

**Messi wins third straight Golden Shoe award**

Barcelona attacker Lionel Messi has been presented with the European Golden Shoe after ending the 2018-19 season as the leading marksman on the continent. **P16**

THE DAILY **tribune**

Bella Hadid is the world's most beautiful woman, says science **14** CELEBS

WORLD **5** William, Kate visit Pakistan's north

**'Not our problem'**  
 Washington, DC

President Donald Trump has said the Turkey's assault into Syria is "not our border", and called the former US allies the Kurds "no angels".

The US is facing intense criticism for withdrawing its forces from Syria, which some say gave Turkey the green light to launch a cross-border offensive against Kurdish-led forces.

Mr Trump told reporters at the White House the US is "not a policing agent".

"It is time for us to go home," he said.

The US House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to condemn the president's withdrawal of US forces from Syria, with both Democrats and Republicans approving the measure.

**No Brexit deal yet**  
 London

A government source has told the BBC there has been "no deal yet", as officials continue to work on the technical details in Brussels.

The UK and EU had been hoping to sign off a revised Brexit deal before Thursday's crunch EU council meeting.

The BBC's Laura Kuensberg said it was not now clear whether there would be a deal at all this week.

Boris Johnson has been trying to get Tory Brexiteers and the DUP to back his revised plan for Northern Ireland.



**02** Global Institute to hold breast cancer awareness programme

**03** Thai drugs sellers acquitted for 'co-operating with cops'

**04** Launch of national broadband network 'ushers in new Internet technology era'

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**NAO efforts to protect public money lauded**

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received, at Al Safriya Palace, National Auditing Office (NAO) President Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, who submitted the 16th NAO Report for the year 2018-2019.

HM the King commended the efforts exerted by the NAO president and personnel, hailing their outstanding performance and achievements as part of a drive to protect public money and ensure the sound spending, considering highest standards of probity, professionalism and transparency marking NAO reports.

HM the King commended



His Majesty receives NAO report from Shaikh Ahmed.

the NAO-led monitoring team in assuming its crucial role and protecting its independent work, which contributes to enhancing the performance of ministries and state institutions towards attaining the highest levels of productivity, competence and optimising the use of resources for the sake of public interest.

National Auditing Office (NAO) President Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa said that he was honoured to submit the 16th NAO Report for the year 2018-2019 to HM the King as per article 19 of the law on the National Audit Office.

He said that the sixteenth annual report issued by the office, an entity which is financially and admin-

istratively independent from the legislative and executive branches of government and works professionally with the bodies under its control to enhance performance, ensure accountability and promote transparency.

He said that the report for the year 2018-2019 features substantive observations and recommendations which results from the financial and administrative monitoring.

He underlined outstanding NAO strides since its inception, paying tribute to HM the King for his royal support.

He said that he had been honoured to hear HM the King's remarks and directives regarding the NAO recommendations.

**'Daesh may resurge'**

Risk of dispersion of extremist prisoners of Syria highlighted

**● The short text proposed by France was adopted following a brief meeting held at the request of European members of the Council.**

New York

The UN Security Council warned in a unanimously adopted statement yesterday of a risk of "dispersion" of extremist prisoners in Syria, but stopped short of calling for a

halt to Turkey's offensive against Kurdish forces there.

"Members of the Security Council expressed deep concerns over the risks of dispersion of terrorists from UN-designated groups, including ISIL," the statement said, using an acronym for the Daesh group.

All 15 Council members including Russia, a key player in the conflict, declared themselves "very concerned (about) a further deterioration of the humanitarian situation" in northeastern Syria.

All were in agreement on the danger of Daesh regrouping,



Iraqi security forces secure the Iraq-Syria border around the Rabiaa border crossing yesterday.

**15**  
 members constitute the United Nations Security Council.

summed up a Western ambassador, who requested anonymity.

The short text proposed by France was adopted following a brief meeting held at the request of European members of the

Council.

It does not condemn the Turkish offensive – which the United States is seen as having green-lighted by withdrawing troops from northeastern Syria – nor does it call for the operation to stop.

At a previous meeting late last week, Russia and China blocked the Council adoption of two separate texts calling for a halt to the offensive – one sponsored by European members Germany, Belgium, France, Britain and Poland – and the other by the United States.

Europeans and Americans on

the Security Council have since been coordinating their efforts more closely, said a Western diplomat under cover of anonymity.

Almost a week of deadly bombardment and fighting in northeastern Syria has killed dozens of civilians, mostly on the Kurdish side, and prompted at least 160,000 to flee their homes.

The Turkish invasion has also forced the withdrawal of several non-governmental organisations providing assistance to victims of the Syrian conflict, which has killed more than 370,000 people and displaced millions since 2011.

RIGHTS VIOLATOR

**Second French academic detained in Iran since June**

Paris

A prominent French academic has been in detention in Iran since June, when he was arrested with his Franco-Iranian colleague, a researchers' group and the French foreign ministry said yesterday.

Roland Marchal, a sociologist whose research focuses on civil wars in Africa, and Fariba Adelkhah, an anthropologist, both work at the Sciences Po university in Paris.

The FASOPO association, of which they are both members, announced Marchal's detention on its website, saying it had remained quiet about his arrest at the



**We have remained quiet about the arrest at the request of French authorities.**

FASOPO

request of French authorities until the story was reported on Tuesday by Le Figaro newspaper.

The association said "discretion had seemed preferable to the French authorities, who immediately began working, at the highest level, to obtain the liberation of our colleagues..."