahrain Airport Company (Building 124, Road 2403, Muharraq 224 Gulf Air Building 1st Floor Wing B) Procurement Department Tel: 17353428, 17353449 during the following working hours (8:00am – 2:00pm) after payment of tender fees specified above.
- Deposit each Tender Submission in the tender box provided at the Bahrain Airport Company, Procurement Department on the above closing date before 01:30 pm. Along with an initial bond for the amount specified above or at the rate of 1% of the quotation value whichever amount is the lesser, provided that no initial Bond's value shall be less than BD 500/-, in the form of a Certified Cheque, Bank Guarantee or Insurance Policy valid for the duration specified in the tender documents.
- Articles of the Decree by Law No. 36 for 2002, regarding the regulation of Government Tenders and Purchases, together with its executive regulations issued in Decree No. 37 for 2002, must be observed www.tenderboard.gov.bh
- The following conditions must also be observed:
 - Enclose a copy of the Commercial Registration Certificate for the current year, which must include the Tender Subject as one of its activities.
 - Submit their Proposed Minimum Annual Guarantee and Proposed Fee Percentage (according to conditions) as per the criteria outlined.
 - Enclose a copy of a valid Certificate of Compliance with the Employment Percentage for Bahraini Manpower issued by Ministry of Labour.
 - All documents submitted as part of the tender (original or copies) must bear the stamp of the bidding Company / Establishment.
 - Kindly provide a business card when collecting the RFP document
- This advertisement is considered as complementary to the Tender Documents.

From crafts to Kalashnikovs



A Soviet-produced TT-33 pistol is pictured at a shop in Yemen's third city of Taz



Bullets are on display at a shop in Yemen's third city of Taz



A man displays a rocket launcher at a shop in Yemen's third city of Taz



A picture shows a partial view of a weapons shop



Armed men shop in Yemen's third city of Taz

Taz, Yemen

Once overflowing with handicrafts, the old Al-Shinayni market in Yemen's third city of Taz is now bursting with Kalashnikovs and bullets as traders scramble to scratch out a living in the war-wracked country.

Yemen has been plunged into a devastating war since the Iran-aligned Huthi rebels swept into the capital Sanaa in a late 2014 offensive, sparking a military intervention months later by a Saudi-led coalition.

The southwestern city of Taz is controlled by government forces but under siege by the Huthis, who have repeatedly bombarded the city of 615,000 people.

Many civilians in tribal Yemen, the Arab world's most impoverished country, carry personal arms even under normal circumstances and weapons trade is common.

But the war has seen the arms market surge, and traditional trades pushed aside.

"In the past, the city's old souk (market) used to sell mainly handicraft items made by blacksmiths, potters and tailors," said merchant Abu Ali.

"When the war erupted, most merchants turned to selling weapons," the tailor-turned arms trader said.

"Some sell (Yemen's highly popular mild narcotic leaf) Qat, and others

have fled. Half of the shops have shut down," he added.

'Bullets and weapons'

Armed men on motorcycles whizz in and out of the market, once a hub for selling clay pots and jugs.

Fatigues, tactical vest and helmets are on display outside the shops. Inside, AK47 assault rifles hang on the walls, with bullets and mortar shells neatly lining the shelves.

"It's an arms market," said Abu Ali.

Different weapons carry different price tags. An AK47 rifle is sold for \$1,090, a pistol for \$818, and a bullet for half a dollar.

Like Abu Ali, the war forced Mohammed Tajer, a handicraft merchant, to turn to the arms trade to make ends meet.

"We used to work well" before the war, Tajer said.

"But once the war started, we had to resort to selling bullets and weapons. If the conflict ends, we will go back to our previous professions."

In front of one shop, a young boy in a yellow T-shirt sits on a cushion as he bangs away on a piece of metal. An older man next to him stands near a forge hammering a sharp object.

The conflict in Yemen has triggered what the United Nations describes as the world's worst humanitarian crisis,

Before the war, the old market of Taz was crowded with people and was full of handicrafts and artisanal goods. Today, more than four years after the Huthi rebels began their siege on Yemen's third largest city, bullets and guns have taken over the market

with more than 24 million Yemenis -- around two-thirds of the population -- in need of aid.

Tens of thousands of people, mostly civilians, have been killed since March 2015 when the Saudi-led military coalition intervened in support of the internationally recognised government of President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi.

'Arms trade flourished'

Taz has not been spared from the violence.

Dozens of people, including children, were killed earlier this year in battles between the rebels and forces loyal to the government, as well as infighting among rival pro-government groups, according to local and medical sources.

Abid al-Rashdi, who still sells handmade goods at Al-Shinayni, said he struggles to keep up his line of work amid a conflict that shows no sign of abating.

"In the past five years, the blacksmith and pottery professions have been greatly impacted while arms trade flourished," he told AFP.

Shattered shops secured with padlocks lie on either side of an open storefront that says "tailoring for men".

Inside, on the shelves where threads and fabrics were once placed, bullets and guns now sit, some locally produced and others smuggled into the country.



Armed men shop in Yemen's third city of Taz

Monsoon toll rises across South Asia

● **Floods and landslides killed at least 67 people across Nepal**

● **In Bangladesh, at least 29 have died**

New Delhi, India

At least 12 people were killed when a house collapsed in northern India following heavy monsoon rain which has left more than 100 dead across South Asia, officials said yesterday.

Floods and landslides caused by torrential downpours have killed at least 67 people across Nepal while 30 more are missing, police said.

In Bangladesh, at least 29 people have died since July 9 including 18 who were hit by lightning and seven who drowned after their boat capsized in choppy waters in the Bay of Bengal.

Another 10 people have died in overcrowded Rohingya refugee camps in southeast Bangladesh where thousands of shanty homes have been destroyed.

In the latest monsoon-related tragedy in India, a four-storey building on a hillside in the northern state of Himachal Pradesh collapsed, killing 12 people and trapping at least seven others. The structure --



An Indian rickshaw puller transports commuters on a flooded street after a heavy downpour at Baldakhal village in Agartala, the capital of northeastern state of Tripura,

located near popular tourist destination Shimla -- came down on Sunday following days of heavy downpours.

Rescue workers searched the rubble for survivors, while heavy machinery removed heaps of mangled steel and wires from



Indian men shelter under a plastic sheet and an umbrella during heavy monsoon rains at India Gate in New Delhi

the muddied debris.

Local official K.C. Chaman said 12 people had died in the collapse, adding that rescuers

were looking "for at least seven other people" trapped in the debris.

One soldier -- who was pulled

out alive from the rubble -- said they had gathered for a party in the building's restaurant, "but suddenly the building shook and collapsed".

Such incidents are common across the region during the monsoon because of dilapidated structures that buckle under the weight of continuous rain.

The June to September monsoon causes widespread death and destruction across South Asia each year.

Floods have devastated much of the northeastern Indian state of Assam where four people died on Sunday after being swept away by sudden torrents.

The state's Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO-recognised reserve and home to two-thirds of the world's one-horned rhinos, has also been seriously affected by the weather.

In the eastern state of Bihar, five rivers were flowing over the danger levels with more rain forecast over the next few days.

The downpours have eased in Nepal but authorities still fear the death toll could rise, said police spokesman Bishwaraj Pokharel, who gave the latest number of dead and missing from floods and landslides.

"There are the challenges of resettlement of the displaced as many houses.. have been swept away. We are also cautious about the risk of epidemics due to polluted water," Pokharel said.

Philippines quake



A motorist drives past a destroyed house after a large earthquake that hit Surigao City, in southern island of Mindanao. Fifty-one people were injured and several homes, churches and other buildings damaged on Saturday when an earthquake sent terrified residents of the southern Philippines fleeing

Taliban bomb kills at least 11 Afghans

Kandahar, Afghanistan

At least 11 civilians were killed and dozens more wounded Monday after their vehicle hit a bomb in southern Afghanistan that officials told AFP had been planted by the Taliban.

The deaths come just one week after Taliban and Afghan officials unveiled a "roadmap for peace" in which they pledged to eliminate civilian casualties.

It was not immediately clear if the victims had been travelling in a bus or in the back of a large truck.

Hong Kong leader condemns 'rioters' after violent mall clash

Hong Kong, China

Anti-government protesters who fought police inside a Hong Kong shopping mall were "rioters", the finance hub's pro-Beijing leader said Monday, as she threw her support behind the city's beleaguered police force following another weekend of clashes.

Hong Kong's ongoing political crisis deepened further on Sunday as riot police and protesters fought running battles inside a shopping complex packed with luxury stores.

Police used pepper spray and batons against small groups of protesters, who responded by hurling umbrellas, bottles and other projectiles, in a night of fresh violence.

Officers and protesters were injured in the chaotic melee which left blood-



A police officer falls down during a clash inside a shopping arcade in Sha Tin of Hong Kong after a rally against a controversial extradition law proposal in Sha Tin district of Hong Kong

stains on the floor and at least 28 people needing hospital treatment.

City leader Carrie Lam rounded on protesters after visiting injured officers Monday.

"They were committed to the duties, and also very pro-

fessional and restrained. But they were wantonly attacked by rioters -- I think we can really describe them as rioters," Lam told reporters.

Lam said police and prosecutors will press charges following investigations.

Notice

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Mrs. Elham Ebrahim Taleb

Acting Director of Insurance Supervision Directorate

Central Bank of Bahrain

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Manama Kingdom of Bahrain

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Is Tehran preparing for a showdown with the US?

Iran's escalation has backfired, even with trusted allies, and it is edging closer to red lines

RAGHIDA DERGHAM

Following US accusations of Iran being behind the recent attacks on tankers in the Gulf, tensions between the two countries are set to escalate further this week as decision-makers in Tehran continue to see the status quo as favouring them, and feel gleeful at the level of panic shown by the Europeans and the International Atomic Energy Agency. For its part, the US administration has adopted "strategic patience", content with its policy of economically strangling Iran to coerce it into negotiating a new deal that covers both its nuclear enrichment and its ballistic missiles and possibly its regional expansionism and regime reforms. Both sides want a deal but have mutually exclusive conditions and are preparing for the next step as they inch closer to a military confrontation.

Washington is now in the process of forming a naval alliance that Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the US, said would be ready within a fortnight with the aim of protecting navigation in the Straits of Hormuz and Bab al Mandeb. This is while the US and Britain have blamed Iran for attacks on oil installations and tankers in the Gulf, with London deploying two British warships so far to the region.

Iran has responded to the formation of this US-led naval co-

alition by demanding all foreign forces leave the Middle East. The leadership in Tehran believes prolonging the current situation serves its interests and thus intends to escalate further. If the US fires first, Iran might attack US bases in Bahrain and Qatar. But the Trump administration will also escalate by greatly tightening the sanctions on Iran and its proxies, according to the US president. Sources said the sanctions would be tantamount to a full blockade of Iran, with the assets of Iranians and non-Iranians affiliated to the regime frozen.

Both sides are also preparing for a military showdown. According to sources, the US needs a week to ensure full readiness to do so, although its current deployment is sufficient for a swift military strike if necessary. Iran is also preparing its forces and proxies in the Arab region, from Hizbollah in Lebanon to the Popular Mobilisation Forces in Iraq. In other words, unless a deal precludes confrontation, the current trajectory of events indicates pending military hostilities in the Gulf and Middle East.

From the US perspective, meanwhile, and even from the perspective of some European countries, Iran's violation of the cap on uranium enrichment cannot be ignored.

So far, all mediation efforts have failed to convince Iran to abandon its demands for an end to sanctions before agreeing to



The Iranian supertanker Grace 1 was seized off the coast of Gibraltar, suspected of b

negotiate.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is still trying to play the role of broker with the Irani-

ans to curb their escalation and attempts to provoke a US military strike. Mr Putin's previous attempts have all failed but he

Palestinians have no support in Israel

BEN WHITE

With just over two months to go before the second Israeli election this year, and with the latest polls predicting prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu will struggle to meet the 61 seats needed to form a governing coalition, former Israeli minister and current Yisrael Beiteinu party chair Avigdor Lieberman has emerged as the kingmaker. Last month the veteran politician expressed his desire for a unity government between Likud and the opposition Blue and White list.

Mr Lieberman, whose refusal to form a coalition with Likud triggered the dissolution of the Knesset in May, told Israeli radio: "We will aim for a government with Likud and with [the Blue and White party] and that will be an emergency government, a national liberal government. We will do everything to limit the haredim (ultra-Orthodox) so that they won't enter government." Blue and White number two Yair Lapid, leader of the centrist party Yesh Atid, quickly backed Mr Lieberman's call.

It marks a remarkable volte face for Mr Lieberman, who just days earlier had claimed he would never recommend Mr Gantz as prime minister and that the Blue and White could "go to the North Pole to form a government with polar bears". In a later Facebook post, he appeared to relent by stating the

party with the most seats in the September 17 election would get his support.

What is driving his loyalties is his stated goal of the exclusion of the ultra-Orthodox parties. The contentious issue of conscription of the haredim, a bill that former defence minister Mr Lieberman fiercely supported before his sudden resignation, was cited as the reason why he would not join a coalition with Mr Netanyahu after the last election in April.

A national unity government could secure an estimate 70 seats, well above the 61 needed to secure a majority in the Knesset. However, Mr Lieberman is effectively calling for a government without Mr Netanyahu, since Mr Gantz has rejected the idea of a coalition with the Likud leader, who faces indictments over alleged corruption. By default, Mr Lieberman is inviting Likud to get rid of Mr Netanyahu.

Meanwhile, there are elements on the Israeli right - including the orthodox nationalists - who are starting to question whether Mr Netanyahu has become more trouble than he is worth. Within Likud, somewhat discreetly, key players are manoeuvring for the day after.

Mr Lieberman's gamble may not pay off, however. Mr Netanyahu could very well emerge victorious from the new elections and face corruption charges as a sitting prime minister. He is likely to seek a Knesset majority by trying to unite the



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu' failed to form a coalition in the April election.

right, issuing the battle cry that Mr Lieberman is trying to force a "leftist" government.

However, in the context of both a second election after failing to secure a majority, and a possible indictment, it is becoming increasingly possible to imagine Israeli politics without the man who has held the position of prime minister for the past decade (in addition to his three years in office in the 1990s).

For many international leaders and pundits, Mr Netanyahu's dominance, along with his open opposition to Palestinian

Mr Netanyahu has loomed large over Israeli politics for some time but his domination has obscured a truth much more unpalatable than the impact of one demagogue.

sovereignty and alliances with far-right political forces, has made it easy to pin the blame for Israel's ongoing military occupation firmly on the long-time Likud leader.

However, if Mr Netanyahu is removed from the picture a more disturbing reality will become clearer; namely, that the opposition to basic Palestinian rights is not restricted to Mr Netanyahu, or even his party but rather is shared across the majority of the Knesset.

Over the years, an argument framed in terms of "security"

Avigdor Lieberman's manoeuvring might unseat the prime minister but most Israeli parties have no interest in establishing a Palestinian state

1915

Henry James becomes a British citizen to highlight his commitment to Britain during the first World War.



1931

Emperor Haile Selassie signs the first constitution of Ethiopia.

1935

The world's first parking meter is installed in Oklahoma City, **Oklahoma**.

1941

Joe DiMaggio hits safely for the 56th consecutive game, a streak that still stands as an MLB record.



Shipping en route to Syria.

The US has told the Lebanese government that such a stance might invite sanctions against the state, something Lebanese politicians will be keen to avoid.

the US, especially after Tehran increased uranium enrichment and exposed the flaws of the nuclear agreement. Iran also understands now that China is unwilling to enter the fray on its side. As for Russia, Iran has miscalculated in assuming the alliance with Russia in Syria would extend to the Gulf or to a US-Israeli-Iranian triangle.

If Iran crosses the threshold of uranium enrichment to 20 per cent in two months, it would cross an unacceptable red line for Europe, China, and Russia as well as the US.

The next level of putative sanctions could further rile the Iranian leadership and drive it either to more escalation or nudge it to adjust its behaviour and renegotiate the deal. This could take the form of a naval blockade and measures to prevent all countries

from dealing with Iran and its proxies and further sanctions.

Arab Gulf countries do not want a war and are avoiding escalation. However, they want to be present at the negotiating table to decide issues affecting their security and future.

Iran will seek to use the looming US elections to test the American president, with a view to limiting negotiations only to the nuclear issue and ballistic missile programme.

If a grand bargain is reached, it is important for Arab countries to be part of it, or else it will be incomplete and precarious. If Mr Trump achieves the impossible and concludes such a deal, it might be a historic achievement that will please everyone.

Until then, Tehran and its allies are preparing themselves for a confrontation. Hizbollah in Lebanon is waiting for orders from Tehran, poised to respond to an Israeli strike on nuclear reactors in Iran.

In the meantime, the group intends to respond to recent US sanctions on its senior members, not by directly attacking US interests but by forcing the Lebanese government to publicly denounce the sanctions and offer it support.

The US has told the Lebanese government that such a stance might invite sanctions against the state, something Lebanese politicians will be keen to avoid.

continues his quest to stop military confrontation in its tracks. Iran's leaders, however, are dissatisfied with Russia's "soft

position. Iran had wagered on Russia, China, and EU powers to help navigate a way out of US sanctions.

Yet so far, Iran's escalation has backfired with the Europeans, who have distanced themselves from Iran and edged closer to

Politics

has helped mask Israel's true intentions with regards to the occupied Palestinian territory.

SOAS scholar Mushtaq Khan, co-author of the 2005 book *Aid, Diplomacy and Facts on the Ground: The Case of Palestine*, writes that a genuinely sovereign Palestinian state would not resolve – and would possibly exacerbate – the challenges posed to Israel's identity as a "Jewish state" by two key constituencies – Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinian refugees in the wider region.

Thus, Khan wrote, Israel's security-focused argument, along with the facts on the ground of relentless settlement expansion, only make sense as "part of an Israeli strategy of long-term management of its 'Palestinian problem' through conditional, partial, and reversible transfers of governance responsibilities in densely populated parts of the occupied territory".

Israel's goal, then, is not the establishment of a genuine Palestinian state but rather, the creation of "a series of reversible bantustans" – an apartheid-style scenario that, by denying Palestinians their legitimate aspirations, provokes the unrest that becomes the justification for the policy itself.

This approach – one of so-called conflict management, limited Palestinian self-rule and endless transition – can be seen in the positions of today's main parties and coalition candidates.

For Likud's part, the rejection of Palestinian statehood is

explicit – indeed, prior to the last election, senior figures in the party contributed to a video calling for annexation of the settlements. Among other factions on the right, overt support for variations of annexation is even more prevalent.

But what about the opposition? Blue and White – an alliance of convenience of former Israeli military chiefs and centrists – includes both proponents of a vaguely expressed separation from Palestinians and more open opponents of a two-state solution.

Israel's Labour party, which hopes to recover from its abysmal showing in April, also fails to back Palestinian sovereignty and self-determination, instead pushing for a demilitarised state to be established in the future – if, of course, the conditions are right, as determined by Israel.

It is a bleak picture. Mr Lieberman's manoeuvres or the attorney general's indictments may or may not sink Mr Netanyahu. But a Likud without Mr Netanyahu, with or without the Blue and White party as a coalition partner, is not going to be any more forthcoming in respect to core Palestinian rights.

Mr Netanyahu has loomed large over Israeli politics for some time but his domination has obscured a truth much more unpalatable than the impact of one demagogue; namely, that there is a consensus among the Israeli political mainstream for apartheid and against Palestinian statehood.

CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

New bill reduces green card waiting time



The US House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a bill this week which could dramatically reduce the current wait time of Indian H-1B technical workers seeking green cards. The measure is expected to be approved by the Senate, and President Trump may sign it into law. The change would be phased in over three years.

The US is the most generous western country accepting nearly 1.2 million permanent residents each year. Of these, nearly 800,000 green cards are awarded based on family ties, such as a US citizen sponsoring a sibling.

Only about 140,000 visas are given out to the so-called employment-based (EB) categories, and even these are tightly controlled based on

which skills bucket an applicant falls under. People with exceptional academic abilities, like professors and researchers (EB1); professional managers, lawyers, and doctors, with advanced degrees (EB2); the largest cohort are the tech workers with a Bachelor's degree (EB3); special immigrants, such as religious workers (EB4); and people who invest in American projects (EB5).

Two constraints are placed on the disbursement of these 140,000 EB visas. The first imposes a country-cap limited to 7 per cent of the total, so India is awarded only 9,800 visas for all EB visa categories combined. Iceland, which has a total population of just 350,000 people, also is awarded only 9,800 visas – although most Iceland-

ers never immigrate to the US. Second, the 9,800 visas which each country gets is shared with spouses and children – which means that an Indian H-1B worker with a spouse and two children will mop up four green cards in one scoop.

The bill passed this week eliminated the 7 per cent country cap for EB visas. Theoretically, all 140,000 EB visas could now become available to Indians (from just 9,800 visas today), dramatically reducing the green card wait time, although, in practice, Indians would be competing with other nationalities, such as the Chinese, for EB-5 investor visas. The bill does not increase the number of overall green cards, which stays pegged at 1.2 million.

Raj Kumar



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



It's natural to be disappointed when people let you down. It's the Almighty's way of showing you their true colours in your hour of need; to show you who they really are. It's a reminder to depend only on Him. If you do otherwise, be prepared for disappointment.

@muftimken

02



When will the Radical Left Congresswomen apologize to our Country, the people of Israel and even to the Office of the President, for the foul language they have used, and the terrible things they have said. So many people are angry at them & their horrible & disgusting actions!

@realDonaldTrump

03



President Trump's remarks telling my colleagues to "go back where they came from" further reveals his narrow-minded ideas about who belongs in this country. They are principled Americans who belong right where they are – in Congress – pushing back against his dangerous agenda.

@RepAndreCarson

04



Our colleagues are Americans who are dedicated to improving the lives of the people they represent. Mr. President, your willingness to drag our values through the mud is appalling.

@RepSlotkin

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

business

NBB opens Seef Mall branch



In pictures, scenes from the opening ceremony of NBB's flagship branch at the Seef Mall



TDT | Manama

National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) yesterday celebrated the official inauguration of its flagship branch at the Seef Mall under the patronage of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB).

The ceremony was attend-

ed by the Bank's Board, management and staff, led by NBB Chairman, Farouk Yousuf Khalil Almoayyed.

The event saw guests receive an exclusive tour of the new premises where key features of the bank's new digital flagship model were unveiled and demonstrated. This includes an

on-site "Meet & Greet Service" to help guide and train customers on how to leverage the bank's new automated transaction machines as well other digital platforms and services, new dedicated counters and meeting rooms for business customers (corporates and small & medium enterprises - SMEs).

Khalid Saad, CEO of Bahrain Fintech Bay of which NBB is a Founding Partner, delivered a presentation on the collective efforts underway to meet evolving customer demands.

Commenting on the occasion, Farouk Yousuf Khalil Almoayyed, said, "We are very proud to launch this new flag-

ship branch of the future and of the many other innovations underway to make banking more efficient and seamless for all of those we serve."

Jean-Christophe Durand, added, "In branches like Seef, customers can now take advantage of in-branch services as well as learn and be familiarised with

other new and exciting innovations that can automate the way they bank or fully digitalise the banking journey for even greater convenience. We look forward to building on the enhancements of the Seef Branch and to rolling out these innovations, products and services to the rest of our network."

Bapco holds BMP stakeholder engagement meeting



The event was held under the patronage of Dr Pete Bartlett, Chief Executive of Bapco. In pictures, the meeting

TDT | Manama

Bapco organised a Stakeholder Engagement Meeting (SEM) on the Bapco Modernisation Programme (BMP) yesterday at the Gulf Convention Center, the Gulf Hotel.

The event was held under the

patronage of Dr Pete Bartlett, Chief Executive of Bapco and included senior officials of the oil and gas sector and key stakeholders of the project.

Dr Bartlett gave a presentation explaining the importance of this strategic project in supporting the sustainable

development endeavours in the Kingdom and its contribution to the aspirations of Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030.

Dr Bartlett reviewed the project criteria, guidelines, legislation and environmental requirements, and the best international practices in the industry

which are being applied to the project. "Our goal is to have a healthy two-way dialogue, and to demonstrate to all stakeholders that we have undertaken a comprehensive Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the BMP."

The first day of the event was

devoted to government ministries, industry partners and other invited stakeholders. Day two was for the general public. The accompanying exhibition explained the various scope and Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) aspects of BMP.

Huawei launches mate 20 X 5G smartphone



TDT | Manama

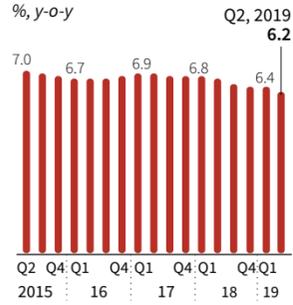
Huawei's highly anticipated Mate 20 X 5G has arrived in Bahrain and is now available for sale for 379.9 BHD through VIVA Bahrain.

Consumers also have the option to purchase the device through an instalment plan starting from 15.5 BHD each month with a 24-month contract, available with Postpaid SIM Card from VIVA Bahrain.

China GDP growth slows to 6.2pc in Q2

China GDP

Quarterly growth
%, y-o-y



Source: China NBS

© AFP

● The GDP figures are within the government's target range of 6.0-6.5pc for the whole year

● Total H1 exports rose only 0.1pc

● Industrial output rose 6.3pc, from 5.0pc in May

● H1 car sales were down 12.4pc

● The trade war with the US has hit demand for China's goods

Beijing, China

China's growth slowed to its weakest pace in almost three decades in the second quarter, with the US-China trade war and weakening global demand weighing on the world's number-two economy, official data showed yesterday.

The slowing economy makes it more difficult for President Xi Jinping to fight back forcefully against Washington -- which is using tariffs as leverage to try to



Beijing has introduced measures this year to boost the economy

force Beijing into opening up its economy.

The 6.2 per cent figure released by the National Bureau of Statistics was in line with a survey of analysts by AFP and down from a 6.4pc expansion in the first quarter.

The GDP figures are within the government's target range of 6.0-6.5pc for the whole year, down from the 6.6pc growth China put up in 2018.

"Economic conditions are still severe both at home and abroad, global economic growth is slowing down and the external instabilities and uncertainties are increasing," said NBS spokesman Mao Shengyong.

"The economy is under new downward pressure."

Beijing has introduced measures including a massive tax cut to boost the economy, but they have not been enough to offset a domestic slowdown and softening overseas demand -- made worse by a punishing trade war with its biggest trading partner country, the United States.

Total exports rose only 0.1pc on-year during the first six months.

Analysts widely expect Beijing will step up support in the coming months. Mao told journalists: "There is still much room for policy manoeuvring".

Monetary easing is expected

to help boost the economy, and the central bank on Monday finalised a previously announced cut to the amount of cash that small and medium-sized banks hold in reserve.

With this year marking the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China founding, politics necessitates healthy growth, said Raymond Yeung of ANZ bank.

"The Chinese government will not allow the quarterly growth to fall below 6.0 (percent)," he said in a note.

Bright spots

The month of June held bright spots for the economy.

Industrial output rose 6.3pc, from 5.0pc in May, which was the slowest increase since 2002.

Fixed-asset investment also picked up, rising 5.8pc on-year in January-June, from 5.6pc in January-May.

China's 1.3 billion consumers continued to open their wallets, with retail sales growing 9.8pc on-year in June, up from 8.6pc in May.

"A stronger end to the quarter didn't prevent growth from slowing in (the second quarter) and we see more weakness on the horizon," said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics in a note.

Sales of big-ticket items such

as cars have not held up, with sales down 12.4pc in the first half of the year, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

And growth in infrastructure investment has retreated from years of near 20pc expansion -- coming in at a 4.1pc rise in January-June.

Imports and exports also both shrank in June, while the urban unemployment rate ticked up to 5.1pc for the month.

Meanwhile, extreme weather and highly contagious African swine fever have sent food prices skyrocketing, especially for meat, with the size of the world's largest pig herd down 15pc in the first half of the year.

'Economic realities'

The trade war with the US has hit demand for China's goods, compounding slowing demand from the rest of the world.

"It's hard to escape the economic realities that the US-China trade war is having on global economies," said Stephen Innes, managing partner at Vanguard Markets.

Altogether the two economic giants have slapped each other with punitive tariffs covering more than \$360 billion in two-way trade, damaging manufacturers on both sides of the Pacific.

It helped push China's manufacturing activity into contraction last month and its exports to the US dropped more than 8pc over the first half of the year.

High-level trade talks to resolve the issues resumed this month, but the gulf between the two sides remains wide.

China on Friday said it would impose sanctions on US companies involved in a potential arms sale worth \$2.2 billion to self-ruled Taiwan.

CIBAFI and Ivey Business School to organise fifth executive programme



CIBAFI - Ivey Business School Executive Programme (file)

TDT | Manama

The General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions (CIBAFI) and Ivey Business School at Western University, Canada, on their fifth year of fruitful collaboration, bring this year's Executive Programme on "Strategic Thinking, Agile Leadership and Curiosity, and Application of FinTech Innovations".

The two-day programme will be held on 5 - 6 November 2019, in Manama.

This year's agenda will focus on strategic thinking, agile leadership and curiosity and the application of Fintech innovations to diverse aspects of the financial services. This year's Executive Programme

also aims to include a pre-programme survey to gauge the participants level of leadership curiosity as well as the inclusion of experience sharing from industry leaders.

This programme is ideal for Senior Executives and Board Members from the Finance and Banking sector, Strategy and Consulting Industries, as well as members of regulatory bodies, among other functions.

Interested participants are encouraged to apply before or by 18th August 2019 to avail of the discounted early bird registration fee. By the end of the programme, participants will be entitled to receive a joint certificate of attendance from CIBAFI & Ivey Business School.

Bahrain Islamic Bank ready for open banking services

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) yesterday announced its readiness for open banking services to its customers, effective 1 July 2019.

The open banking services features two types of services, the first being the Account Information Service, which comprise granting customers' access to their bank account data from different banks through a single unified platform; the second entailing the ability of customers to easily and effectively make payments and transfers between different accounts through a single application.

In the future, customers will be able to benefit from this streamlined platform, which provides them access to all of the leading banks and companies that provide banking services, enabling them to compare alternatives and select the option they require, the bank said in a statement.

"Open Banking is a game changer, it broadens the horizons for our customers, offering new online payment channels without the need for credit cards or debit cards, as well as providing access to their different bank accounts



Hassan Jarrar

through a single digital platform," said the Chief Executive Officer of BisB, Hassan Jarrar.

"We have securely positioned ourselves as a unique institution amongst the other leading banks in the Kingdom, setting the pace of competition in the digital race, in light of our unwavering commitment to continually provide innovative banking products and services. We look forward to working with FinTech companies and other institutions to implement the CBB's directives and spearhead digital innovation in the banking sector," he added.

Trump weighs ousting commerce secretary Ross

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump is considering removing Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross after the administration failed to add a question on citizenship to next year's census, NBC news reported Monday.

Ross was at Trump's side on Thursday as he announced he had abandoned the effort to add the citizenship question after the Supreme Court effectively blocked them from doing so last month.

Citing multiple anonymous sources, NBC News said Monday that Trump had told aides and allies he was considering whether to fire Ross "as soon as this summer."

A Commerce Department spokesman said Monday that Ross remained in his position and was busy overseeing the response to Hurricane Barry, after accompanying Trump on campaign stops as recently as Friday.

"He has shepherded the Department of Commerce into a new era, where, under the President's leadership and direction, we have better supported American businesses from unfair trading practices and have reinforced our national and economic security at long last," the spokesman



Secretary Wilbur Ross

told AFP by email.

The census case was widely seen as a stinging setback for Ross.

In court proceedings, federal judges found he had been untruthful in claiming he wanted to add the question at the Justice Department's request as part of efforts to enforce the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Opponents slammed the effort as a bid to tilt the balance of power in Congress to Republicans by discouraging non-whites from responding to the census, which is conducted every 10 years and used to decide the number of representatives in the granted to states.

Initially a key figure in Trump's aggressive trade policies, Ross in recent months has not had a visible role in crucial talks with China.

Ebdaa Bank set for Microfinance Cooperation with Qi Card

TDT | Manama

The Executive Officer of Ebdaa Microfinance Bank, Dr Khaled Al Ghazzawi, confirmed that the Bank is willing, through the Arab Gulf Development Programme (AGFUND), to support microfinance industry in all countries of the region.

During a meeting at his office at the Bank's headquarters in Sanabis with representatives of the international smart card company "Qi Card", Dr Al Ghazzawi affirmed that Bahrain has an integrated and advanced structure for the microfinance industry.

"Ebdaa Bank served more



Dr Khaled Al Ghazzawi receiving Qi Card representatives

than 14000 clients received BD 13 million of loans during the past ten years with a total of 2,670 Bahraini micro-entrepreneurs currently receiving loan amounts of up to BD 3 million," he added.

For his part, Scott Munden CEO of Qi Card stressed the keenness of the company to benefit of Bahrain success in microfinance, and transfer this experience to Iraq to serve their economy and development.

Qi Card has more than 8 million customers in Iraq and is currently moving towards microfinance and benefiting from the experience of AGFUND in this sector.

Saudi market extends gains

● Saudi gains for the sixth session

● Most property stocks up in Dubai

● Abu Dhabi ends 9-day winning streak

Reuters

Saudi Arabia's stock market rose for a sixth day with banks leading the rally on the back of a positive earnings outlook, while most other Gulf bourses fell back as investors await corporate results.

In Saudi Arabia the Tadawul main index rose 0.3 per cent, continuing its winning streak for the sixth straight session.

Lately the index has risen on the back of banks after EFG Hermes forecast a higher second-quarter profit for Saudi lenders.

National Commercial bank added 1.2pc, while Riyadh Bank gained 1.6pc a day after it traded ex-dividend.

The Dubai index was up 0.4pc due to strong real estate stocks,



Saudi stock market (Courtesy of Emerging Market views)

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 0.3pc	» 9,044 pts
ABU DHABI	▼ 0.3pc	» 5,042 pts
DUBAI	▲ 0.4pc	» 2,716 pts
QATAR	■ »	10,596 pts
EGYPT	▼ 0.3pc	» 13,628 pts
BAHRAIN	▼ 0.2pc	» 1,534 pts
OMAN	▼ 0.2pc	» 3,786 pts
KUWAIT	▼ 0.8pc	» 6,724 pts

with Emaar Properties rising 1.7pc, and Dubai Investments jumping 3.1pc.

DXB Entertainment closed flat. The theme park company rose as much as 3.4pc during the day after reporting a 5pc growth in second-quarter visits compared to same period year ago.

In Abu Dhabi, the index slipped 0.3pc, snapping nine straight days of gains, driven down by the country's largest lender First Abu Dhabi Bank,

which fell 0.3pc and Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, which dropped 1.2pc.

Kuwait's index declined 0.8pc, its second day of loss following a surge in 11 straight sessions after MSCI's decision to move Kuwaiti equities to its main emerging-market index in 2020.

The index is still up more than 27pc year-to-date outperforming its Gulf peers.

"GCC markets are being impacted by lower volumes in the summer to some extent. We see foreigners increasing their ownership in specific stocks," said Vrajesh Bhandari, senior portfolio manager, Al Mal Capital.

"Investors are awaiting full set of second-quarter results to form a clear view of which way the economies are headed and which companies are adapting better to the changing market conditions".

Qatar's index traded flat with Qatar National Bank gaining 0.5pc and market heavyweight Industries Qatar was down 0.6pc.

Egypt's blue-chip index slid 0.3pc with Commercial International Bank shedding 1.2pc and Juhayna Food losing 2.7pc.

One in five US Twitter users follows Trump: survey

Washington, United States

Nineteen percent of US Twitter users follow President Donald Trump on the social platform, and a majority of those people approve of his job performance, a survey showed yesterday.

The Pew Research Center report suggests Trump's @realDonaldTrump account -- with more than 60 million followers worldwide -- has succeeded in developing an audience largely favorable to his comments, which often generate controversy.

The report is based on a survey of 2,388 US adults who use Twitter and gave Pew permission to review their personal public-facing accounts, between December 2018 and July 2019.

Roughly three in 10 Republican adult Twitter users follow Trump, compared with 13 percent of Democrats, Pew said.

Among users who follow Trump, 54 percent approved of his job performance as of late 2018, compared with 24 percent of users who don't follow the president.

Despite the large following, Trump's direct reach on Twitter is still limited, according



Donald Trump

to Pew: only 22 percent of all US adults use the service, its surveys found.

And Trump's reach on Twitter remains below that of former president Barack Obama, who connects with 26 percent of the platform's users, Pew researchers found.

The news comes with Trump drawing fire for a series of tweets interpreted as attacking four progressive Democratic congresswomen of color -- calling on them to "go back" to their own countries, even though all are US citizens.

Trump's comments were branded "racist" and "xenophobic" by Democratic presidential candidates and senior lawmakers.

Markets slightly firmer after doubts over slowing Chinese economy

London, United Kingdom

World stock markets were slightly firmer yesterday, mostly posting modest gains after initial doubts on news that China's economy grew at its weakest pace in nearly three decades as US President Donald Trump's trade war hit home.

Wall Street opened little changed to weaker after its record-breaking run, with the market still counting on the US central bank to cut interest rates sooner rather than later despite recent strong jobs data.

Investors were also waiting to see earnings from JPMorgan Chase and the other banks, as well as other major companies such as Netflix, United Continental and Johnson & Johnson.

In Europe, London's benchmark FTSE 100 index closed 0.34 per cent higher and Frankfurt's DAX 30 put on 0.52pc while the Paris CAC 40 edged up 0.10pc.

"It was a day without much movement. The markets are really just waiting for a stronger lead on the macro-economic data front," Yann Azuelos of Mi-



Traders work after the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on Wall Street in New York City

rabaud France said.

Asian equities initially stumbled but then staged a recovery as traders digested Chinese second-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) numbers.

China's economy expanded 6.2pc in the second quarter, the slowest headline reading since the early 1990s, official data showed. The outcome was in

line with forecasts and within the government's target range.

"There's no doubt in anyone's mind that the trade war is a major contributing factor here," noted Oanda analyst Craig Erlam.

Bright spots

Yet, despite the slowing GDP, other figures showed there were

some bright spots in the Chinese economy, dealers said.

That handed a partial boost to the mining sector because China is a leading consumer of many raw materials.

Chinese industrial output in June rose 6.3pc, from 5.0pc in May.

Fixed-asset investment also picked up, rising 5.8 percent on-year in January-June, from 5.6 percent in January-May.

China's 1.3 billion consumers also continued to open their wallets, with retail sales growing 9.8pc year-on-year in June, up from 8.6pc in May.

"The Chinese data, while confirming slowdown fears, seems to be lifting basic resource stocks," Erlam said.

"A decent rebound in industrial production is naturally driving this, easily exceeding expectations, and along with retail sales and investment figures, arguably indicates that worst fears are not being realised."

The GDP number nevertheless highlights the negative impact the US tariffs stand-off is having on China, as leaders also try to recalibrate its growth model

Key figures around 1600 GMT

London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.34pc at 7,531.72 points (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.10pc at 5,578.21 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▲ 0.52pc at 12,387.34 (close)
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ 0.13pc at 3,502.22
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▲ 0.3pc at 28,554.88 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.4pc at 2,942.89 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	Closed for a holiday
New York - Dow:	■ at 27,313.51
Euro/dollar:	▼ AT \$1.1259 from \$1.1270 at 2100 GMT
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.2522 from \$1.2572
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 107.87 yen from 107.91 yen
Brent North Sea crude:	▼ 0.36pc at \$66.48 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 0.85pc at \$59.71 per barrel

from exports and state investment to one driven by consumer spending.

Observers pointed out that the weakness raised the chances of further monetary easing measures from the central People's Bank of China, with investors also tracking the progress of the latest trade talks between Washington and Beijing.

Amid concerns about the

possible impact, some expect the US Federal Reserve will cut borrowing costs at the end of the month, though there is speculation about how far it will go.

While bank boss Jerome Powell's congressional testimony last week flagged a reduction, data indicating inflation remains reasonably healthy has kept investors guessing.

SHOW

OASIS JUFFAIR

- 1-SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW**
*TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 PM
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 2.45 + 11.30 PM
DAILY AT (ATMOS): 10.15 AM + 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
DAILY AT (VIP): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
DAILY AT (3D): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
- 2-ALMAMAR (PG-13) (ARABIC/DRAMA/WAR) NEW**
*AHMAD EIZ, HIND SABRI, AHMAD RIZIK
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM. + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM
- 3-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COM-EDY)**
*TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 10.45 AM. + 12.45 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 PM
DAILY AT: 2.15 PM
- 4-ANNABELLE COMES HOME (15+) (HORROR)**
*VERA FARMIGA, MCKENNA GRACE, MADISON ISEMAN
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM
- 5-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)**
*WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
- 6-MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY)**
*TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 7.00 + 12.00 MN
- 7-ANNA (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)**
*SASHA LUSS, HELEN MIRREN, LUKE EVANS
DAILY AT: 4.30 + 9.30 PM
- 8-KABIR SINGH (15+) (HINDI/DRAMA/ROMANTIC)**
*SHAHID KAPOOR, KIARA ADVANI, ARJAN BAJWA
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM



- 5-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)**
*WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
- 6-MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)**
*MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHHAMED THARWAT
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM. + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM
- 7-MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY)**
*TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM
- 8-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME)**
*KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM. + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
- 9-ANNA (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)**
*SASHA LUSS, HELEN MIRREN, LUKE EVANS
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN
- 10-THE HUSTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME)**
*ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM
- 11-CHILD'S PLAY (18+) (HORROR)**
*AUBREY PLAZA, GABRIEL BATEMAN, BRIAN TYREE
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 3.00 + 7.30 + 12.00 MN
- 12-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY)**
*VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM
- 13-POKEMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU (PG) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY)**
*RYAN REYNOLDS, JUSTICE SMITH, KATHRYN NEWTON
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 4.15 + 9.30 PM
- 14-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)**
*BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
DAILY AT: 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 PM

- 15-SABIE AL BOROMBA (PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY)**
*RAMEZ GALAL, BAYOUMI FOUAD, JAMEELA AWAD
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM
 - 16-CASABLANCA (PG-15) (ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)**
*AMIR KARARA, GHADA ADEL, EYAD NASSAR
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 PM
- ## SEEF (II)
- 1-SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW**
*TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA
DAILY AT: (12.45 MN THURS./FRI.)
 - 2-PLAY OR DIE (18+) (THRILLER/ HORROR) NEW**
*CHARLEY PALMER ROTHWELL, ROXANE MESQUIDA, LAETITIA CHAMBON
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 3.30 + 7.30 + 11.30 PM
 - 3-I'LL TAKE YOUR DEAD (18+) (THRILLER/HORROR) NEW**
*AIDAN DEVINE, AVA PRESTON, JESS SALGUEIRO
DAILY AT: 1.30 + 5.30 + 9.30 PM
 - 4-CLARITA (15+) (FILIPINO/HORROR/DRAMA) NEW**
*RICKY DAVAO, ALYSSA MUHLACH, JODI STA. MARIA
DAILY AT: 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM
 - 5-ASTERIX: THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION (PG) (ANIMATION/ ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW**
*CHRISTIAN CLAVIER, GUILLAUME BRIAT, ALEX LUTZ
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 PM
 - 6-PAVAROTTI (PG-13) (DOCUMENTRY) NEW**
*SPIKE LEE, PRINCESS DIANA, LUCIANO PAVAROTTI
DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 PM
 - 7-MALAAL (PG-15) (HINDI/ ROMANTIC) NEW**
*MEEZAAN JAFRI, SHARMIN SEGAL, BADRI CHAVAN
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 3.00 + 7.30 + 12.00 MN
 - 8-HUME TUMSE PYAAR KITNA (PG-15) (HINDI/THRILLER/ROMANTIC) NEW**
*JUHI CHAWLA, PRIYA BANERJEE, KARANVIR BOHRA
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 3.15 + 7.30 + 11.45 PM
 - 9-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COM-EDY)**
*TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM
 - 10-ANNABELLE COMES HOME (15+) (HORROR)**

- *VERA FARMIGA, MCKENNA GRACE, MADISON ISEMAN
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM
 - 11-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)**
*WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 - 12-MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)**
*MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHHAMED THARWAT
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN
 - 13-MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY)**
*TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON
DAILY AT: 1.15 + 6.30 + 11.45 PM
 - 14-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME)**
*KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM
 - 15-THE HUSTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME)**
*ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP
DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.30 + 10.00 PM
 - 16-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY)**
*VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 3.45 + 9.00 PM
 - 17-POKEMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU (PG) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY)**
*RYAN REYNOLDS, JUSTICE SMITH, KATHRYN NEWTON
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 PM
- ## SEEF (I)
- 1-SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW**
*TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 12.15 + 12.45 + 2.30 + 3.00 + 3.30 + 5.15 + 5.45 + 6.15 + 8.00 + 8.30 + 9.00 + 10.45 + 11.15 PM. + 11.45 PM
 - 2-ALMAMAR (PG-13) (ARABIC/DRAMA/WAR) NEW**
*AHMAD EIZ, HIND SABRI, AHMAD RIZIK
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM
 - 3-ONE DAY: JUSTICE DELIVERED (PG-15) (HINDI/CRIME/THRILLER) NEW**
*ANUPAM KHER, KUMUD MISHRA, ESHA GUPTA
DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM

- 4-AND THE OSKAR GOES TO (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW**
*TOVINO THOMAS, ANU SITHARA, NIKKI RAE HALLOW
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 4.00 + 9.00 PM
- ## SAAR
- 1-SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW**
*TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.30 + 3.30 + 5.15 + 6.15 + 8.00 + 9.00 + 10.45 PM + 11.45 PM
 - 2-ALMAMAR (PG-13) (ARABIC/DRAMA/WAR) NEW**
*AHMAD EIZ, HIND SABRI, AHMAD RIZIK
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 3.15 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM
 - 3-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COM-EDY)**
*TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 PM
 - 4-ANNABELLE COMES HOME (15+) (HORROR)**
*VERA FARMIGA, MCKENNA GRACE, MADISON ISEMAN
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 PM

- ## AL HAMRA
- 1-OH BABY () (TELUGU) NEW**
*SAMANTHA AKKINENI, NAGA SHOURYA, LAKSHMI, RAO RAMESH
FROM FRIDAY 5th
DAILY AT: 12.00 NOON
 - 2-AND THE OSKAR GOES TO (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW**
*TOVINO THOMAS, ANU SITHARA, NIKKI RAE HALLOW
DAILY AT: 3.00 + 9.00 PM
 - 3-RAATCHASI (PG-13) (TAMIL) NEW**
*JYOTIKA, HAREESH PERADI, SATHYAN
FROM THURSDAY 4th AT 7.30 PM ONWARD
DAILY AT: 6.00 + (12.00 MN. THURS/FRI)

CITYCENTRE

- 1-SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW**
*TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.30 + 4.15 + 7.00 + 9.45 + (12.30 MN + 1.00 AM THURS./FRI)
DAILY AT (ATMOS): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN
DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 10.15 AM + 1.00 PM
DAILY AT VIP (I): 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
DAILY AT VIP (II): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
DAILY AT (3D): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
- 2-ALMAMAR (PG-13) (ARABIC/DRAMA/WAR) NEW**
*AHMAD EIZ, HIND SABRI, AHMAD RIZIK
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM
- 3-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COM-EDY)**
*TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM
DAILY (3D): 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM
- 4-ANNABELLE COMES HOME (15+) (HORROR)**
*VERA FARMIGA, MCKENNA GRACE, MADISON ISEMAN
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

- ## WADI AL SAIL
- 1-SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW**
*TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.00 + 1.00 + 2.45 + 3.45 + 5.30 + 6.30 + 8.15 + 9.15 + 11.00 PM + 12.00 MN
 - 2-ALMAMAR (PG-13) (ARABIC/DRAMA/WAR) NEW**
*AHMAD EIZ, HIND SABRI, AHMAD RIZIK
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM
 - 3-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COM-EDY)**
*TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 PM
 - 4-ANNABELLE COMES HOME (15+) (HORROR)**
*VERA FARMIGA, MCKENNA GRACE, MADISON ISEMAN
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM
 - 5-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)**
*WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
 - 6-MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)**
*MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHHAMED THARWAT
DAILY AT: 2.30 + 7.00 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM

MOVIE REVIEW

We Have Always Lived in the Castle: an arch, feminist fairy tale

● This 1960s-style adaptation hits every mark, without gore or jumpscare

Stacie Passon's *We Have Always Lived In The Castle* premiered on the festival circuit before the Netflix launch of Mike Flanagan's series based on Shirley Jackson's *The Haunting Of Hill House*, but it's certainly set to benefit from a resurgence of interest in adapting Jackson's fiction for the screen. A feature-length take on Jackson's short story, *The Lottery*, is also in development.

Following a family tragedy six years earlier, Mary Katherine "Merricat" Blackwood (Taissa Farmiga), her older sister Constance (Alexandra Daddario), and their ailing uncle Julian (Crispin Glover) live in isolation on their family estate away from the local village. Constance hasn't left their property in the intervening period since she was tried and acquitted of the



A scene from 'We Have Always Lived in the Castle'

poisoning death of her parents; Julian was also poisoned, but managed to survive.

With the villagers believing Constance got away with murder, and harassing Merricat

when she goes to town for shopping, the younger sister practices her own form of protective magic as a means of keeping harmful forces at bay. She increases her efforts tenfold upon the arrival

of their cousin, Charles (Sebastian Stan), who has come to visit, attempting to lure Constance away with promises of seeing the world, while also setting his sights on the family's fortune

hidden in a safe. Tensions rise as Charles berates the perceived derangement of Merricat and Julian.

While Flanagan's modern update of *The Haunting Of Hill*

House was a significant reimagining of its source material, Passon's film, written for the screen by Mark Kruger, is more faithful to Jackson's gothic novel, her final one, in period setting and narrative. There are, however, still some significant changes, particularly in the ending, that may prove divisive for Jackson-devotees. The film has engaging performances and some fine costume work, in particular. As written, though, while the novel's events make the jump to the screen, the spirit of the eerie prose is lost in translation.



The film directed by Stacie Passon is based on a novel by Shirley Jackson

celebs



Jordyn Woods and Kylie Jenner

Courtney Cox to star in, produce series on Netflix's 'Last Chance U' breakout

Los Angeles

Courtney Cox is set to feature in and executive produce a series based on the life of "Last Chance U" breakout Brittany Wagner.

According to Deadline, the series is Cox's first regular role since "Cougar Town" wrapped in 2015.

The series is in works at Spectrum Originals.

Netflix's "Last Chance U", which returns for a third installment on July 19, focuses on the coaches, players, and staff at a powerhouse community college football team.

The first two seasons took place at East Mississippi Community College, where Wagner served as the academic advisor for the student-athletes.

Wagner became a fan favourite for her passion and dedication towards the players.

She has since left East Mississippi to form her own company and become a motivational speaker.



Scarlett Johansson

Casting remarks were 'widely taken out of context': Scarlett Johansson

Los Angeles

Scarlett Johansson has clarified her recent comments about political correctness and casting in Hollywood as controversy threatened to brew, claiming her remarks were "edited for click bait" and "widely taken out of context".

"An interview that was recently published has been edited for click bait and is widely taken out of context," the actor said in a statement to Entertainment Weekly, referring to a recent article from the arts and culture publication As If.

In the said interview, she seemed to have reflected upon her casting as a transgender man in "Rub and Tug", a film she left after backlash, saying an actor should be free to explore a wide range of characters and art should not be bound by restrictions.

"The question I was answering in my conversation with the contemporary artist, David Salle, was about the confrontation between political correctness and art.

"I personally feel that, in an ideal world, any actor should be able to play anybody and art, in all forms, should be immune to political correctness. That is the point I was making, albeit didn't come across that way," Johansson clarified in the statement.

Last July, Johansson dropped out of Rupert Sanders' "Rub and Tug", in which she was attached to portray real life figure Dante Tex Gill, gangster and massage parlour owner, following outrage from the LGBT community.

Kylie Jenner reveals if she misses Jordyn Woods

Los Angeles

It has been nearly six months since American reality star and makeup mogul Kylie Jenner ended her friendship with supermodel Jordyn Woods. It was after Kylie's sister Khloe Kardashian's ex Tristan Thompson cheating scandal with Jordyn. And with plenty of time to reflect on their long-time friendship, Kylie isn't in a rush to have things go back to normal.

During American TV series 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' most recent finale, the viewers watched Khloe and Kylie experience the effects of Jordyn and Tristan's cheating scandal. Now, in this first look clip from the show's upcoming 17th season, premiering this fall, Khloe and Kylie discuss the scandal's after-effects in Napa Valley, reported E! News.

Replying to a question from Khloe about whether she misses Jordyn, Kylie said calmly, "I think that this whole Jordyn situation needed to happen for a reason. For me, for you, for everybody."

For Kylie, the "reason" is super personal and sounds like it has a lot more to do with her than it does with Jordyn.

"Jordyn was my security blanket. She lived with me. We did everything together," Kylie continued, explaining that their friendship eventually started to deter her from branching out because "I just felt like, 'Oh, I have Jordyn. I don't need anything else.'"

She went on to say that she realises now that "there's a part of me that needed to grow without her" and has come to terms with Jordyn's absence in her day-to-day life.

"Sometimes people are there for certain reasons at certain times in your life and then not there for others," she said.

"I really respect you that you're really good at being calm even when you probably do want to scream at someone," Khloe smiled, calling her little sibling "inspiring" before adding that she thinks Kylie's self-reflection is entirely "spot-on".



Pink

Los Angeles

Hollywood singer Pink, who is in Berlin with her children to spend some quality time, slammed people who left negative comments on the pictures of her two children playing at the city's Holocaust Memorial.

In the picture, her 8-year-old daughter Willow Sage and son 2-year-old Jameson Moon can be seen running through the memorial. The singer who has been incredibly vocal in the past about the "parenting police," went on to caption the series of pictures with an explanation of why she chose to include the picture of her children, even though she knew many of her fans might not understand.

"Berlin, I love you. Holocaust Memorial Panama Restaurant and for all of the comments; these two children are in actuality Jewish, as am I and the entirety of my mothers family. The very person who constructed this believed in children being children, and to me, this is a celebration of life after death. Please keep your hatred and judgment to yourselves," she captioned the post.

According to People, Peter Eisenman, the American architect who designed the memorial, has previously said that he has no issues with some of the more light-hearted ways visitors respond to space. There were many negative comments on the post of the singer with one critic telling her that her intention of posting 'happy pictures' from the memorial was "wrong."

Pink hits back, says 'keep hatred to yourselves' over Holocaust Memorial pictures

Next 007 to be revealed in 'Bond 25'

Los Angeles

There has been a lot of speculation on who will replace actor Daniel Craig as the next James Bond and the upcoming film 'Bond 25' may just solve the mystery!

The next James Bond film will show the secret agent pass the torch to another actor, reported Fox News.

If the latest report is anything to go by, the fans will be surprised to learn which star will be the new 007 and get the licence to kill. According to the outlet, the next James Bond will be played by 'Captain Marvel' fame actor Lashana Lynch.

The 31-year-old actor had a breakout role in the 2019 hit 'Captain Marvel' as Maria Rambeau, the titular superhero's best friend, and fellow Air Force pilot.

According to a report by The Daily Mail, as cited by Fox News, screenwriter Phoebe Waller-Bridge intervened to pass the torch on to the star.

"There is a pivotal scene at the start of the film where M says 'Come in 007,' and in walks Lashana who is black, beautiful and a woman. It's a popcorn-dropping moment. Bond is still Bond but he's been replaced as 007 by this stunning woman," a Bond insider stated.

"Bond, of course, is attracted to the new female 007 and tries his usual tricks, but is baffled when they don't work on a brilliant, young black woman who basically rolls her eyes at him and has no interest in jumping into his bed. Well, certainly not at the beginning," the source added.

The source also claimed that the phrase "Bond girls" is now verboten: The females in the spy franchise are now reportedly ordered to be called "Bond women."

Adam Sandler helps raise funds to honour late actor Cameron Boyce

Los Angeles

American actor Adam Sandler paid tribute to his late 'Grown Ups' co-star Cameron Boyce in a sweet and generous manner.

Thirst Project CEO and co-founder Seth Maxwell told TMZ that the actor helped to raise funds nearly \$15,000 from the Facebook fundraiser.

Other friends of the late actor, including fellow Disney star Skai Jackson and 'Modern Family' actor Nolan Gould, have also raised awareness of The Thirst Project, leading to a spike in donations.

The Thirst Project aims to provide clean drinking water and wells throughout Africa.

The charity honoured Boyce with the Pioneering Spirit Award at the 9th Annual Thirst Gala last April for raising over \$30,000 for the Thirst Project and helping to build two new wells in Swaziland.

In his acceptance speech for the award last year, Boyce quoted Denzel Washington, who once said, "You never see a U-Haul behind a hearse."



Adam Sandler

Meghan Markle meets Beyonce at 'The Long King' premiere

Los Angeles

Queen Bey meets the Duchess of Sussex! Looking like a million dollars, the pop royal, Beyonce attended the London premiere of 'The Long King' and immediately bonded with another royal Meghan Markle.

Beyonce sported a custom off-the-shoulder gold pleated gown with a thigh-high slit by Cong Tri, paired with fancy coloured diamond Lorraine Schwartz earrings and diamond rings, as she walked the film's red carpet at Leicester Square Gardens with her husband Jay-Z, reported People.



The singer voices Nala in the upcoming remake of the beloved 1994 Disney film.

While, Meghan has walked plenty of red carpets as an actor earlier, this marked her first film premiere as a royal. The Duchess of Sussex wore a semi-sheer Jason Wu black dress, paired with Aquazzura slingback heels and a black Gucci clutch. She was accompanied by her husband Prince Harry, who rocked a classic tuxedo for the event.

They were spotted talking to Beyonce and her husband. The ladies seemed happy around each other and hugged it out immediately. This marked the first time they have been captured together and is believed to be the first time that they have met, reported E! News.

SPORTS
sports**Griezmann trains with Barcelona**

AFP | Barcelona

French striker Antoine Griezmann trained with his new Barcelona teammates for the first time following his controversial move from Atletico Madrid.

"The first of two sessions scheduled for the day was completed by all available first team players, including the newest incorporations, Frenkie de Jong, Neto, and Antoine Griezmann," the Catalan club reported.

Another French forward, Ousmane Dembele, and German goalkeeper Marc-Andre Ter Stegen were both declared fit after recovering from injuries late last season. Ter Stegen had been suffering from soreness in his right knee while Dembele had problems with his right hamstring.

There was no sign of Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez, Philippe Coutinho, Arthur and Arturo Vidal who are all still on vacation after taking part in the Copa America.

Griezmann was presented as a Barcelona player on Sunday night, after the Catalans paid the 28-year-old's 120-million-euro (\$135 million) release clause.

Atletico described the amount as "insufficient", complaining that Barcelona and Griezmann had negotiated the deal before the buy-out price dropped from 200 million euros at the start of July.

Van Aert sprints to stage 10 win

A split in peloton meant several contenders lost almost two minutes during stage 10 of Tour de France

● **Crosswind sends Alaphilippe and Ineos clear on Tour**

● **Wout van Aert won a bunch sprint in Albi**

● **Pinot, Fuglsang, Urán and Porte lose time in crosswinds**

AFP | Albi, France

Dutch rookie Wout van Aert won stage 10 of the Tour de France yesterday as Julian Alaphilippe extended his overall lead after a blistering late charge split the peloton.

Yellow jersey wearer Alaphilippe started the attack from 20km out and defending champion Geraint Thomas and his Ineos team joined in to leave at least five of their rivals trailing 1min 36 adrift at the finish in the red roofed south-eastern town of Albi on the banks of the Tarn river.

Richie Porte, Thibaut Pinot, Jakob Fuglsang, Rigoberto Uran and Mikel Landa all lost time after overall leader Alaphilippe launched a devastating surge as a sudden headwind split the peloton.

Alaphilippe, in top spot, leads



Wout van Aert celebrates after crossing the line

second placed Thomas by 1min 12sec, a second Ineos rider, Egan Bernal, is at 1min 16, and van Aert's teammate Steven Kruijswijk is another 11sec off in fourth.

Ineos plan pays off

Ineos boss Dave Brailsford said the stage went exactly as he had planned it.

"We saw the weather and spoke about this in the pre-race briefing," said the Briton who has plotted six Tour de France victories from the last seven.

His co-leader Thomas was exultant, if exhausted.

"That's just great. It was just a positioning error from them and they lose a minute and a half. That's how it goes," said Thomas.

The 22-year-old Bernal takes the best young rider's white jersey.

"It was wild, but that's the Tour de France, every day is super-hard here and anything can happen. We are really happy to have gained some time," said the slightly built Bernal, who proved

again here he can keep up with the burly riders who do well in crosswinds.

Nairo Quintana of Movistar was all smiles too, after finishing in the mini-peloton after an exhausting long-range dash.

"I was fortunate to be aware of what was happening, I feel lucky in a way, that's racing," said Quintana, whose co-captain Landa lost over 2 minutes.

Jumbo Visma's Dutch stage winner van Aert claimed his first Tour de France victory beating top sprinters drained by the

high-speed run in.

On his debut Tour van Aert, who did well in the spring classics and won two stages on the Criterium du Dauphine after converting from cyclo-cross, is the latest break out star on an unpredictable 2019 Tour.

"That's three stage wins for us so far," said the 24-year-old multiple cyclo-cross world champion.

"It was great for me and Stevie (Kruijswijk)," said van Aert, who also said his win was down to perfect planning after he pipped Elia Viviani at the line.

"I came from the back with a really fast launch, I planned it that way because its the fastest way to finish and I was surprised to see they left a big gap for me to come through.

Slovak star Peter Sagan, the best paid rider in the peloton at 4 million euros (\$4.51 million) per season, won in Albi six years ago but finished sixth yesterday.

On a 217.5km run that embarked from the breathtaking vantage point of the citadel of Saint Flour, it was the crosswinds rather than the three hills that eventually blew the race open.

The Tour reached its halfway point ahead of the first rest day.

After Tuesday's break, the second half of the race is packed with high-altitude racing.

London embraces Brave 24

TDT | Manama

In an implementation of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee BRAVE 24 will be held on July 25, 2019, in Copper Box Arena, London.

The event comes as part of BRAVE's calendar for the year 2019 which was approved by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa in an effort to spread the MMA sport around the world. Chaired by Mr Mohammed Shahid, the High Organising Committee of the event has begun preparations by sketching a promotional plan for BRAVE 24.



Lucas Martins

"We are following HH Shaikh Khalid's directives and instructions as we are eager to extend the reach of this sport and strengthen its worldwide presence," he said. It's worth citing that it's the second time for BRAVE to take place in UK which played host to the 13th edition of the competition.

BRAVE 24 will feature Bahraini professional fighter Hussain Ayyad who will face

Mitchell Johnson, while the event will be headlined by a Featherweight world title fight that will see Bubba Jenkins (c) taking on Lucas Martins.

Jenkins made waves in his debut, dethroning former champion Elias Boudegzdam with a dominant decision victory in Abu Dhabi, and is excited to continue to help BRAVE expand its message throughout the world, with yet another country added to his passport in England. "I'm a Bad Man" has been vocal with his wishes for BRAVE to take place in UK which played host to the 13th edition of the competition. HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa's vision of uniting the world through mixed martial arts.

Bahrain to host international horserace

TDT | Manama

Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club's Executive Director, Shaikh Salman bin Rashid Al Khalifa, announced that Bahrain will be officially organising its first-ever international horserace.

This high-profile event is scheduled to be held on November 22 at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club in Sakhir, with the participation of vari-

ous owners, trainers and horses from around the world.

The announcement came during Shaikh Salman bin Rashid's media interviews on the sidelines of the prestigious Bahrain Trophy horserace, held at Newmarket, in the United Kingdom.

Shaikh Salman affirmed that hosting an international horserace for the very first time in Bahrain is considered an unprecedented achievement in

the history of Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club. It can be of great benefit to the sport and to the Kingdom as a whole, as it highlights the country's excellent standing in this field.

He said that organising such an event is within the plans and goals of Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club's High Committee, which aims to further contribute to the economic, tourism and sporting sectors in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

FIVB U21 Worlds cements Bahrain's status as international sporting destination: Shaikh Khalid

Bahrain team players with staff after a training session

TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa said that hosting the FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship 2019 is in line with the BOC's strategy to cement the Kingdom of Bahrain's status as an international sporting destination.

Supreme Council for Youth and Sports First Deputy Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) President noted that staging major competitions of this level is a testament to the excellent organisational capabilities and warm hospitality of Bahrain, as well as its great reputation amongst the global sporting community.

HH Shaikh Khalid expressed his great confidence in the tournament's Higher Organising Committee, under the leadership of Bahrain Volleyball Association (BVA) President Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, on delivering a successful and memorable tournament. He said that hosting this event also further strengthens Bahrain's relationship with the Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), the sport's governing body.

Meanwhile, Bahrain have finalised their team line-up ahead of the start of competition on Thursday at Shaikh Isa Sports City in Riffa.

The squad includes 14 players, all of whom are aged 20

years old or below, making Bahrain one of the youngest teams in the world championship.

Four of the players are just 18, including middle blocker Hassan Al Shakhori, opposite hitter Jassim Mohammed Turki, and libero Hussain Sultan and Bader Nasser.

Opposite hitter Sayed Mohammed Alabar, middle blockers Jawher Fares and Mohamed Jassim Abdulla, setter Mohamed Haroona and outside hitters Hussain Ali Thamer and Hasan Alhaddad are all 19 years of age. The 20-year-olds on the team are setters Saif Yusuf Saif and Yousuf Saif along with opposite hitters Mahmood Ahmed Mohammed and Sayed Yusuf Jaffer.

Djokovic vows to win love with record in view

'When they chant Roger, I hear Novak': Djokovic admits 'toughest' Wimbledon win

AFP | London

Novak Djokovic has vowed to convince fans that he is not public enemy number one even if he surpasses people's champion Roger Federer as the greatest Grand Slam title winner of all time.

The world number one saved two match points to clinch a fifth Wimbledon title and 16th major on Sunday, shattering Federer's bid to become the oldest Grand Slam champion in the longest final ever contested at the tournament.

Despite being outplayed by the 37-year-old Swiss for large parts of the knife-edge encounter, the top seed emerged victorious 7-6 (7/5), 1-6, 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 13-12 (7/3).

At four hours and 57 minutes, it was the longest Wimbledon final and the first to be settled by a final set tiebreak.

Djokovic is the first man in 71 years to win the title from match points down, saving two in the 16th game of the deciding set.

His major title tally is now just two behind Rafael Nadal and four off the all-time men's Grand Slam record of 20 held by Federer.

He has time on his side, being a year younger than Nadal and more than five years younger than the legendary Swiss.

After Sunday's epic triumph, Djokovic revealed he was able to turn the overwhelmingly pro-Federer, 14,000-strong Centre Court crowd in his favour by training his mind.

'They chant Roger, I hear Novak'

"I like to transmute it in a way: When the crowd is chanting 'Roger' I hear 'Novak'," said the 32-year-old Djokovic.

"It sounds silly, but it is like that."

Djokovic has spent the best part of his career in pursuit of Nadal and Federer and attempting to seduce fans sceptical of his character.

For many he is viewed as too intense, too insincere, too calculating and prone to fads.



Novak Djokovic holds the winner's trophy as runner up Roger Federer looks on



Since the start of 2015, Djokovic has won nine of the 19 majors played with Nadal winning four and Federer three

Federer and Nadal, in comparison, are treated almost reverentially.

"It's hard to not be aware of the crowd. You have that kind of electric atmosphere, that kind of noise," said Djokovic.

"Of course, if you have the majority of the crowd on your side, it helps. When you don't, then you have to find it within, I guess."

Djokovic insists he won't get distracted by the pursuit of Federer's record haul.

"Whether I'm going to be able to do it or not, I don't know. "I'm not really looking at age

as a restriction of any kind for me at least. What I said on the court, I really meant it: Roger really inspires me with his effort at his age.

"It just depends how long I'm going to play, whether I'm going to have a chance to make historic No. 1 or Slams."

When asked if he sees himself still playing at 37, Djokovic said the motivation to be treated with the same respect is strong.

Eventually, hearing screams of "Let's go, Novak, let's go" will be more than welcome.

"Hopefully in five years' time I can be hearing the same chants."

Most consistent of 'Big Three'

Djokovic is by far the most consistent of the 'Big Three' at the Slams.

Since the start of 2015, he has won nine of the 19 majors played with Nadal winning four and Federer three.

The other three have been split between Stan Wawrinka (two) and Andy Murray (one).

On Sunday, Djokovic saved match points in the 16th game of the deciding set, which ran for over two hours and was settled

by a 12-12 tiebreak for the first time in a singles match at the tournament.

It was another display of stunning mental fortitude.

He has been in similar predicaments in the past against Federer -- saving two match points in both of his semi-final victories over the Swiss at the 2010 and 2011 US Opens.

"I just try to never lose self-belief, just stay calm, just focus on trying to get the ball back, return, which wasn't serving me very well today.

"But in the most important moments, all three tiebreaks I guess, I found my best game."

He was off the pace for large parts of the final, only carving out his first break points in the eighth game of the fourth set.

Federer won more points in the match with 218 to 204, broke serve seven times compared to three, hit 25 aces to 10 and 94 winners to Djokovic's 54.

"I thought I could have played better. But the one thing that probably allowed me to come back and save match points and win this match was the mental stability," admitted the champion.



England's Ben Stokes (L) plays a shot with England's Jos Buttler during the 'super over'

Morgan hails 'superhuman' World Cup hero Stokes

AFP | London

Eoin Morgan paid tribute to the "almost superhuman" Ben Stokes after the all-rounder played a pivotal role in England's stunning Super Over win against New Zealand in a thrilling final at Lord's on Sunday.

Morgan's men needed 39 runs off the final 23 balls to win when Chris Woakes holed out but thanks to man-of-the-match Stokes's 84 not out, they tied New Zealand's target of 241 off 50 overs.

He was then chosen to bat the Super Over with Jos Buttler and although both teams scored 15 runs, England won by virtue of scoring more boundaries in the match.

"It's been phenomenal -- people believed because we believed," said Morgan. "It's been an incredible day. Sport is often about fine margins. Today was the finest of margins."

"To come through it was extraordinary, almost a superhuman way to carry the innings. His (Stokes's) partnership with Jos was extraordinary -- everyone back home is hopefully trying to be the next Ben Stokes," Morgan said.

All-rounder Stokes's heroics came three years after he was hit for four straight sixes by Carlos Brathwaite in the last over of West Indies' stunning World Twenty20 final win over England in India.

It also represented a redemption of sorts for the Durham star, born in Christchurch, New Zealand, after a 2017 street brawl and subsequent court case threatened to ruin his career and he wept openly during the jubilant on-field celebrations.

"I said it before but a lot of careers would have been ended after what happened in Calcutta (Kolkata)," said Morgan.

"The way he trains, he's an incredible cricketer. Today, he's had a day out."

Morgan admitted he was struggling to take in that England's 44-year wait for a first World Cup crown had at last come to an end after three losing appearances in finals.

"Absolutely unbelievable, I still can't quite believe it," he said. "I thought it was over when Chris Woakes got out but then Liam Plunkett got us back into the game and we had the rub of the green with

Ben's overthrows (a deflection off Stokes's bat went for four overthrows)."

Victory completed four years of painstaking work for Morgan, who captained the side to a humiliating group-stage exit at the 2015 World Cup.

England have since recovered to become the top-ranked side in the world, but were on the

verge of failing to make the semi-finals once more after losing to Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia in the group stage.

To come through it was extraordinary, almost a superhuman way to carry the innings. His (Stokes's) partnership with Jos was extraordinary -- everyone back home is hopefully trying to be the next Ben Stokes

EOIN MORGAN

'Gutted' Williamson says World Cup final defeat hard to swallow

AFP | London

Kane Williamson admitted New Zealand's agonising World Cup final defeat against England was "hard to swallow" after his team were beaten on Sunday because they scored less boundaries than the new champions.

"What did they win it on, boundaries? While the emotions are raw it's pretty hard to swallow when two teams work so hard to get to this moment in time," he said.

"We had two attempts to separate us and still couldn't -- it is what it is, the rules are there at the start and they probably never thought they would have to use them."

New Zealand's angst was exacerbated as they also lost the



New Zealand's captain Kane Williamson (R) shakes hands with Indian legend Sachin Tendulkar (L) as he receives his player of the tournament award

2015 World Cup final against Australia and have never won the tournament.

It was especially traumatic for Williamson and company after they twice came close to beating England in the match and then

the Super Over.

"Gutted, obviously. We put in a huge amount of work to get to the final and to pretty much do all we could," he said.

"I have spoken a lot about uncontrollables and there were a

Kiwis praise team but query 'cruel' rules

AFP | Wellington

Hearthbroken New Zealanders expressed pride yesterday in the Black Caps' fighting spirit after defeat to England in the Cricket World Cup final, but also bemusement at the obscure rules that cost them the match.

The Black Caps lost even though scores were tied at the end of both regular play

and a Super Over shootout, with England's superior boundary count giving them victory.

As Kiwi fans absorbed a second straight loss in the tournament decider, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was concentrating on the positives.

"That was undeniably an incredible game. I think as a nation we all aged a year in that Super Over," she posted

on social media. "Congratulations to England. And to the Black Caps, I feel nothing but pride. What a team."

But her sports minister Grant Robertson questioned the tie-break method.

"What an extraordinary game. Not sure Super Over is the right end," he tweeted.

"Whatever, NZ you can be so proud of this team."

Having only qualified for the semi-finals on net run-rate after finishing level on points with Pakistan, the Black Caps were seen as outsiders in the last four.

But they stunned India in the semi-finals and came within a whisker of stopping England winning their maiden World Cup.