

**Steve Harvey doesn't want to host Oscars**

TV host Steve Harvey says he is not interested in hosting the Oscars. In an interview to Entertainment Tonight, the 61-year-old comedian said that he would pass if such an opportunity presented itself, reports [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk). **P13**

**Why the US should not assist Italy in forfeiting a rare bronze?**

**Spain's prosecutor accuses singer Shakira of tax fraud**

**Liverpool back on top**



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday patronised a ceremony marking the 47th National Day of Bahrain in the presence of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier. In his message to the nation, His Majesty congratulated the people of Bahrain for their contributions towards nation development. His Majesty directed the newly-elected members of the parliament and municipal councils to put in all efforts for the welfare of people and the nation.

# Take nation to greater heights



His Majesty speaks at the National Day ceremony.

**His Majesty directs lawmakers, officials to work towards the progress of nation**

**Manama**

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa patronised, in the presence of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown

Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, a ceremony yesterday marking the kingdom's National Day celebrations, in commemoration of the establishment of the modern Bahraini state as an Arab and Muslim country founded by Ahmed Al Fateh in 1783, the 47th anniversary of its

full membership in the United Nations, and the 19th anniversary of HM the King's Accession to the Throne,

On arrival at the Al Sakhir Palace, the artillery fired 21 rounds to salute HM the King, who was accompanied by a constellation of cavalry.

HM King Hamad was wel-

comed by the Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, National Guard Commander, HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, and Interior Minister, Lieutenant-General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa.

Speaking on the occasion, His Majesty thanked the citizens of the Kingdom for fulfilling national duties in the finest form by exercising their democratic rights. HM King Hamad wished the Shura, House of Representatives and municipal council members a new phase of work in service of nation.

"In light of the successive achievements and great joys witnessed by our country, we must commend here the fact that a Bahraini woman has become Speaker of the Council of Representatives, a great historic national achievement, of which we are very proud."

**See pages 2-3**



NO IMPACT

**Bahrain defends Australia's decision on Jerusalem**

**Dubai**

The foreign minister has defended Australia's formal recognition of West Jerusalem as Israel's capital, saying the move would not affect a future Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital.

Australia's government announced the decision on Saturday, reversing decades of Middle East policy, but said it would not immediately move its embassy there.

The United States in May opened its embassy in Jerusalem.

"Australia's stance does not impact the legitimate Palestin-



**Australia's stance does not impact the legitimate Palestinian demands.**

SHAIKH KHALID

ian demands, first among them being East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine, and it does not contradict the Arab Peace Initiative," Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa tweeted on

Saturday.

Shaikh Khalid has previously said Israel had the right to defend itself against Iran, which Bahrain blames for interfering in national affairs.

**UAE greets Bahrain**



Burj Khalifa, the tallest structure in the world, was lit up last night in red and white colours of Bahrain's national flag marking the Kingdom's 47th National Day and 19th anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the Throne. Yesterday, UAE President Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan sent a cable of congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on Bahrain's National Day.

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# 'Put in best efforts for



Hundreds flocked to Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) yesterday to witness National Day celebrations.

## Manama

● **His Majesty directs lawmakers, Shura members to perform their duties towards citizens**

● **His Majesty extends congratulations to newly-elected House speaker Fawzia Zainal**

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"We reiterate our sincere con-

gratulations to Fawzia Abdulla Zainal on her efforts that have led to this important post, wishing her success in carrying out her upcoming responsibilities.

"In celebrating the National Day of our country, and out of our duty towards the sacrifices of the sons of Bahrain, we recall with pride the lessons of loyalty and bravery of our righteous martyrs throughout history, which inspire us to exert our utmost to protect the homeland and defend its interests in the



The management and staff of  
**Citi Bahrain**  
extend their warmest greetings to

His Majesty  
**King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa**  
The King of Bahrain

His Royal Highness  
**Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa**  
The Prime Minister

His Royal Highness  
**Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa**  
The Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander  
and First Deputy Prime Minister

The Royal Family, the Government and the people of  
the Kingdom of Bahrain  
on the occasion of His Majesty's accession to the throne and

**47<sup>th</sup> BAHRAIN NATIONAL DAY**





# people's welfare'



Fireworks at BIC and Bahrain Water Garden City in Seef District offered spectators a special treat.

greatest form.  
 "We cannot here but ask Allah Almighty to accommodate our martyrs in His mercy and forgiveness in paradise.  
 "This celebration is an opportunity to express our deep appreciation to the pioneers of our national development, men and women, conveying our sincere gratitude to the group of honourees for their loyal efforts and contributions.  
 "Many thanks and praise to all those who have made serving

Bahrain and its advancement a great honour and high purpose."  
 The event also saw the Chief Executive of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority and Chairman of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Ausamah Al Absi, delivering a statement on behalf of the honourees in which he extended congratulations to HM the King and the entire nation on the national days.  
 He expressed deep pride in

the King's honouring of the national work pioneers, noting that the honouring is a badge of honour that will remain engraved in the kingdom's history.  
 He asserted that national work pioneers deserve the royal honouring for their dedication in serving the nation.  
 He also hailed HM King Hamad's unwavering interest in advancing Bahraini women who, he said, have contributed to the kingdom's progress in various fields.



The Bahrain Embassy in the UK held a special event to mark National Day yesterday.



Passengers from Bahrain received a special welcome at Kuwait Airport yesterday.



A medical camp was held at Al Hilal Hospital as part of National Day initiatives.

## Shura pays homage to late servicemen

Manama

The Shura Council has extended deepest appreciation and gratitude to fallen servicemen marking the Commemoration Day, launched by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on December 17 every year, to commemorate the sacrifices they have made throughout the kingdom's history.

In a statement, the Shura council expressed

deep pride in the servicemen of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), the Interior Ministry and the National Guard, who spare no effort in order to show their love and loyalty to the nation and its leadership and round-the-clock readiness to defend the country at all fields of victory and honour.

The Shura Council affirmed that the Commemoration Day is a kind Royal gesture aimed at paying tribute to those who

sacrificed their lives while carrying out their patriotic duties in defence of their homeland and their Nation at various battlefields.

The Shura Council prayed to Allah the Almighty to rest the souls of the late servicemen from the (BDF), the Interior Ministry and the National Guard, and their brethren from the GCC and Arab countries in eternal peace and to bless their relatives with patience and fortitude.

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# Towards a knowledge society

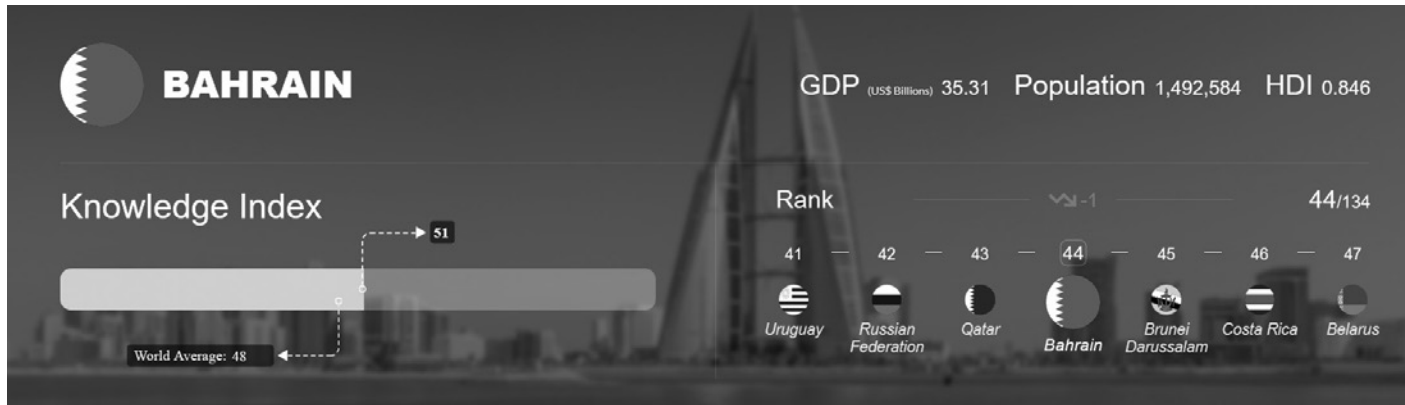
Global Knowledge Index places Bahrain fourth in Middle East

● Bahrain scored highest in economy and Information and Communications Technology indices scoring 24th and 34th ranks respectively.

● Switzerland, Singapore and Finland took the top three spots in the index.

TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Zafran

This year's Global Knowledge Index (GKI) has placed Bahrain in the fourth spot in the Middle East region.



Coming behind the UAE (19th), Israel (20th) and Qatar (43rd), Bahrain was placed 44th in the global report overall.

The index comprises seven indicators: Pre-University Education and Training, Higher Education, Research, Development

and Innovation, Information and Communications Technology, Economy and General Enabling Environment.

The Global Knowledge Index serves as a roadmap for the sustainable development of societies. It helps countries in the region and globally to formulate a

forward-thinking strategy to support knowledge and promote it as a main component in building a stronger knowledge economy while ensuring sustainable development.

Bahrain scored highest in economy and Information and Communications Technology in-



**The 2018 edition of the Global Knowledge Index is a testimony of our efforts in paving the way for pioneering projects and initiatives that catalyse our societies' effort towards producing, disseminating and localising knowledge in the world.**

MR HUWAIREB

dices scoring 24th and 34th ranks respectively.

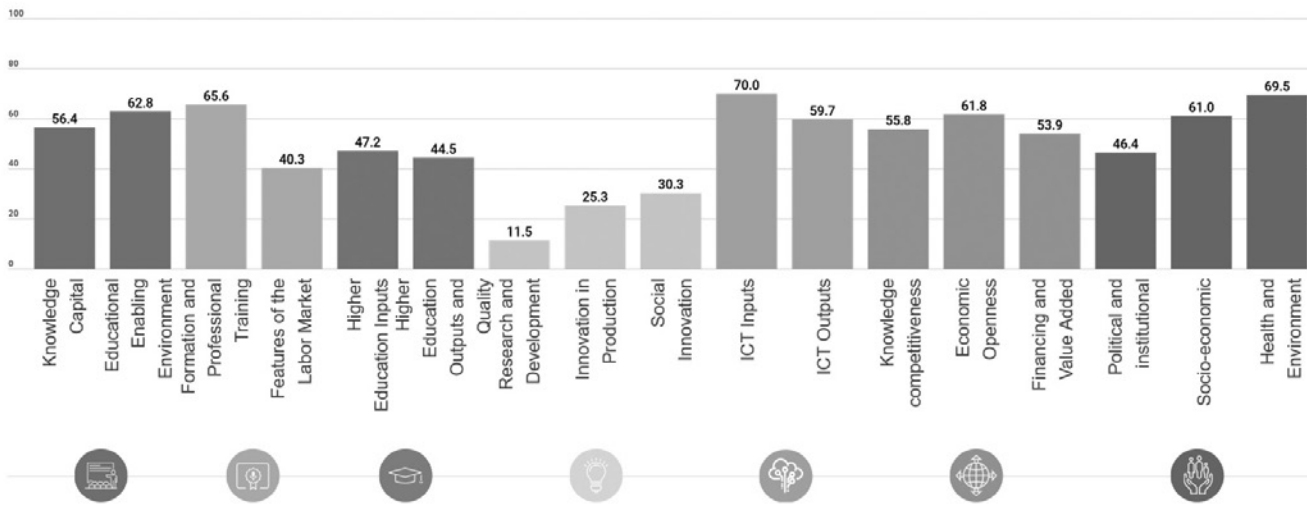
Elsewhere, Bahrain was ranked 55 in Pre-University Education, 36 in Technical Vocational Education and Training, 42 in higher education, 98 in Research, Development and Innovation, and 81 in General Enabling Environment.

The report was published by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF).

"The 2018 edition of the Global Knowledge Index is a testimony of our efforts in paving the way for pioneering projects and initiatives that catalyse our societies' effort towards producing, disseminating and localising knowledge in the world," said Jamal bin Huwaireb, MBRF's Chief Executive.

Khaled Abdel Shafi, Director, Regional Hub for Arab States, UNDP said that "knowledge is our strong ally. Its application develops capabilities and expands opportunities in multiple sectors of our lives, from education to economy to technology".

Dr Hany Torky, Chief Technical Adviser of the Arab Knowledge Project, said, "Data can help the Arab region speed up development in the right direction, embracing the technology of the future, where the Global Knowledge Index also plays an important role in encouraging the countries to make their data available." Switzerland, Singapore and Finland took the top three spots in the index.



Bahrain-based educationalist and entrepreneur Dr Girish Chandran was yesterday honoured by Capital Governor Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa at a special event held in the presence of dignitaries.



The members of Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) Bahrain Chapter held a meeting at K-Hotel to discuss the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas function at Benares in India next month. Global President Of GOPIO Sunny Kulathakal, Bahrain Chapter President Dr George Cherian, P J James, Kishore Mathur, Samuel Paul and other committee members attended the meeting.

## 'Fraudster' brothers face trial

TDT | Manama  
Ali Tarif

Two brothers face trial for illegally collecting over BD one million dinars under the pretext of investing in forex trading.

The First Major Criminal Court has decided to adjourn the case of Bahraini brothers aged 43 and 39, who are accused of deceiving nearly 38 from Bahrain and other Gulf countries.

According to prosecutors, the brothers took money from their victims without obtaining a proper licence from the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB).

Many approached the brothers after seeing an advertisement on social media and other online networks, the prosecutors added.

## Enthusiastic response for ISB Mega Fair 2018

TDT | Manama

The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) Mega Fair 2018 is getting enthusiastic response from people from all walks of life, according to organisers.

The Mega Fair will be conducted at the school campus in Isa Town on December 20 and 21, they said.

The main attractions of the event are

the musical programmes led by Indian playback singer Vidhu Prathap, Gayathri and Sanjith Salam on Thursday and popular singer Priyanka Negi and team on Friday. Entry fee for the Mega Fair will be BD2.

The programme will be held from 6pm to 11pm on both days. Teachers, students, parents and community members are actively collaborating with Indian School

management in order to make the fair a massive event.

A 300-member organising committee led by General Convener S Inayadullah has been tirelessly working to make the Mega Fair a grand success, organisers said.

This year sports tournaments, dance competitions and photography contest are arranged in connection with the Mega

Fair. The competitions in Cinematic Dance and Folk Dance in which any age group can participate will be held today and tomorrow. Photography contest is open for all nationalities residing in Bahrain. All entries must be received on or before December 19 by 8pm to the email ID IsbPclub@indianSchool.bh. The winners will be announced on December 21 evening during the Mega Fair finale.



# Space has more things in store for humans: expert

Space settlement will bring about a remarkable change in our lives, says Srijan Pal Singh

TDI | Manama

Exploring the possibilities that space has to offer is one of the best ways to further advance the human race, said Srijan Pal Singh, a leading space expert, author, public speaker, social entrepreneur and Chief Executive Officer of Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Centre.

Mr Srijan is in the Kingdom to deliver a keynote speech on the life and vision of Dr Kalam, former President of India and renowned space scientist, at the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) tomorrow as part of the ongoing book fair and cultural fest.

During a brief interaction with Tribune, he said space settlement, space tourism and space defence force are the three latest topics intensively researched by space scientists as well as widely discussed by space enthusiasts.

"Among the three, space settlement deserves maximum attention. If the researches in this field succeed, it is going to bring about a remarkable change in our lives.

"Space tourism is only the first step towards the colonisation of space. It will help us understand



Mr Srijan with Dr Kalam (A file picture)

the space more. For instance, the Mars exploration missions mainly focus on the factors in that planet that support life.

"There could be a large scale migration of human race to Mars in the decades to come. But before that, we need to understand the existing challenges."

Speaking about space defence force, a topic of deep interest to US President Donald Trump, Mr Srijan said the proposals could lead to a growth of a new defence

sector.

"All weapons have to be redesigned for space purpose. For instance, if a man fires a bullet from space, along with the bullet he will as well start moving towards the infinity in the absence of gravity and friction."

Mr Srijan expressed hope that all ongoing space research activities would eventually reap benefits for the common man.

"Undoubtedly, common man has been the number one ben-

eficiary of space research. All of us are, these days, using GPS applications. Satellites have made tsunami and earthquake warning systems more efficient.

"Satellites have revolutionised broadcasting of television channels, telecommunication technologies and telemedicine."

The social entrepreneur asserted that in all aspects space science is a "common man's science" as it will widen the horizons of human race.

## Spreading Dr Kalam's vision across world

All countries including Bahrain should strive towards creating a knowledge society as envisioned by Dr Kalam, opined Mr Srijan.

He said the Centre is in its best efforts to spread and the vision and messages of Dr Kalam, a legendary scientist and statesman, across the GCC as well as other countries.

The centre plans to develop a special space curriculum for schools and colleges with special emphasis on Astrobiology.

"Mars Mission India (MMI) is an initiative by the UK Centre for Astrobiology (UKCA) and Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Centre that aims to explore the habitability potential of the Red Planet.

"The main objective of the project is to promote Astro-

”



**The Centre is in its best efforts to spread the vision and messages of Dr Kalam.**

MR SRIJAN

biology as a subject of wide-spread interest in India and engage Indian engineers and other youth in projects initiated by the UKCA."

## Bahrain under crypto spotlight

TDI | Manama

Mohammed Zafran

Bahrain has come under the global spotlight as the Kingdom's latest progressive crypto-regulations have impressed the tech community.

The latest initiatives taken by the Central Bank of Bahrain has garnered global praise and was cited as a step forward for the development of crypto-currencies usage by global experts and media.

The move was well received with some international analysts going as far to say that Bahrain could become a leader in the field.

The Central Bank of Bahrain ("CBB") on Thursday issued for consultation, the draft rules on Crypto-asset Platform Operators ("CPO") which provides a regulatory framework for the licensing and supervision of crypto-asset services including those provided by a platform operator as a principal, agent and as a custodian, within or from Bahrain.

"Realising the growing demand for this type of market globally and regionally, the CBB is introducing a comprehensive framework, which is risk-based to regulate this area of financial services.

"The new regulatory framework covers the requirements for licensing, financial resources, and measures to safeguard client or customer interests, technology standards and in particular the cyber security risk management measures, reporting and other requirements," the CBB stated.

"Bahrain is all set to establish itself as a regional leader in Cryptocurrency and Blockchain Technology," The Currency Analytics stated.

"Bahrain is evolving to be the best in the International Fintech Hub. Bahrain has already identified the Fintech sec-



The crypto-regulations issued by the CBB have impressed the tech community.

”

**Bahrain could become a leader in the crypto-currency space with the expected launch of crypto-currency exchanges.**

MR PARKER

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**The CBB's experience with the participants within the Regulatory Sandbox was insightful in shaping the rules.**

MR HAMAD

tor as being crucial in contributing to the development of the Kingdom as the regional business and banking hub," it stated.

The news of CBB move was prominently covered by crypto news outlets such as Coin Telegraph, Bitcoin.com, coingape. They noted that Bahrain is one of the first countries to take initiatives for crypto regulation.

"Regulations have been a critical hurdle that limited growth and adoption of cryptocurrency across the globe. But as cryptocurrencies are getting popular and the positives of it becoming more visible, regulators are trying their best to regulate it than eliminate it. The recent addition to this list is Bahrain, where the Central Bank has issued draft rules to regulate cryptocurrencies," Coingape said.

Khalid Hamad, Executive Director of Banking Supervision, commented on the move saying: "This regulatory framework will address the demand for these services and the need to also recognise this innovation in financial services. The CBB's experience with the participants within the Regulatory Sandbox was insightful in shaping these rules."

Bahrain's first ever crypto-currency exchange will soon be launched in the Kingdom. Rain will be one of the first in the region.

The exchange has already opened its waiting list on its website after spending a year in Central Bank of Bahrain's regulatory sandbox. The exchange will facilitate the purchase, sale and storage of crypto-currencies.

Rain, founded in 2016 by four entrepreneurs - Yehia Badawy, Abdullah Almoaiqel, AJ Nelson and Joseph Dallaga, is backed by big names in the industry including Bitcoin core developer Jimmy Song and Cumberland Mining founder Mike Komaransky.

Bahrain could become a leader in the crypto-currency space with the expected launch of crypto-currency exchanges in the country, according to Executive Director of Financial Services at Economic Development Board, David Parker.

"Bahrain has the potential to be a leader in terms of crypto-currency exchanges. There are a number of crypto-exchanges currently testing at the Central Bank of Bahrain Sandbox.

"If we can get this right, we can emerge as not only as a regional leader but also an international leader. I think there are so many ways in which Bahrain in terms of its financial industry and its wider economy be embracing Blockchain Technology for the good of the economy."

## Gulf Air launches stopover packages

TDI | Manama

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom, has announced the launch of new stopover travel packages designed to promote the Kingdom as a tourist destination to its global customer base.

The new stopover programme was launched in response to the directives of the Executive Committee, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior's Nationality, Passport and Residence Affairs (NPRA), Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) and local destination management agencies.

Eligible passengers on Gulf Air can now explore Bahrain en-route before reaching their final destination. The stopover packages, available for both Falcon Gold and economy travellers for the duration of 1 - 4 days, can be booked via the airline's website and worldwide contact centre. The packages comprise a wide range of hotel accommodations, day tours and excursions for authentic Bahraini experiences.



WORLD  
world

## One dead, 44 injured in Swiss bus crash: police

**Geneva, Switzerland**

One person died and 44 were injured when a bus crashed into a wall on a Swiss motorway early yesterday, police said.

The accident happened on the motorway outside Zurich at roughly 4:15 am (0315 GMT), police in the Canton said in a statement.

Three people were seriously hurt, while the rest suffered minor to moderate injuries, they added. The cause of the crash, was not immediately known.

The vehicle, run by a subsidiary of the German-owned company Flixbus, was on route from the Italian city of Genoa to Dusseldorf, ATS news agency reported.



The wreckage of a bus that crashed into a wall

# Power struggle ends

**Sri Lanka reinstates ousted prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe****Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Sri Lanka's president yesterday reappointed as prime minister the same man he sacked from the job nearly two months ago, ending a messy power struggle that had paralysed the island nation.

Ranil Wickremesinghe, whose shock dismissal in late October threw Sri Lanka into constitutional crisis, was sworn in at a closed-door ceremony in the president's office in Colombo.

The 69-year-old had refused to step aside since being dumped and replaced by controversial strongman Mahinda Rajapakse -- leaving the country with two rival leaders and no functioning government.

The ousted premier had long asserted his dismissal was illegal, a view supported by Sri Lanka's parliament which six times voted against Rajapakse's claim to rule during tumultuous sessions that erupted into brawls.

President Maithripala Sirisena had refused to bow to pressure as the country drifted, declaring he would never reappoint Wickremesinghe and deriding his once-ally in public speeches as their alliance imploded.

The acrimony between the two was underscored Sunday when Sirisena barred journalists from attending the swearing-in ceremony -- leaving it to Wickremesinghe's



Maithripala Sirisena (R) listens to Mahinda Rajapakse (file)

legislators to announce the appointment.

"We thank the citizens of the country who fought the illegal seizure of power and ensured that democracy was restored," his United National Party of Sri Lanka posted on Twitter.

A spokesman for Wickremesinghe said he was expected to form a cabinet in the coming days with priority given to the 2019 budget -- without which Sri Lanka risks government shutdown and defaulting on

its sizeable foreign debt.

Sirisena's resistance became untenable after the country's highest court last week ruled that he acted outside the constitution when he dissolved parliament in early November and called early elections.

The Supreme Court also confirmed that Rajapakse could not exercise the powers of a prime minister until he proved his legitimacy -- which without enough support in parliament was impossible.



A protestor wearing a yellow vest (gilet jaune) holds a placard reading "here lies democracy" during a demonstration against rising costs of living they blame on high taxes on the place de la Republique, in Paris

## France's 'yellow vest' protests lose momentum

**Paris, France**

Groups of defiant "yellow vest" demonstrators faced off with tens of thousands of police around France on Saturday, but the protest movement appeared to have lost momentum on a fifth and decisive weekend.

President Emmanuel Macron, facing the biggest crisis of his presidency, announced a series of concessions on Monday to defuse the explosive "yellow vest" crisis, which swelled up from rural and small-town France last month.

The package of tax and minimum wage measures for low-income workers, coupled with bitter winter weather this weekend, appeared to have helped bring calm to the country after more than a month of clashes and disruption.

France was also hit by a

fresh deadly terror attack on Tuesday night when a gunman opened fire at a Christmas market in Strasbourg, leaving four dead and leading the government to urge people to stay at home to spare the stretched security forces.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said Saturday that eight people had now died in incidents linked to the demonstrations, and called on protesters to halt their blockades across the country.

"Everyone's safety has to become the rule again," he said in a tweet.

"Dialogue now needs to unite all those who want to transform France."

Richard Ferrand, the head of the National Assembly, welcomed the "necessary" weakening of the rallies, adding that "there had been a massive response to their demands".

### Disgusting delicacies



"Fried Tarantula" from Cambodia is presented in the Disgusting Food Museum in Los Angeles, California. Care for some Chinese mouse wine, fried tarantula or sheep eyeball juice? Or how about fried locusts, grasshoppers or virgin boy eggs? These delicacies are among some 80 items featured at the Disgusting Food Museum opening in Los Angeles, with the aim of exposing visitors to different cultures and foods and what we may all be eating in the future.

## Cambodia seizes 3-tonnes African ivory

**Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

Cambodia seized more than 3.2 tonnes of elephant tusks hidden in a storage container sent from Mozambique, a customs official said yesterday, marking the country's largest ivory bust.

The discovery Thursday of 1,026 tusks at the Phnom Penh Autonomous Port followed a tip from the US embassy, the official said, and highlights Cambodia's emergence as a key regional transit point for the multibillion dollar trade in illicit wildlife.

"The elephant tusks were hidden among marble in a container that was abandoned," Sun Chhay, director of the Customs



Cambodian Customs and Excise Officials looking at ivory seized from a shipping container at the Phnom Penh port

and Excise Office at the port, told AFP.

He said the ivory was sent from the southern African nation of Mozambique and arrived at the port last year.

The unidentified owner of the shipment did not arrive to pick up the cargo.

Pictures of the massive haul showed long rows of confiscated tusks spread out on the ground at the port.

Sun Chhay said he did not know whether the shipment was destined for markets in other countries. Demand from China and Vietnam has fuelled the growth of illegal wildlife trafficking via Cambodia.



# Climate gets another chance

● Delegates from nearly 200 states finalised a common rule book to limit global temperature rises to well below two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit)

● The final decision text was repeatedly delayed as negotiators sought guidelines that could ward off the worst threats

● At their heart, negotiations were about how each nation funds action to mitigate and adapt to climate change

**Katowice, Poland**

Nations yesterday struck a deal to breathe life into the landmark 2015 Paris climate treaty after marathon UN talks that failed to match the ambition the world's most vulnerable countries need to avert dangerous global warming.

Delegates from nearly 200 states finalised a common rule book designed to deliver the Paris goals of limiting global temperature rises to well below two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit).

"Putting together the Paris agreement work programme is a big responsibility," said COP24 president Michal Kurtyka as he gavelled through the deal after talks in Poland that ran deep into overtime.

"It has been a long road. We



COP24 president Michal Kurtyka jumps at the end of the final session of the COP24 summit on climate change in Katowice, southern Poland.

did our best to leave no one behind."

But states already dealing with devastating floods, droughts and extreme weather made worse by climate change said the package agreed in the mining city of Katowice lacked the bold ambition to cut emissions the world needed.

Egyptian ambassador Wael Aboulmagd, chair of the developing nations G77 plus China negotiating bloc, said the rule book saw the "urgent adaptation

needs of developing countries relegated to a second-class status."

Executive director of Greenpeace Jennifer Morgan said: "We continue to witness an irresponsible divide between the vulnerable island states and impoverished countries pitted against those who would block climate action or who are immorally failing to act fast enough."

The final decision text was repeatedly delayed as negotiators sought guidelines that could

ward off the worst threats posed by the heating planet while protecting the economies of rich and poor nations alike.

"Without a clear rulebook, we won't see how countries are tracking, whether they are actually doing what they say they are doing," Canada's Environment Minister Catherine McKenna said. At their heart, negotiations were about how each nation funds action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, as well as how those actions are

reported.

## Report controversy

French President Emmanuel Macron, who has recently backed down on anti-pollution fuel tax hikes in the face of country-wide "yellow vest" protests, said France must "show the way" as he welcomed the progress made at the talks.

"The international community remains committed to the fight against climate change," he tweeted on Sunday.

"Congratulations to the UN, scientists, NGOs and all negotiators. France and Europe must show the way. The fight goes on." Developing nations had wanted more clarity from richer ones over how the future climate fight will be funded and pushed for so-called "loss and damage" measures.

This would see richer countries giving money now to help deal with the effects of climate change many vulnerable states are already experiencing.

Another contentious issue was the integrity of carbon markets, looking ahead to the day when the patchwork of distinct exchanges -- in China, the Europe Union, parts of the United States -- may be joined up in a global system.

The Paris Agreement calls for setting up a mechanism to guard against practices, such as double counting emissions savings, that could undermine such a market.

A major sticking point, delegates eventually agreed Saturday to kick the issue down the road until next year.

One veteran observersaid that Poland's presidency at COP24 had left many countries out of the process and presented at-risk nations with a "take it or leave it" deal. Progress had "been held up by Brazil, when it should have been held up by the small islands. It's tragic."

One of the largest disappointments for countries of all wealths and sizes was the lack of ambition to reduce emissions shown in the final COP24 text.

Most nations wanted the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to form a key part of future planning.

## Iraq to rebuild iconic Mosul mosque

**Mosul, Iraq**

Iraqis yesterday laid the cornerstone in rebuilding Mosul's Al-Nuri mosque and leaning minaret, national emblems destroyed last year in the ferocious battle against the Islamic State group.

The famed 12th century mosque and minaret, dubbed Al-Hadba or "the hunchback," hosted Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's only public appearance as IS chief, when he declared a self-styled "caliphate" after the jihadists swept into Mosul in 2014.

The structures were ravaged three years later in the final, most brutal stages of the months-long fight to rid Iraq's second city of IS. Yesterday, dozens of government officials, religious figures, United Nations representatives and European ambassadors gathered in the large square in front of the battered mosque to see the foundation laid.

Abu Bakr Kanaan, the head of Sunni Muslim endowments in Nineveh province, set down the stone in a simple ceremony.

It bore a black Arabic inscription: "This cornerstone for the rebuilding and restoration of the Al-Hadba minaret and the Great Al-Nuri Mosque was laid on December 16, 2018."

More than a year after IS lost control of Mosul, the iconic mosque still lies in ruins. The stone gate leading up to its courtyard and the greenish dome now covered in graffiti are virtually the only parts still erect.

All that is left of the minaret is part of its rectangular base, the rest of it sheared off by fighting.

Kanaan said remnants of the minaret would be preserved, while other parts of the mosque would be built afresh, along with a museum about its history and adjacent homes.



A picture taken on December 16, 2018, shows the Great Mosque of al-Nuri and the remains of "Al-Hadba" leaning minaret in Mosul's war-ravaged Old City, during the placing of the corner stone ceremony.



Abu Bakr Kanaan (2nd-R), the head of Sunni Muslim endowments in the province, places the cornerstone

## Quake rocks Indonesia's Papua

**Jakarta, Indonesia**

A 6.1-magnitude earthquake hit Papua, in eastern Indonesia Sunday, US seismologists said, but no tsunami warning was issued.

The quake was about 158 kilometres (98 miles) south-southwest of the province's capital Jayapura at 6:42 pm (0942 GMT), at a depth of 61 kilometres, according to the

US Geological Survey.

The quake was felt in Jayapura, but residents didn't panic, a military spokesman said.

"I felt it at home," Papua's military spokesman in Jayapura Dax Sianturi said.

Officials are still assessing the impact of the quake, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

## Car bomb kills 8 people in Afrin



Picture courtesy of yenisafak

**Beirut, Lebanon**

A car bomb killed at least eight people including four civilians near a pro-Turkey rebel post in the northern Syrian city of Afrin yesterday, a British-based war monitor said. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said it was not clear who was behind the blast in the city, which was seized from Kurdish forces

earlier this year.

The explosion comes after the Turkish president on Wednesday threatened to launch a new offensive against the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) in Syria.

"The car bomb exploded near a position of pro-Turkey fighters" in a market, killing four civilians and four fighters, Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said.



# Why the US should not assist Italy in forfeiting a rare bronze?

*The justice department has helped many countries gain back their rightful cultural possessions. This is a case that doesn't warrant its involvement*



STEPHEN K URICE

In recent years, museums in the United States have surrendered antiquities to numerous countries after determining that the objects had been illicitly acquired. Those restitutions were necessary: No museum should retain a work that was stolen or transferred in violation of international law or treaty obligations.

Due diligence in acquiring an antiquity requires, at a minimum, documentation of where it was discovered in modern times and its subsequent movements across national borders. Applying those standards is not always easy and, at least until recently, often not undertaken with appropriate thoroughness. There is, though, a notable exception: the J Paul Getty Museum's 1977 purchase of "Statue of a Victorious Youth," a Greek statue known as the Getty Bronze that Italy is claiming as its own.

Life-size Greek bronzes are rare, and ones of this caliber are especially prized. Although the Getty Bronze is currently dated to the second or third century B.C., it was first attributed to the fourth-century Greek sculptor Lysippos. Before acquiring it, the Getty undertook a comprehensive, five-year effort to determine that the statue could be purchased legally and in good faith. That review is said to have included analysis of international, Italian, American and California law and, notably, of Italian court decisions pertaining to the work.

The bronze was found in 1964 in Adriatic waters by Italian fishermen. In 1968, Italy's highest court, the Court of Cassation, ruled that there was no evidence that the statue belonged to the Italian state. Although the fishermen took the statue onto Ital-



Italian Court has ruled that Getty Museum must return a prized bronze.

ian soil, the court did not find that its brief presence in Italy transformed the sculpture into a component of Italian cultural heritage.

Before it arrived at the Getty, the statue made its way to a German art dealer who put the statue up for sale. According to the Getty, in 1973, acting on a request from Italy, German police initiated an investigation into whether the German dealer had received stolen goods. The inves-

tigation was dropped for lack of evidence of wrongdoing. In 1977, the Getty purchased the bronze in Britain for almost \$4 million from a gallery affiliated with the German dealer. The bronze has now been publicly exhibited, studied and cared for at the Getty for 40 years.

In 1989, Italy requested that the Getty give up the statue and the Getty declined. In 2006, as part of negotiations that resulted in the transfer of 40 antiqui-

ties from the Getty to Italy, Italy again asked for the bronze. The Getty again declined, and years of litigation ensued. Last week, responding to an appeal by the Getty, Italy's Court of Cassation decided (without a published ruling explaining its reasoning) that the museum must forfeit the bronze.

The New York Times reported that Italy insists the statue was found in Italian territorial waters — a conclusion that runs contrary

to the Court of Cassation's 1968 ruling — and that it was illicitly exported from Italy. "We provided enough evidence," the Italian prosecutor told The New York Times, adding that the "statue was culturally and administratively Italian when it sank" in antiquity. But it is not clear what that evidence is. Under principles of international law, illegal export is not, absent a treaty provision to the contrary, actionable in the courts of another country. Since

In 1989, Italy requested that the Getty give up the statue and the Getty declined. In 2006, as part of negotiations that resulted in the transfer of 40 antiquities from the Getty to Italy, Italy again asked for the bronze.

2001, Italy and the United States have had such an agreement but it does not apply retroactively. The Getty, for its part, is unconvinced it should give up the statue. "The law and facts in this case do not warrant restitution," a museum representative has said.

The Italian Ministry of Culture has said it plans to seek American assistance in forfeiting the bronze. In recent years, the Justice Department has assisted many countries (including Italy) in recovering illicitly acquired works located in the United States. That assistance is appropriate (and good public policy) when there is solid evidence of wrongdoing.

But in the case of the Getty Bronze, the expenditure of American taxpayers' money and the deployment of the Justice Department's limited resources would be a mistake. In acquiring the bronze, the Getty relied on a decision of Italy's highest court and acted in good faith. Unless Italy provides compelling new evidence, the best future for this victorious youth is to remain in the only permanent home he has known since his discovery 54 years ago — in Los Angeles, at the Getty.

(Stephen K Urice is a professor of law at the University of Miami School of Law and is secretary and past president of the International Cultural Property Society).

CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

## Welcome major breakthroughs in cancer research

Recently there was a major breakthrough in the early detection of virtually every kind of cancer.

According to the Australian scientists who announced the news, it involves a simple blood

test in your doctor's office that is relatively inexpensive and takes just minutes.

In simple terms, these scientists were able to isolate tiny DNA cells only present in cancer cells. I can think of no greater gift

for humanity this Christmas and New Year's season than this.

Immediately the US Food and Drug Administration issued a statement cautioning the public of "necessary lengthy test trials" (notwithstanding testing already

performed by the discovery scientists) that will delay US implementation up to six years.

Six years? Something is not right here. What possible danger could be present in such a diagnostic procedure? After all,

we are not considering a new, untried drug, but a possible life-saving technique.

The third most voluminous industry in the United States is healthcare and the pharmaceutical industry, totalling 26 per cent

of the GDP or \$1 trillion annually. Yet the likelihood of such good judgment is slim considering the vast dollars funnelled into our leaders' coffers each year in lobby funds.

Dr Martin



1907

Ugyen Wangchuck is crowned first King of Bhutan



1913

A spur of the Shaker Heights streetcar line opens, the first line of the eventual Cleveland RTA Rapid Transit system.

1918

Darwin Rebellion: Up to 1,000 demonstrators march on Government House in Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia.

1919

Uruguay becomes a signatory to the Buenos Aires copyright treaty.

# Brazil's new president isn't even in office yet; he's already damaged our healthcare

*Our Public health system is a jewel. Can it survive four years of recklessness?*



In Brazil, healthcare has been a right for every citizen and a duty of the government since the adoption of the 1988 Constitution.



VANESSA BARBARA

A few weeks ago, the Cuban government announced it would withdraw from the Brazilian medical program Mais Médicos, which sends doctors to remote, underserved areas in Brazil. It's estimated that millions of citizens could be deprived of primary health care after the departure of roughly 8,600 Cuban doctors from the country. The decision was prompted by demeaning remarks made by Brazil's right-wing president-elect, Jair Bolsonaro.

Bolsonaro has repeatedly questioned the qualifications of Cuban doctors: "We have no proof that they are really doctors and able to take on these functions," he said recently. This is false: All foreign doctors working for the program need to present their degrees and their licenses to practice medicine abroad. However, they are exempt from taking a national exam to revalidate their degrees while serving in the program; Bolsonaro intends to remove this dispensation. He has also repeatedly questioned the ethics of Cuba's doctors-abroad program, saying that the doctors should be able to bring their families to the country and that they should receive their full wages directly from the Brazilian government. (Because all Cuban doctors work for the state, the government keeps around 70% of their salaries, and families are only allowed to visit them.)

Bolsonaro's objections are both idealistic and ideological: He may well want to see Cuban doctors get paid, although it's difficult to believe that these humanitarian impulses don't have something

to do with his feelings toward Cuba's Communist government. Perhaps, to some his requirements will even seem reasonable. But the problem is that the Cuban government, which understandably took Bolsonaro's comments as "derogatory and threatening," has already begun bringing health care workers home. As a result, Brazil's indigenous population will reportedly lose 81 per cent of its doctors. More than 1,500 municipalities could be deprived of all medical assistance. (As of late last month, the Health Ministry said it had filled many of the vacancies, though it was not clear that new doctors would be prepared to go into rural areas.)

Through his remarks, Bolsonaro, who has not yet taken office, has managed to damage a program that has been praised by two independent bodies and by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation for having "contributed to a lower infant mortality rate and a decrease in hospitalisations as a result of the availability of primary health care." He has no plan to patch things up. Indeed, this may be the first official demonstration of Bolsonaro's style of government: strong opinions, but no actual solutions. And when it comes to our health care system in particular, this style of governance is dangerous.

In Brazil, healthcare has been a right for every citizen and a duty of the government since the adoption of the 1988 constitution. Our Unified Health System, better known as SUS, or Sistema Único de Saúde, provides full medical care, free, for everyone. Universality and equity are the system's two basic principles.

SUS is impressive, though, of course, it's far from perfect: Hospitals and health centers are usually crowded, and ill-equipped to respond to the ever-increasing

**Every month I walk half a mile to vaccinate my baby daughter; we are always promptly assisted by a nurse. The service is efficient, reliable and friendly.**

demands. There are often long waiting lines for exams, surgeries and appointments; patients have died in hospital corridors or while waiting to see a doctor. That's why 24pc of Brazilians pay for private medical insurance, according to Brazil's regulatory agency for private health insurance. Others rely on low-cost clinics or pay extra for appointments and treatments.

But it does matter that health care is considered a right, rather than a privilege. People persistently demand higher standards of care, because that's their constitutional prerogative. And though the quality of the services provided may be uneven, there have been many examples of great benefits obtained through public expenditure. Thirty years into the creation of SUS, we already have some excellent projects to showcase.

A good example is our national immunisation programme, one of the best and most complex in the world. It offers 19 vaccines free for children, adolescents, adults and seniors, including pregnant women and people with special health conditions (such as allergies or low immunity). From 2002 to 2012, the program reached an average coverage level of 95pc among chil-

dren for most vaccines. It helped eradicate smallpox in 1971, and polio in 1989. It is also finding its way to a state of self-sufficiency: Most vaccines are produced in national laboratories, thus ensuring a stable and affordable supply.

Every month I walk half a mile to vaccinate my baby daughter; we are always promptly assisted by a nurse. The service is efficient, reliable and friendly. I myself have a duly filled, life-long vaccination record to boast about.

Another area of excellence is our organ transplantation system. Brazil maintains the largest public program in the world, with about 27,000 transplants performed last year — 96pc of them carried out by SUS. In number of transplants, we are second only to the United States.

A friend of mine has familial amyloid polyneuropathy, a rare disease in which the liver produces abnormal proteins that accumulate throughout the body. It leads to serious sensory, motor and autonomic nervous system impairments, and can become fatal 10 years after the onset of symptoms. She lost her mother, grandmother and one uncle to the disease. But now it's different: When she started to feel ill five years ago, she joined the waiting list for a liver transplant. Months later, she underwent surgery in a state-of-the-art hospital and received a new organ. Everything was financed by SUS, including post-surgical treatment with immunosuppressants and follow-up appointments.

Brazil's SUS is also internationally renowned for starting a pioneering HIV program that has provided free universal access to antiretroviral therapy for all patients since 1996. The project has drastically reduced AIDS-related mortality and morbidity, including mother-to-child transmission

of the virus.

What does Bolsonaro say to all this? He's been dismissive, not only of the efficiency but the quality of our health care system. His proposals for reforms have been contradictory. He claims there will be no increase in the public health budget, but then proposes costly innovations like implementing a national clinical data registry and creating a federally funded career path for doctors. He has also suggested that clinicians in the private sector could be incorporated into the public health service, a change that would require the use of subsidised reimbursements. This is not necessarily bad, but it would be costly — and most important, Bolsonaro doesn't seem to have a clue on how to accomplish any of it. But as his remarks about Cuban doctors show, that would hardly stop him from stumbling in and ripping apart what's currently working.

It is clearly worth working to preserve SUS. We cannot lose what we have accomplished so far. If our president-elect is fine with losing the services of thousands of Cuban doctors, he needs to find a new way to deploy good medical professionals to the most underserved areas of our country. And if he doesn't have all the solutions for improving health care, at least he should make the commitment to maintain public spending while seeking to improve efficiency — in other words, to not make things worse.

The foundations for great public health care in Brazil are already in place. It only takes political will to maintain and expand this remarkable system. Let's hope it can survive the next four years.

(Vanessa Barbara, a contributing opinion writer, is the editor of the literary website *A Horta* and the author of two novels and two nonfiction books in Portuguese.)



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



On the 1st anniversary of taking over as Congress President, I reiterate my commitment to building a strong, united & vibrant Congress party. I am overwhelmed by the greetings & messages I've received today & thank each & every one of you for your affection & support.

@RahulGandhi

02



Joy, prayer and gratitude are three ways that prepare us to experience Christmas in an authentic way. #Advent

@Pontifex

03



A REAL scandal is the one sided coverage, hour by hour, of networks like NBC & Democrat spin machines like Saturday Night Live. It is all nothing less than unfair news coverage and Dem commercials. Should be tested in courts, can't be legal? Only defame & belittle! Collusion?

@realDonaldTrump

04



The next wave of consumer growth will be about "virtual places" where people talk, socialize & play in semi-immersive, friction free settings

Discord & Fortnite come to mind as examples of "places" that will come to dominate the landscape

There will be "places" for everything

@BrianNorgard

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



# business

## UAE reshuffles central bank, governor to remain Dubai

The president of the United Arab Emirates has ordered a reshuffle of the central bank's board of directors, the state news agency said on Sunday.

Central bank governor Mubarak Rashed Khamis Al Mansoori has been re-appointed for the next four years, the agency said.

## Maldives seize \$6.5 million from former president Colombo, Sri Lanka

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Former Maldives president Abdulla Yameen is under investigation for corruption, police said Sunday, after a court ordered accounts holding \$6.5 million to be frozen.

Yameen, who was defeated in a September election, was interviewed by police on the honeymoon islands on Saturday.

He has been dogged by allegations that he received close to \$1.5 million in illicit payments during his failed bid for re-election in the Indian Ocean archipelago nation.

The country's monetary authority has lodged a police complaint about the alleged donations made into a private account held by Yameen in two suspicious tranches, local media reported.

## Finland cuts debt for the first time in decade

Reuters | Helsinki

Finland has cancelled planned bond auctions for the remainder of the year and is on course to cut debt in 2018 for the first time in a decade, the finance ministry said yesterday.

Government debt was previously expected to increase by 1.3 billion euros (1.2 billion pounds) this year but according to an update by the state treasury it will come down by 0.9 billion euros to 104.9 billion euros.

"Finland will be able to reduce debt for the first time in 10 years... This temporary turn is a significant thing psychologically," Finance Minister Petteri Orpo said on his Twitter account.

"But the pace of reform in the economy must not slow down," he added.

The debt reduction is due to several things, including growth in output and employment, payments to the state from Finnish Export Credit Agency and sales of shares in state-owned companies, a ministry source said.

# Germany to tighten rules for takeovers

Cabinet plans to approve the new change on Wednesday

- The update allows govt to review or bloc foreign purchases

- The rule would apply to security relevant companies

- EU have raised alarm over take over of Chinese companies

AFP | Berlin, Germany

Germany plans to toughen rules on non-EU share purchases and acquisitions of its strategic companies, a report said yesterday, amid growing disquiet about takeovers by Chinese firms.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's cabinet plans to approve the law change on Wednesday and send it to parliament, the Handelsblatt business daily said, without citing its sources.

The update of the Foreign Trade Regulation would allow the German government to review or bloc foreign purchases of stakes as low as 10 percent in such companies, down from 25 percent now.

The rule would apply to "security relevant" companies that are crucial to Germany's defence or "critical infrastructure", including many high-tech and power companies but also



Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel

large food producers.

Germany and other European Union member states have voiced growing concern in recent years as Chinese companies have bought up, or purchased controlling stakes in, airports, harbours and high-tech firms.

Chinese appliance giant Midea in mid-2016 took over German industrial robotics supplier Kuka, sparking alarm in Germany about valuable know-how being transferred abroad.

In mid-2017 Germany tightened scrutiny on non-EU takeovers of strategic companies,

allowing more time for reviews and including a wider range of sectors.

In February this year, Germany raised no objections when Chinese billionaire Li Shufu bought a near 10-percent stake in the Mercedes-Benz parent company Daimler.

However in July, the German government took a minority stake in electricity transmission firm 50Hertz, citing national security reasons, thwarting Chinese investors from buying into the company.

"On national security grounds,

the federal government has a major interest in protecting critical energy infrastructure," the finance and economy ministries said in a joint statement at the time.

During a visit to Germany in July, Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang urged Berlin to grant Chinese companies the access that German firms enjoy in China.

"Our investments do not threaten your national security," he said. "Through joint projects, we want to learn from your experiences and technologies."

## French budget deficit seen at 3.4pc of GDP next year



Richard Ferrand, speaker of the French National Assembly attends the questions to the government session at the National Assembly in Paris

Reuters | France

France's budget deficit is likely to overshoot the European Union's limit of 3 percent of GDP next year and reach 3.4 per cent, National Assembly president Richard Ferrand told Sunday newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche.

France is expected to break the deficit ceiling after President Emmanuel Macron made concessions to anti-government protesters earlier this month, blowing a 10 billion euro (\$11 billion) hole in the budget.

"We take the responsibility of having a higher-than-expected deficit, probably at 3.4 percent of gross national product. But it will be a cyclical peak, not a structural trajectory," Ferrand was quoted as saying.

A spokesman with the French Economy ministry declined to comment.

Macron announced wage increases for the poorest workers and a tax cut for most pensioners on Monday, seeking to quell a near month-long revolt by protesters dubbed the "Yellow Vests" for the bright clothing they wear on demonstrations.

Before his announcements, France's deficit was expected to hit 2.8 percent in 2019.

## Saudi telecoms agree annual royalty fees

- Saudi Telecom Co, Etihad Etisalat (Mobily) and Zain Saudi Arabia ink deal

- The agreement will involve an annual royalty of 10 percent of net revenue

Reuters | Dubai

Telecommunications operators Saudi Telecom Co, Etihad Etisalat (Mobily) and Zain Saudi Arabia said yesterday that they had agreed with the government to a change in the calculation of their annual royalty fees.

The companies also said they had reached a deal with the government to settle disputed fees to be paid for previous years up to 2017. In return, the trio agreed to invest in upgrading their network infrastructure over the next three years.

The kingdom has set specific



Representative picture (Courtesy of Arabian Business)

STC said the new calculation was compared to the previous fee of 15pc of net revenues from mobile services, 10pc of net revenues from fixed line services and 8pc of net

goals to boost high-speed broadband internet connectivity as part of its Vision 2030 plan to

modernize the economy, including exceeding 90 per cent of housing coverage in densely populated cities and 66pc in other urban areas.

The operators said the agreement will involve an annual royalty of 10 per cent of net revenue from telecommunications services starting from Jan. 1, 2018. Mobily said in addition it would also pay an annual license royalty equal to 1pc of its annual net telecommunication revenues.

STC said the new calculation was compared to the previous fee of 15pc of net revenues from mobile services, 10pc of net revenues from fixed line services and 8pc of net revenues from data services.

STC said the change would have a positive impact on its financial results during the fourth quarter of 2018, while Zain Saudi said it would mean a drop in its payment for the period Jan. 1 to Sept. 30 by 220 million riyals (\$58.7 million).

Mobily said that starting from 2019 onwards, the impact represents an additional cost estimated to be in the range of 450 to 600m riyals per year over the next few years.

Zain Saudi Arabia said the expected financial impact from the settlement of its disputed annual royalty fees for the period 2009 to 2017 is expected to reach 1.7 billion riyals.

Mobily said its agreement to invest over the next three years would enable it to boost the quality of its networks and to invest in the deployment of new technologies such as 5G.

## Indonesia, EFTA sign free trade deal

Reuters | Jakarta

Indonesia yesterday signed an economic agreement with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) aimed at increasing trade and investment, concluding almost eight years of negotiations.

Under the deal, tariffs and non-tariff barriers would be eliminated for thousands of products traded between Indonesia and the EFTA countries - Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Iceland, according to government statements.

Among those products, Indonesian palm oil would get full market access in Iceland and Norway, with an exception of palm products for animal feed other than for fish.



# US Fed to hike again but hints at 2019 pause

● Fed officials in September forecast three increases

● The Fed's mandate is not protect stock market investors but to maximize employment

Washington, United States



Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell

The US Federal Reserve is likely to raise interest rates in the coming week but policymakers have begun to signal they may take it a bit slower in 2019.

Waning growth, a trade war, tame inflation and an increasingly scary geopolitical scene mean the central bank could make clear they plan to slow or even pause the current tightening cycle -- instead taking a wait-and-see approach until the economic picture becomes clearer.

Since October, Fed officials have watched Wall Street take a wild ride, alternately diving and rallying as public remarks from Chairman Jerome Powell and others veered between indicating gradual hikes would continue or pause.

In recent days, economists have begun to cut their forecasts for the number of rate hikes they expect next year to just one or two from as many as four.

Fed officials in September forecast three increases but that could be revised as well in the new projections to be released Wednesday.

At last month's meeting, members of the Fed's rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee argued they should signal they were close to the end of the cycle by deleting the words "further gradual increases" from post-meeting statements.

That would mark a significant shift in the Fed's messaging of the last three years that maintained a steady drumbeat telling markets to expect "gradual adjustments" to rates.

But economists say the Fed is keenly aware of the specter of slowing growth in China and Europe, a chaotic British exit from the European Union, political turmoil in France and

Italy's budget woes.

In the United States, job growth has remained strong this year but inflation has settled at the Fed's two percent target, despite fears the strong economy might ignite prices.

Add to this the fading boost from recent tax cuts and government spending, and expectations US growth will slow, and the future can seem highly uncertain.

"I share the notion that things are not quite as strong as they looked a few months ago but we don't know anything very definitively," former Fed vice chair Alice Rivlin told AFP.

"I think they're saying, 'We'll be very careful and we'll play it how we see it.'"

Changing expectations allows the Fed to pause without roiling financial markets with a surprise move.

## Wall Street and the Fed

As of Friday, futures markets put the probability of a rate hike this week at 81.8 per cent -- still high but well below virtual certainty predicted by the betting money ahead of other meetings this year.

"I don't think the Fed is trying to manage that probability number," said Gary Stern, former president of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank.

The Fed's mandate is not protect stock market investors but to maximize employment at sustainable levels while keeping a lid on inflation.

Nevertheless, stunning gyrations on equities markets can worry policymakers, because an outright crash can sap consumer and business confidence, making households and companies cut spending, which is never good for GDP growth.

Wall Street crumbled from

record heights in early October after the Fed chairman said benchmark interest rate was "a long way" below neutral -- a rate that is neither stimulating nor restraining growth -- suggesting steady rate hikes would continue.

But Powell changed his tune just a few days later, saying the key policy rate in fact was "just below" neutral, suggesting it need not rise too much higher, and that led to a stocks rally on November 28.

"I think they'll be watching carefully what pushes the markets, not because the markets per se are important to them but because the markets are the way monetary policy is conveyed to the rest of the economy," said Donald Kohn, who was the Fed's vice chairman from 2006 to 2010.

Other signals that a pause is increasingly probable have emerged.

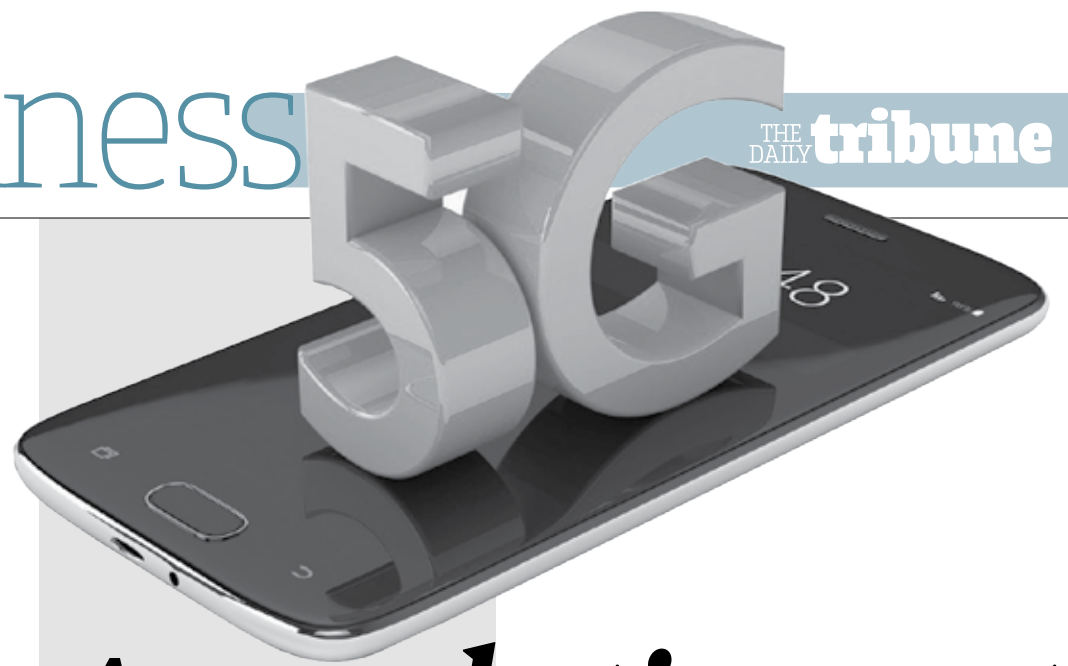
Amid another day of plunging stock prices, *The Wall Street Journal* reported December 7 that the Fed was considering whether "to signal a new wait-and-see" approach, news that helped calm jittery investors.

Other Fed officials have voiced caution, including Dallas Fed President Robert Kaplan who said the central bank should be "really patient" in raising rates.

Economist Diane Swonk of Grant Thornton says the Fed will call for "a more flexible trajectory."

"We have lowered our own forecast on rate hikes to two next year," she wrote in an analytical note, but like other economists noted that the central bank decisions will depend on the economic data.

"The Fed will pivot quickly -- if need be -- to rate cuts."



## A revolution not without risk

*The recent diplomatic dust-up over Chinese telecoms company Huawei, one of the leaders in developing equipment for fifth-generation mobile networks, has demonstrated that this technology which promises to enable an internet of things and self-driving vehicles also poses risks*

### What is 5G?

5G stands for the fifth generation of mobile network technology, which should begin to be rolled out in 2020 in Asia and the United States.

Each generation has offered improvements in data transmission speed and capacity, and with 5G the networks are really set to make the transition from telephony to other objects.

### What will it be able to do?

The much vaunted internet of things has so far been hobbled by the limitations of mobile networks, both in terms of transmission speeds of handsets and the fact the backbone of networks hadn't been expanded sufficiently in many cases to handle huge volumes of data.

With 5G, transmission speeds should accelerate sufficiently to allow for self-driving cars to take to the roads or for doctors to conduct operations remotely.

It will also cut the cord on augmented and virtual reality.

The ability to connect more sensors will help make many services "intelligent", such as helping manage traffic flow and telling the sanitation department when garbage bins need to be emptied.

Industry is in particular looking forward to 5G to reinvent manufacturing and allow it to monitor all sorts of processes.

### Why does 5G pose security risks?

The first reason is that more data and more types of data will be travelling across 5G networks. Much of the data transmitted by sensors could be sensitive, such as information about manufacturing processes that business rivals would be interested in acquiring. Or the data from our homes that could be gleaned to determine all sorts of things about us. The treasure chest of data for hackers is getting much, much bigger.

A second reason is that an increased reliance on the mobile network means its disruption would have even more serious consequences, both in terms of safety and economic activity. A failure during a remotely guided operation could lead to the death of a patient or a crash of a self-driving car. A longer outage could disrupt an economy. This poses national security risks.

While the diplomatic spat over the arrest of Huawei's chief financial officer was based on accusations the firm violated US sanctions on Iran, the United States has longstanding concerns about Chinese telecommunications equipment being a Trojan horse for Beijing's intelligence and military.

Huawei is a major manufacturer of equipment used to build 5G networks, and the US defence establishment fears it could enable it to disrupt American military communications or otherwise wage asymmetrical warfare in a confrontation.

The United States has essentially barred use of Huawei equipment in domestic networks, as have Australia and New Zealand, with other countries considering following suit.

### Deliverance or disappointment?

The promises are always hyped, but the delivery is often a disappointment. Early buyers of 4G smartphones were often let down: their handsets could handle nippy speeds but the backbone of networks were often not yet bulked up to handle the higher data flow.

Operators have now built up the capacity of their backbone networks, but if 5G is to keep its promise the number of base stations needed is enormous. Otherwise, users will be forced back onto slower networks.

Meanwhile operators are having to invest billions to roll out 5G, which is an issue because competition in many countries has hemmed in prices companies can charge consumers.

While most analysts believe operators will in the end be able to finance building the new networks, they may not initially be dense enough to handle some of the most anticipated applications.

Building a dense network of base stations along highways to handle self-driving vehicles will be a costly endeavour, for example, and operators may find themselves seeking partners from users of new services.



Traders work on the floor at the closing bell of the Dow Industrial Average at the New York Stock Exchange





# Shenzhen leads China's technology revolution



A construction site in Shenzhen in southern China's Guangdong province

● **The mega city houses 13 million people**

● **Formerly an agricultural state, Shenzhen is now houses tens of thousands of factories**

● **The metropolis is now seeking to reinvent itself as the home of Chinese innovation**

AFP | Shenzhen, China

The southern city of Shenzhen is the symbol of the transformative reforms launched by China 40 years ago: former fishing villages that morphed into a global manufacturing hub.

Today Shenzhen is again at the heart of a new policy aimed at turning China into a hi-tech innovator and shed its reputation as an assembly line for foreign companies or -- worse -- an imitator.

Modern skyscrapers housing corporations and ambitious startups tower over the mega-city of 13 million people -- among them is Wu Yebin, 35, who runs his own tech firm from his 35th floor office.

His own story mirrors those of countless others who have risen

from modest backgrounds following the reforms spearheaded by late paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, which the Communist Party ratified on December 18, 1978.

The son of poor farmers, Wu arrived in the city in 2005 and over the years he assembled devices similar to Apple's iPad or MacBook, joining Shenzhen's army of people making "shanzhai" -- creative knock-offs of foreign electronics affordable for local population.

"Germany, the United States, Japan, South Korea... All developed countries have done this to develop their manufacturing industry," Wu said. "You have to do that to gain experience."

While this economic model used to be "very popular, it is no longer viable today," he said.

He now leads his own electronics firm, MeegoPad, which boasts an annual turnover of \$28 million making products such as miniature PCs.

"We are now very attached to intellectual property and patents," Wu said.

## 'Made in China 2025'

Shenzhen, which lived off fishing and rice paddies, became a testing ground for Deng's reforms when it was designated as the country's first Special Economic Zone in 1980.

It grew into a massive manufacturing centre, with factories churning out gadgets, computers and phones for foreign firms,

“Silicon Valley is still way ahead in artificial intelligence. But you can find the electronic or mechanical component you need three times faster in Shenzhen”

MENG JIE

which today include Apple and Samsung. Today China's own global corporations, such as telecom company Huawei and internet giant Tencent, have made Shenzhen their headquarters and the city of tens of thousands of factories is dubbed the "Silicon Valley of Hardware".

The metropolis is now seeking to reinvent itself as the home of Chinese innovation, in line with Beijing's "Made in China 2025" plan to dominate key hi-tech industries such as robotics, electric vehicles and artificial intelligence.

"China is becoming a world leader in this field," Wu said. "Shenzhen is turning into a

meeting point for creative engineers from around the world." Now talent from abroad is flocking to Shenzhen.

Meng Jie, who is French and in his 30s, left California's Silicon Valley in 2017 to create Maybe, a company that makes smart speakers that help people learn Mandarin.

"Silicon Valley is still way ahead in artificial intelligence. But you can find the electronic or mechanical component you need three times faster in Shenzhen," Meng said.

"It's like going from a road to a motorway," he said.

Pointing to the skyscrapers outside his office, he said: "People see Silicon Valley as the tech Mecca. They underestimate Shenzhen a lot because they don't know what's happening here."

"This place was just sand and water 20 years ago. In 10 years, Shenzhen will be a very important world city. It will be the capital of innovation," he said.

## US fears

Some of China's hi-tech ambitions are running into suspicions about its intentions abroad, with the United States and others fearing that they pose security and espionage risks.

Telecommunications equipment giant Huawei's own global expansion has faced setbacks, with some of its services rejected in certain Western countries and its chief financial officer



An employee working at a company producing robots in Shenzhen in southern China's Guangdong province.



Cameron Leeson, CEO of ThingC, a company producing autonomous agricultural robots, posing for a picture in Shenzhen in southern China's Guangdong province.



Zhang Zhaohui, CEO of Youibot, a company producing autonomous inspection robots, operating a robot in Shenzhen in southern China's Guangdong province

detailed in Canada on a US extradition request over alleged Iran sanctions violations.

But those who have witnessed Shenzhen's rise marvel at its evolution from hi-tech copycat to creator.

Shenzhen is "really nice fertile ground for innovation," said Duncan Turner, managing director of HAX, an incubator for startups based in the city.

"The Chinese government sets up clear plans for innovation in particular sectors that they want to invest in," Turner said.

If a company matches those plans, "you've got a nice path for development and onward funding," he said.

Turner, who moved to Shen-

zhen in 2009, said the biggest change he has seen in the past decade is how young people who used to make fakes are "becoming incredibly inventive, entrepreneurial R&D (research and development) experts that are leading the way of technology in certain areas".

Improved higher education has created a new generation of engineers, such as Zhang Zhaohui, chief executive of Youibot, which set up his company in HAX's incubator to make the first autonomous maintenance robot for buses.

"Shenzhen has huge potential," Zhang, 26, predicted. "The city could very quickly catch up to Silicon Valley."

## UK government says no to second vote, as Brexit pressure rises

Reuters | London

Britain's government is not preparing for a second referendum on Brexit, ministers said yesterday, sticking to the script that Prime Minister Theresa May's deal could still pass through parliament with a few changes.

May delayed a vote last week on her agreement to leave the European Union because she was set to lose in parliament and

has tried to secure "assurances" from the bloc to try to better sell it to sceptical lawmakers. Brussels said last week it was ready to help but warned her that she could not renegotiate the deal.

With less than four months before Britain is due to leave in March, Brexit, the biggest shift in trade and foreign policy for more than 40 years, is proving anything but smooth, complicated by the deep divisions in par-



Demonstrators waving flags stand outside the Houses of Parliament

liament and across the country.

With May facing deadlock in parliament over the deal and the EU offering little so far, more politicians are talking about the possibility of Britain leaving without an agreement or a second referendum that could stop Brexit from happening.

Asked if the government was preparing for a vote, education minister Damian Hinds told Sky News: "No, a second referendum

would be divisive. We've had the people's vote, we've had the referendum and now we've got to get on with implementing it."

Trade minister Liam Fox also said a second referendum would "perpetuate" the deep divisions in Britain, adding that the prime minister was securing the necessary assurances to persuade parliament to back her deal.

He said that would take some time.



## show

# Steve Harvey doesn't want to host Oscars

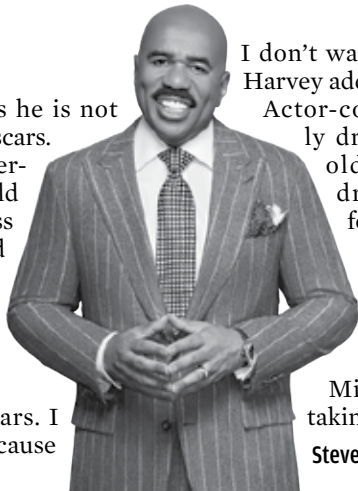
IAN S | Los Angeles

TV host Steve Harvey says he is not interested in hosting the Oscars.

In an interview to Entertainment Tonight, the 61-year-old comedian said that he would pass if such an opportunity presented itself, reports dailymail.co.uk.

"Hell, if they won't let Kevin Hart host the Oscars, how the hell are they going to let me host the Oscars," he wondered.

"Oh no, I can't host the Oscars. I don't want to host the Oscars because



I don't want them digging up my past," Harvey added.

Actor-comedian Kevin Hart recently dropped out as the host after old homophobic tweets were dredged up from his Twitter feed.

Oscars 2019 will be held on February 24.

While Harvey has no interest in the Oscars, he is still quite excited about hosting the Miss Universe pageant which is taking place in Thailand.

Steve Harvey

## Emily Blunt up for 'Mary Poppins Returns' sequel

IAN S | Los Angeles

Actress Emily Blunt says she is ready for a sequel to "Mary Poppins Returns".

In an interview with Anthony Mason for show "CBS Sunday Morning", Blunt expressed her wish to enter the universe again, reports dailymail.co.uk.

When Mason points out that most superhero movies have sequels, asking if she would like to play Poppins again, Blunt said: "Yes. I want to be her again. I like being her."

Blunt described Poppins as "completely bizarre and unknowable".

The actress added that she hasn't seen the original 1964 classic and she didn't want to revisit it before filming "Mary Poppins Returns".

"Mary Poppins Returns" serves as a sequel to the 1964 classic, with Ben Whishaw and Emily Mortimer playing Michael and Jan Banks as adults.

After the Banks family suffers a loss, their childhood nanny Mary Poppins magically comes back into their lives.

The movie, set in Depression-Era London, also stars Lin-Manuel Miranda as a lamplighter named Jack, with Meryl Streep as Topsy and Colin Firth as Wilkins.

Emily Blunt



## Spain's prosecutor accuses singer Shakira of tax fraud

Reuters | Madrid

Spanish prosecutors filed charges against Colombian singer Shakira on Friday, accusing her of failing to pay 14.5 million euros in tax (\$16.3 million) in the country where her Spanish footballer partner plays.

The charges were filed in the Catalonia region, where the singer is a regular presence at matches of her partner Gerard Pique's team, Barcelona. She was accused of failing to pay tax on income earned from 2012-2014, when the prosecutors say she lived there.

Representatives of Shakira said in a statement that the singer did not live in Spain until 2015, and has met all of her tax

obligations to Spanish authorities.

The "Hips Don't Lie" singer and Pique have been a couple since the start of the decade and have two children.

It is the latest case of a high-profile foreigner with links to top level Spanish soccer

being accused of avoiding tax while living there. Earlier investigations looked into Pique's Argentinian Barcelona teammate Lionel Messi and Portuguese international Cristiano Ronaldo, who left Real Madrid for Juventus this year.

Shakira



## Akon set to launch streaming app

IAN S | Los Angeles

Popular American singer-rapper Akon will be launching a streaming app featuring classic Hollywood films.

The entrepreneur, 45, is teaming up with Samsung to launch the Cinemoi Channel app, a subscription-based vid-

eo streaming app available 24 hours a day.

"We're always looking for new ways to engage our customers," Akon said in a statement to people.com.

"With the Cinemoi Channel app, we're responding to consumer demand, helping deliver content through a new experi-

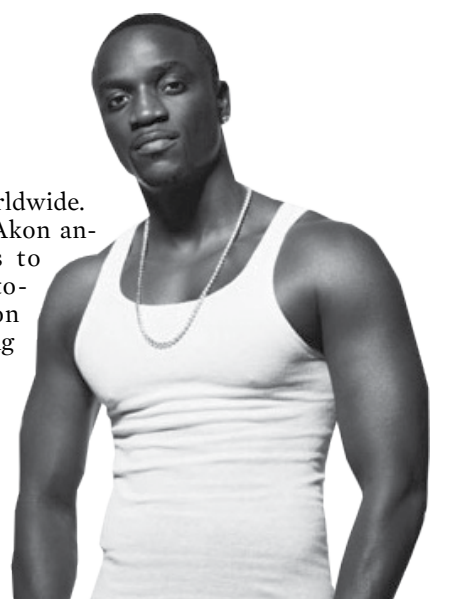
ence that makes finding entertainment easy for our customers," he added.

Featuring classic films like "A Star Is Born" and modern-day movies like "Wreckers", as well as specials including "The Jonathan Ross Show" and more, the app will reach more than 39 million smart TVs and 95 mil-

lion smartphones worldwide.

Earlier this year, Akon announced his plans to launch a new cryptocurrency called Akon geared towards helping people in Africa.

Akon



### AQUAMAN

(PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW

Ⓜ JASON MOMOA, AMBER HEARD, NICOLE KIDMAN

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT (ATMOS): 11.15 AM. + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM.

DAILY AT (VIP): 10.30 AM. + 1.30 + 4.30 + 7.30 + 10.30 PM.

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT (ATMOS): 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 + 12.00 MN.

DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 11.30 AM. + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM.

DAILY AT 10.30 AM. + 1.00 + 4.00 + 7.00 + 10.00 + (1.00 AM. THURS./FRI.)

DAILY AT (VIPI): 11.00 AM. + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM.

DAILY AT (VIPII): 12.30 + 3.30 + 6.30 + 9.30 + (12.30 MN. THURS./FRI.)

SEEF (II) DAILY AT 11.15 AM. + 12.45 + 2.15 + 3.45 + 5.15 + 6.45 + 8.15 + 9.45 + 11.15 PM. + (12.45 MN. THURS./FRI.)

SEEF (I) DAILY AT 11.45 AM. + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM. SAAR DAILY AT 11.30 AM. + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.00 + 8.30 PM. + (11.00 PM. + 11.30 PM THURS./FRI.)

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT 10.45 AM. + 11.45 AM. + 1.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM. + 11.45 PM.

### SPIDER MAN INTO THE SPIDER VERSE

(PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW

Ⓜ HAILEE STEINFELD, NICOLAS CAGE, MAHERSHALA ALI

OASIS JUFFAIR DUBBED (KIDS CINEMA) DUBBED IN ENGLISH: 10.30 AM + 8.00 PM.

OASIS JUFFAIR DUBBED (KIDS CINEMA) DUBBED IN ENGLISH (3D): 5.30 + 10.30 PM.

OASIS JUFFAIR DUBBED (KIDS CINEMA) IN ARABIC: 1.00 PM.

OASIS JUFFAIR DUBBED IN ENGLISH: 4.00 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM.

OASIS JUFFAIR DUBBED IN ENGLISH (3D): 1.30 PM.

OASIS JUFFAIR DUBBED: IN ARABIC: 9.00 PM.

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: DUBBED IN ENGLISH: 11.00 AM. + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM.

DAILY AT: DUBBED IN ENGLISH (3D): 10.45 AM. + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM.

DAILY AT: DUBBED IN ARABIC: 10.30 AM. + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM.

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: DUBBED IN ENGLISH: 11.00 AM. + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM.

DAILY AT: DUBBED IN ARABIC: 12.00 + 2.30 + 5.00 + 7.30 + 10.00 + (12.30 MN. THUR./FRI.)

SAAR DAILY AT: DUBBED IN ENGLISH: 12.30 + 3.00 + 5.30 PM.

DAILY AT: DUBBED IN ARABIC: 11.15 AM. + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 PM.

WADI AL SAIL DUBBED IN ENGLISH: 11.00 AM. + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 PM.

DUBBED IN ARABIC: 10.30 AM. + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 PM.

### SECOND ACT

(PG-15) (COMEDY) NEW

Ⓜ HJENNIFER LOPEZ, VANESSA HUGHES, MILO VENTIMIGLIA

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM.

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM.

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM.

SAAR DAILY AT: 9.15 + (11.30 PM. THURS./FRI.)

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM.

### THREE WORDS OF FOREVER

(PG-15) (FILIPINO/ROMANTIC/DRAMA/COMEDY) NEW

Ⓜ HSHARON CUNETI, RICHARD GOMEZ, KATHRYN BERNARDO

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM.

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM.

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM.

### ELLIOT THE LITTLEST REINDEER

(PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

Ⓜ Morena Baccarin, Josh Hutcherson, John Cleese

OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 3.30 PM.

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 11.30 AM

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 PM.

### PINKY MEMSAAB: A DUBAI STORY

(PG-15) (URDU/ DRAMA) NEW

Ⓜ SUNNY HINDUJA, KIRAN MALIK, ADNAN JAFFAR

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 4.15 + 9.00 PM.

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 PM.

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM.

### RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET

(PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

Ⓜ JOHN C. REILLY, SARAH SILVARMAN, GAL GADOT

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 4.00 + 8.45 PM.

### CREED II

(PG-13) (DRAMA/ACTION/SPORT)

Ⓜ TESSA THOMPSON, MICHAEL B. JORDAN, SYLVESTER STALLONE

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 12.45 + 6.00 + 11.15 PM.

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN.

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 10.45 AM. + 3.45 + 8.45 PM

### MORTAL ENGINES

(PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER)

Ⓜ HUGO WEAVING, HERA HILMAR, ROBERT SHEEHAN

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.15 + 11.00 PM.

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.00 AM. + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM.

SAAR DAILY AT: 8.30 + (11.00 PM THURS./FRI.)

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 2.15 + 7.00 + 11.45 PM.

### ORU KUPRASIDHA PAYYAN

(PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW

Ⓜ TOVINO THOMAS, NIMISHA SAJAYAN, ANU SITHARA

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM.

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN.

AL HAMRA DAILY AT \* 3.00 + 9.00 PM.

### JOSEPH

(PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW

Ⓜ JOJU GEORGE, MALAVIKA MENON, JAMES ELIYA

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 PM.

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM.

AL HAMRA DAILY AT: 12.00 + 6.00 + (12.00 MN. THURS./FRI.)

### KEDARNATH

(PG-15) (HINDI/DRAMA/ROMANTIC)

Ⓜ RAJINIKANTH, AKSHAY KUMAR, AMY JACKSON

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 3.30 + 8.45 PM.

### ODIYAN

(PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW

STARRING FRIDAY 14TH

Ⓜ HMOHANLAL, PRAKASH RAJ, MANJU WARRIER

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM.

### RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET

(PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

Ⓜ JOHN C. REILLY, SARAH SILVARMAN, GAL GADOT

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM.

SAAR DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 PM.

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM.

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.45 + 9.30 PM.

### ROBIN HOOD

(PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)

Ⓜ TARON EGERTON, EVE HEWSON, JAMIE FOXX

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN.

### INSTANT FAMILY

(PG-15) (COMEDY)

Ⓜ MARK WAHLBERG, ROSE BYRNER, OCTAVIA SPENCER

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM.

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.30 PM.

### JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN

(PG) (COMEDY/ACTION/ADVENTURE)

Ⓜ ROWAN ATKINSON, OLGA KURYLENKO, EMMA THOMPSON

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN.

### HUNTER KILLER

(PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER)

Ⓜ GERARD BUTLER, GARY OLDMAN, OMMON

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 2.45 + 7.00 + 11.15 PM.

### WIDOWS

(15+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA)

Ⓜ VIOLA DAVIS, MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ, ELIZABETH DEBICKI

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 4.00 + 8.30 PM.

### EL BADLAH

(PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY)

Ⓜ TAMER HOSNY, AKRAM HOSNI, MAJED EL MASRY, AMINA KHALIL

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.30 + 11.00 PM.

### THE POSSESSION OF HANNAH GRACE

(18+) (THRILLER/HORROR)

Ⓜ SHAY MITCHELL, STANA KATIC, LOUIS HERTHUM

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 PM.

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.00 PM.

### CHRISTMAS BREAK IN

(PG) (COMEDY/FAMILY) NEW

Ⓜ DENISE RICHARDS, DANNY GLOVER, CAMERON SEELY

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM.

### MALEVOLENT

(15+) (HORROR/THRILLER) NEW

Ⓜ FLORENCE PUGH, CELIA IMRIE, BEN LLOYD-HUGHES

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 1.45 + 5.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM.

### THE BOMBING (AIR STRIKE)

(PG-15) (ACTION/DRAMA) NEW

Ⓜ BRUCE WILLIS, YE LIU, SEUNG-HEON SONG

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM.

### 11 DAYS

(PG-13) (DRAMA) NEW

Ⓜ HABEEB GHULOOM, OLIGYA, LITA TADPILITA

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 3.45 + 7.45 PM.

### THE MAN WHO INVENTED CHRISTMAS

(PG-13) (COMEDY/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY) NEW



SPORTS  
sports**Abu Dhabi Sports to cover Brave 20 from India**

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation has confirmed that Brave 20 marks the first Mixed Martial Arts event taking place in India that is covered by the UAE based premium broadcast network.

Abu Dhabi Sports will cover the event taking place in India providing the highest global exposure to an event taking place in India. The initiative to host an event in India under the patronage of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa was praised for giving Indian athletes a platform to compete and showcase their skills globally.

Abu Dhabi Sports will broadcast the event live in the Middle East and North Africa. The event marks the second time the Bahrain based global mixed martial arts organization is hosting an event in India. Earlier the fifth edition of the promotion took place on 23rd April 2017 at the Dome Arena in Mumbai, India. The initiative will give the opportunity for eight Indian fighters to compete globally for the first time. Two Indian fighters, Kantaraj Agasa, and Nelson Paes will compete in a global Mixed Martial Arts promotion for the first time.

**Latham ton puts NZ in charge**

● **Tom Latham and Kane Williamson grind Sri Lanka on batting day**

● **New Zealand lead by 29 runs with 8 wickets remaining in the innings**

AFP | Wellington

opener Tom Latham's unbeaten century put New Zealand in charge of the first Test against Sri Lanka in Wellington yesterday, as the Black Caps raced past the tourists' first-innings total and looked to build an imposing lead.

Latham was 121 not out at stumps on day two with New Zealand cruising at 311 for two in reply to Sri Lanka's modest 282.

It was a frustrating day for Sri Lanka's bowlers on a Basin Reserve pitch that transformed into a batters' paradise after wreaking havoc during the tourists' innings on day one.

Black Caps skipper Kane Williamson narrowly missed out on his own century, falling for 91, and all New Zealand's batsmen got good starts, with Jeet Raval making 43 and Ross Taylor not out on 50.

While the Sri Lanka attack worked hard, they could not build pressure and the two New Zealand wickets that fell were



Tom Latham of New Zealand plays a shot

the result of rash shots from Raval and Williamson.

That was not an issue for Latham, who meticulously crafted his seventh Test century from 219 balls and never looked rattled at the crease.

He combined with Williamson for a 162-run partnership, laying the foundation for a huge total from a line-up that has eight wickets in hand and has plenty of batting to come.

Coach Gary Stead New Zealand would look to turn the

screws on day three.

"Hopefully we can bat for a big chunk of tomorrow and we'll just bat once in the game, that's the plan," he said.

"We'll try and make the most of these conditions as long as we can, then we'll see where we get to tomorrow afternoon and maybe have a wee bowl at them.

"There's a lot of game to be played before then."

Despite failing to reach triple figures, Williamson still has a remarkable record against Sri

Lanka, with three centuries in seven Tests against them.

That includes an unbeaten 242 at Wellington's Basin Reserve in 2015.

Sri Lanka will be hoping for a dramatic New Zealand collapse on day three to salvage any hopes of a win.

Earlier, they added just seven to their overnight total before Tim Southee coaxed an inside edge off Kumara to claim a six-wicket innings haul.

Kumara's departure for a duck left Dickwella stranded on 80

New Zealand 1st innings	
J. Raval c Dickwella b Kumara	43
T. Latham not out	121
K. Williamson c Rajitha b de Silva	91
R. Taylor not out	50
Extras (lb4, nb1, w1)	6
Total (2 wickets; 84 overs)	311
Sri Lanka	
1st innings (275-9 overnight)	
M. Gunathilaka lbw Southee	1
F. Karunaratne c Watling b Wagner	79
D. de Silva c Watling b Southee	1
K. Mendis c Patel b Southee	2
A. Mathews c Watling b Southee	83
D. Chandimal c Patel b Southee	6
N. Dickwella not out	80
D. Perera c Watling b de Grandhomme	16
S. Lakmal c Nicholls b Wagner	3
K. Rajitha c Watling b Boult	2
L. Kumara c de Grandhomme b Southee	0
Extras (lb7, nb2)	9
Total (all out, 90 overs)	282

not out after he led a rearguard action for Sri Lanka.

Angelo Mathews and Dimuth Karunaratne were the only other batsmen to offer any meaningful resistance, notching 83 and 79 respectively and forging a 133-run partnership.

Sri Lanka, ranked sixth in the world, have lost their last five Tests against New Zealand and suffered a 3-0 home Test series whitewash against England last month.

They have faced upheaval in their coaching and selection ranks in recent weeks and arrived in New Zealand low on confidence.

**Ali Qaisi predicts a victory at Brave 20**

TDT | Manama

Ali Qaisi is the latest athlete signed with the Brave Combat Federation from Jordan. Qaisi joined the ranks of Jordanian superstars including the reigning welterweight world champion, Jarrah Al Selawe, Jalal Al Daaja, Nawras Abzakh and Hashem Arkagha at the Bahrain based global Mixed Martial Arts organization.

Qaisi signed to compete at Brave 20 taking place on 22nd December at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad, India. Initially, Qaisi was set to face the Indian featherweight fighter, Abdul Muneer. However, Muneer withdrew from the fight card due to a shoulder injury contacted during wrestling sessions. Hence Nelson Paes stepped in to challenge the Jordanian.

"I'm so excited to fight in In-



Ali Qaisi

dia. I am always eager to perform in a new place in front of a new audience. I'm sure they will all be shocked to see how I finish the win, just like before", said Qaisi who is set to compete in India for the first time.

Qaisi has made a name for himself in the Middle East competing in two local pro-

**I don't find much value in fight records. So many fighters train hard but don't have a chance at getting a fight, or some choose easy opponents to boost their record.**

ALI QAISI

motions, Desert Force and Phoenix Fighting Championship. Qaisi pointed out the heavily buffed up fight records to be among major hindrances for MMA fighters in India.

Not only this ends up as a disadvantage when the fighters are set to compete globally, but this also forces matchmakers to pitch the fighters against experienced veterans at a time the fighters requires global experience and take it to the top.

"Personally, I don't find much value in fight records. So many fighters train hard but don't have a chance at getting a fight, or some choose easy opponents to boost their record. Yeah, it's important, but it's not everything. We will see on December 22 what gets the win — a good record, or training hard for the fight", commented Qaisi.

**Badminton gold at last for 'proud' Sindhu, Shi stuns Momota**

AFP | Shanghai, China

An emotional PV Sindhu finally got her hands on gold at badminton's season-ending World Tour Finals yesterday while in the men's decider China's Shi Yuqi exacted stunning revenge over number one Kento Momota.

The 23-year-old Indian Sindhu has suffered a series of near-misses in recent years, winning silver at the 2016 Rio Olympics, and again at the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games this year.

The world number six, renowned for her never-say-die attitude, has also twice lost in the final of the World Championships and was runner-up in last year's season finale.

But she put all that heartbreak behind her in the Chinese city of Guangzhou, beating the fifth-ranked Nozomi Okuhara of Japan 21-19, 21-17 in the women's final in just over an hour.

Sindhu, who was always in control of the match, sealed the championship with a forehand smash, before collapsing to the court floor on her hands and knees, physically and emotionally exhausted.

"I'm really proud, the year has ended on a beautiful note," said Sindhu.

"People have been asking me the same question, I think the question won't come again --



Sindhu Puseria of India hits a return against Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand



**PV Sindhu has twice lost in the final of the World Championships and was runner-up in last year's season finale**

asking why I always lose in the final.

"It was good that people were asking me about losing so many

finals because I had to ask myself why I was losing.

"Finally I got the answer."

The men's final, a mouth-watering showdown between the two top-ranked players in the world, was a re-run of the world championship decider in August.

On that occasion, the 22-year-old Shi -- the new star of Chinese men's badminton -- was well beaten by Momota.

But roared on by the crowd in Guangzhou, Shi got revenge in emphatic fashion, beating the tournament favourite 21-12, 21-11 in a surprisingly one-sided encounter for the biggest win of his young career.

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# Aussies build vital lead

Australia battle in Perth to build lead of 175 over India

**Australia lead by 175 runs with 6 wickets remaining**

**India were bowled out for 283 runs in their first innings**

AFP | Perth

Australia's batsmen battled a deteriorating pitch in their bid to build a match-winning lead on the third day of the second Test in Perth yesterday.

The hosts led by 43 after both teams' first innings despite a superb Virat Kohli century, but found batting incredibly tough in their second innings.

At stumps, Australia were 132 for four, with Usman Khawaja on 41 and Tim Paine on eight, an overall lead of 175.

Although they still had six wickets in hand, opener Aaron Finch was taken to hospital for scans after retiring hurt with an injured right hand on 25.

The cracks in the pitch were starting to become a significant factor, with Finch's opening partner, Marcus Harris, also struck flush on the helmet by a rising delivery in making 20.

The Australians played and missed time and again as they battled to extend their lead, with Jasprit Bumrah (1-25) almost unplayable at times and well supported by India's three other pacemen as they maintained unrelenting pressure on the



Marcus Harris of Australia takes a tumble after being struck on the helmet by a ball from Jasprit Bumrah of India

batsmen.

Shaun Marsh (5) and Peter Handscomb (13) again fell cheaply, doing little to ease the pressure on their pair to retain their spots in the side.

Marsh played a poor shot to a short ball from Mohammed Shami (2-23) and was caught behind, while Handscomb's shaky defence was highlighted when he was trapped lbw by Ishant Sharma (1-33).

Easy as 123 for Kohli

The struggles of the Australian batsmen were a far cry from the command of Kohli as he anchored his team's first innings.

In reply to Australia's 326 after winning the toss and batting,

**123**  
runs were scored by  
Virat Kohli for his 25th  
century

India were bowled out for 283 despite Kohli's 123.

Kohli reached his century with a classic straight drive off paceman Mitchell Starc, having been at the crease for 310 minutes and faced 214 balls.

Two overs later he produced the shot of the match when he lifted Josh Hazlewood over

third man for six.

In reaching triple figures, Kohli became the second-fastest player to reach 25 Test centuries in terms of innings with 127, behind only Don Bradman (68) and ahead of his countryman Tendulkar (130).

He also joined Tendulkar as the only Indian batsmen to have scored six Test centuries in Australia, and became the first Test centurion at the new venue.

The Indian captain's innings came to a controversial end when he was caught at second slip by a diving Handscomb from the bowling of Pat Cummins.

Kohli was given out by the on-field umpires but believed it had

Australia 1st innings 326 (M. Harris 70, T. Head 58; Sharma 4-41)	
2nd innings	
M. Harris b Bumrah	20
A. Finch retired hurt	25
U. Khawaja not out	41
S. Marsh c Pant b Shami	5
P. Handscomb lbw Sharma	13
T. Head c Sharma b Shami	19
T. Paine not out	8
Extras (lb1)	1
Total (four wickets, 48 overs)	132
India 1st innings (overnight 172-3)	
K. Rahul b Hazlewood	2
M. Vijay b Starc	0
C. Pujara c Paine b Starc	24
V. Kohli c Handscomb b Cummins	123
A. Rahane c Paine b Lyon	51
H. Vihari c Paine b Hazlewood	20
R. Pant c Starc b Lyon	36
M. Shami c Paine b Lyon	0
I. Sharma c and b Lyon	1
U. Yadav not out	4
J. Bumrah c Khawaja b Lyon	4
Extras (b4, lb7, nb2, w5)	18
Total (all out, 105.5 overs)	283

## Smalling extends Man Utd contract to 2022

AFP | London

Manchester United tied down centre-back Chris Smalling to a new three-and-a-half-year contract on Saturday with an option to extend the deal for a further year.

"Manchester United is delighted to announce that Chris Smalling has signed a new contract that will keep him at the club until June 2022, with the option to extend for a further year," the club said in a statement.

"This is my ninth season with the club and I am delighted to be continuing my progression with this team," said Smalling.

## Honda's Victory in sixth straight A-League win

AFP | Sydney

Keisuke Honda's Melbourne Victory kept the pressure on Perth Glory at the top of the A-League this weekend, stretching their winning streak to six games with a thrilling 4-2 triumph.

All the goals came in the first half of Friday's away win at Brisbane Roar that also featured two penalties and a red card.

Japan's Honda got on the scoresheet again with his fifth of the season to help his club -- the reigning champions -- move to 18 points from eight games, two behind Perth who remain unbeaten.

## Belgium crowned hockey world champions

IANIS | Bhubaneswar, India

Olympic silver medallists Belgium clinched their maiden World Cup title after beating three-time champions Netherlands in sudden death after the shootout in the pulsating gold medal match at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar yesterday.

Belgium have now become the sixth nation to lift the World Cup.

After playing a goalless draw in regulation time, the tie headed for the shootout which also failed to yield a result as both sides were locked at 2-2 after the five shots.

In sudden death, Belgium's Florent van Aubel scored in his very first attempt to guide his side to the gold medal before Joreon Hertzberger of the Dutch side missed the chance and had to settle for the silver.

The tie started with both sides tightening their respective defence in the first quarter



Belgium's players celebrate with the world cup trophy

and neither were adventurous enough, like they are known to be, to attack at full strength.

The second quarter witnessed a similar style of play even though both sides would have loved to head to half time with a goal's advantage.

After the breather, both sides stepped on the gas in the third

quarter but the outcome hardly changed and the deadlock continued till the end of the final quarter, taking the contest to the shootout.

Earlier, Tom Craig scored thrice while Jeremy Hayward's brace helped Australia thrash England 8-1 in the bronze medal match.

## Benzema gives Madrid win over Rayo amid more Bernabeu boos

Reuters | Madrid

Real Madrid got a 1-0 win over minnows Rayo Vallecano on Saturday, earning a third consecutive La Liga victory and rising to third in the table, but they again failed to sparkle and had to endure booing from their unhappy supporters.

Karim Benzema beat a poorly constructed Rayo offside trap to score the only goal of the game in the 13th minute and Toni Kroos came close to doubling Madrid's advantage later in the first half when he struck a post from outside the box.

The win put Santiago Solari's side up to third place in the standings on 29 points, one clear of fourth-placed Sevilla and two behind champions and leaders Barcelona, who visit Levante, and Atletico Madrid.

Madrid, who were also booed



Rayo Vallecano defender Emiliano Velazquez, left, vies with Real Madrid's Karim Benzema

off on Wednesday after losing 3-0 to CSKA Moscow, their worst-ever home defeat in European competition, continued to suffer defensively at the back. They leaked plenty of chances to their neighbours, who are fighting relegation and have won only twice all season.

Rayo defender Emiliano Ve-

lazquez came close to equalising with a bullet header from a corner shortly after Benzema's goal.

Then, as the visitors laid siege to Madrid's goal in the closing stages, it took an impressive double save from Thibaut Courtois in stoppage time to prevent Rayo from grabbing a point.

## Ronaldo penalty sees off Torino, Icardi gets Inter back winning

AFP | Milan

Cristiano Ronaldo scored from the spot as unbeaten Italian champions Juventus saw off city rivals Torino 1-0 to hammer home their domination in Serie A on Saturday.

Juventus travelled to the Sta-

dio Olimpico after their year-long unbeaten record away from home ended with a shock 2-1 Champions League defeat by Young Boys in Bern.

Ronaldo slotted in his 11th league goal this season, and 5,000th for Juventus in Serie A, after 70 minutes after Tori-

no goalkeeper Salvador Ichazo fouled Mario Mandzukic.

Juventus are now 11 points ahead of second-placed Napoli, with Inter Milan 14 points behind the leaders after captain Mauro Icardi scored from the spot in a 1-0 win over Udinese. "It was a complicated game,

played on a difficult pitch against a tough opponent," said Ronaldo.

"We put in a good performance, played better than Torino, had more scoring opportunities and deserved the victory.

"The 5,000th goal? I'm happy, but the important thing was to help the team."

Torino's hopes of a rare 'Derby della Mole' victory took a knock when goalkeeper Salvatore Sirigu hobbled off with a hip injury after 20 minutes, to be replaced by Ichazo.

And the match was decided by a poor backpass from Simone Zaza to Ichazo which resulted in

the Torino goalkeeper fouling the onrushing Mandzukic.

Ronaldo made no mistake from the spot, despite Ichazo getting his hand to the ball, with the pair locking horns afterwards with the Portuguese striker receiving a yellow card.



# Liverpool back on top

Two deflected Xherdan Shaqiri strikes handed Liverpool victory over Manchester United

● **Eden Hazard ensures Chelsea stay in touch at top with win at Brighton**

● **Charlie Austin rises highest as Saints sink Arsenal in five-goal thriller**

AFP | London

Liverpool powered back to the top of the Premier League as Xherdan Shaqiri inspired a 3-1 win over bitter rivals Manchester United, while Arsenal's 22-match unbeaten run was shattered by a shock 3-2 defeat at Southampton yesterday.

Jürgen Klopp's side made it six successive league victories thanks to Shaqiri's late double after United's Jesse Lingard had cancelled out Sadio Mané's opener at Anfield.

Shaqiri's superb substitute cameo allowed Liverpool to reopen a one point lead over second placed Manchester City after the champions had knocked the Reds out of first place with their win against Everton on Saturday.

Liverpool's first win in their last six meetings with United ended a frustrating streak against the Old Trafford outfit that dated back to March 2016, while also extending their unbeaten start to the league season to 17 matches.

While that was cause for pre-Christmas revelry on the Kop, more significantly, Liverpool's refusal to be subdued by a United team set up by Jose Mourinho with five defenders was another statement of intent as they chase a first English



Liverpool's Swiss midfielder Xherdan Shaqiri (L) shoots to score their third goal

league title since 1990.

Senegal winger Mané put Liverpool ahead in the 24th minute when he broke away from Ashley Young to meet Fabinho's sublime pass with a nimble piece of chest control before shooting past David De Gea.

United equalised against the run of play in the 33rd minute as Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker made a hash of catching Romelu Lukaku's low cross

and Lingard finished off the rebound.

Alisson's error didn't prove costly as Switzerland midfielder Shaqiri struck within three minutes of coming off the bench, his shot flicking off the hapless Young into the roof of the net in the 73rd minute.

Shaqiri ensured Liverpool would return to the top in the 80th minute with a stinging strike that clipped the foot of United defender Eric Bailly on its way past De Gea.

United are now 19 points behind Liverpool in sixth place as the pressure mounts on Mourinho following another wretched display.

Meanwhile, Unai Emery admitted Arsenal need to fix their leaky defence after Southampton's Charlie Austin punished a howler from Bernd Leno to stun

the Gunners.

Austin settled a thrilling clash at St Mary's when he headed home with just five minutes left after Arsenal goalkeeper Leno misjudged Shane Long's cross.

Southampton had twice taken the lead through Danny Ings, only for Henrikh Mkhitaryan's brace to draw Arsenal level on each occasion. Leno's mistake handed Arsenal their first defeat in 15 league games and brought a stunning halt to their longest unbeaten run in all competitions since 2007.

Emery's fifth-placed team had not lost since a 3-2 defeat at Chelsea in August and the north Londoners' first setback since the close-season leaves them three points behind the fourth-placed Blues, who won 2-1 at Brighton yesterday.

Conceding Arsenal need to

## English Premier League

Brighton	1	-	2	Chelsea
Southampton	3	-	2	Arsenal
Liverpool	3	-	1	Manchester United

## Scottish Premier League

Hibernian	2	-	0	Celtic
Rangers	1	-	0	Hamilton
Academical				

## Italian Serie A

SPAL	0	-	0	Chievo
Fiorentina	3	-	1	Empoli
Frosinone	0	-	2	Sassuolo
Sampdoria	2	-	0	Parma
Cagliari	0	-	0	Napoli

## German Bundesliga

RB Leipzig	4	-	1	1. FSV Mainz 05
Eintracht Frankfurt	1	-	0	Bayer 04 Leverkusen

## Spanish La Liga

Sevilla	2	-	0	Girona
Espanyol	1	-	3	Real Betis
Huesca	0	-	0	Villarreal

## French Ligue 1

Nimes	2	-	3	Lille
Nice	1	-	1	St Etienne

\*Scores as of closing

tighten up at the back, Emery said: "We haven't conceded a lot of chances but today they scored three goals. That is a lot so we need to improve with this."

"We need to do some analysis on how we can improve and do better."

Chelsea put a week of negative headlines for the behaviour of their fans behind them on the field thanks to an inspired Eden Hazard at Brighton.

The Belgian provided his

ninth assist of the season for Pedro to open the scoring and then chalked up his ninth goal of the campaign, but first in 13 games for club and country.

Solly March pulled one back with his first goal of the campaign, but Chelsea held on to restore some positivity after Blues fans were involved in alleged racist abuse of Manchester City's Raheem Sterling and anti-semitic chants during a mid-week Europa League tie.

## Sevilla pile pressure on Barcelona at La Liga summit

AFP | Madrid

Sevilla reclaimed second place in La Liga yesterday as second-half strikes from Ever Banega and Pablo Sarabia sealed a 2-0 win over Girona which moved them level on points with leaders Barcelona.

Pablo Machin's side are unbeaten in seven league games since a 4-2 loss at Barca.

The hosts had to wait until the 55th minute to break the deadlock, when striker Andre Silva was tripped in the area by Girona defender Juanpe.

Argentinian Banega stepped up to send visiting goalkeeper Gorka Iraizoz the wrong way from the penalty spot.

The points were wrapped up only nine minutes later, as Wissam Ben Yedder cut the ball back for the onrushing Sarabia to slide home his 14th goal of the season in all competitions.

On Saturday, Atletico Madrid had also drawn level on points with Barcelona as An-



Sevilla's French forward Wissam Ben Yedder (R) challenges Girona's Brazilian midfielder Douglas Luiz

toine Griezmann's 80th-minute strike grabbed a 3-2 victory at Real Valladolid, while Real

Madrid sit just two points adrift after edging out Rayo Vallecano 1-0.

## RB Leipzig thrash Mainz to strengthen grip on top-four spot

AFP | Berlin

Timo Werner and Yussuf Poulsen both scored twice as RB Leipzig brushed aside Mainz 4-1 yesterday to strengthen their hold on a top-four place in the Bundesliga.

Ralf Rangnick's men went into the game reeling after a surprise elimination from the Europa League group stage in midweek and last weekend's 3-0 loss to Freiburg.

But Leipzig produced a strong performance at the Red Bull Arena to close to two points behind second-placed Borussia Mönchengladbach and Bayern Munich in third, although unbeaten Borussia Dortmund remain nine points clear at the top of the table.

Any disappointment about recent results was quickly put to one side as Danish international Poulsen struck twice inside the opening 20 minutes.

The 24-year-old stretched out a leg to volley home Kevin Kampl's 14th-minute cross, be-



Leipzig's German forward Timo Werner (L) celebrates scoring the third goal with his teammate Leipzig's Danish forward Yussuf Poulsen

fore tapping in from close range after good work by Werner.

Karim Onisiwo's header before half-time gave Mainz hope,

but two fine individual strikes by Werner late on took him to

10 league goals this season and sealed the win in style.