

Ariana Grande splits from fiancé

Singer Ariana Grande and "Saturday Night Live" star Pete Davidson have called off their engagement. The couple ended their engagement over the weekend, TMZ reported on Sunday.

P13

THE DAILY tribune

Prince Harry and Meghan expecting their first baby

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BUSINESS

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Arcapita invests in Saudi women's fitness chain

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#TeamBahrain

Consensus on CR fees hike

TDT | Manama

The Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Sameer Nass yesterday said that following lengthy discussions with the government officials a consensus was reached, according to which the fees for new Commercial Registrations will be BD50 with BD100 for up to three activities, while additional business activities will be charged BD 100 each.

Mr Nass explained that the initial proposal of the chamber was to keep the new fees within the range of neighbouring Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries at BD100 for new Commercial Registrations and BD75 for the renewal.

He explained that the Chamber had formed an action group headed by the second vice-chairman Mohammed Al Kooheji to carry out a study on the impact of inflated CR fees on business owners and the general business atmosphere in the Kingdom.

He underlined that the study was carried out on the basis of a questionnaire apart from roundtable discussions it held with businessmen in the country.

Elaborating on the study, Mr Nass explained, "Of the total CRs in Bahrain, 83.24 per cent are involved in running between one and three business activities, while the remaining 16.76pc run more than three business activities."

Inspect labour camps

Strict legal action against providing substandard accommodation facilities to labourers

● The directive follows the building collapse in the Salmaniya area last Tuesday, leaving four dead and more than 30 injured.

● HRH the Premier reviewed the steps taken by the ministries of Labour and Social Development, the Interior, Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning and Health after the disaster.

Manama

The Cabinet chaired by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday gave directives to Labour and Social Development Ministry to cooperate with the Interior Ministry and Ministry of Works,



HRH the Premier chairs the Cabinet.

Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning to conduct frequent inspections to all labour accommodation facilities in the Kingdom to ensure the safety of labourers.

As per the directive, strict legal action will be taken against those responsible for providing substandard accommodation facilities to the labourers across the Kingdom.

The directive follows the building collapse in the Salmaniya area last Tuesday, leaving four dead and more than 30 injured.

The building, which was home to over 170 labourers, collapsed following a gas cylinder blast.

HRH the Premier reviewed the steps taken by the ministries of Labour and Social Development, the Interior, Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning and Health after the disaster.

He commended the efforts exerted by the various directorates of the Ministry of Interior, particularly the Civil Defence, as well as those of the relevant ministries, to deal with the incident.

Among other things, the session welcomed Bahrain's election as member of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), expressing pride in the International Community's confidence in Bahrain.

The Cabinet approved the agreement reached between the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism on the fees of the business activities which HRH the Prime Minister had ordered the postponement of their implemen-

tation for two six-month periods until the two sides reached an agreement.

Under the agreement, a fixed BD100-fee will be imposed on the first three business activities, and BD 100-fee for each additional one.

The session endorsed a draft resolution amending the provisions of the executive regulations of the Decree-Law on the Establishment and Organisation of Industrial Zones promulgated by Edict 1/2000.

LAND OF TOLERANCE

Indian Premier Modi tweets praises for Bahrain

● The song, Vaishnava Jana To is one of the most popular Hindu bhajans, written in the 15th century by the poet Narsinh Mehta in the Gujarati language.

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister yesterday retweeted a remark made by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi describing Bahrain as the land of tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

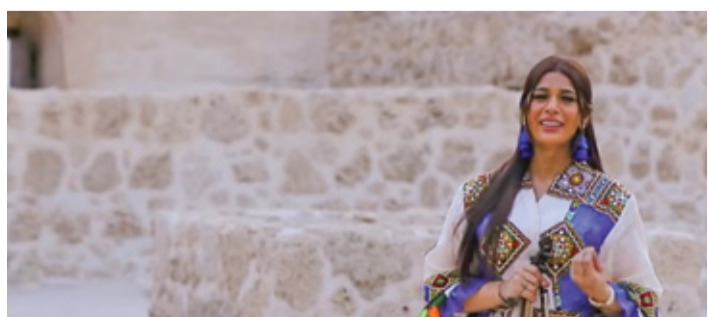
Mr Modi had posted a video link along with his tweet which



HRH the Crown Prince



Mr Modi



A screenshot of the video posted by Mr Modi.

showed Bahraini artist Noor singing a song that portrayed Indian heritage.

The song, Vaishnava Jana To is one of the most popular Hindu bhajans, written in the 15th century by the poet Narsinh Mehta in the Gujarati language.

The bhajan, which was very close to the heart of India's father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi, speaks about the life, ideals and morals to be followed in one's life.

"Bahrain is a model of religious moderation and peaceful coexistence where Mahatma Gandhi's principles are embodied. The walls of Arad Castle were chanted with Noor singing," Mr Modi tweeted.

Hailing the tweet, HRH the Crown Prince retweeted: "We are proud of Bahrain's long and rich heritage of moderation and peaceful coexistence. I hope you



A screenshot of the Twitter page.

can see her soon in person at a special concert at Arad Fort."

Noor, a Bahraini singer, is trained in Arabic and Carnatic music.



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HH Shaikh Nasser's achievement lauded

Contd from Page 1

The Cabinet yesterday extended sincere congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on the landmark achievement of the Representative of HM the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Supreme Council of Youth and Sports Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President, HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, who won the IRONMAN World Championship which was held in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, USA.

HRH Premier expressed congratulations to HH Shaikh Nasser on the historic win that adds to Bahrain's rich record of sports accomplishments, voicing deep pride in the Bahraini youth's landmark achievements at various international gathering, including the sports ones, a post-session statement by the Cabinet Secretary-General, Dr. Yasser bin Isa Al-Nasser, said.

In another development, the Cabinet affirmed that the Saudi Government, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, is widely recognised for its commitment to its fundamentals, as well as status as a cornerstone for global, Arab and Islamic security and stability, highlighting its regional and international weight.

It also underlined the widely-known keenness of the Saudi leadership on the security and safety of its citizens wherever they are, as well as on the stability of other countries and the safety of their peoples.

The Prime Minister gave directives to form a high-profile Bahraini delegation, comprising ministers and officials, to participate in the 'Future Investment Initiative' (FII) conference, set to be held in Saudi Arabia, under the auspices of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and chairmanship of Crown Prince, Deputy Premier, Defence Minister, Council of Economic and Development Affairs Chairman and Public Investment Fund's Board Chairman, HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

The session welcomed Bahrain's ranking first in the Arab world and 47th at the world level, among 157, countries, in the "Human Capital Index", launched recently by the World Bank during the Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund and the



HH Shaikh Nasser lifts the trophy after winning the IRONMAN championship.

World Bank Group in Indonesia.

The Cabinet said that the milestone reflects the success of the government's approach and policies aimed at wisely investing in the human capital, being the cornerstone of sustainable development, through its unwavering keenness on supporting their capabilities, knowledge and skills.

It also affirms the success of the government's educational strategy and effectiveness of its policies to improve the quality of the health services delivered to the citizens, the cabinet said while commenting on a report submitted by the ministers of Finance and Education on the reasons for Bahrain's ranking high in the Human Capital Index.

The session was informed about the tenders that had been launched during the third quarter of this year in the construction and sanitation projects.

A memorandum submitted by the Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning revealed that 23 tenders, valued at BD 17.7 million, had been

launched, and that 19 among them, costing BD 41.7 million, had been awarded.

The minister also said that 50 projects, worth BD 126 million, are currently implemented.

The memorandum showed that a total of 88 tenders in roads, construction and sanitation sectors, valued at BD 101 million, had been launched in the first three quarters of 2018, and that 90 tenders, worth BD 240 million, had been awarded.

The session reviewed, through a memorandum presented by the Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister, the key economic indicators of the the second quarter of 2018.

Figures showed an increase in Bahrain's gross domestic product (GDP) in the second quarter by 6.1 per cent compared to the first.

They also showed an increase in the volume of trade exchange by 9.7pc compared with the first quarter, reaching BD 2.1 billion, while imports went up by 9.8pc and exports by 4.3pc compared with the first quarter of this year.

Bahrain's solidarity with Saudi stressed



HRH the Crown Prince



HRH Prince Mohammad

Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday held a telephone call with His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

During the telephone call, HRH the Crown Prince highlighted Bahrain's full solidarity alongside Saudi Arabia against any targeted attempts to undermine its policies, position and sovereignty. HRH

the Crown Prince also highlighted the long-standing Bahraini-Saudi ties which are underpinned by shared strategic interests.

HRH the Crown Prince went on to emphasise the constructive role played by Saudi Arabia across all fields, both regionally and internationally, and its efforts in safeguarding regional safety and stability.

HRH the Crown Prince confirmed that in response to HRH Prince Mohammad bin Salman's invitation he will lead Bahrain's high-level delegation participating in the Future Investment Initiative, which is set to take place in Riyadh next week.

Bahrain to host major weddings

Manama

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) announced that it will be hosting four major weddings, with more than 2,000 guests arriving via Gulf Air, the national carrier of Bahrain.

"We are pleased to be hosting four major Indian weddings in the upcoming months which will contribute \$5 million to the Kingdom's GDP and further promote Bahrain as a prime wedding destination. The weddings will be held during the period between November 2018 and February 2019," said the adviser to the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority, Dr Ali Hassan Follad.

"The BTEA aims to provide the needed support to seamlessly host weddings in Bah-

5
million American dollars is the expected contribution of the four luxury Indian weddings to Bahrain's GDP.

rain by providing turn-key solutions including organising logistics, venue selection, in addition to liaising with suppliers and industry professionals such as Gulf Air," he added.

Bahrain boasts a number of 5 and 4 star hotels with a fully dedicated service sector that is able to offer all services from food and beverages, entertainment and unique wedding concepts.

6.1
per cent will be the growth in the Kingdom's GDP during the second quarter of 2018, according to key economic indicators.

Co-operation discussed



Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan yesterday received Indian Ambassador to Bahrain Alok Kumar Sinha. They discussed labour strides in the Kingdom as well as co-operation between the Embassy and the Labour Ministry.

Expatriate 'goes missing'

● If anyone has any information about the missing person, they can contact Mr Sabu on 39288072 or the nearest police station.

TDI | Manama

An Indian expatriate has been reported missing in the Kingdom.

Sources said, Parampuzha Saju Kurian who works in a pri-



Mr Sabu

vate company has been missing since last Friday.

Relatives said the company had informed them about "their missing staff".

The 55-year-old man hails

from the Kottayam district in the Indian state of Kerala.

Saju, whose family is in his hometown, was staying in his company accommodation in Riffa.

He has been working in the same company since 2007, sources added.

His brother Sabu Kurian along with his family lives in the Kingdom.

If anyone has any information about the missing person, they can contact Mr Sabu on 39288072 or the nearest police station.

When bullies rule schools

Bahrain has the second highest bullying rate among school students globally

TDT | Manama
Thamer Taifoor

A recent study has shockingly revealed that Bahrain has the second highest school bullying rates for elementary stage students globally, stressing that 43 per cent of students were bullying victims.

The study, conducted by Bahraini educationalist Dr Mariam Al Qassab, showed that verbal bullying is the most common type of bullying at Bahrain's schools. It also revealed that male students were more exposed to school bullying when compared to female pupils.

Dr Al Qassab was a speaker at a local event that aimed to reduce school bullying incidents.

Speaking to Tribune, she said, "Bullying is a negative behaviour that is annoying and hurtful, deliberate and repeated, by one or more persons, and is directed against a person who finds difficulty to defend himself/herself."

"Bullying is divided into three types that include physical, verbal and social bullying. It consists of three parties, which are the bully, the victim and the spectator.

"Globally, and according to 80 international studies, the average exposure of youth to traditional bullying is estimated to be



Dr Al Qassab speaking at the event.



Students who underwent anti-bullying training at the event.

”
Bullying is divided into three types that include physical, verbal and social bullying. It consists of three parties, which are the bully, the victim and the spectator.

DR AL QASSAB

around 35pc and 15pc are exposed to electronic bullying," Dr Al Qassab stated.

Dr Al Qassab also said that according to a study conducted by the Boston University, Bahrain comes second in terms of bullying cases reported among pupils studying in the first six academic years.

She explained: "According to official statistics of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, 37.3pc of the Bahraini youth were victimised by cyber bullying, while 30pc practised it.

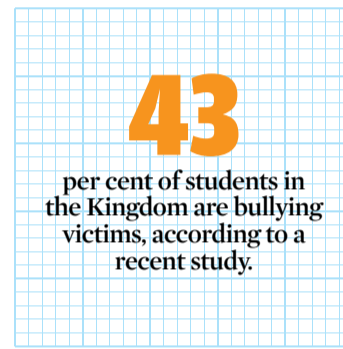
"Another local study showed that 65.3pc of Bahrainis were exposed to bullying at schools. Bahrain is a diversified society and this high rate of bullying is

unlikely to be reported in such a society."

The expert stressed on the necessity of raising more awareness on bullying in Bahrain, calling upon parents and decision makers to be more involved in combatting such phenomena.

"There are no official statistics on bullying available yet from the Education Ministry or Labour and Social Development Ministry," she added.

On her part, Naseem Anti-Bullying Initiative President Enas Al Fardan said the initiative trained 600 students of both genders in six schools on methods to combat



bullying.

Ms Al Fardan also said 11 infographics; three short films and 23 paintings on anti-bullying were also introduced to the students.

She commented: "This global and dangerous phenomenon has negative impact on students in the short and long run. This may push students who were victimised by bullies to hate schools and the entire educational process.

"It could also lead to more serious psychological problems such as depression, anxiety and suicide. Combatting bullying at schools should be a priority to maintain school psychological safety of children, as they spent most of their time at schools. A safe and non-violent school environment should be provided to every student."

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VIVA primed for further digital transformation

'VIVA is committed to digital transformation and will work continuously to bolster its digital offerings'

● VIVA's latest steps will support Bahrain's Economic vision 2030 by playing an active role to provide the needed technological support and market visibility to strengthen Bahrain's position on the map as a regional hub for digital transformation.

TDT | Dubai
Mohammed Zafran

VIVA's way forward will be with a stronger focus on digital transformation and innovation while continuously adapting to the changing customer needs, according to its Chief Executive Officer.

The changing times and landscape has called for a shift in focus at VIVA, with the company's goals now firmly planted on introducing innovative digital solutions in addition to technological investments to help enhance lives of their customers, he pointed out.

The telecommunication company has recently released several services in the digital realm, and will continue to do so vigorously, said VIVA CEO Ulaiyan Al Wetaid. He was speaking to reporters during a media roundtable session at STC's stall at GITEX held in Dubai yesterday.

According to him, VIVA's latest steps will support Bahrain's Economic vision 2030 by playing an active role to provide the needed technological support and market visibility to strengthen Bahrain's position on the map as a regional hub for digital transformation.



VIVA places innovation and digital transformation at the heart of everything we do and has taken great steps towards this by launching innovative products and services that allow to better serve customers.

MR AL WETAID

Digitisation

Mr Al Wetaid said that VIVA is committed to digital transformation and will work continuously to bolster its digital offerings.

"VIVA places innovation and digital transformation at the heart of everything they do and has taken great steps towards this by launching innovative products and services that allow to better serve customers.

"VIVA has worked continuously to bolster its digital operations, and its strong subscriber base is the foundation of its continued growth and success.

"Customers have been the key drivers for VIVA to pursue technological innovations and deliver product portfolios that are relevant and responsive to their needs.

"And keeping up with technological changes, adhering to evolving customers' requirements and introducing digital services that are powerful and simple solutions designed to enrich the customers' lives and create a truly integrated digital experience is at the core of VIVA's offering.

"The typical services telecom operators offer its customers, are no longer enough, which is why VIVA expanded its offering beyond the telecom pure play services such as voice and data, to offering services around the handset; device financing, trade-in, handset insurance and lifetime handset proposition.

"As a major consumer facing organisation, customer engagement and the delivery of the best possible service has always been a primary focus for us.

"VIVA has been consistently market leaders when it comes to introducing new, innovative and an increase number of contact channels such as website and mobile application based live chat, WhatsApp, social media and email.

"The increase in the number of channels available for customers has seen a major increase in digital interactions, reaching a monthly peak in 2018 of 200,000, compared to just 13,000 voice calls.

"Digital transformation also plays a major role in our delivery of world class customer service and a number of our recent innovations have been

specifically developed to make the lives of our customers easy and rewarding as possible."

Digital Offerings

Describing some of the new digital offerings introduced, he said, "An example of our initial digital offerings and marking Bahrain's first advancement into the realm of connected digital solutions has been with VIVA Connected Life - that served as an epitome of breaking boundaries, progression, creativity and innovation.

"Focusing on the most important aspects of life - home, car, health, family by making them available to the community through large physical devices embedded with electronics, software, sensors, automotons and actuators that enables limitless connectivity regardless of location. All this connected, monitored, controlled and secured with the simple swipe of

a finger under Bahrain's fastest and widest 4G LTE provider.

"For example, VIVA Skiplino is a highly innovative and consumer focused new cloud-based system that serves both walk in customers and customers who would like to book their visit to our retail stores remotely, offering greater flexibility and time efficiency. This allows customers to visit when convenient and minimise any waiting time.

"We have witnessed a 64 per cent increase in the number of visitors compared to the same period of last year. With an increased acquisition rate to reach 16pc when compared to 2017, this is a direct result of the new, easier and user-friendlier system that offers more flexibility.

"Another example has been the introduction our new VIVA Self-Service Machines (SSM), a ground breaking new self-service digital branch with advanced features that help customers manage some of the quick services needed without the need to visit and wait inside any of the VIVA retail shops.

"It allows services such as payment, recharge, SIM-replacement, service modification, plan change, and the activation of add-on services. Adding to this, we have also introduced an all-new convenient, easy and rewarding online shopping experience, with our VIVA Online store, shop.viva.com.bh, provide our customers the ease and accessibility to shop their favorite smartphones and plans online. And adding to our growing digital services is the recently launched VIVA Cash - our Mobile Financial Service, which we believe will lead the future of FinTech in Bahrain," he added.



VIVA Self-Service Machines (SSM) is a new self-service digital branch with advanced features that help customers manage some of the quick services needed without the need to visit and wait inside any of the VIVA retail shops

Man steals money to buy dog

● The accused was tried before the Lower Criminal Court which gave him a suspended six month's imprisonment.

TDT | Manama

Ali Tarif

A young Bahraini stole BDL1,700 from his close friend and spent it on buying a dog, car accessories and a phone, the court heard.

Being a good friend, the victim would often host the accused in his apartment, say prosecutors.

The accused allegedly stole the money from his friend's apartment while the victim was away at a gym.

However, the identity of the accused was revealed after the police officers reviewed images caught by CCTV cameras installed in the building.

"He would often visit my apartment. But I never thought he would do this to me," the victim told prosecutors.

The accused was tried before the Lower Criminal Court which gave him a suspended six month's imprisonment.

However, the matter was settled outside the court by "the friends".

"The defendant has to return the BDL1,700 to the victim, or else he will be sent to jail," the ruling stated.

New batches to start at IMAC

● Fatima Al Mansoori, Bahraini Yoga Therapist and social activist will join the Centre as their "Brand Ambassador"

TDT | Manama

The Indian Music Arts Centre will commence classes for the new batches at October 19 at its four centres in Manama, Riffa, Budaiya and Muharaq.

Fatima Al Mansoori, Bahraini Yoga Therapist and social activist will join the Centre as their "Brand Ambassador" and she will head the Yoga department, said Francis Kaitharath, the Chairman and Managing Director of the institute.

The centre is having their own Professionally Qualified Staff to give training in various subjects like Dance (Classical and Cinematic), Carnatic Music, Instrumental Music, Drawing, Painting, Yoga, Karate and Kung-fu.

The children being trained at the Centre have achieved many awards like Kalashree, Kalaprabhitha, Kalathilakam, Balaprabhitha after taking part in ISB Tharang, BKS Balakalotsavam and various School Youth Festivals.

Businessman honoured



The Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam honoured Jehad Bukamal, Chairman of Bukamal Group of Companies by presenting BKS Business Excellence Award in a glittering function during BKS Onam Navarathri Fest. The BKS award was given by Samajam President P V Radhakrishna Pillai in the presence of BKS General Secretary M P Raghu, Treasurer Dileesh Kumar V S and other Executive Committee members. Mr Pillai acknowledged Mr Bukamal's contribution towards the society, his leadership and management skills. The programme was followed by a musical night by Kallara Gopan, Sangeetha Prabhu and Parvathi Menon and a comedy show by Anoop and Abhilash.

'We won't leave Manama, come what may'

TDT | Manama
Rajeevan Purvankara

The labourers and 'free-visa workers' living in dilapidated buildings and congested labour accommodations in Manama and Salmaniya area are unwilling to move out of the place as they believe it would affect their livelihood.

There has been a huge demand from the part of lawmakers, councillors and social workers to move the labour accommodations out of Manama to different places across the Kingdom.

While the demand highlights the safety of workers, the workers are worried about losing jobs and income as people from across the Kingdom come searching for workers in Manama and nearby areas.

People approach us for various kinds of work and if we are shifted to some other place they will lose access to us. And this would adversely affect our livelihood.

A WORKER

Speaking to Tribune, a worker said on grounds of anonymity. "I don't work for a particular company. People approach us for various kinds of work and if we are shifted to some other place they will lose access to us. And this would



Labourers on one of the streets in Salmaniya area.

adversely affect our livelihood."

Four people died and more than 30 were injured after a building collapsed in a gas cylinder blast in the Salmaniya area last Tuesday.

According to sources, nearly 170 labourers lived in the three-storey building and tens were crammed in rooms, violating the labour laws regarding the provision of accommodation facilities to expatriate workers.

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has ordered an investigation into the incident.

HRH the Premier also directed the Ministries of Interior, Labour and Social Development, Health, Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning to investigate the causes and submit an immediate report.

Pipeline bombers sentenced

Life in prison for first, second, third, fourth and fifth defendants

The court decided to revoke the nationality of all the defendants except the seventh suspect.

The court ordered the first, third, fourth, fifth and sixth defendants to jointly pay the sum of BD 64,577,041 to compensate for the damages caused by bombing the oil pipeline.



The explosion damaged 30 cars, 38 stores, 28 houses and five public properties, sources say.

TDT | Manama
Ali Tarif

The High Criminal Court yesterday handed down tough sentences to seven members of a terror cell accused of bombing an oil pipeline in Buri.

The court sentenced the first, second, third, fourth and fifth defendants to life in prison and fined them BD 200,000 each.

It also sentenced the sixth defendant

to ten years in jail and the seventh defendant to five years along with a fine of BD 100,000 each.

Moreover, the court decided to revoke the nationality of all the defendants except the seventh suspect.

The defendants were held guilty of establishing and joining a terrorist group, handling, possession and using explosives and detonation of a terrorist blast, receiving training on

the use of weapons and explosives to commit terrorist crimes and financing the terrorist group.

The court ordered the first, third, fourth, fifth and sixth defendants to jointly pay the sum of BD 64,577,041 to compensate for the damages caused by bombing the oil pipeline.

According to court files, the first and second defendants, who are in Iran, formed the cell and they re-

200,000

Bahraini dinar in fine was imposed by the court on the first, second, third, fourth and fifth defendants.

to have been assembled in Bahrain, while the operation was funded by the Iran-based masterminds.

Only four of the accused are in police custody, as the masterminds along with one of the men who took part in planting the bomb are still at large and being tried in absentia.

Catastrophic

The explosion damaged 30 cars, 38 stores, 28 houses and five public properties, while hundreds of people were evacuated from a nearby hospital and homes in the village.

The Interior Ministry said at the time that the incident that could have had a "catastrophic fallout" if it was not for quick action taken by emergency response teams.

The affected pipeline had to be temporarily closed following the blast, but on November 13, 2017, authorities said supplies to Bapco had resumed as normal via the two unaffected lines.

cruited its members, two of whom received training on using weapons and bombs at Iran-based military camps owned by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard.

The third defendant was allegedly the field leader of the culprits who bombed the pipeline. He is said to have teamed up with the four defendants who participated in the operation.

The device which was used is said

Imam murder main suspect 'mentally fit'

It's believed that the suspect committed the crime after the imam alerted the Justice Ministry about his involvement in illegal free visa trade.



Imam Abduljaleel Hamood

TDT | Manama
Ali Tarif

A mental evaluation confirmed that the suspected mosque imam murderer is responsible for his actions, while the High Criminal Court decided that it will issue its ruling on October 31, 2018.

The 35-year-old Bangladeshi defendant admitted earlier to murdering Bahraini imam Abduljaleel Hamood before the High Criminal Court.

He appeared before the High Criminal Court alongside another man accused in the case.

However, the latter, also from Bangladesh, pleaded not guilty, stating that he wasn't aware of his co-defendant's intention to murder.

According to prosecution, the suspect killed the imam by hitting him with an iron rod in the head. He then cut the imam's body into pieces along with the co-defendant before dumping it in plastic bags near the scrapyard in Askar, according to sources.

It's believed that the suspect committed the crime after the imam alerted the Justice Ministry about his involvement in illegal free visa trade.

Indonesia trade expo chance for businessmen

TDT | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

The Indonesian Embassy in collaboration with Indonesia Business Friendship Society and ASEAN Bahrain Council (ABC) is inviting Bahrain businessmen to participate in the Trade Expo Indonesia (TEI), in Jakarta, which is to be held from October 24 to 28.

The 33rd Trade Expo Indonesia is one of the biggest business-to-business export product exhibitions in Asia, which will have 1,100 exhibitors, 28,000 visitors from 125 countries, with a USD1.5 billion in transaction value.

It will showcase a lot of Indonesian premium export products and services divided in eight zones, which are culinary, craft and lifestyle products, furniture, creative products and services, manufacturing products, strategic industry products, food and beverages products.

The event which will serve as a platform for individuals to explore trade and investment opportunities aims at providing a networking experience that giving an opportunity to meet high-rank government officials and business leaders.

KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
Ministry of Education
Directorate of Services
Tender Advertisement

Services directorate is tendering as following:

Sr.	TENDER TITLE	TENDER NO	TENDER DOCUMENT FEES (BD)	INITIAL BOND (BD)	TENDER CLOSING DAY DATE TIME	
1	Renovation of CCTV system and Maintenance of Alarm Systems Installed at National Charter Monument-Bahrain (NCM)	SL/33/2018	15/-	500/-	Wednesday 31/10/2018	1:30 PM

- Tenderers who are qualified for this kind of works are kindly requested to:
- Contact Electronic Section 17278873/17278973 port cabinet no (1) in Ministry of Education Complex in Manama from Monday October 15th 2018 (8:00A.M to 12:00 P.M)
- Quotations should be deposited in the tender box provided at Directorate of Materials - First Floor before 1:30 After Noon on the tender closing date.
- The following conditions should be complied with:
 - 1-Tender bid should be valid for (180) days, attached with an Initial Bond for the amount specified above or at a rate of 1 of the quotation's value, whichever of the amount is lesser, provided that no initial bond's value shall be less than BD 100/- . Ensure that the Initial bond is in the form of Certified Cheque, Cash, Bank Guarantee or Insurance Policy, and valid for the duration specified in the tender documents .
 - 2-Enclose a copy of the Commercial Registration Certificate valid for the current year, and related to the subject tender .
 - 3-Submit the bid with total price and BOQ as tender forms.
 - 4-Enclose a copy of Certificate of Compliance with the Employment Percentage for Bahraini Manpower issued by Ministry of Labour .
 - 5-Ensure to stamp with the official seal on all the original documents and copies there-of, which form part of the offer .
 - 6-Bidder should perform a site survey at NCM on 28/10/2018 at 8:00 AM at NCM- Gate 339 -Zellaq Hwy, Riffa -and the Quotation will not be accepted or evaluated without the site survey.
 - 7-last date for explanations about the tender will be on 29/10/2018 at 12:00 PM
- This announcement considered as part of the Tender Documents .
- All tenders / Auctions comply with the Government Tendering & Purchasing Regulations issued in Decrees Nos. 36 & 37 of 2002 and it is executive regulations.
- For any enquiry on the Tender Documents, pls. contact Services Directorate - Electronic Section on Tele: 17278224.

WORLD
world**Berlin to expel 9/11 accomplice: reports**

Berlin, Germany

Germany will expel to Morocco a convicted Moroccan accomplice in the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, media reported.

Mounir el Motassadeq was sentenced in January 2007 by a German court to 15 years in jail for his role in the death of 246 passengers and crew aboard hijacked aircraft used in the September 11 attacks.

He was the first person ever convicted for complicity in the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The Moroccan was flown at midday Monday by helicopter from the Hamburg jail where he has been serving his prison term to Frankfurt, according to Spiegel Online and Bild daily.

Bishop granted bail in nun rape case

New Delhi, India

An Indian bishop accused of raping a nun was granted bail Monday in a case that has triggered rare dissent within the country's Catholic Church.

Bishop Franco Mulakkal was arrested on September 21 in the southern state of Kerala on suspicion of raping the nun 13 times between 2014 and 2016.

Pope Francis suspended him the day before his arrest, appointing another bishop in his place.

Air hostess falls out of plane

Mumbai, India

A flight attendant fell out of an Air India plane while trying to close its door yesterday, the airline said, reportedly breaking her leg when she landed on the tarmac. The accident occurred at Mumbai's international airport as the crew were getting ready to welcome passengers aboard the New Delhi-bound flight.

"The cabin crew member fell off while closing the back door of the Boeing 777 and sustained injuries on Monday morning," Pravin Bhatnagar, a senior manager at Air India, said.

"An investigation will be carried out to determine the exact cause of the incident."

Indian media reports said the woman, a 52-year-old, was conscious but had leg fractures. A spokesperson for Nanavati Hospital, where the flight attendant was taken, was not immediately available for comment when contacted.

Jordan reopens Syria crossing after 3 years

Cars bearing Jordanian license plates queued to enter Syria as travellers expressed their joy

● Crossing a major link for direct trade, longer-distant transit

● The move is expected to revitalise Syrian economy

● Traffic will resume daily from 0500 GMT to 1300 GMT

AFP | Jaber Border Crossing, Jordan

Jordan yesterday reopened its main border crossing with war-torn Syria, a key Middle East trade route, after a three year closure.

The black metal border gate was opened from the Jordanian side of the crossing at 8:00 am (0500 GMT) as more than a dozen police and customs officials stood nearby.

Cars bearing Jordanian license plates queued to enter



Jaber border crossing between Jordan and Syria (Nassib crossing on the Syrian side) on the day of its reopening

Syria as travellers expressed their joy at being able to cross the border.

Syrian businessman Hisham Falyoun, who lives in Jordan with his wife and children, was

the first person to cross the border in his black Mercedes jeep.

"I am extremely happy, I can't express my feelings. This crossing should have been reopened earlier as it is a very vital line

for all Arab countries not only Jordan and Syria," he said.

"I wanted to be the first person to cross to show everyone that Syria is safe, Syria is back," said Falyoun, who was hoping to

surprise his parents in Damascus. Other travellers were likewise elated to make the crossing.

"Today is a celebration for us and I wanted to be among the first to cross the border," said Syrian businessman Mohammed Hisham as he waited for his turn to enter Syria from Jordan where he now lives.

The border crossing, known as Jaber on the Jordanian side and Nassib on the Syrian side, was a key trade route before Amman closed it after the post was overrun by rebels in April 2015.

Vital trade artery

Nabil Romman, a Jordanian trade official, told AFP in 2015 that "70 percent of what we eat, of everything we import and export, passed through Syria".

Cross border trade between Jordan and Syria in 2010 -- a year before the war broke out -- stood at \$615 million. Syria also requested that Jordan send an expert to help with border checks at Nassib where there are no X-ray machines, according to the terms of the agreement.

Trump 'did not directly accuse' Putin: Kremlin

Moscow, Russia

The Kremlin yesterday downplayed televised comments by US President Donald Trump that Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin was "probably" involved in assassinations and poisonings, saying they did not amount to a direct accusation. "The US president didn't

make any direct accusations," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists after a CBS News interviewer asked Trump: "Do you agree that Vladimir Putin is involved in assassinations? In poisonings?" and he answered: "Probably he is, yeah."

Peskov said that in any case there are no grounds for ac-

cusations against the Russian president.

Russia has insisted two suspects in the nerve agent poisoning of former Russian double-agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter are ordinary citizens.

The Kremlin denounced any attempt to link the events in Salisbury, England to Putin.

Lewinsky affair not an abuse of power: Hillary

Washington, United States

Hillary Clinton has said her husband Bill's affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky was not an abuse of power and he was right to not resign from the US presidency in the wake of the scandal.

The two-decades old episode has come under renewed scrutiny in the #MeToo era. Some, like New York Sen-

ator Kirsten Gillibrand, have said that Clinton should have stepped down after he was impeached by a Republican-controlled House in late 1998 for lying about the affair.

But speaking on CBS News on Sunday, former presidential candidate and secretary of state Hillary Clinton said she disagreed.

"Absolutely not," she replied when asked whether her husband should have resigned.

Shocking extent of W. Cup deaths in Qatar revealed

Mirror, Sportbible

A trade union leader has revealed the shocking extent of deaths of 2022 World Cup workers in Qatar.

Qatar has come in for strong criticism over human rights and the treatment of migrant workers.

There are set to be eight stadiums in use for the tournament with organisers desperately trying to get them ready for four year's time.

It is unclear quite how many workers have died in preparing for the World Cup but Hans-Christian Gabrielsen, Leader of Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, has offered a frightening insight.

"If we were to hold a minute of silence for every estimated death of a migrant worker due to the constructions of the Qatar World Cup, the first 44 matches of the tournament would be played in silence," he said.

"The stories of the workers in Qatar are unfortunately not unique. It is the everyday life of hundreds of thousands of migrant workers around the world."



Khalifa International Stadium, the first completed 2022 FIFA World Cup venue

The total of 44 matches is almost the whole of the group stages at a World Cup, with only the final four matches not affected.

The Qatar World Cup will be the first not to be held in the summer with matches due to get underway on November 21.

Gabrielsen added, "Labour migration is one of the biggest challenges facing international trade unions today. An ever-increasing economic globalization means that we have more migrant workers today than ever before.

"The stories of the workers in Qatar are unfortunately not unique. It is the everyday life of hundreds of thousands of migrant workers around the world."

Embassies, according to a report, had counted more than 400 deaths a year between them - a total of 1,239 deaths in the three years to the end of 2013. But Nepal and India account for only about 60 per cent of the estimated 1.4m migrant workers in Qatar, so the total number of migrant worker deaths is certain to be higher.

MIT unveils new \$1 bn college for AI

Washington, United States

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology announced plans yesterday to create a new college of artificial intelligence with an initial \$1 billion commitment for the program focusing on “responsible and ethical” uses of the technology.

The prestigious university said it would add 50 new faculty members and create an interdisciplinary hub for work in computer science, AI, data science, and related fields.

A large part of the new funds will come from a gift from Stephen Schwarzman, chairman and co-founder of the financial giant Blackstone, after whom the new college will be named.

“As computing reshapes our world, MIT intends to help make sure it does so for the good of all,” said MIT President Rafael Reif.

An MIT statement said the initiative represents the single largest investment in computing and AI by an American academic institution.

The initiative comes amid growing concerns about the impacts of artificial intelligence on global institutions.

“There is no more important opportunity or challenge facing our nation than to responsibly harness the power of artificial intelligence so that we remain competitive globally and achieve breakthroughs that will improve our entire society,” Schwarzman said.

The new college is slated to open in September 2019, with a new building scheduled to be completed in 2022.

Prince Harry and Meghan expecting their first baby

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Forget Brexit. Prince Harry and his wife Meghan announced yesterday they were expecting their first baby, sparking a media frenzy, debates over the royal name, and expressions of delight from the queen.

Kensington Palace said Queen Elizabeth II’s 34-year-old grandson and the 37-year-old US actress, who had just arrived in Sydney ahead of a 16-day tour of the Pacific, would be having a child in the spring.

“The Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Sussex are very pleased to announce that the Duchess of Sussex is expecting a baby in the spring of 2019,” their Kensington Palace residence said in a statement.

“Their Royal Highnesses have appreciated all of the support they have received from people around the world since their wedding in May and are delighted to be able to share this happy news with the public.”

The queen was said to be “delighted”, Prime Minister Theresa May tweeted her “warmest congratulations”, and Meghan’s mother Doria Ragland said she was “very happy about this lovely news”. “Happy news to wake up to on a Monday morning,” US Ambassador Woody Johnson said in his own tweet.

Name game

The big announcement came with the nation gloomily pondering the prospects of Britain crashing out of the European



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex (R) and Britain's Meghan, Duchess of Sussex (L) meet with young people on a visit to Joff Youth Centre in Peacehaven in East Sussex, southern England

Union without an agreement.

TV stations broke away from their Brexit coverage, banner headlines appeared on newspaper websites, and debates began about possible name for the future seventh in line to the British throne.

Google said searches for “when is spring?” had spiked while UK newspapers played

up an inter-continental rivalry over what the child, who will become either an earl or a lady, will be called.

Meghan was a popular US actress before becoming the Duchess of Sussex. Some UK media said the California native would draw on her American roots.

But the bookies are favouring Diana -- name of the late

Royals arrive in Down Under

Sydney, Australia

Prince Harry and Meghan touched down in Sydney yesterday, kicking off a bumper Pacific tour that is the British royals’ first major outing abroad as a couple.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex made a low-key arrival to a wet and wintry Australia after a weekend spent celebrating the marriage of their relative Princess Eugenie and following an overnight commercial flight with Qantas.

They were seen leaving the airport with staff, looking relaxed, as Meghan clutched a pair of purple binders and Harry carried a brown and green manbag.

Their more-than-two-week official visit will take in multiple stops in Australia, Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand -- all parts of the Commonwealth, a group of predominantly former British colonies.

Queen Elizabeth II is still

the head of state in Australia although there is significant support for the country becoming a republic.

Recent polls show Australians fairly evenly split on the issue, with only the slimmest of majorities in favour of ditching the British Queen and nominating an Australian head of state.

During the trip, the royals plan to pet koalas, watch soldiers perform the haka and attend the Invictus Games, a multi-sport tournament for military service personnel and veterans who have been wounded or suffered injury or illness that opens on Saturday 20 October.

The whole visit will be keenly watched by the British and Australian media.

Meghan, a photogenic US actress, married the grandson of Queen Elizabeth II in May, becoming the newest royal to attract media obsession in Britain and beyond.

Turkey suspends over 250 officials for ‘terror links’

Ankara, Turkey

Turkey has suspended more than 250 senior local officials over alleged terror links and activities unrelated to their posts, the interior ministry said yesterday, in the latest purge of the country’s bureaucracy.

Interior Minister Suleyman Soyly removed 259 local neighbourhood heads -- known as “muhtar” in Turkish -- from their posts, his office said in a statement.

It did not provide further detail on what terror organisa-

tions the officials were allegedly linked to.

The muhtar is the elected chief of a village or a city neighbourhood, and responsible for day-to-day services for residents such as registration.

Turkey has suspended or sacked over 140,000 public sector employees because of alleged links to the US-based Muslim preacher Fethullah Gulen blamed for the July 2016 failed coup and Kurdish militants.

Turkey claims Gulen ordered the coup but he denies the accusations.

Last week, the ministry suspended 559 village guards -- locals employed to combat Kurdish militants -- accused of links to terror organisations while 76 were accused of people trafficking and drug crimes.

Turkey has been fighting an insurgency against the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) since 1984.

The group is blacklisted as a terror group by Ankara and its Western allies.

Turkish authorities detained 137 people in country-wide operations earlier this month over alleged links to the PKK.

13 dead as flooding hits southwestern France

AFP | Toulouse, France

At least 13 people died when violent rainstorms turned rivers into raging torrents in southwest France yesterday, prompting some of the deadliest flooding in years, officials said. The equivalent of three months of rainfall was dumped overnight in the Aude region in just a few hours, swelling rivers and flooding fields and towns, officials added.

One of the overnight victims was an 88-year-old nun who was swept from her room by floodwaters at the Burning



People look at damaged cars following heavy rains that saw rivers bursting banks

Bush priory in the village of Villardonnell, north of the fortress city of Carcassonne.

Elsewhere, flash floods over-

turned cars, ripped up streets and battered buildings and bridges, especially to the north of Carcassonne.

Harry set off the rumour mill shortly after their November engagement, telling the BBC: “Hopefully we’ll start a family in the near future”.

China purrs over white tiger triplets

Kunming, China

Three playful white Bengal tiger cubs are charming visitors as they clamber around their enclosure at a zoo in China.

The rare, blue-eyed triplets were born nearly three months ago at the Yunnan Wildlife Zoo in Kunming, and made their public debut in early October.

“The oldest one -- the largest



Chinese zookeeper feeds newborn white bengal tiger cubs



The tigers’ white fur is a genetic variation of the common orange Bengal tiger.

-- is very naughty and has a real appetite. He’s the naughtiest. The youngest is like a baby, she’s gentle. She never wins when fighting for food,” zookeeper Hao Li said.

The cubs’ busy mother is getting a helping hand keeping her youngsters from getting hungry, with keepers always ready to step in with a bottle.

The tigers’ white fur is a genetic variation of the common

orange Bengal tiger.

The mutation seldom occurs in the wild, but the zoo is home to 41 cats of this rare white variety.

There are currently more than 2,500 Bengal tigers outside captivity, most of them in India, according to conservation group World Wildlife Fund.

A competition is being held to name the three newborns, with final names chosen at the end of October.

Angela Merkel could save Europe. Why won't she?

Germany's chancellor needs to forget about her political problems at home and focus on the continent's future



JULIANNE SMITH

Campaigning in the spring of 2017, Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany declared at a packed beer hall in Bavaria that it was time for Europe to “take its destiny into its own hands.” In the face of Britain’s vote to leave the European Union, Hungary’s slide into illiberalism and an American president who viewed the European Union with disdain, Europe, she argued, needed a leader who could push forward reform and push back against its detractors. Merkel vowed that she was ready to be that leader.

Unfortunately, in the 18 months since, Merkel has failed to fulfil that pledge. The European Union’s promise to form an “ever closer union” seems more like an empty slogan than a strategy these days. But further integration is necessary. With Europe besieged by illiberal forces inside (Hungary) and from outside (Vladimir Putin’s Russia), and voters electing anti-European Union populists, leaders across the Continent need to demonstrate that they are confident about Europe’s shared future. Merkel clearly understands this — but she isn’t helping Europe to do anything about it.

Merkel’s troubles started with the September 2017 election, when her party, the center-right Christian Democrats, and the center-left Social Democrats lost a stunningly large number of voters to the far-right Alternative for Germany. The message was clear: Enthusiasm for Merkel was waning. It then took the parties more than four months to form a government. Once a coalition

was finally established in March, the hope among many pro-European policymakers was that Merkel would find her footing and return to the European agenda that she had highlighted during the campaign.

Members of her own team have made that difficult. Her interior minister, Horst Seehofer, the head of the Christian Social Union, nearly brought down the entire government last summer when he threatened to resign over Merkel’s relatively open immigration policies. That crisis was averted, but Seehofer continues to contradict and challenge the chancellor. And he isn’t the only one. Last month, Merkel’s own party ousted Volker Kauder, one of her closest allies in the Bundestag, the lower house of Parliament. “The Merkel era is officially over,” a journalist friend of mine texted me when the news broke.

But blaming domestic politics for Merkel’s failure to push for further European integration misses a bigger story. Over the last year, she’s delivered several lofty speeches about the need to maintain European Union unity and protect open societies. But she’s said little about how those broad aims translate into actual policies.

Her actions stand in marked contrast to those of President Emmanuel Macron of France. Whereas Merkel lacks concrete ideas, Macron oozes them. Since he was elected last year, he has proposed dozens of ways to deepen European integration: the creation of a European Union finance minister, a joint military force, a eurozone budget, a European intelligence agency and a common asylum policy — to name just a few.

Merkel’s response to this tsunami of ideas has been lukewarm at best. The two met in France this summer and agreed in very broad terms to



begin work on a eurozone budget, something Merkel once strongly opposed. Many analysts initially described it as a breakthrough — until eight other eurozone members came forward to reject the idea. For Macron, always willing to buck conventional thinking, the opposition was no reason to slow down. For Merkel, the ultimate consensus builder, it was a major roadblock. Merkel, who is a big fan of public polling, has also no doubt noted the rising opposition to Macron’s ideas inside Germany (and, indeed, inside France, where Macron’s popularity has plummeted). Germans

Sharing the wealth in Australia

What can the world learn from our economic success and shortcomings?



ANDREW LEIGH

Ten years ago, when the world economy suffered its most severe slump since the Great Depression, Australia was the only advanced country to avoid a recession.

While double-digit unemployment ravaged many nations, Australia’s jobless rate stayed below 6 per cent. The hit to our housing was minimal, and the impact on the Australian stock market was temporary. It took until 2013 for the United States to return to pre-Great Recession living standards, but Australia bounced back by 2010.

Today, though, this country’s so-called miracle economy isn’t looking so miraculous. While major economies like those of Germany and the United States have unemployment rates below 4pc, Australia’s has been stuck around 5.5pc, higher than the average in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a group of mostly

wealthy nations. For the typical worker, wages have barely kept up with inflation. There are signs that the economy lacks the diversity of industries and the depth of skills that will be needed in the future.

To understand these challenges, it helps to consider why the Australian economy did so well when the 2008 crash came. The financial sector held up, in large part, because banks here had few exotic securities and risky loans. Big interest-rate cuts immediately helped most mortgage holders. A pre-emptive fiscal-stimulus package of one-off cash bonuses and infrastructure spending was considered one of the most effective in the world. It also helped that Australia has a smaller manufacturing sector (an area particularly hard-hit in the crisis) and substantial exports to China (whose economy continued to demand our raw materials).

Australia is known for its policy innovation, from compulsory voting to income-contingent loans for higher education. When American policy analysts look to Australia, there’s something for everyone. Many Republicans like Australia’s immigration point system and government funding

for religious schools. Democrats tend to be attracted to universal health care and a minimum wage of about 19 Australian dollars an hour (more than \$13). Populism and partisanship are not as ferocious here as in some other advanced nations.

But now Australia needs to focus its innovative policy approach on the economy and find ways to share prosperity with workers.

As in other advanced economies, workers’ share of national income has dropped in recent years. Top executives seem to be the only ones with rising pay checks; in 2017, chief executives of the largest 100 public companies enjoyed a real pay increase of 7pc. In a nation with a proud egalitarian ethos, many people are uneasy about the benefits of growth flowing disproportionately to the fortunate few in harbourside mansions and corner offices.

In principle, stagnant wages for average workers could reflect poor productivity. But that isn’t true here, with productivity growing at a healthy rate. A bigger problem for employees is that they have less bargaining power.

Just 1 in 7 Australian work-



People walk past the Australian Central Bank building in Canberra.

ers is in a union, down from half the work force in the early 1980s. Organised labour has been squeezed out of pay negotiations, leaving workers increasingly reliant on the safety net. This year, workers at Australia’s largest envelope manufacturing plant pushed for an annual wage increase of 2.5pc — close to the rate of inflation. It took an eight-week strike before their employer agreed.

There are many policy options to tilt the scales back toward employees. Ending the popular practice of hiring “permanent casual” employees would provide greater certainty to workers who want to start a family or buy a home. Reversing the cut in Sunday pay rates would raise earnings for hundreds of thousands of low-paid restaurant and retail workers.

Australia also faces a challenge

from the rise of China, which is Australia’s leading source of tourists, foreign students and imports, and its top export market. Few nations are as enmeshed with China’s economy as Australia. Trade wars hurt everyone, but they pose a special risk for countries that are smaller and less diversified: Australia’s economy would suffer badly from an escalation of conflict between America, our strongest security

1978

Karol Wojtyla is elected **Pope John Paul II** after the October 1978 Papal conclave, the first non-Italian pontiff since 1523.



1984

Desmond Tutu is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

1991

Luby's shooting: George Hennard runs amok in Killeen, Texas, killing 23 and wounding 20 in Luby's Cafeteria.

1993

Anti-Nazism riot breaks out in Welling in Kent, after police stop protesters approaching the British National Party headquarters.



Germans may have fallen madly in love with Macron during his election campaign but that love affair is fading. Today, Germans complain about a Macron hangover often in tandem with Europe fatigue.

outstretched hand. That approach will certainly prevent Germany from paying more, at least in the short term, and could possibly save her political career.

But Merkel needs to ask herself about the long-term costs of failure: How much does Germany stand to lose if the European project continues to falter, if the French-German engine stalls and, when European leaders meet this month, they fail to produce fresh thinking? Deeper European integration and a demonstration of faith in Europe's common values and its common fate are necessary to keep the populist tide at bay. If Macron loses the battle that he is waging against Viktor Orban's illiberal Hungary, Germany will surely pay a price sooner or later.

In her final term in office, Merkel needs to summon the courage to work with Macron to lift the European Union out of its existential crisis by making good on some of the French president's proposals. The future of Europe depends on it.

(Julianne Smith is a former deputy national security adviser to Vice President Joseph Biden and now is a fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin.)

ay have fallen madly in love with Macron during his election campaign but that love affair is fading. Today, Germans complain about a "Macron hangover" often in tandem with "Europe fatigue." There's a sense in Germany that Berlin will ultimately pick up the tab for any deeper European integration. Germans feel like they already paid to save Europe once, in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. They don't want to do it again.

Understanding all this, Merkel will continue to nod politely when Macron presents innovative proposals, but she's not going to grab his

Australia

partner, and China, our most important economic partner.

A generation ago, Australia played a key role in world trade talks by spearheading the Cairns group of agricultural free-trading nations. Similar global leadership from Australia is needed today.

Ideally, the next round of Australian prosperity would come from reforms that spur both growth and equity.

Australia's export portfolio shows a nation with its economic eggs in too few baskets. We'd benefit from diversifying the sources of economic growth: through encouraging entrepreneurship, increasing university attendance rates, and fostering greater cooperation between businesses and research institutions.

From beer to banking, many Australian markets are dominated by a few big firms. Slowing the pace of mergers and accelerating the pace of startups would be good for growth.

Across advanced nations, health care systems are amazingly successful at saving people in emergency rooms, but not so good at addressing chronic problems such as obesity and inactivity. Something similar

Having dodged the worst of the downturn a decade ago, Australia must now grapple with the problems of equity and economic diversity. In a world of uncertainty and technological disruption, the country's prosperity now depends more on smart long-term reforms.

could be said about the Australian economy.

Having dodged the worst of the downturn a decade ago, Australia must now grapple with the problems of equity and economic diversity. In a world of uncertainty and technological disruption, the country's prosperity now depends more on smart long-term reforms than savvy crisis management.

(Andrew Leigh, who represents the Fenner district in the Australian Parliament, is the author of "Randomistas: How Radical Researchers Are Changing Our World.")



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Just spoke to the King of Saudi Arabia who denies any knowledge of whatever may have happened "to our Saudi Arabian citizen." He said that they are working closely with Turkey to find answer. I am immediately sending our Secretary of State to meet with King!
@realDonaldTrump

02



The US embassy in Australia has apologized for sending an email meeting invite featuring a photo of a cat wearing a Cookie Monster outfit and holding a plate of biscuits to an unknown number of recipients
@RobbieGramer

03



Our plan is working: Carbon pollution is dropping, Canada's unemployment rate is the lowest it's been in 40 years, wages are growing at their fastest rate in close to a decade and, last year, the Canadian economy grew faster than all other #G7 countries.
@cathmckenna

04



It is beginning to become apparent that the vicious assault on Justice Kavanaugh has hurt the Democratic Party. As I've said from the beginning of the attempted Kavanaugh lynching, the backlash against those denying due process will be fierce. And I am standing by that.
@BillOReilly

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

Like it or not

Sky, not the limit



P UNNIKRISHNAN

Did you recently watch the video of a man in Arab robes trying to waft across the mountains somewhere in the Middle East (find it on #newsfbahrain) on a cheap camping chair dangling from a load of balloons?

If the answer is 'yes', I am sure you would have had enough laugh for the rest of your life.

I thought 'UP' the animated movie might have inspired him until it crashed into one of the rocky mountains after which he was airlifted by a rescue team to safety.

Many commented on this viral video as utter nonsense.

'Fools rush in where angels fear to tread' is what we think when we see such howlers.

I had the same feeling for this man until I read about the British adventurer Tom Morgan who managed to fly nearly 14 miles in two hours across Africa.

The only difference, I believe, is that the British adventurer had applied his basic knowledge of science and common sense to his budget air, before the take off!

Risk plays a major role to achieve success. The successful entrepreneur Mark Zuckerberg once said that the biggest risk is not taking any risk!

We still remember and admire great adventurers from Marco Polo, James Cook, Ibn Battuta, David Livingstone, Vasco da Gama, Christopher Columbus, Edmund Hillary, Robert Peary to Steve Irwin for the risk they took in their lives by sailing against the adversities.

For sure, initially some might have made fun out of them for making such foolish decisions. But as time passed, they might have realised the contributions these risk-takers managed to bring to their country.

We love balloons; its unique and colourful; it flies exploring endless possibilities. However, balloons symbolise the dreams in us as well.

It can burst and disappear suddenly like a short-lived bubble, quite similar to our dreams.

When someone fails to fulfil the dreams, we blame them for being foolish, and if they succeed

we call them leaders.

Dubai economy always has many critics. They say it's a bubble filled with unrealistic dreams. When the recession hit Dubai nearly a decade ago, many so-called experts predicted a total collapse.

But within no time, Dubai would recover and resurge with exciting projects. It was really unbelievable. The exciting projects and dreams they sold made them survive through such turmoils.

The mantra behind any successful person or a country is nothing but creating continuous strings of excitements while running at a faster pace to change dreams into reality.

Right now, people in Bahrain seem to be a bit worried about the implementation of VAT.

Should we really worry about that? I believe soon we would get used to it, it is just a matter of time.

The new campaign '#Team Bahrain' initiated by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa has inspired many. It has undoubtedly received an overwhelming response.

It's the latest talk in the town, even for expats. The hashtag has created lots of excitement and confidence among entrepreneurs.

We definitely need colourful balloons filled with dreams and aspirations in life. Let it fly high, carrying with it positive messages and risk-takers.

The simple economics in a turbulent economy is nothing but let the rich spend lavishly and the low-income guys work a bit hard while cutting their cost of living.

It's all about teaming up, creating excitement, marketing potentials and building confidence.

Are you still wondering about the fate of that crazy man sitting in that plastic chair hoisted by balloons? Then let me break the excitement.

It is just a promotion advertisement of Harbour Views created for Emmar Dubai, a real estate developer based in the UAE! The excitement this video created on promoting this project is beyond words.

Believe it or not, sometimes our perceptions may go wrong. What we considered nonsense may be 'known sense' while nuisance could turn out to be 'new sense'.

(P Unnikrishnan is the Chairman of the Management Board as well as Managing Editor of The Daily Tribune)



A screenshot of the video.

business

Japan unveils sales tax hike

Tokyo, Japan

Japan yesterday announced a much anticipated sales tax hike in 2019 to address the nation's huge public debt, despite warnings it could hobble growth in the world's third-biggest economy.

The point-of-sale tax will rise from eight percent to 10pc from October next year as ageing and heavily indebted Japan battles to finance snowballing social security bills -- especially medical fees.

The tax rise was originally planned for October 2015 but was pushed back twice due to fears it could derail the fragile economy.

The last such move -- in April 2014 -- was blamed for tipping Japan into a brief recession.

This time, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe believes he can avoid a sharp decline in consumer spending by introducing measures to cushion the blow.

The government "will do its best to avoid a negative impact on the economy by taking every possible measure," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters.

Korean agricultural product showcase

TDT | Manama

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea announced holding an introductory event which showcases Korean food products at Al Jazira supermarket from 21 to 27 October.

The Korean Agricultural Products Showcase, the second gourmet event of the year hosted by the Korean Embassy, aims to introduce Korean food products to the Bahraini citizens.

Korean Cuisine Week 2018, a Korean culinary event was held from 10 to 15 September.

Kimchi and Korean noodles represent Korean food products worldwide, and this event is targeted at introducing food products beyond those well-known ones. Al Jazira and Hanaro Market will also bring together Korean food products that have been already on sale in their supermarkets.

Hyunmo Koo, Korean Ambassador to Bahrain said this event will serve as an opportunity for the two peoples and societies to deepen their understanding on each other.

The event begins with an opening ceremony at Al Jazira Zinj on October 21st at 10:00 am. Other venues are Al Jazira supermarkets at Zinj (07:00 am - 00:00 am), Juffair (24 hrs), Hamala (07:00 am - 11:00 pm), and Riffa (07:00 am - 11:00 pm).

Foreign tourist inflow rises

Bahrain experienced a 5.8 per cent increase in inbound travellers in the first half of 2018

TDT | Manama

In happy tidings for Bahrain's tourism sector, authorities here revealed yesterday that the footfall of foreign tourists in the Kingdom has gone up by nearly 6 per cent.

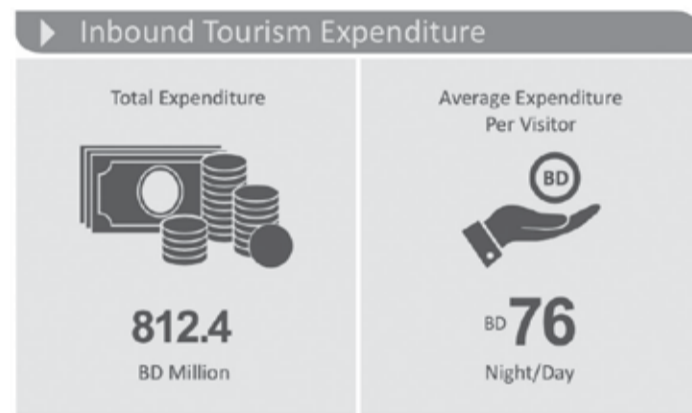
The number of foreign tourists visiting the Kingdom rose to 5.9 million in H1 2018, an increase of 5.8pc from the same period a year ago, according to a new Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority statistics.

The report says 5,287,717 tourists entered Kingdom through King Fahad Causeway, while 570,074 flown in via Bahrain International airport. A total of 49,864 visitors landed in the



Officials during the meeting of Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority

kingdom from luxury liners. The statistics for the first half of 2018 further states that the increase in footfall has resulted in generating a total revenue of



BD812.4 million, with the average expenditure per visitor being BD76 per night/day.

The increase has also resulted in a 16pc increase in the average length of stay per visitor to 3.2 night per tourist, from the year-

ago period.

While 73pc of the visitors chose to stay in hotels during their stay in Bahrain, 14pc of the visitors elected to stay in furnished apartments. Ten pc of the visitors tagged along with

their relatives, while a minor 2pc preferred to stay in their own apartments.

When it comes to occupancy rates, 50pc of the visitors choose to stay in four-star hotels, while 48pc chose 5-star hotels during their stay in the Kingdom.

The meeting, third of the year and headed by the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani, was held on Sunday at the Ministry's headquarters.

The board also reviewed and discussed several topics on the agenda including reviewing the financial reports dated up to 30 September 2018.

Watersports

The meeting also discussed several upcoming projects to develop the Kingdom's tourism infrastructure.

Some of the projects are the new exhibition and conference centre located in Sakhr, development of beaches in Galali and Bahrain Bay to improve leisure tourism and water sports activities.

109th UN meeting

A proposal submitted by the BTEA to host the 109th United Nations World Tourism Organization Executive Council Meeting was also discussed during the meeting.



Aluminium Bahrain B.S.C. (Alba) Chief Executive Officer Tim Murray during a special session on 'Swimming Pool Safety' for Alba employees at the Alba SHE Hall, yesterday. He will be conducting a series of the sessions throughout this week for employees and contractors from different departments.



Justin Siberell, Ambassador of the United States of America inaugurated the 'Discover America' promotion celebration at the Lulu Hypermarket, yesterday. The festival celebrates the bounty of American products across the aisles of LuLu. Juzer Rupawala, Director of the LuLu Group led the LuLu management at the inauguration. The promotion will run until 21 October 2018.

GITEX: Information & eGovernment authority highlights ICT sector



The Information & eGovernment Authority's booth at Bahrain's pavilion in GITEX 2018

TDT | Manama

The Information & eGovernment Authority (IGA) is participating for the 12th time in GITEX Technology Week 2018 - held in Dubai - within Bahrain's pavilion.

The pavilion also houses the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunication, Tamkeen as well as 40 Bahraini ICT companies.

During this year, IGA presents Kingdom's infrastructure

that supports the ICT sector including the systems and eServices delivered by the Authority for several segments, and strengthen economic growth by attracting IT investments.

Bahrain's pavilion in GITEX is organised by WorkSmart together with Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH). During last year's exhibition, over 145,000 attended the event which also included 5,000 exhibitors.

Alcazar Capital and IQP launch \$ 100m global fintech fund

Aims to target Fintech investments in N America, Europe, Asia and the GCC

● Alcazar to anchor the fund with 10pc of total capital

TDI | Manama

Alcazar Capital Limited (ACL) and Fintech Consortium's investment arm, InQvest Partners (IQP) yesterday announced the launch of a strategic partnership and a US\$100 Million global fintech fund.

Alcazar Capital Limited, an investment firm based in the Dubai International Financial Centre, recently merged with Trucial Investment Partners and appointed Maissan Almaskati who now also lead



Charbel Abou-Jaoude

its expansion into Fintech investment. Almaskati is also the Managing Partner and Head of ACL's North American platform, based in the United States.



Gerben Visser

The partnership will allow InQvest Partners to combine its expertise, knowledge and network in FinTech with ACL's investment experience and

track record to jointly build a successful dedicated Fintech venture capital fund.

Charbel Abou-Jaoude, CEO of Alcazar Capital Limited said: "InQvest Partners offers a unique FinTech proposition to support its investments across markets. We look forward to working with them in supporting ambitious entrepreneurs during the early stages of their growth journey."

Gerben Visser, Founder of Fintech Consortium & Managing Partner of InQvest Partners said: "Alcazar Capital Limited has a proven investment track record and we are excited to leverage their investment and fund capabilities to build a successful global fund and fintech portfolio together".

Arcapita invests in Saudi women's fitness chain

NuYu plans to deploy SAR 250 million to launch over 20 new boutique gyms, creating hundreds of new jobs

TDI | Manama

Arcapita, a global leader in Shari'ah-compliant alternative investments, said it has invested in NuYu, a leading chain of women-only boutique gyms in Saudi Arabia.

A statement released said, Arcapita's capital will help NuYu deploy over SAR 250 million (\$67m) to grow its network of boutique gyms from seven to over 30 across the Kingdom.

The new centers are expected to create hundreds of jobs, as well as provide women access to fitness outlets in currently underserved locations.

The investment will enable the company - with five boutique gyms in Riyadh and one each in both Khobar and Dammam - to capitalise on the significant market opportunity arising from a landmark decision by the General Sports Authority to grant licenses for female boutique gyms.



Atif A. Abdulmalik, Arcapita's Chief Executive Officer

From a base of over 50 facilities nationwide, the female fitness market in Saudi Arabia is expected to grow at an annual rate of 30 per cent over the medium-term.

Atif A. Abdulmalik, Arcapita's Chief Executive Officer, said: "We look forward to working in partnership with NuYu, helping it realize its full potential during this exciting period of social change."

Princess Sara Al Saud, NuYu's Co-founder and Creative Direc-



The new centers are expected to create hundreds of jobs

tor, said: "With support from Arcapita, we are excited to be able to accelerate our expansion plans and grow our 6,000-strong membership base. Launching new boutique gyms across the country will make it easier for Saudi women to access fitness and reap the benefits of regular

exercise."

Martin Tan, Arcapita's Chief Investment Officer, added: "The female fitness segment in Saudi Arabia is virtually untapped with a penetration rate of less than 1%, while having one of the highest revenues per member globally."

Theresa May's Brexit options

Graphic News

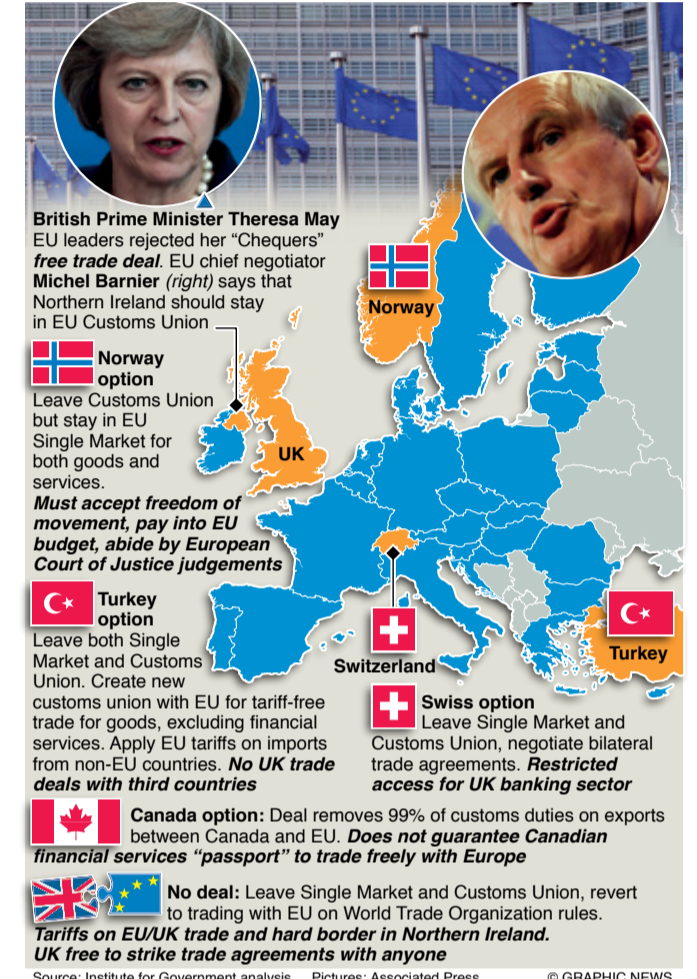
The EU and Britain face a "moment of truth" for Brexit negotiations at a crunch summit Wednesday, where leaders will decide whether enough progress has been made in talks to warrant a special summit in November.

Disagreement over the EU's so-called Irish backstop -- a guarantee by both sides that there will be no hard border in Ireland -- is the biggest obstacle for UK in March.

Theresa May's Chequers

Brexit plan has drawn criticism with former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and ex-Brexit secretary David Davis repeating calls for the UK to "chuck Chequers" and seek a looser free trade deal with Brussels like Canada.

EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier says that Northern Ireland should stay in the EU's Customs Union to avoid a land border with the EU -- Johnson has said the EU's fallback position for the Irish border would mean Northern Ireland was "annexed" by Brussels.



European and US equities defy Asian markets' slide

London, United Kingdom

European and US stock markets defied a downturn in Asia, following several days of market turbulence sparked by trade rows and a spat over the US central bank.

Gold hit \$1,236.90 an ounce, with the precious metal profiting from its haven investment status.

London's FTSE 100 index ended the day with a gain of 0.5 pc, while the CAC 40 in Paris closed essentially flat.

The DAX 30 in Frankfurt meanwhile climbed 0.8 pc, despite the opening of trading being delayed by a more than an hour owing to a tech-

nical hitch. Wall Street was mostly higher approaching midday, with the Dow up 0.4 pc.

In Asia, Japanese equities led the way lower, with the benchmark Nikkei 225 shedding almost two pc.

Japanese stocks faced pressure also after US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said over the weekend that Washington wants to include a provision to prevent currency manipulation in future trade deals with Tokyo.

Chinese stocks, which were the worst hit in last week's global rout, also tracked lower, with the benchmark Shanghai composite off 1.5 pc.

BIHR – HTMI hold second graduation ceremony

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Institute of Hospitality and Retail (BIHR), a division of the Dadabai Group, hosted its second graduation ceremony at Wyndham Grand Hotel, Bahrain.

Thirty students received their awards after successfully completing 24 months of training in the hospitality sector. All of them are employed by Bahrain's Top Hospitality Sector, said BIHR in a statement.

"The programme helps young Bahraini Nationals in their de-



In pictures, highlights of the graduation ceremony

cision to climb up the ladder in the hospitality sector," said Ali Sulaibeekh, Director of BIHR in

an address on the occasion. Under the patronage of Jameel Humaidan, Minister of Labour

and Social Development for HTMI Swiss Diploma in International Hotel and Tourism

Management, the graduation ceremony was held on 11 October 2018.

The diploma was awarded by the top Hospitality School in Switzerland - Hotel & Tourism Management Institute (HTMI), International Accrediting body for Bahrain Institute of Hospitality and Retail.

Thanis Na Songkhla, Thailand Ambassador, Alfonso Ver, Philippines Ambassador, Humbert Vincent Buemi, the Swiss Honorary Consul General to the Kingdom and Ian Larmour, Managing Director and Head of Academics - HTMI Switzerland were also present.

Kuwait Airways to buy eight Airbus planes

Reuters | Dubai

Kuwait Airways said on Monday it has signed an agreement with European planemaker Airbus to buy eight A330-800neo airliners following five months of negotiations.

Kuwait Airways expects the deliveries to take place between March 2019 and the end of 2026, the Gulf carrier said on its Twitter account.

Saudi to meet India's oil demand

Reuters | New Delhi

Saudi Arabia is committed to meeting India's rising oil demand and is the "shock absorber" for supply disruptions in the oil market, Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said yesterday.

While there are many factors that could influence global oil prices, Saudi Arabia and other major producers will continue to act to cushion the market from oil price shocks, Falih said at the IHS CERA conference.

"We could have another (round of) unanticipated disruptions that we have seen in Nigeria, Libya, Venezuela. And we have seen sanctions on Iran. These supply disruptions need a shock absorber and the shock absorber to a large extent has been Saudi Arabia," he said.

"We have invested tens of billions of dollars to build spare capacity of 2-3 million barrels per day over years," he added.

Saudi Arabia has the capacity to produce 12 million bpd and is currently producing 10.7 million bpd, Falih said, adding that production will rise further next month.

Falih said oil prices would "easily be at the three digit range had it not been for the extra effort the kingdom has done over many years by investing in capacity and then unleashing that capacity, delivering barrels over last few months, reversing inventory draw down."

Brent crude prices were trading 80 cents a barrel higher at \$81.23 by 1157 GMT.

Falih said he told India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan that Saudi Arabia is committed to meeting its growing oil demand.

State oil company Saudi Aramco plans to supply Indian buyers with an additional 4 million barrels of crude oil in November, several sources familiar with the matter said last week.

Falih also said Saudi Arabia wants to invest in Indian downstream projects and strategic oil storage.

"Saudi Aramco's desire is to invest in consumer-facing segments such as retail fuels and petrochemicals, building an integrated downstream business in India as well as our commitment to invest in strategic storage," Falih said.

Saudi market rebounds

● Saudi recovers Sunday's sharp losses

● Institutional investors buy shares actively

● Oman's market falls after bank earnings

● Egypt's Madinet continues surge on share swap plan

Reuters

Saudi Arabia's stock market rebounded sharply yesterday from losses suffered the day before, as local institutions bought shares actively.

The Saudi index - which had plunged 7.2 per cent in the previous two days jumped 4.1pc in heavy trade, erasing Sunday's



Traders on the floor of Saudi Stock market (Courtesy of Mubasher Info)

losses. The Saudi rial fell to its lowest level against the dollar in the spot market for two years on Monday, while Riyadh's international bond prices slipped. But the drops were much smaller than some bouts of instability caused by low oil prices in the

last several years.

Petrochemical and bank stocks lifted the index. The Gulf's biggest petrochemical producer, Saudi Basic Industries, rose 3.7pc.

Sahara Petrochemical added 6.9pc after saying a unit had

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 4.1%	» 7,568
DUBAI	▼ 0.03%	» 2,713
ABU DHABI	▲ 0.04%	» 4,933
QATAR	▲ 0.1%	» 9,834
KUWAIT	▲ 0.9%	» 5,205
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.01%	» 1,316
OMAN	▼ 0.8%	» 4,461
EGYPT	▼ 0.1%	» 13,521

started marketing polypropylene made by affiliate Al-Waha Petrochemicals in the region.

Saudi Industrial Export jumped 10pc as trade in the rights to its equity issue began.

Meanwhile, Oman's index dropped 0.8pc after a slew of corporate earnings from its banks. Bank Muscat slid 1.9pc despite reporting a rise in profit for the nine months ended Sept. 30.

Al Anwar Ceramic Tiles

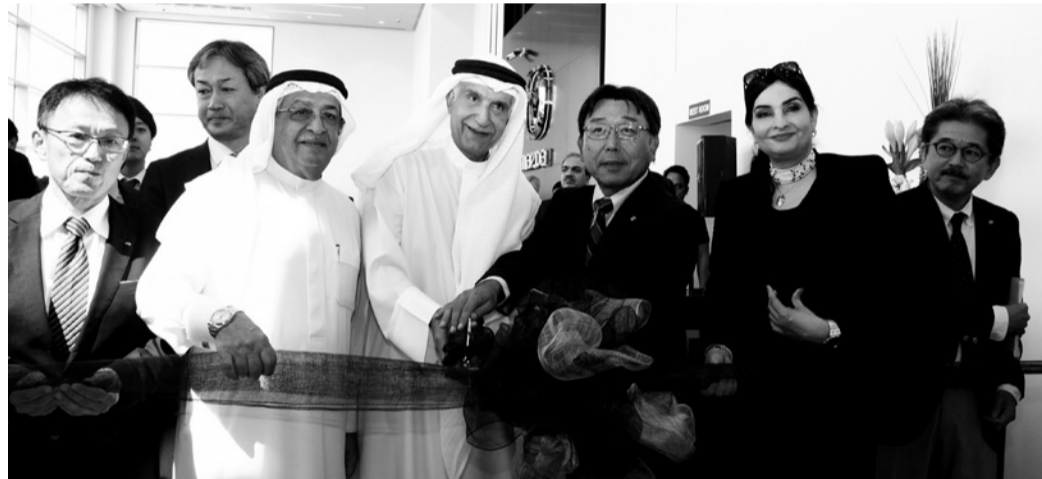
dropped 5.9pc after its profits fell during the same period.

The Egyptian blue-chip index shed 0.1pc but Madinet Nasr for Housing and Development jumped 7.7pc, continuing a surge that began on Sunday when Sixth of October Development and Investment (SODIC) said it aimed to take over Madinet by exchanging one of its shares for two Madinet shares.

Arqaam Capital said the ratio was more favourable than expected for shareholders in Madinet; SODIC plunged nearly 10pc on Monday.

In Dubai, the index edged down 0.03pc as real estate and industrial shares reversed early gains to trade lower.

Qatar's index was up 0.1pc on a 2.7pc rise in Industries Qatar and a 0.4pc increase in Qatar Electricity and Water after it signed a 15-year service agreement with Japan's Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems for 360 million riyals (\$96 million).



International Motor Trading Agency (IMTA), the preferred distributor for Mazda passenger vehicles in the Kingdom of Bahrain, held the official opening of its brand-new Mazda showroom. The new state-of-the-art facility is spread over 3,753.00 Sq. Mt. and has been built at a substantial investment to offer customers the opportunity to experience the famous brand first hand in a refreshing new setting. It is a subsidiary of Khalil Bin Ebrahim Kanoo (K. E. Kanoo) Group. Above, officials during the inauguration

India's trade deficit hits 5-month low of \$13.98bn

Reuters | New Delhi

India's trade deficit narrowed to \$13.98 billion in September from \$17.4bn in August, the trade ministry said on Monday, the lowest figure in five months.

Solid growth in manufacturing exports, which rose 12.54 per cent in the first six months in dollar terms year-on-year, cancelled out a rising oil import bill for the world's third-biggest crude importer that has been suffering from rising oil prices. September

imports were up 10.45pc year-on-year.

"India expects to maintain double-digit growth in exports in the current fiscal year despite fragile global recovery and trade tensions," Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan told reporters.

India's imports for the period from April to September were up 16.16pc year-on-year, while exports rose 12.54pc, the trade ministry said. The overall trade deficit over the period was \$94.32bn.



Employees of Seef Mall pledging their support to the social media campaign TeamBahrain initiated by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

Ford faces outrage in France over factory closure

AFP | Bordeaux, France

US carmaker Ford came under fire from the French government on Monday over its plans to close a factory producing gear boxes in southwest France that employs 850 people.

After a stormy meeting between management and French officials, Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire sounded furious at the US group's desire to shut the plant near Bordeaux, rather than sell it to a French buyer.

"If they think they can just shut up shop and that the state and local authorities won't react, then they're making a mistake," Le Maire told reporters. "We're going to fight and we won't be

taken advantage of."

"Ford's position cannot be defended and what can't be defended needs to be combatted," he added.

Ford announced in February that it would stop investing in its Blanquefort plant, which has produced gear boxes since 1972, and the issue has been raised by the French and US governments.

The site has become another battleground between French trade unions and American multinationals that are often portrayed in France as heartless job-slashing capitalists.

Plans by US appliance maker Whirlpool to close a factory in the northern town of Amiens became a controversy during



Ford announced in February that it would stop investing in its Blanquefort plant, which has produced gear boxes since 1972, and the issue has been raised by the French and US governments.

last year's presidential election campaign, which was won by centrist Emmanuel Macron.

One of Macron's far-left rivals, Philippe Poutou, is a mechanic at Ford's Blanquefort plant who became a minor celebrity during the election with his angry denunciations of multinationals and a pledge to outlaw redundancies.

Other past factory closures by American companies such as Goodyear and Caterpillar, part of a wider trend of industrial decline in France, have also led to bitterness and public campaigns.

Bordeaux's mayor, former prime minister Alain Juppe, walked out of the meeting with

Ford's management on Monday before the end -- and angrily denounced the company afterwards as "leading us on".

Juppe and Le Maire's anger has focused on Ford's reluctance to favour an offer for the site from Punch Powerglide, a manufacturer based in the eastern French city of Strasbourg, which would come with pledges of more state aid.

"I spoke to the chairman of Ford last Friday by phone and the chairman told me that between a purchase of the site by Punch and the closure of the site, Ford preferred closing the factory," Le Maire said.

"I completely disagree with this choice," he added.

SPORTS

Jayasuriya faces corruption charges

AFP | Dubai

Dashing former Sri Lankan batsman and ex-chief selector Sanath Jayasuriya has been charged for not cooperating with a match-fixing probe and concealing information, the International Cricket Council said yesterday.

"The International Cricket Council (ICC) has charged Jayasuriya on two counts of breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) and have given him 14 days to respond," the ICC said in a statement.

Jayasuriya, 49, was reportedly asked to cooperate with an inquiry from ACU chief Alex Marshall who visited Sri Lanka last month.

"The charges include failure or refusal, without compelling justification, to cooperate with any investigation carried out by the ACU, including failure to provide accurately and completely any information and/or documentation requested by the ACU as part of such investigation," the ICC said.

The other count included "obstructing or delaying any investigation that may be carried out by the ACU, including concealing, tampering with or destroying any documentation or other information that may be relevant to that investigation and/or that may be evidence or may lead to the discovery of evidence of corrupt conduct under the Anti-Corruption Code".

Shaikh Nasser praised on Ironman victory

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) board member and Bahrain Table Tennis Association president Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa congratulated Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative to His Majesty the King for Charity Work and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and

Sports, President of BOC, on winning the Ironman World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

Shaikha Hayat hailed the victory achieved by Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, lauding his strenuous efforts, strong determination and preparations ahead of the world championship, wishing him continuous success in assuming his national responsibilities to serve his nation.

Academy to host CPR course

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Olympic Committee's (BOC) Bahrain Olympic Academy is organizing a course on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) starting today.

The two-day event is organized in cooperation with the American base in Bahrain, with representatives of health clubs and physical fitness are expected to take part. It will be presented by a team of experts in this area.

The course is organized as part of an attempt to avoid the increasing phenomena of sudden death among athletes in Bahrain.

Director of the Olympic Academy Dr. Nabeel Taha stressed that the course aims to prepare a number of athletes to obtain knowledge and skills to perform CPR procedure, which would help in saving lives of many people in the future.

Taha added that the academy will organize three courses per year in cooperation with the American Base to cover the largest possible number of specialists in this area.

The course comprises theoretical and practical sessions. The participants will receive an official two-year valid license covering CPR and first aid certified by the United States.

Entries open for Indian Club's Football, Hockey Fiesta

TDT | Manama

The Indian Club is all set to kick start the NHSC Football & Hockey Championship from 20th October to 1st November 2018.

After a very successful invitational

Cricket tournament, the Hockey and Football tournaments will take the centre stage.

The last date for entries is 17th October & will be followed by Captain's meeting at 8:30pm on the same day.

India to unleash Pant, Shaw on Australia

AFP | Hyderabad, India

"Fearless" young batting stars Prithvi Shaw and Rishabh Pant will be India's special weapons during their upcoming tour of Australia, according to captain Virat Kohli.

Hailing the roles of 18-year-old Shaw and 21-year-old Pant in the two-Test victory over the West Indies, Kohli said they had been given free rein to play their natural games.

"We were looking at them playing with a lot of freedom, which they did," Kohli said after India's three-day, 10-wicket win on Sunday.

"Prithvi was outstanding, Rishabh was really fearless. I am really happy that these guys have grabbed their chances."

Shaw became the youngest Indian batsman to score a century on his Test debut, smashing 134 in the first Test against the West Indies in Rajkot.

He followed it up with a quickfire 70 in the first innings of the second Test in Hyderabad.

Left-hander Pant, who hit a century during this year's Test tour of England, followed up with scores of 92 in both the first and second Tests against the West Indies.

"I know the conditions were not as challenging as they might get in future, but in Test cricket, the first and the most important thing is con-



Prithvi Shaw

fidence and understanding that you can score runs at the Test level," said Kohli. "From that point of view, (I'm) very happy that these guys have taken their chance so well."

Shades of Tendulkar, Lara

Pant, who shows an audacious range of strokes as a middle-order batsman, has been rewarded for his Test performances with a call-up for the first two one-day internationals against the West Indies.

But it is Shaw who has stood out,

with some pundits comparing him to the great Sachin Tendulkar. He scored 237 runs in three innings against the West Indies to get the Man of the Series award.

India coach Ravi Shastri compared Shaw to Tendulkar and the destructive Virender Sehwag and Brian Lara.

The diminutive right-hander aggressively attacked the West Indies bowlers and showed quick reflexes while fielding at forward short-leg -- a dangerous position close to the batsman.

Australia target first Asia series win since 2011 - Paine

AFP | Sydney

Australian skipper Tim Paine vowed his team would do its utmost to win the second Test against Pakistan starting in Abu Dhabi from Tuesday for a first series win in Asia since 2011.

The trying conditions of the pitches and hot weather have stopped Australia from winning a series since they beat Sri Lanka 1-0 in 2011.

Since then they have lost 4-0 in India (2013), 2-0 in United Arab Emirates to Pakistan (2014), 3-0 in Sri Lan-



Australian skipper Tim Paine

ka (2016), 2-1 in India (2017) and drew 1-1 in Bangladesh last year.

But Paine's side snatched a morale-boosting draw on the fifth and

final day in the first Test in Dubai, the skipper and number 10 Nathan Lyon seeing out the final 12.2 overs after being set a daunting target of 462 runs.

"We want to win every series we are involved in," Paine said yesterday. "We are focusing on what we do and if we can do well for five days then we have a really good chance of winning it."

"We are reasonably confident. After the last few days we got a little bit of relief and a little bit of mileage, so we know if we play our best cricket we have got a chance to win this Test."

Brave CF secures partnership with ARY, Rockville and MRG in Pakistan

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation has entered into a partnership with ARY, House of Rockville and MRG to form Brave Pakistan Pvt Ltd.

This initiative will bring Brave Combat Federation to Pakistan to host the first International Mixed Martial Arts event to take place in the nation. The event will be the most broadcasted combat sports event till date to take place in Pakistan.

Salman Iqbal representing ARY, Saad Ali Khan representing House of Rockville, Jahangir Riaz, CEO of GreenHill Sports and Dewan Adil representing MRG Pvt Ltd signed the partnership agreement with Mohammed Shahid, President of Brave Combat Federation who was accompanied

by Faisal Rehman.

Mohammed Shahid, President of the Brave Combat Federation, stated, "I am pleased to announce our partnership with ARY. The partnership will ensure to direct our collective synergies towards developing the sport of Mixed Martial Arts in Pakistan. We are glad to work alongside top industry leaders including ARY, GreenHill Sports and House of Rockville to bring this initiative to Pakistan. This initiative will create economic opportunities and to strengthen the relation between the two nations. We are thrilled to partner with ARY in Pakistan and this mark a new chapter for sports media initiatives in Pakistan"

Brave Pakistan Pvt Ltd will initiate operations in Pakistan by hosting the

first edition of the event on 27th October at the Nistar Sports Complex in Lahore. Brave Pakistan Pvt Ltd will organise nationwide tryouts on a regular basis for Brave Combat Federation to support the initiatives for talent development in Pakistan.

Brave Pakistan Pvt will manage the initiatives and become the master franchise holder for Brave MMA Gyms, Brave Nutrition and Brave Apparel. Salman Iqbal from ARY has been elected as the Chairman of the Board of Brave Pakistan Pvt Ltd and Abrar Ali Khan from Rockville will hold the role of the CEO.

The initiative was supported by UK based combat sports merchandise manufacturing brand, GreenHill Sports, headed by Jahangir Riaz, CEO of GreenHill Sports.

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Despair turns to optimism as Mancini's Italy take shape

Reuters | Milan

The despair which followed Italy's defeat by Portugal a month ago has suddenly turned to unbridled optimism following Sunday's 1-0 stoppage-time win away to Poland in the Nations League.

Italian media agreed the performance was one of the best in the last few years as Roberto Mancini's new-look side dominated the match in Chorzow and created chances almost at will.

It was very different to the mood after Italy were outplayed by Portugal, prompting Gazzetta dello Sport to publish the headline "Italy always going downwards".

Yesterday, the same paper boomed: "This is Italy".

"Finally, Italy win and convince," it added.

A headline in Corriere dello Sport, meanwhile, simply read: "Bellissima."

Mancini was appointed with the job of rebuilding Italy following their failure to qualify for this year's World Cup, the first time they have missed the tournament in 60 years.

It was never going to be an easy task for the former Manchester City and Inter Milan coach.

Italy no longer produce world-



Italy's midfielder Nicolò Barella and Italy's defender Cristiano Biraghi (L) vie for the ball with Poland's forward Arkadiusz Milik

class players in abundance and teams such as Juventus, Napoli and AS Roma are dominated by foreigners, as Mancini pointed out last month.

But Mancini said there was still enough talent around to make Italy great again, even if it

was going to take time.

It was a case, he said, of putting faith in younger and lesser-known players and having patience.

There were certainly some interesting choices in Sunday's line-up.

Left back Cristiano Biraghi, who scored the winning goal, was relegated with Pescara two seasons ago and was making his third appearance for Italy at the age of 26.

With Italy struggling to break the deadlock, Mancini chose to

bring on Kevin Lasagna for his international debut at the age of 26 rather than Lazio's prolific marksman Ciro Immobile.

Lasagna, whose flick on at the near post set up the goal, has little more than two seasons of Serie A experience.

"Five years ago I was playing in Serie D (the fourth tier) and now, I'm making my debut for Italy," Lasagna said.

"I put Kevin and not Immobile because he's stronger in the air and we needed a few centimetres," said Mancini.

Another surprise choice was Cagliari's 21-year-old midfielder Nicolò Barella who made his debut in last Wednesday's 1-1 home draw with Ukraine and excelled on Sunday.

Mancini sent the team out in a 4-3-3 formation with no recognised striker.

Marco Veratti and Jorginho took control of the midfield and the attacking trio of Federico Chiesa, Federico Bernardeschi and Lorenzo Insigne caused Poland many problems.

"I wanted a team that plays at home and away with the same mentality," Mancini said.

"We are starting a new chapter but, in football, you need time and there are no magicians. We have simply started working and getting to know the players."

Turkish star Turan could face more than 12 years jail

AFP | Istanbul

Turkish prosecutors charged Barcelona player Arda Turan over a brawl with a prominent singer, asking for the footballer to be sentenced to twelve-and-a-half years in jail.

The prosecutors charged Turan, who is currently on loan to Istanbul's Basaksehir, with sexual harassment, unlicensed possession of weapons and causing intentional injury over the fight with singer Berkay Sahin, the state-run Anadolu news agency said.

Sahin, who goes on stage by his first name Berkay, was also charged, with prosecutors demanding up to two years in jail.

Turan, 31, had last week been summoned to an Istanbul police station to give a statement about the incident but was allowed to walk free.

The incident, which took place outside an Istanbul nightclub and reportedly left Sahin with a broken nose, has transfixed Turkey over the last days.

England fans disorder 'unacceptable': FA

AFP | Seville, Spain

The Football Association has condemned the behaviour of some England fans in Seville ahead of their team's UEFA Nations League match against Spain.

Riot police intervened on Sunday night to break up a group of English supporters who had been drinking and were behaving badly as they wandered round the centre of the Spanish city. There have been no confirmed arrests or injuries.

An FA statement read: "We condemn the unacceptable behaviour witnessed in Seville."

"With the Spain fixture still to come on Monday night, we urge those following the team to respect our hosts and act in a responsible manner."

Sainsbury, coach's son-in-law, eyes Soccerroos captaincy

AFP | Sydney

Trent Sainsbury has put his hand up to be the new Soccerroos captain, but his father-in-law, new coach Graham Arnold, is unlikely to make a long-term decision before their defence of the Asian Cup in January.

Australia has only had two permanent skippers over the past decade -- Lucas Neill and Mile Jedinak -- and Arnold is keen to make the right choice.

He oversees his first game in charge against Kuwait in Kuwait City and plans to trial three players in their three friendlies before the Asian Cup tournament.

Barca defensive problems mount with Vermaelen injury

Reuters | Barcelona

Barcelona were dealt a new defensive blow yesterday with news that centre back Thomas Vermaelen has been ruled out for six weeks with a torn hamstring as the stuttering La Liga champions prepare for a gruelling set of fixtures.

The Catalans were already short-staffed in central defence due to the prolonged absence of France international Samuel Umtiti, who is out with a knee problem and with no date set for his return.

"Medical tests carried out this Monday confirmed that Barca defender Thomas Vermaelen has suffered an injury to the biceps femoris of his right leg. He will be out approximately six weeks," Barca said in a statement.

"The injury happened on

Friday, when Vermaelen had to come off during Belgium's UEFA Nations League match versus Switzerland. Vermaelen will miss Belgium's coming match versus The Netherlands in Brussels, as well as upcoming Barca matches."

Barcelona only have two natural centre backs in Gerard Pique and Frenchman Clement Lenglet available for a demanding run of games starting with a top-of-the-table clash against Sevilla on Saturday.

Barca visit Inter Milan in the Champions League next Tuesday and play arch-rivals Real Madrid in the "Clasico" on Oct. 28.

Barca are second in the La Liga standings, one point behind Sevilla, although they are in the midst of a poor run of domestic results, having lost one and drawn three of their last four games.

Bolt fumes over drug test

AFP | Sydney

Sprint legend Usain Bolt says he's stunned after being handed a drug testing notice despite retiring from athletics and having no professional contract as he bids to launch a football career in Australia.

The 100m world record-holder quit athletics last year and is yet to be offered a deal by Australia's Central Coast Mariners, where he is currently on trial.

"So guys I've retired from track and field looking to become a footballer but look at this," Bolt said yesterday via an Instagram video as he zoomed in on the notice.

The demand for the out of competition test -- to collect urine and blood -- appears to have been issued by Football Federation Australia.

"How am I going to get a drug test today? I'm not even a professional footballer yet. Seriously," said Bolt.

"So I asked the lady, 'Why



Usain Bolt

am I getting drug tested when I haven't signed for a club yet?" and she said they told her I'm an elite athlete so I have to get tested. Okay then."

Despite his displeasure, it appears the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority guidelines mean he is eligible to be tested.

Their legislation defines an athlete as a "person who competes in sport" if "the sport has an anti-doping policy".

Del Potro suffers fractured kneecap after fall

Reuters | Shanghai

US Open runner-up Juan Martin del Potro has suffered a fractured right kneecap following his fall during a match in Shanghai this week, his spokesman said in a statement on Sunday.

Del Potro, who has been unlucky with injuries throughout his career, retired from his round-of-16 match against Borna Coric after falling heavily.

It's very difficult for me to think about recovery again, I did not expect this to happen

JUAN MARTIN DEL POTRO

The statement said that "the medical studies carried out on Saturday showed that Juan Martin del Potro suffered a



Juan Martin del Potro

fracture of his right patella bone in Shanghai".

"In the coming days, doctors will evaluate the recovery process needed to return."

The 30-year-old Argentine, who is ranked fourth in the world and had been enjoying one of the best seasons of his career, is wearing a splint on his right leg.

"It's a very difficult moment," he said. "I feel very sad. It's a hard blow that leaves me without strength."



Thomas Vermaelen

The Messi and Ronaldo era is phenomenal: Guardiola

Goal.com | London

Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola believes the football world is witnessing an era of “two phenomena” with the exploits of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

Over the last 10 years, Ron-

aldo and Messi have hogged the plaudits and they are still going strong despite entering their thirties.

Every Ballon d'Or award since Kaka won it in 2007 has been taken home by either Ronaldo or Messi, with the two tied on five each.

Guardiola knows what Messi is like to coach firsthand from his time at Barcelona and he believes his personality rubs off on teammates, adding that he and Juventus star Ronaldo are a cut above everyone else.

“Leo is a competitive, fierce animal,” he told reporters at Festival dello Sport.

“That helps others to be competitive. He hates to lose and plays like when he was a kid. In big matches, if the team helps him, he makes the

difference.

“To - geth - er with Cristiano [Ronaldo] we have lived and are living an era of two phenomena.

“They have spent 10 years scoring 50 goals a season. It's incredible. It's not one year, it's year after year, more and more.”

Luka Modric appears to be the biggest threat to the duo's Ballon d'Or run, though, as the Croatian recently picked up the FIFA award for Best Men's Player.



Lionel Messi (L) and Cristiano Ronaldo

Halep secures second year-end No. 1 ranking

AFP | Paris

Simona Halep has secured the year-end number one ranking in the WTA standings for the second year running.

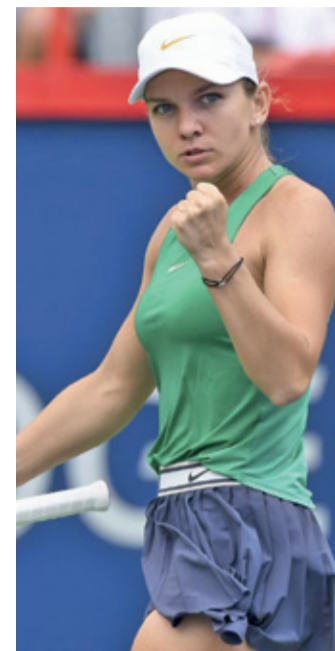
The Romanian spent 40 weeks at No. 1 in 2018, a season that saw her win three titles from a tour-leading six final appearances, amassing a 46-11 win-loss record.

This year Halep has won the Shenzhen Open, the Rogers Cup and her debut Grand Slam crown at Roland Garros.

In addition, she reached the title match at the Australian Open, in Rome and Cincinnati.

“Finishing the season as the WTA World No.1 last year was a huge honour for me,” said Halep.

“To do it for a second time in 2018 feels like a special achievement, especially having also won my first Grand Slam this year. To be able to see my name again alongside the other legends



Simona Halep

who have achieved the year-end No.1 ranking makes me very proud.”

WTA rankings as of October 15

1. Simona Halep (ROM) 7421 pts
2. Caroline Wozniacki (DEN) 6461
3. Angelique Kerber (GER) 5400
4. Naomi Osaka (JPN) 4740
5. Karolina Pliskova (CZE) 4465 (+1)
6. Elina Svitolina (UKR) 4350 (-1)
7. Petra Kvitova (CZE) 4255
8. Sloane Stephens (USA) 4022
9. Julia Görges (GER) 3785
10. Kiki Bertens (NED) 3740



Max Verstappen feels qualifying should be more a shorter session

‘F1 risks qualifying becoming another practice session’

Autosport | London

Max Verstappen of Red Bull believes Formula 1 risks turning qualifying into “just another practice session” if it adds an extra phase to the knockout format.

F1 has considered a revised format that would involve four cars being eliminated in Q1, Q2 and Q3, leaving just eight for a final shootout in a new Q4 session.

At present, a driver that makes it through to the top-10 shootout will likely run twice in all three parts of qualifying, giving them five runs before the lap that finally determines their grid position.

“I would keep it like it is, otherwise you're running so much,” said Verstappen of the mooted change.

“It's more and more practice,

and qualifying should be more a shorter session where you don't have that many opportunities to do a lap.

“Otherwise, what's qualifying for?”

“It's just another practice session, where everybody can get into a rhythm.

“What I always understood in qualifying is that you have to go out, have a few shots at it, and that's it.

“If you start to do more and more and more, everybody at one point starts to do a good lap.”

Renault driver Carlos Sainz Jr shared his former Toro Rosso team-mate's view that drivers should not get as many chances in qualifying.

Asked by Autosport about the possibility of an extra session, Renault driver Sainz said: “I would like to see that, but only

“I would keep it like it is, otherwise you're running so much. It's more and more practice, and qualifying should be more a shorter session where you don't have that many opportunities to do a lap

MAX VERSTAPPEN

with one set of tyres per session.

“Don't give the drivers a second chance, [make them] have to do it one time per session.

“I think the pressure would be higher.

“Your speciality as a driver is

putting a lap together straight away in Q1, straight away in Q2 and not sandbagging like a lot of drivers are doing in Q1 and then give it all out in Q2, or give it all out in Q3.

“If you have only once chance, you put a lot of beans, a lot of concentration, into that one lap, because you cannot get it wrong.”

One problem that has emerged with the current format is that races where tyre degradation is higher have hurt, rather than rewarded, the best-of-the-rest runners behind Mercedes, Ferrari and Red Bull.

Making it into the top 10 means they need to start on the tyre they used in Q2, which is usually the softest compound, and this presents a strategic disadvantage in the race because their rivals immediately behind on the grid have free tyre choice.

Djokovic closing in on Nadal's No. 1 spot

AFP | Paris

Novak Djokovic is closing in on Rafael Nadal's number one spot after winning the Shanghai Masters title, according to ATP rankings released yesterday.

Nadal is struggling with a knee injury and has decided to sit out the current Asian segment of the ATP tour. Last week he joined the clean-up operation after deadly flash floods on his native Majorca.

After his 6-3, 6-4 victory over Borna Coric in the Shanghai final on Sunday, Djokovic is just 215 points behind the Spaniard.

ATP rankings as of October 15

1. Rafael Nadal (ESP) 7660 pts
2. Novak Djokovic (SRB) 7445 (+1)
3. Roger Federer (SUI) 6260 (-1)
4. Juan Martin Del Potro (ARG) 5860
5. Alexander Zverev (GER) 5025
6. Marin Cilic (CRO) 4185
7. Dominic Thiem (AUT) 3825
8. Kevin Anderson (RSA) 3775
9. Grigor Dimitrov (BUL) 3440
10. John Isner (USA) 3290

No Messi but Argentina 'have to' beat Brazil: Romero

AFP | Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Argentina may be without a superstar Lionel Messi but the two-time world champions simply must beat Brazil in a friendly in Saudi Arabia today, Manchester United goalkeeper Sergio Romero says.

While Brazil have picked most of their star names, Argentina are without the likes of Manchester City's in-form-for-

ward Sergio Aguero, Gonzalo Higuain of AC Milan and Paris Saint-Germain winger Angel Di Maria, as well as Messi.

Messi also sat out Argentina's last three matches, all friendlies, since the country's disappointing last 16 elimination from the World Cup.

He is believed to have asked for some time off from international duty ahead of next year's Copa America in Brazil.



Novak Djokovic