

**Rita Ora wants to bag more acting roles**

Singer Rita Ora wants to continue with her acting career after the success of the "Fifty Shades of Grey" movie franchise, and says she would like to do a horror film.

P16

Defending global institutions from White House sledgehammer

THE DAILY **tribune**



Taylor Swift handles concert malfunction with ease

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Pacquiao wants more

**Spotlight on anti-graft steps**  
 Manama

The team in charge of implementing the United Nations (UN) Convention Against Corruption held its first meeting yesterday.

The session was attended by officials representing entities in charge of implementing Chapters II and V - "Preventive Measures" and "Asset Recovery". Judges and experts were also present.

The director-general of the General Directorate for Anti-Corruption, Economic and Electronic Security commended the role of the team in highlighting Bahrain's efforts to implement the UN covenant.

The Anti-corruption crime directorate acting director highlighted the requirements for implementing the convention.

**US rejects EU plea over Iran**

New York

The US has rejected pleas from the EU to grant exemptions to European firms from the sanctions on Iran that will start to be reinstated next month.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin wrote in a letter that they wanted to exert "unprecedented" pressure on Tehran. Waivers will only be given on national security or humanitarian grounds.

President Donald Trump ordered that the sanctions be re-imposed in May after abandoning a nuclear deal with Iran.

The UK, France and Germany - which were also parties to the 2015 accord, along with Russia and China - pledged to continue abiding by their commitments.

**Mighty motherhood**



Anita Areli Ramirez Mejia, an asylum seeker from Honduras separated from her six year-old son Jenri near the Mexico-US border, is reunited with him in Harlingen, Texas. US President Donald Trump signed an executive order ending his policy of separating migrant families at the border a few days ago. More than 50 children have been reunited with their families, but the process has been slow and difficult.

**More steps needed to cut fiscal deficit, IMF tells Bahrain**

TDT|Manama

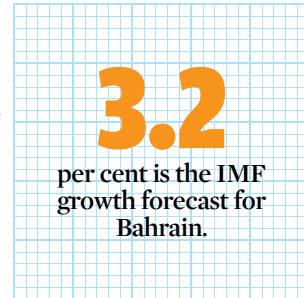
Bahrain needs a comprehensive package of reforms to reduce its fiscal deficits over the medium term, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said.

"Despite planned fiscal consolidation measures, fiscal deficit is projected to continue over the medium term," IMF's Executive Board said in a report yesterday.

The IMF emphasised the need to "introduce direct taxation, including a corporate income tax, while containing the public wage bill" and said Bahrain's exchange rate peg to the dollar "remains appropriate for the economy."

The country's economy is forecast to grow 3.2 per cent this year, according to the IMF.

The fund, while praising Bahraini authorities continued efforts for fiscal reforms, warned against risks



from tighter global financing conditions and delays in fiscal adjustments.

Structural reforms are also needed in Bahrain's business environment, according to IMF, which recommended boosting productivity and competitiveness through more privatisations and adopting public-private partnerships to fund the projects that are in the pipeline.

Greater female participation in the country's workforce is another step in improving the country's business environment, the IMF noted.

Meanwhile, the IMF raised its growth forecast for the world's top crude exporter Saudi Arabia, citing higher oil prices.

In its World Economic Outlook update, the IMF said the Saudi economy would grow by 1.9pc in 2018, up 0.2 percentage points from its April projections.

**Love at fourth sight**

Trump showers praise on Putin in his fourth meeting with the Russian President since his presidency

● **Trump's handling of a joint news conference in Helsinki stirred a wave of condemnation in the United States, where the White House has struggled for months to dispel a suggestion that Trump was unwilling to stand up to Putin.**

● **At the news conference, Trump was invited by reporters to offer any criticism of Russia but he repeatedly declined.**



Trump and Putin shake hands as they meet in Helsinki.

Helsinki

Standing side-by-side with Vladimir Putin, US President Donald Trump yesterday refused to blame the Russian leader for meddling in the US 2016 election, casting doubt on the findings of his own intelligence agencies and sparking a storm of criticism at home.

On a day when he faced pressure from critics, allied countries and even his own

staff to take a tough line, Trump spoke not a single disparaging word in public about Moscow on any of the issues that have brought relations between the two powers to the lowest ebb since the Cold War.

Instead, he denounced the "stupidity" of his own country's policy, especially the decision to investigate election interference following the conclusions drawn by

US intelligence agencies.

A prosecutor announced an indictment three days ago of Russian spies for hacking into Democratic Party networks.

Trump's handling of a joint news conference in Helsinki stirred a wave of condemnation in the United States, where the White House has struggled for months to dispel a suggestion that Trump was unwilling to stand up to

Putin.

His performance was denounced as "treasonous" by a former CIA chief and US Senator John McCain called meeting with Putin a "tragic mistake," although some other Republicans were more cautious.

Asked if he believed US intelligence agencies, which concluded that Russia interfered in the 2016 election in an effort to help him defeat Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton, he said he was not convinced.

"I don't see any reason why it would be" Russia, Trump said. "President Putin was extremely strong and powerful in his denial today."

In one response, the Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats, a Trump nominee approved by Congress, said in a statement, "We have been clear in our assessments of Russian meddling in the 2016 election and their ongoing, pervasive efforts to undermine our democracy, and we will continue to provide unvarnished and objective intelligence in support of our national security."

Hours after the Helsinki summit, Trump tweeted, "I have GREAT confidence in MY intelligence people."

EYE FOR AN EYE

**Mob slaughters nearly 300 crocodiles in revenge killing**

Jakarta

A mob of villagers has killed nearly 300 crocodiles at a sanctuary for the animals in the Indonesian province of West Papua.

The slaughter was in retaliation for a local man thought to have been killed by one animal from the site.

Officials and police said they were not able to stop the attack and may now press charges. The killing of a protected species is a crime that carries a fine or imprisonment in Indonesia. The local villager was killed



All 292 reptiles at the sanctuary were slaughtered by the mob.

on Friday morning while gathering vegetables on the crocodile farm's breeding sanctuary.

"An employee heard someone screaming for help, quickly went there and saw a crocodile attacking someone," the head of Indonesia's Natural Resources Conservation Agency in West Papua said.

After the funeral on Saturday, several hundred angry locals went to the sanctuary, armed with knives, shovels, hammers and clubs. Local media cite officials saying the mob first attacked the office of the crocodile farm and then went on to slaughter all 292 reptiles at the sanctuary.



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