

Albert Finney steals the show

Albert Finney clinched the seventh and main race of the day yesterday at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) in Riffa, lifting the Al Salam Bank Bahrain Cup and taking home the lion's share of the BD4,000 total prize. **P12**

BAC, NBB ink airport banking services deal

THE DAILY tribune



Reese Witherspoon gets another surprise delivery from Beyonce

Greta joins thousands at protest before Davos

Alarm over virus threat Beijing

The number of people already infected by the mystery virus emerging in China is far greater than official figures suggest, scientists have told the BBC.

There have been 41 laboratory-confirmed cases of the new virus, but UK experts estimate the figure is closer to 1,700.

Two people are known to have died from the virus, which appeared in Wuhan city in December.

"I am substantially more concerned than I was a week ago," disease outbreak scientist, Prof Neil Ferguson, said.

The work was conducted by the MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis at Imperial College London, which advises bodies including the UK government and the World Health Organisation.

Iran's leader defends military Tehran

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has defended the country's armed forces after it admitted shooting down a passenger plane by mistake.

He said the Revolutionary Guard - the elite unit responsible for the disaster - "maintained the security" of Iran.

Widespread protests and criticism from abroad have put growing pressure on Iran over its handling of the incident.

But the ayatollah tried to rally support as he led Friday prayers in Tehran for the first time since 2012.



Bahrain's voluntary work tradition stressed

Liquidity Support Fund: Application deadline ends for larger enterprises

BACA president hails Premier's support for fine arts movement

210 fils (includes VAT)



Dakar Rally triumph

Bahrain JCW X-Raid Team's Sainz wins Dakar Rally title



HH Shaikh Mohammed at the closing award ceremony of the Dakar 2020 Rally.



Sainz, front row fourth from left, celebrates with teammates, officials and supporters after completing the 12th and final stage yesterday to seal his victory.

● **Sainz won despite finishing sixth in the 12th and final stage yesterday, while Peterhansel was fifth.**

● **The rally began in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah and concluded in the capital, Riyadh, covering 13 days.**

Riyadh

Bahrain JCW X-Raid Team's Carlos Sainz claimed a superb victory yesterday in the 2020 Dakar Rally, which came to a close in Saudi Arabia after 12 stages and 13 gruelling days of competition.

A total of 550 drivers and riders from 62 nations faced a total of 7,500 km in the world's most fearsome off-road race, with Sainz and co-driver Lucas Cruz completing the event in an overall time of 42 hours, 59 minutes and 17 seconds.

The Bahrain-sponsored victors also included Stephane Peterhansel and co-driver Paulo Fiuza,

who finished the rally in third position around 10 minutes behind Sainz and Cruz on the general ranking for cars.

Sainz won despite finishing sixth in the 12th and final stage yesterday, while Peterhansel was fifth.

"I feel very happy," said Sainz. "There's a lot of effort behind this. A lot of training, practice, physically, with the team. We started winning this Dakar on day one and we have gone flat out from the beginning."

Sainz landed his third triumph in the Dakar Rally in his long racing career. Each of his wins has come in a different car, including a Volkswagen in 2010, a Peugeot in 2018 and a Mini in 2020.

Bahrain has a long history of supporting the motorsport industry, having hosted the region's first ever Grand Prix in 2004. The 2020 edition of the rally marks another motorsport milestone for the Middle East, with Saudi Arabia becoming the first country in the region to play host to the challenge, gaining the right to hold it for the next five years.

The rally began in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah and concluded in the capital, Riyadh, covering 13

His Majesty's support has had a profound impact on the Kingdom advancing towards its desired goals under its comprehensive development programme.

HH SHAIKH MOHAMMED

days. The route passed through some of the most historical and culturally significant locations in Saudi, including the UNESCO World Heritage site of Al Ula.

The Bahrain-sponsored X-raid team won in their first-ever self-developed and constructed Mini John Cooper Works and Mini John Cooper Works Buggy.

The new partnership with Team X-Raid builds on Bahrain's investment in McLaren Group, which includes the Formula 1 Team, McLaren Automotive and the recently launched McLaren pro cycling team, to showcase the progressive opportunities the Kingdom is placing on further establishing itself as a hub for strategic sporting development.

Indeed, this home-grown enthusiasm for the sport has at-

tracted global investments, such as US manufacturer OMP Bell Racing Helmets, which recently launched its regional headquarters in Bahrain, to supply equipment for the GCC market.

Of Sainz's victory, Bahrain Motor Federation president Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa commented: "This year's Dakar Rally victory is a great source of pride for Bahrain as we watched our talented drivers Carlos Sainz and Stephane Peterhansel rack up repeated stage wins to claim the overall victory."

"As the X-Raid Team sponsor, we congratulate Carlos and Stephane on their monumental victory and wish them every success in their endeavours for the rest of 2020.

"And from one Kingdom to another, we must also thank our neighbours Saudi Arabia for their successful hosting of this year's rally across 7,500km of truly unforgettable landscapes."

The Dakar Rally, an annual event which was first launched in Paris 1979, ran from Europe to the Senegalese city it is named after for decades, then moved to South America in 2009, where it remained until this year's event.

His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday attended the closing award ceremony of the Dakar 2020 Rally.

During the ceremony, HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman highlighted that the victory for the Bahraini team in the first edition of the Dakar 2020 Rally held in the Middle East, is testament to the efforts of Team Bahrain which continue to have a remarkable impact on the advancement of the Kingdom's sporting sector and overall development.

HH Shaikh Mohammed further highlighted that this accomplishment will be a further addition to the Kingdom's many achievements in motorsport.

HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman emphasised that the Kingdom's sporting sector continues to advance in line with the vision and aspirations of HM the King, and continues to receive the support of HRH the Crown Prince through the many initiatives and programmes adopted. "This support has had a profound impact on the Kingdom advancing towards its desired goals under its comprehensive development programme."

ASSETS FREEZE

UK adds entire Hizbollah group to terror blacklist

Beirut

The UK yesterday said it had added the whole Hizbollah movement to its terrorism blacklist and frozen all its assets.

HM Treasury previously targeted the movement's military wing, but the new sanctions classify all Hizbollah organisations and institutions under the Terrorist Asset-Freezing Act 2010 and freeze all its assets.

Hizbollah had "publicly denied a distinction between its military and political wings," the treasury said on its website. "The group in its entirety is assessed to be concerned in terrorism and was proscribed as a terrorist organisation in the UK in March 2019. This listing includes the Military Wing, the Jihad Council and all units reporting to it, including the External Security Organisation."

The sanctions come amid

This listing includes the Military Wing, the Jihad Council and all units reporting to it, including the External Security Organisation.

HM TREASURY

continued wrangling in Lebanon over the formation of a new government comprising 18 ministers from one political camp: Hizbollah and its allies.

Three main political parties — the Future Movement, the Progressive Socialist Party and the Lebanese Forces — are boycotting the new government.

Former Prime Minister Najib Mikati said: "They claim that they are about to form a government of technocrats and

specialists, at a time when they are openly disputing over shares and ministries, as if we are living in a normal situation with no crisis in the country, nor protesters in the streets."

The country has been roiled by demonstrations, political instability and an economic crisis. Former Prime Minister Saad Hariri's government resigned on Oct 29, two weeks after the start of peaceful protests against tax increases and corruption.

Regulations, weights of ‘GCC Strongest Man Championship’ qualifiers approved

TDT | Manama

The organising committee of the GCC Strongest Man “Heavyweight” Championship, headed by the Director of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa Media Office Mr Ahmed Al Shaikh, yesterday announced that it has approved the categories, weights and regulations of the qualifying rounds for the participants from GCC

countries in the first edition of the championship for heavy-weights. The final stages of the championship will be held from April 9, 2019, to April 11, 2019, under the patronage of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee, under



HH Shaikh Khalid

the slogan #GCC_Challenge at the open area near Bahrain International Circuit. The revenues generated from the championship, which comes within His Highness's initiatives to support the humanitarian and sports fields, will be allocated to support cancer patients. The qualifying rounds will witness three stages, which include “lifting the trunk”, “the

farmer’s walk” and “lifting the car”. Participants will be given a minute to finish each of the three stages. The committee confirmed that it will begin its visits by the end of this month to the brotherly GCC countries, including Saudi Arabia, the first destination, followed by Kuwait, the UAE and Oman, respectively, in order to meet the youth who are

interested in taking part in the championship. The committee had previously announced that a website has been allocated for the registration for the championship on www.gccstrongestman.com, in addition to an official page for the championship on Instagram (@gccstrongestman), in which inquiries will be received through direct messages.



His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, yesterday met with the Chairman of Saudi Arabia’s General Sports Authority, His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Faisal, and the President of the Saudi Automobile and Motorcycle Federation, His Royal Highness Prince Khalid bin Sultan Al Abdullah Al Faisal, on the sidelines of the Dakar 2020 Rally award closing ceremony. During the meeting, HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman highlighted the deep historic ties between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which continue to thrive under the leadership of His Majesty, King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman noted the continuing development of the sporting sector in Saudi Arabia, particularly within motorsport. In this regard, HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman praised Saudi Arabia’s success in hosting and organising international motorsport races and rallies, such as the Dakar 2020 Rally. HH Shaikh Mohammed concluded by wishing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia further success across all levels. For their part, HRH Prince Abdulaziz and HRH Prince Khalid praised the strength of ties between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, noting motorsport is one such example of the ongoing cooperation between the two countries across various sectors. The President of the Bahrain Motor Federation, HE Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, also attended the meeting.



President of Seychelles, Danny Faure left the country on Thursday night, concluding a visit to the Kingdom, during which he held talks with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. President Faure was seen off by Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa and HRH the Premier’s Adviser Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

Bahrain’s voluntary work tradition stressed

Manama

Labour and Social Development Ministry’s Undersecretary, Sabah Salim Al Dossary, said that Bahrain boasts a long history of voluntary and charitable work, stemming from GCC and Arab traditions. This came as he received here Bahrain Voluntary Work Society Chairman, Abdulaziz Rashid Al Sanadi, along with the heads of GCC delegations to the seventh Social Future Volunteer Forum. Held under the patronage of the Shura Council Chairman, Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, the forum is organised in cooperation with the Princess Seetah bint Abdul Aziz Foundation for Excellence in Social Work from January 15 to 18. They reviewed the goals of the



Mr Al Dossary with members of the visiting delegation.

forum, which Morocco will attend as a guest of honour, hailing the role played by social work institutions to promote the con-

cept and culture of voluntary work among youngsters. They also reviewed Bahrain’s experience in support-

ing NGOs. The Undersecretary hailed the forum’s objectives, affirming Bahrain’s support for the efforts

exerted by civil society organisations, especially charitable and voluntary ones. He also asserted that the king-

dom encourages youth to be involved in voluntary work in order to use their potentials in this regard to benefit GCC society.

Dilapidated Houses Project ‘on track’

Manama

Municipalities Affairs Undersecretary at the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, has stressed that enhancing urban development and improving the quality of services across the Kingdom is the basis of municipal work. This came as he handed over

a house, rebuilt by the Works Ministry within the dilapidated houses project in Muharraq to its owner, in the presence of officials from Muharraq Municipality and Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA). He pointed out that under the project, dilapidated houses are repaired in co-ordination and co-operation with BACA to preserve their urban heritage features. He highlighted the constant



Works Ministry officials at one of the houses rebuilt under the Dilapidated Houses Project.

follow-up of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister, Essam Khalaf, on the project in order to upgrade the level of urban development across all regions in Bahrain. The Undersecretary said that the pioneering project, launched as per a kind gesture by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa contributes to providing the requirements of decent living for low-income families, as well as preserving Bahrain’s

urban heritage. Muharraq Municipal Council Chairman, Ghazi Al Merbati, lauded the Works Ministry’s efforts to rehabilitate citizens’ houses, noting that the Municipal Council is an essential partner in implementing the distinguished project. He also commended the efforts exerted by the Municipalities Affairs department and BACA to preserve old houses in Muharraq.

Liquidity Support Fund: Application deadline ends for larger enterprises

Fund was launched as per the directive of HRH the Crown Prince

● All SMEs with an annual income below BD three million may continue to apply at the Bahrain Development Bank's Sitra, Riyadat, Diplomatic Area, and the Hidd Industrial branches.

● Minister of Finance and National Economy Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa recently met with the representatives of relevant authorities concerned with the Liquidity Fund.

Manama

The Liquidity Support Fund has closed applications for larger enterprises with an annual income above BD three million, with the application window for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) remaining open until 19 March 2020.



Shaikh Salman speaks at the meeting.

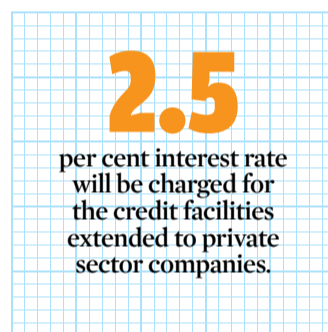
The BD 100 million Liquidity Support Fund, launched following the instructions of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince during the 2019 Government Forum, supports private sector companies by offering credit facilities at a 2.5 per cent interest rate.

The fund will review all applicants against specified eligibility. Credit application requests for large companies are capped at BD one million, and BD 250,000

for SMEs, with a loan period of up to three years.

All SMEs with an annual income below BD three million may continue to apply at the Bahrain Development Bank's Sitra, Riyadat, Diplomatic Area, and the Hidd Industrial branches. Applicants do not need to have an account with the bank in order to qualify.

In order to qualify, SME's must meet certain application crite-



ria, including: holding an active commercial registration; maintaining a minimum of 51 per cent Bahraini ownership; commercial activities operating in Bahrain; no requests for reorganisation or liquidation according to the Kingdom's bankruptcy law; financial statements available for the fiscal year 2018; and a positive gross profit margin for one of the past three years.

Minister of Finance and Na-

tional Economy Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa recently met with the representatives of the relevant authorities concerned with the Liquidity Fund.

The fund aims to restructure private sector companies' financial obligations within the Kingdom.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), Shaikh Mohammed bin Essa Al Khalifa; the Chairman of the National Bank of Bahrain (NBB), Farouk Al Moayyed; the Chairman of BBK, Murad Ali Murad; the Chairman of Bahrain Islamic Bank, Dr Esam Abdulla Fakhro; the CEO of Bahrain Development Bank, Sanjeev Paul; and a number of government officials.

During the meeting, the Minister of Finance and National Economy followed up on the latest developments regarding the mechanisms and organisational procedures of the fund.

The meeting further provided an opportunity to review the timeframe to establish the fund and recommendations put forth to benefit and support private sector companies across various economic sectors, in line with the Kingdom's economic development goals.

Kingdom's religious liberties hailed



“**Bahrain's Declaration of Worldwide Religious Tolerance, formulated by HM the King, reflects the global dimension of the Bahrain's model in guaranteeing religious liberties for all human beings.**

DR SHAIKH KHALID

Manama

King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Co-existence Board of Trustees' Chairman Dr Shaikh Khalid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa underlined deep common denominators shared by the Kingdom and the US.

He stressed the two countries' support to religious liberties all over the world, guaranteed rights of all residents on their territories to exercise their religious rituals and faiths in total freedom, in an atmosphere of tolerance and peaceful co-existence.

Dr Shaikh Khalid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa made the statement on the occasion of the Religious Freedom Day, which falls on the 16th of January.

He welcomed the US stance, represented by its embassy in Manama, which commended the continuous efforts led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, as well as the Government of Bahrain, to create an ideal environment that enhances religious freedoms.

He commended the initiative of the US Embassy that posted on its official twitter account the introduction of the Bahrain's Declaration of Worldwide Religious Tolerance, formulated by HM the King, which reflects the global dimension of the Bahrain's model in guaranteeing religious liberties for all human beings, regardless of their faiths or religious doctrines.

Dr Shaikh Khalid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa quoted particularly the royal expression: "Ignorance is the enemy of peace, therefore it is our duty to learn, share and live together through a belief that unites us, a spirit of mutual respect and love" and the sublime connoted meanings to bring peace and harmony to all regions of the world."

Dr Shaikh Khalid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa stressed the US stance, which praised the successful international round table on religious liberties in Mena region, which was hosted late last year in Manama by the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Co-existence, in co-operation with the Religious Freedom and Business Foundation.

Duraz Jetty project progress reviewed



Mr Khalaf inspects the ongoing work at fishermen's jetty in Duraz.

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister, Essam Khalaf, inspected progress of the ongoing work on a fishermen's jetty during a visit to the Kingdom's Duraz region.

The development works cover an area of 350 square metre out of the 2.4 hectares allotted for the project.

The project, which was launched on 23 October, 2019, has hit the 10 per cent comple-

tion milestone.

The project is expected to be completed within six months.

Once completed, it will feature a resthouse for fishermen, a coastguard office, a fish market, an administrative building, a parking lot, and other facilities.

In co-operation with Bahrain's Council of Representatives, the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs, and Urban Planning has begun work on multiple projects aimed at enhancing the standard of services provided to citizens.

Mr Khalaf said: "Once completed, the Duraz jetty would be able up to serve up to 150 fishermen."

The visit is in line with the directives issued by Bahrain's Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Minister Khalaf was accompanied during the inspection by the representative of the second constituency in the Northern Governorate, Fatima Abbas, among other officials.

Five years sentence for drug seller

● The defendant was also fined BD190,000 for his crime.

TDT | Manama

A man in his seventies has been sentenced to five years behind bars for laundering BD190,000 generated through drug peddling activities.

The defendant had already spent 10 years in prison for selling drugs and he was released from prison in 2017.

He allegedly imported banned drugs worth more than BD1.5 million and made BD190,000 profits, which he wanted to launder through investing in various commercial activities besides selling drugs too.

The man bought several boats and shops as well as restaurants in an effort to avoid authorities questioning about his sources of wealth, according to Prosecutors.

He also deposited money into his children's bank accounts and offered loans to the tune of BD40,000 to a fellow national.

However, police tracked him down and discovered the sources of his wealth, thus arresting him again and put him on trial before the High Criminal Court.

The defendant was also fined BD190,000 for his crime.

BACA president hails Premier's support for fine arts movement

'HRH Premier's interest in enhancing the cultural movement has contributed to making Bahrain a destination that attracts all forms of cultural creativity'

Manama

President of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, yesterday said that His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa's support for the fine arts movement in the Kingdom dates back to 1972, when Bahrain Annual Fine Art Exhibition was first launched, resulting in a rich artistic and cultural movement that reflects all schools and trends showcased in the 46th

edition.

In a statement marking the beginning of the 46th Bahrain Annual Fine Art Exhibition, Shaikha Mai said that HRH Premier's interest in enhancing the cultural movement in the Kingdom has contributed to making Bahrain a destination that attracts all forms of cultural creativity.

She extended sincere thanks and gratitude to HRH the Prime Minister for his strong belief in culture and constant patronage of all events aimed at boosting cultural and artistic events in



Shaikha Mai

Bahrain.

HRH Premier had deputised

Deputy Prime Minister, HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, to open the 46th Bahrain Annual Fine Art Exhibition last Wednesday.

During the opening ceremony, the Deputy Premier expressed pride in opening the event on HRH Premier's behalf.

In this regard, fine artists agreed that HRH Premier's patronage of the annual event affirm his unwavering support for arts and culture, as well as his belief in the role of the artistic message in enhancing commu-



HRH the Premier

nities' civilisational progress.

They affirmed that HRH Premier's patronage of the exhibition on an annual basis has strengthening Bahrain's distinguished standing in the field of fine art in the region.

They extended heartfelt thanks and gratitude to HRH Premier for patronising the event, as well as for encouraging them to carry on their artistic creativity.

They affirmed that HRH Premier's vision has enhanced the

role of fine art in upgrading the Bahraini society, and contributed to supporting talented Bahraini artists, noting that the Premier's vision has inspired them to enrich their artistic careers with outstanding works that are capable of competing at the international level.

They asserted that the launch of the Bahrain Annual Fine Art Exhibition since 1972 proves Bahrain's leading role in developing the fine art movement.

Peninsula Shield Force honoured



A ceremony to honour the armed forces of Saudi Arabia and the armed forces of the United Arab Emirates, attached to the advance command of the Peninsula Shield Force was held at the BDF. Major-General Shaikh Ali bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Assistant Chief of Staff for Human Resources was present at the ceremony. Officers from the Saudi and Emirati forces were granted first-class field service badges and non-commissioned officers and individuals were awarded second-class field service badges. The honours were in recognition of their dedicated efforts within the Peninsula Shield Force that consolidate the strong bonds between the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries. Major General Shaikh Ali conveyed the greetings and congratulations of BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikha Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa to the Saudi and UAE officers.

KUNA's twitter account hacking case referred to Public Prosecution

Kuwait

State-run Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) has referred the case of its Twitter account being hacked to the public prosecution, the agency's Director General and Chairman Shaikh Mubarak Duaij Al Sabah has said.

Prosecutors will "thoroughly" investigate the act that aimed to tarnish KUNA's image and undermine its credibility, Shaikh Mubarak said in a press release, emphasising that the state-run news agency will continue to thrust Kuwait's accomplishments into the limelight.

On a KUNA-issued roundup over the killing of an Iranian general, which caused an uproar, he said a high committee

The results of the probe were forwarded to Kuwait's Information Minister Mohammad Al Jabri, who highlighted his unbridled support for KUNA.

SHAIKH MUBARAK

was set up to investigate the matter, the news agency reported.

The results of the probe were forwarded to Kuwait's Information Minister Mohammad Al Jabri, who highlighted his unbridled support for KUNA, Shaikh Mubarak added.

Saudi G20 sherpa briefs UN on Riyadh Summit



The meeting in New York was opened by the president of the UN General Assembly.

New York

Saudi Arabia's official representative for the 2020 G20 summit of world leaders being staged in Riyadh has briefed the UN General Assembly on preparations for the high-powered meeting.

Fahad Al Mubarak, the Kingdom's G20 sherpa charged with helping pave the way for the leaders' November gather-

ing, introduced delegates to the theme, aims, and main priorities of the summit.

The meeting in New York was opened by the president of the UN General Assembly, and the UN undersecretary-general, who welcomed the sherpa and expressed their hopes for a successful G20 summit under the Kingdom's presidency.

Mr Al Mubarak said that, under the guidance of King

Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the G20 agenda development process was being conducted in an inclusive and comprehensive way in order to reflect the most important world issues.

Addressing attendees, the sherpa talked about the main objectives for this year's G20 gathering under the theme of "Realising Opportunities of the 21st Century for All."

Iconic actress passes away



Magda Al Sabahi

Cairo

Egyptian iconic actress Magda Al Sabahi passed away aged 89 after a long strong with illness, Middle East News Agency (MENA) announced yesterday.

The actress, Afaf Kamel Al Sabahi, was born on May 5, 1939 Tanta, in Gharbia governorate. She marked the Egypt's 1950s and 1960s, featuring during her long prolific cinema career in over 60 films.

She rose to fame particularly for her roles in El-Naseh (1949), Malish hadh (1954), Hegret El-Rasoul, Ayna Omry (1957), Banat El-Yom (1957), Al-Ragol Allazy Ohebo (1962), El-Omr Lahza (1978), among many others

She played the leading role in Youssef Chahine's historical film Djamila l'Algérienne (1958), which tackles the life of Djamila, one of the most remarkable revolutionary women of Algeria.

In 2016 she won the Nile Art Award, the highest in Egypt. She was also honoured by the Egyptian State marking the Art Day.

Pentagon to soon resume Saudi training halted after base shooting

Washington

The Pentagon has said it would soon announce a resumption in operational training of Saudi military officers in the United States, suspended after a Saudi officer's fatal shooting of three Americans at a Florida naval base last month.

The US military restricted the some 850 visiting Saudi military personnel in the country to classroom training as part of a "safety stand-down" during which time it reviewed vetting procedures. Saudi Arabia subsequently withdrew 21 cadets.

Next week, Defence Secretary Mark Esper is due to visit the base in Pensacola, Florida, where the shooting



Defence Secretary Mark Esper is due to visit the base in Pensacola, Florida, where the shooting took place.

took place and will brief base leadership on planned improvements in vetting of foreign military personnel and changes to security procedures, including physical security at US bases, the Pentagon said.

Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said the US military also expected to soon announce a resumption in operational training.

"We're looking forward to turning that (training) back on in the coming days," Hoffman told a news briefing, adding "we should have an announcement for you soon."

Three US sailors were killed and eight other people were wounded in the attack at the Pensacola Naval Air Station. A deputy sheriff shot dead the gunman, Saudi Air Force Second Lt Mohammed Saeed Alshamrani.

world

US woman jailed for killing husband with eye drops



Lana Clayton, 53, of York County, South Carolina



Steven Clayton, 64

Washington

A South Carolina woman was Thursday sentenced to 25 years in jail after she admitted poisoning her husband by putting eye drops in his drinking water.

In a plea deal, Lana Sue Clayton, 53, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter in the death of Steven Clayton, 64, at their home in Clover, near Charlotte, CBS-affiliate WBTV reported.

She was accused of poisoning her husband by lacing his drinking water with eye drops between July 19 and 21, 2018.

Her husband was initially thought to have died of natural causes but an autopsy toxicology report showed poisonous levels of tetrahydrozoline, which is found in eye drops.

"The coroner found a level of tetrahydrozoline in his system and that's when we opened the case because that was very unusual for us," York County Sheriff's Office public information officer Trent Faris said, according to WBTV.

Prosecutors said in 2016 she also shot her husband in back of the head with a crossbow, ABC-affiliate WSOC-TV reported.

At the time the incident was put down as an accident.

Speaking at her sentencing, she admitted poisoning her husband but claimed he had abused her

"I did impulsively put the Visine in Stephen's drink and I did it with the intent to make him sick and uncomfortable. I was upset about the abuse and just wanted him to leave me

alone," Clayton, wearing an orange prison jumpsuit, told the court, WBTV video showed. "I never thought it would kill him."

Clayton, a former Veterans Affairs Department nurse, said she got the idea of using eye drops, which are tasteless, colorless and odorless, from watching movies but thought they would cause diarrhea.

Prosecutors however said she killed her husband for money, throwing his cell phone in a lake so he could not call for help and and burning his will afterwards.

"She fooled one of the most brilliant men I've ever known in my life," Steven Clayton's sister Rosemarie Clayton-Leslie told ABC's Good Morning America.

"My brother died a horrific death. I think my brother was screaming for his life."

Clayton was arrested in August 2018 and charged with murder.

"Of the many homicide cases I've handled, this one probably takes the cake as far as being bizarre," South Carolina Circuit Court Judge Paul Burch said.



The home they lived in (pictured) in was worth \$822,000 and modeled after the George Washington Mount Vernon Estate according to his friend Ken Sanford (Courtesy of Daily Mail)

Greta joins thousands at protest before Davos

Lausanne

Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg joined several thousand protesters in the streets of the Swiss city of Lausanne on Friday, days before the start of the Davos summit of the world's political and business elites.

"So far during this decade we are seeing no sign whatsoever that real climate action is coming," the 17-year-old eco-warrior said to a rock-star welcome from the mostly teenage crowd.

"That has to change," she said, adding in a message to world leaders: "This is just the beginning. You haven't seen anything yet. We assure you of that!"

Thunberg is due to address the summit in the Swiss Alpine resort of Davos next week with a call on governments and financial institutions to stop investing in fossil fuels.

Friday's carnival-like protest brought the cobbled streets of the city centre to a standstill, with demonstrators calling for urgent climate action and boo-



So far during this decade we are seeing no sign whatsoever that real climate action is coming. That has to change

GRETA THUNBERG

ing as they passed a branch of Credit Suisse, which campaigners criticise for its fossil fuel

investments.

"One, two, three degrees! It's a crime against humanity!" they chanted, while a group at the head of the march held up a banner saying: "Let's Change The System, Not the Climate".

Some of the young protesters took inspiration from the latest extreme weather events around the world.

One held up a soft toy koala with a sign around his neck reading simply "HELP" -- a reference to the bushfires that have ravaged Australia, while another brandished a cardboard sign reading "Wake Up and Smell the Bushfires".

"Fear for the glaciers", read another sign -- echoing concern among residents of the Alps about the rapidly shrinking mountain ice formations due to climate change.

"There Is No Planet B", "I Have a Green Dream" and "We Want A Cooler Planet", read some of the other signs.

Klimastreik Schweiz, who organised the march, said on Twitter that 15,000 people were taking part.

Rain brings joy for Australian firefighters



Roughly a billion animals are estimated to have died in the fires nationwide

Sydney

Drought-breaking storms dumped desperately needed rain on some bush-fire-ravaged parts of eastern Australia yesterday, while giving joy to many farmers who have faced losing precious livestock and crops.

The rains gave exhausted firefighters a boost in battling some of the blazes, with more relief expected over the weekend as the wet weather is forecast to hit other hotspots.

The unprecedented fires, fuelled by climate change and a years-long drought, have claimed 28 lives over the past five months.

They have scorched massive tracts of pristine forests in eastern and southern Australia, decimated livestock on already barren farms and destroyed 2,000 homes.

Ukraine PM offers to resign after leaked recording

Kiev



The office of Zelensky (L) office said it had received the letter of resignation from Goncharuk (R) and would consider it

Ukraine's prime minister offered his resignation on Friday after audio was leaked of him questioning President Volodymyr Zelensky's grasp of economics, in the first major political test for the inexperienced leader.

It was unclear whether Zelensky would accept Oleksiy Goncharuk's offer, which came after a recording emerged of him reportedly saying the president had a "primitive understanding" of the economy.

Zelensky, a comedian with no previous political experience, came to power after a landslide

had so far managed to avoid any significant domestic political problems.

The audio recording was leaked on social media on Wednesday and reportedly came from an informal December meeting between ministers and senior officials from the National Bank.

According to local media reports, the participants discussed how to explain recent economic developments to Zelensky.

"Zelensky has a very primitive understanding of economic processes, or rather a simple understanding," Goncharuk reportedly said on the recording, adding that he himself was an

economic "ignoramus".

After initially denying reports he would step down, Goncharuk announced on his official Facebook page on Friday that he had offered to resign.

"To remove any doubts about our respect for and trust in the president, I have written a resignation letter and handed it over to the president," Goncharuk, 35, wrote.

He did not deny making the statement, but said the audio had "artificially created an impression that my team and I do not respect the president".

"This is not true," he said. "I came to this post to carry out the president's programme."

Dozens injured at India bull-taming festival



On the opening day of the bull-taming festival in India's Madurai city, more than 20 men were injured



Men in colourful jerseys tried to grab the bulls who swayed their long horns and gnarled in fury



In past years, competitors have been gored to death

Madurai | India

Dozens of young men were injured on the first day of a

traditional bull-taming festival in southern India.

The sport is extremely popular in rural pockets of Tamil

Nadu where every year hundreds of young men try to hold the hump of the beasts and run, as spectators cheer raucously at

events held across the state.

On the opening day of the festival on Thursday, more than 20 men were injured in the city of

Madurai as over 600 men wrestled with as many bulls. A female spectator was also injured when a bull hit her near the exit

to a venue. Images showed men in colourful jerseys trying to grab the bulls who swayed their long horns and gnarled in fury.

SOCI



The General Organisation for Governorates Coordination has held in co-operation with the Southern Governorate a cyber-security course by the Head of the Excellence Team, Dr Mohammed Saad. Organised at the Southern Governorate, the event targeted governorates employees.



The French Embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain recently organised a special ceremony to honour the sixth batch of graduates of the French Arabian Business School (Fabs) in the Arabian Gulf University (AGU). In the ceremony, graduation certificates issued by the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research were handed over to the graduates of the Master in Business Administration programme.



Century Old Indian Club in Bahrain celebrated its Toastmaster section "The Indian Club Toastmasters Bahrain" 30th year anniversary celebration on 16th January 2020 by empowering women and spreading health and happiness in presence of more than 200 guests, keynote speakers, Gaveliers, toastmasters across Bahrain. Chief Guest was Dr Mariam Ebrahim Al Hajeri. Dr A K Sandhu was felicitated for her lifetime service in the field of Gynecology and Obstetrics in Bahrain for the past 36 years. Keynote speaker was Dr Arathi V B.



The New Millennium School, DPS Bahrain conducted Commerce International Olympiad, conducted by Mr Arun Kuumar Sharma, Principal NMS-DPS.



The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) celebrated Tamil Day at its campus in Isa Town on Tuesday. Chief Guest, Santy Excavation and Construction WLL Managing Director R Ramesh inaugurated the Tamil Day by lighting the lamp. Bala Ramamurthy, Head of Compliance, Teachers, Heads of Departments, Coordinators, staff and students attended. The programme commenced with the national anthems followed by the recital of Holy Quran. Head Teachers (Activity) Sreekanth S and Junith CM, HoD Trivise Michel, Tamil Teacher

ety



Employees and Interior Ministry affiliates.



ESSEC Business School in France were



The Arabian Gulf University (AGU) yesterday bid farewell to several members of the academic and administrative staff at the university after they completed their service period. This came in a ceremony held at the university's grand banquet hall under the patronage of AGU President Dr Khalid Abdulrahman Al Ohaly, who honoured the outgoing staff.



Continued its tradition of excellence in International Olympiad exams in the recently declared results of the Economics and Mathematics Olympiads organized by the International Olympiad Foundation. The meritorious students made the alma mater proud by winning 6 Gold Medals, 4 Silver Medals, 2 Bronze Medals, 10 Scholar Badges. The school also received 2 Gold Plated Shields for its excellent performance. Special Memento was presented to the school by the Minister of Education, as a mark of gratitude for his consistent support and guidance.



The Rotary Club of Sulmaniya held its business meeting on 15 January 2020 at the Golden Tulip Hotel. The board of directors updated the members on the activities of the club and the upcoming projects of the year.



Dr. AML at Ithmaar Bank, was the keynote speaker. Bharathi Tamil Sangam founder Mohammed Hussain Malim, ISB Asst. Secretary Premalatha NS, S Inayadullah, Principal VR Palaniswamy, Vice-Principals Anand Nair, Satheesh G, Vinod S, Head of Studies Rajeswari M and Bandmaster Haji Paul co-ordinated the programme.

business

BAC, NBB ink airport banking services deal

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Airport Company (BAC), the operator and managing body of Bahrain International Airport (BIA), signed National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) as the sole provider of 24/7 banking services at the new passenger terminal building.

The signing follows NBB winning a public tender to operate a Landside Departures branch, also accessible to staff and non-travellers, which will offer a range of services including international remittances and multicurrency ATMs.



The deal signing

The five-year agreement was signed by BAC Chief Executive Officer, Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah, and NBB CEO, Jean Christophe Durand, in the presence of the Minister of Transportation & Telecommunications and Gulf Air Group Holding Chairman, Kamal Ahmed.

Al Binfalah said: "The new passenger terminal building will be the first point of contact for approximately 14 million passengers a year and NBB's airport branch will be an opportunity to showcase the bank's diverse banking services not only to passengers but also to the airport's wider staff community."

Commenting on the agreement, Durand said, "The new branch will enhance the customer experience with a multi-currency ATM to facilitate convenient currency exchange, and will provide a 24-hour service, 7 days a week, making it the only branch in the Kingdom to offer full banking services all day, every day."

US to introduce 20-year bond to finance substantial debt

Washington

The US Treasury said Thursday it will introduce a new 20-year bond meant to finance the country's growing deficit, which exceeded \$1 trillion last year.

Treasury intends to issue the first 20-year bonds during the first half of the year, the department said in a statement, with more details to be released on February 5.

"We seek to finance the government at the least possible cost to taxpayers over time, and we will continue to evaluate other potential new products to meet that goal," said Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

The new 20-year bond would serve as an intermediate option



The US Treasury Department intends to issue its first 20-year bonds during the first half of 2020

between the two most popular maturities: the 10- and 30-year bond.

The department said an advisory committee had informed its decision and that it had also consulted the opinion of a variety of market participants, including companies that resell US debt securities, which are known as primary dealers.

As a result, "Treasury be-

lieves that there will be strong demand from investors for a 20-year bond, which will increase Treasury's financing capacity over the long term," the statement said.

Mnuchin reiterated at the end of August that he was considering new ultra-long bonds of up to 50 or 100 years to finance the debt, a proposition first studied by Treasury shortly after Mnuchin's arrival in 2017.

President Donald Trump has spent heavily during the past three years. According to projections by the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the federal budget deficit will exceed \$1 trillion per year from 2020-2029, totaling more than \$12.2 trillion.

Vodafone India's shares plunge almost 40pc, future in doubt



Vodafone entered the huge Indian market in 2007

Mumbai

Shares in Vodafone's Indian unit plunged almost 40 percent yesterday after officials rejected its appeal against paying \$4 billion in back fees, raising questions about the British giant's future in the country.

Vodafone's chief executive had in November already cast doubt about its continued presence in India after its local joint venture Vodafone Idea posted a record quarterly loss.

The same month Vodafone Idea and other firms in the beleaguered Indian telecom sector were ordered to pay a combined \$13 billion in past spectrum and licence fees.

An appeal by Vodafone and Bharti Airtel, which was told to pay \$3 billion, was rejected on Thursday, with the Supreme Court also refusing to allow the payments to be staggered.

The news saw Vodafone's

share price collapse 39 percent to 3.65 rupees before they recovered to 4.60 rupees, though the firm has warned the huge bill may force it to cease operations. However, Bharti Airtel, which has managed to raise the necessary cash, gained about six percent.

The only beneficiary is seen as Reliance Jio, the operator owned by Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani whose 2016 launch sparked a brutal price war and which escaped with a relatively light \$1.8 billion bill.

"Experience in India suggests it is unwise to talk of uncertainties, but it is very hard to see how Vodafone Idea survives," New Street Research said.

Vodafone, which entered the huge Indian market in 2007, is the biggest shareholder in Vodafone Idea with a stake of around 48 percent. It has long been dogged by multiple regulatory difficulties.

Facebook sued in US federal court



Facebook logos are seen on a mobile phone

Reuters | San Francisco

Four companies sued Facebook Inc in US federal court on Thursday for alleged anticompetitive conduct, saying the social network inappropriately revoked developer access to its platform in order to harm prospective competitors.

The plaintiffs sought class-action status and unspecified damages, according to a filing at the US District Court for the Northern District of California.

"Facebook faced an existential threat from mobile apps, and while it could have responded by competing on the merits, it instead chose to use its might to intentionally eliminate its competition," said Yavar Bathaee, a partner at law firm Pierce Bainbridge and co-lead counsel in the case.

Facebook indicated that it would fight the lawsuit.

China's Xi vows 'new era' of Myanmar ties after red carpet welcome



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Aung San Suu Kyi

Naypyidaw | Myanmar

Chinese President Xi Jinping vowed to usher in a "new era" of ties with Myanmar after a red carpet welcome Friday on a state visit aimed at buttressing the embattled government of Aung San Suu Kyi and driving through multi-billion-dollar infrastructure deals.

Myanmar fighter jets escorted Xi's plane as it touched down in Naypyidaw where children presented him with flowers, according to China's official Xinhua news agency, as he was whisked off to a greeting party.

Xi told Myanmar leaders he was "convinced that the concerted efforts of our two sides will make this visit a success and take the bilateral ties to a new level and into a new era," Xinhua reported.

During the trip he is ex-



pected to sign a series of mammoth infrastructure deals as part of China's Belt and Road Initiative -- a global trade plan that promises to change the face of Myanmar.

The centerpiece of the so-called China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) is a \$1.3 billion deep-sea port at Kyaukphyu in central Rakhine state, giving Beijing a gateway to the Indian Ocean.

A high-speed rail link is also on the cards to connect the port and nearby planned industrial zone with the countries' shared border.

Bilateral trade was worth \$16.8 billion last year and Beijing holds the biggest share -- around \$4 billion or 40 percent -- of Myanmar's foreign debt.

Billions of cubic metres of gas and millions of barrels of oil from offshore rigs are pumped each year across the



President Xi Jinping is expected to sign a series of mammoth infrastructure deals

country into China.

"The next one, two, three decades will be defined by Myanmar's relationship with China," said Yangon-based analyst Richard Horsey.

Xi will sit down with Suu Kyi and army chief Min Aung Hlaing in separate meetings Saturday.

Ahead of the visit Suu Kyi made a rare appearance in Kachin state on the border with China.

Kachin is the site of a planned Chinese-backed \$3.6 billion, 6,000 megawatt dam that was mothballed in 2011 in the face of vociferous criticism across the country.

This is thought to have been a personal slight to Xi, who signed off on the Myitsone dam with Myanmar's then-military junta as vice president in 2009.

US will look at sudden acceleration complaints involving 500,000 Tesla vehicles

Reuters | Washington

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said yesterday it will review a petition asking the agency to formally investigate 500,000 Tesla Inc vehicles over sudden unintended acceleration reports.

The petition covers 2012 through 2019 model year Tesla Model S, 2016 through 2019 Tesla Model X, and 2018 through 2019 Tesla Model 3 vehicles, the agency said. The petition cites "127 consumer complaints to NHTSA involving



A Tesla Model S steering wheel is on display at the Canadian International AutoShow

123 unique vehicles. The reports include 110 crashes and 52 injuries," the agency added.

Tesla did not immediately comment Friday.

China's Great Wall agrees to buy General Motors' India plant

Reuters | New Delhi

Great Wall Motor has agreed to buy General Motors' (GM) car plant in India, the companies said yesterday.

The deal, which is expected to be completed by the second half of 2020, will jumpstart Great Wall's plans to build and sell cars in India and bring to an end GM's manufacturing operations in the country.

People aware of the deal told Reuters earlier on Friday that the two companies had agreed on the sale, with one of the sources adding that Great Wall



Employees work on the assembly line at the General Motors plant in Talegaon, about 118 km (73 miles) from Mumbai

is likely to pay around \$250 million to \$300 million to acquire the plant.

'PigeonBot' brings aircraft closer to feathered-flight



A radio-controlled robot with wings made with 40 real feathers

Washington

Since the dawn of the aviation era, inventors have strived to build aircraft that fly as nimbly as birds, whose morphable wings allow for faster, tighter turns and more efficient gliding.

That dream was a step closer to reality Thursday after researchers at Stanford University announced they had studied the wings of common pigeon cadavers, then used their findings to build a radio-controlled "PigeonBot" with wings made with 40 real feathers.

"Aerospace and materials engineers can (now) start rethinking how they can design, manufacture and control materials and wings that morph as deftly as birds do," said David Lentink, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Stanford and the senior author of two papers describing the results in the journals *Science* and *Science Robotics*.

All four-limbed animals, including dinosaurs, evolved from an ancestor that had five digits at the end of its limbs, which became hands, paws, flippers, or wings over time.

Modern birds retained three digits, or fingers. By studying

the pigeon wings in a wind tunnel, the researchers found that wrist and finger action provided fine control over feather placement, wing span, and area.

In flight tests, manipulation of the wrist and fingers initiated stable turn maneuvers at tight angles, which the researchers said provided some of the first evidence that birds primarily use these digits to steer in flight.

The teams also drilled into the mechanics of how birds morph their wings, finding that adjacent flight feathers stick together to form a continuous wing using a hook-like microstructure that acts like Velcro.

It locked together as the wing expanded, then slipped loose again as the wing contracted, strengthening the extended wing and making it resistant to turbulence.

And they found the structures were present in most other bird species except owls, which allowed them to fly more silently.

Lentink added that the Velcro-like structures, known by their technical name as "lobate cilia," could have a wide range of fashion, medical and aerospace applications which he and colleagues were looking at as an area of future research.

India's Reliance claims record quarterly profits

● Profits for its telecom arm Jio jumped 62pc

● Jio became India's top operator in terms of subscribers and revenue

● Reliance is expected to roll out its e-commerce initiative later this year

AFF | Mumbai



Reliance is India's most valuable company with a market capitalisation of over 10 trillion rupees

Indian oil-to-telecoms giant Reliance Industries reported record quarterly net profits yesterday, boosted by strong growth in its retail businesses despite falling refining margins.

The Mumbai-based company owned by Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani said its consolidated net profit for the quarter-ended December rose 13.5 per cent to 116 billion rupees (\$1.63bn) from 102 billion rupees reported for the same quarter a year earlier.

"The third quarter results for our energy business reflects the weak global economic environment and volatility in energy markets," Reliance chairman Ambani said in a statement.

The company said its gross refining margin, the profit earned from each barrel of crude, was down to \$9.2 in the

December quarter from \$9.4 in the previous quarter.

Refining margins are a key profitability gauge for Reliance, which operates the world's biggest refining complex in India's Gujarat state.

The company said profits for its telecom arm Jio jumped 62pc to 13.5 billion rupees for the quarter, with a total 370 million subscribers.

On Thursday Jio became India's top operator in terms of subscribers and revenue, three years after its launch, official data showed.

The announcement came as Jio's chief competitors, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea, lost an appeal against paying a combined \$7bn in past spectrum and licence fees as ordered by the Supreme Court last year.

Jio, which escaped with a rel-

atively light \$1.8bn bill, is seen as the only beneficiary of the November decision.

Ambani had launched Jio with much fanfare in September 2016, offering free services up to March 2017 and sparking intense price wars that saw consolidation in the Indian telecom sector.

Reliance is expected to roll out its e-commerce initiative later this year and has been conducting trials with mom-and-pop stores to test its payment devices, with the aim of connecting small shops with consumers.

Reliance is India's most valuable company with a market capitalisation of over 10 trillion rupees.

Shares of Reliance Industries were up almost 3pc in Mumbai as the markets closed Friday ahead of the announcement.

Trump announces will nominate two allies for Fed board

Washington

Donald Trump said Thursday he will nominate two allies for the board of the Federal Reserve, which the US president has repeatedly accused of not doing enough for the economy.

Trump had originally tweeted in July he would nominate Christopher Waller, a director of the Fed's satellite office in St. Louis, Missouri, and conservative economist Judy Shelton.

The White House officially announced the nomination in a statement on Thursday, but the two candidates must first be confirmed by the Senate.

The last two candidates



Economists Judy Shelton and Christopher Waller

Trump tapped for the Fed board -- conservative economic commentator Stephen Moore and former pizza executive Herman Cain -- were so unusual that even several Senate Republicans said confirming them

would be out of the question.

Both Waller and Shelton -- who Trump noted both possess doctorates -- are economists who share the president's cutting opinion of the Fed.

Christopher Waller is a former economics professor at the University of Notre Dame and the director of research at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, who specializes in financial theory and macroeconomics.

Judy Shelton, a strident critic of the central bank, was the US executive director at the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development and has served on the board of Hilton Hotels.

Michelin strips star from French culinary beacon Bocuse



Even before Bocuse's death, some critics had commented that the restaurant was no longer quite up to scratch

The Michelin Guide told AFP on Friday that the establishment "remained excellent but no longer at the level of three stars" and will have only two in the 2020 edition of the famous red book -- known as the "Bible" of French cuisine.

The Bocuse d'Or organisation, which holds the annual international cooking competition he created, greeted the announcement with "sadness" and expressed its "unwavering support" for the restaurant.

Bocuse's family and his kitchen team said they were "upset" by the decision, and celebrity chef Marc Veyrat, who recently sued the Michelin Guide over a lost third star, described the move as "pathetic".

"Monsieur Paul", as Bocuse was known, died aged 91 on January 20, 2018, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

Dubbed the "pope" of French cuisine, he was one of the country's most celebrated of all time, helping shake up the food world in the 1970s with the lighter fare of the Nouvelle Cuisine revolution, and helping to introduce the notion of a celebrity chef.

Michelin boss Gwendal Poullennec visited Bocuse's restaurant on Thursday to deliver the news, guide spokeswoman Elisabeth Boucher-Anselin said.

Netflix opens new Paris office, plans 20 French-language series

Reuters | Paris

US television streaming company Netflix has opened a new Paris office and plans to develop more than 20 original French-language productions in 2020, it said yesterday.

Launched in 2014 in France - where it employs 40 people, and has existing operations in Paris - Netflix has developed 24 French titles, including six films, nine series and three documentaries.

It plans to produce several new shows over the coming years as well as a range of series and films.

Google parent Alphabet valuation hit \$1 trillion

● Apple first reached \$1 trillion in 2018

New York

Google's parent company Alphabet saw its value reach \$1 trillion for the first time Thursday, becoming the fourth US tech company to hit the milestone.

Shares in the online giant rose 0.76 percent for the day to reach the trillion-dollar mark at the close of trade.



The Googleplex is the corporate headquarters complex of Google and its parent company Alphabet Inc. It is located at 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway in Mountain View, California, United States.

The Silicon valley group joins Apple, which first reached \$1 trillion in 2018 and on Thursday showed a valuation of some \$1.38 trillion; and Microsoft, now valued at some \$1.26 trillion.

Another tech titan, Amazon, rose above the trillion-dollar mark in September 2018 but has since declined to a value of around \$930 billion.

Google is the leading online search engine and produced the popular Android mobile operating system.

Alphabet, formed as a holding

company in 2015, has a number of other units working on "moonshot" projects including Waymo on autonomous cars and Verily for life sciences.

The company announced last year that Google chief executive Sundar Pichai would also assume the CEO functions at Alphabet, raising speculation on whether a fresh reorganization is planned.

Pichai's promotion enabled Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin to step away from daily operations at the company.



Eva Mendes

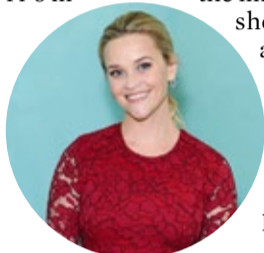
Eva Mendes says motherhood limits her choices on screen
Los Angeles

Actress Eva Mendes likes to “set an example” for her daughters with the roles she plays on screen. Mendes has not been seen in anything since she appeared in her partner Ryan Gosling’s movie “Lost River” back in 2014, reports aceshowbiz.com. Since becoming a mother, her absence from the screen has not gone unnoticed by her fans, one of whom took to Instagram to question Mendes on when will she be seen in a film. “When can we the fans going to see u in some new movies @evamendes,” the fan questioned. The actress replied: “hi! When there’s something worthwhile to be apart of.” “As a mother now, there are many roles I won’t do. There are many subject matters that I don’t want to be involved with, so it limits my choices and I’m fine with that. I have to set an example for my girls now. But no worry, I got some side hustles. Ha! Thanks for asking. All the best for 2020.” Mendes shares two daughters — Esmeralda, five, and Amada, three — with Gosling.

Reese Witherspoon gets another surprise delivery from Beyonce

Los Angeles **Reese Witherspoon**

Singer Beyonce Knowles has surprised actress Reese Witherspoon with another huge gift. Witherspoon showcased her love for Beyonce Knowles as she modelled the singer’s latest collection of popular apparel in a playful new clip. The actress donned several different ensembles from the line as she posed and fooled around in front of a bright orange backdrop, as she gushed over the surprise delivery, reports said. While Witherspoon initially guessed the giant orange package could hold art, some balloons or movie posters, she opened to reveal the full collection of the Beyonce’s fashion line. The ‘Legally Blonde’ star then proceeded to model a few of the pieces for fans, complete with a little dance for each one. The special gift comes after Beyonce and her rapper husband Jay-Z gifted Witherspoon a case of Jay’s Armand de Brignac champagne after she shared an edited image of herself with the couple from the Golden Globes earlier this month, January 2020.

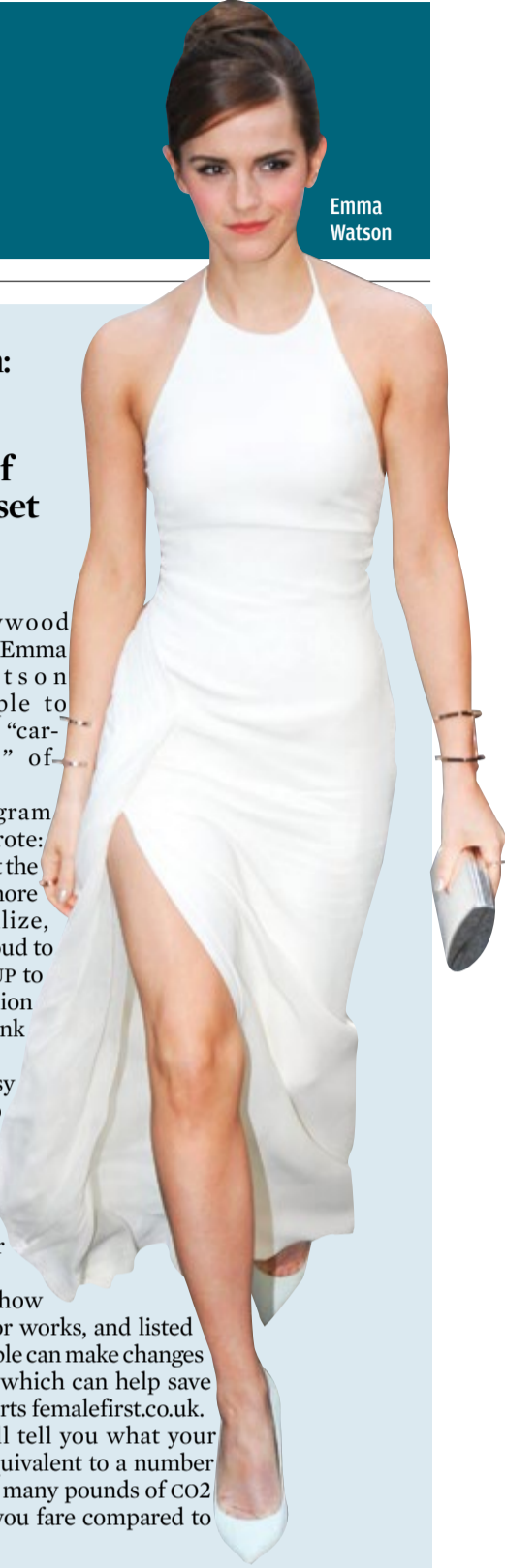


Reese Witherspoon



Emma Watson: Check carbon impact of your closet
Los Angeles

Hollywood star Emma Watson wants people to monitor the “carbon impact” of their closets. In an Instagram post, Watson wrote: “Our closets impact the planet and climate more than you might realize, which is why I am proud to partner with @thredUP to launch their new Fashion Footprint Calculator (link in bio!)” “They created an easy to use tool, and I’m so excited to help people discover the carbon impact of their wardrobes, and steps you can take to lighten your fashion footprint.” Watson explained how the footprint calculator works, and listed some simple ways people can make changes to the way they shop which can help save the environment, reports femalefirst.co.uk. She added: “They’ll tell you what your fashion footprint is equivalent to a number of flights, exactly how many pounds of CO2 it produces and how you fare compared to an average consumer.”



Emma Watson

SUDOKU

		8	6	1			4	
				3			8	
		9	2		8		3	
	6	3						9
		2				6		
7						8	1	
	4		7		6	3		
	5			8				
	8		5	3	7			

Yesterday's solution

4	6	9	5	3	8	2	1	7
3	5	2	1	9	7	4	8	6
1	8	7	4	6	2	3	5	9
2	9	6	3	8	5	7	4	1
8	1	4	2	7	6	9	3	5
5	7	3	9	1	4	6	2	8
7	3	5	8	4	9	1	6	2
6	2	1	7	5	3	8	9	4
9	4	8	6	2	1	5	7	3

How to play

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.



Lindsay Lohan

Washington

American actor and singer Lindsay Lohan disclosed that her upcoming music album will be released by the end of February. The singer reverted to an Instagram post, that was shared by an account named ‘worldoflindsaylohan’. The post featured one of Lindsay’s picture from her music gig, in which the singer wore a blue sequence co-ord set.

Lindsay Lohan’s new album to release by end of February

“Hope we get LL3 this year @lindsaylohan! #lindsaylohan #xanax #comingbacktome #ll3 #actress #singer #model #talented #pretty #beautiful #redhead.” read the caption of the post.

To which Lohan responded and commented, “end of feb!”

However, the ‘Xanax’ singer has not given any further details about the release date of her upcoming music.

When SRK’s wit left Jeff Bezos choking



Jeff Bezos and Shah Rukh Khan

Mumbai

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos got a whiff of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan’s trademark wit at an interaction in Mumbai on Thursday.

Bezos was interacting with SRK and filmmaker Zoya Akhtar, when he commented: “He (Shah Rukh) is one of the most humble people I have ever met.”

At this, the audience applauded wildly, reports news18.com. However, SRK was clearly in the mood for humorous repartee.

“That’s because my last few films haven’t done well,” he quipped.

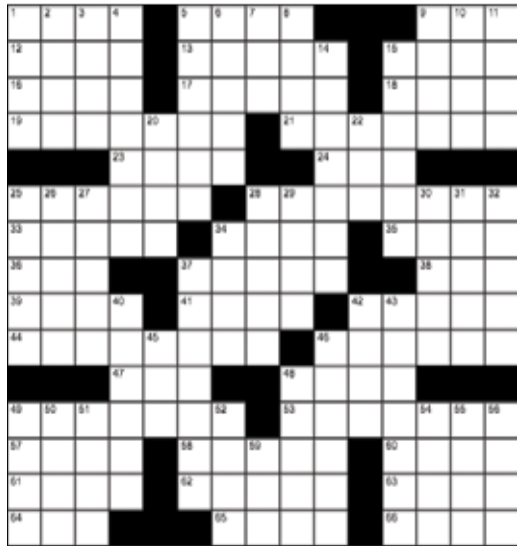
The world’s richest man, Bezos almost choked on the glass of water he was sipping at, trying to curb a chuckle.

The Amazon boss later shared a clip of the incident on Twitter.

“Lots of fun on stage with @iamsrk and Zoya Akhtar,” wrote @JeffBezos.

During his stopover in Mumbai, Bezos met several Bollywood celebrities.

CROSSWORD



Yesterday's solution

1	P	R	O	U	D	15	U	S	A	19	P	A	T	E	N
2	L	O	O	S	E	16	B	A	R	20	R	U	B	L	E
3	A	L	P	E	N	21	H	O	R	N	25	E	R	O	D
4	Y	E	S	22	O	L	I	O	26	C	A	N	E	D	
5				23	C	U	R	T	27	F	E	E	L	E	R
6				24	R	E	G	A	28	W	O	E	D		
7				25	B	I	R	D	29	B	O	R	E	D	O
8				26	I	R	A	E	30	T	E	E			
9				27	E	S	T	U	31	S	H	E	A	V	E
10				28	T	H	I	S	32	P	E	L	L	E	T
11				29	A	O	R	T	33	R	A	Y	S		
12				30	A	R	N	I	34	A	W	E	D		
13				31	R	O	T	O	35	P	G	A			
14				32	D	E	S	E	36	R	T	I	O	N	
15				33	A	N	O	D	37	E	O	S	I	N	
16				34	B	I	P	E	38	M	D	S			
17				35					39	B	W	A	N	A	

Down

1- Official records; 2- Christmas song; 3- Baby powder; 4- Lack of reason; 5- Doze; 6- Eucalyptus eater; 7- Nevertheless; 8- Dagger of yore; 9- Potting need; 10- Ersatz butter; 11- Threadbare; 14- Trickle; 15- Summer ermines; 20- Employ; 22- Boring; 25- Sporting blades; 26- Family tree member; 27- firma; 28- Noodles; 29- Bern’s river; 30- In the future; 31- Brit’s bottle measure; 32- Leg joints; 34- “Is ___ it?”; 37- Breastbone; 40- Arbitrate; 42- Hydrox rival; 43- Working gear of a draft animal; 45- Meadow; 46- Like a professor’s jacket; 48- Taken in; 49- “All The Way To ___”, song by REM; 50- Gung-ho; 51- Remove from text; 52- Very, in Versailles; 54- Romeo’s last words; 55- Opera set in Egypt; 56- Treehouse used by birds; 59- From ___ Z;

“Thalaivi”: Arvind Swami’s 1st look as MGR unveiled

Mumbai

On MG Ramachandran’s 102nd birth anniversary on Friday, the makers of “Thalaivi” shared the first look poster of actor Arvind Swami who will play the Tamil superstar and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in the upcoming film.

Arvind too, took to Twitter, where he shared two looks from the film, which is based on another late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa, who was MGR’s protegee.

In the first poster, Arvind is seen sporting a clean shaven look resembling MGR. His hair resemblance that of MGR’s in the period between 1965-1970s. In the second poster, he is seen sporting



Arvind Swami

the iconic black sunglasses that MGR used to wear.

“Here is my first look as Purnathi Thaliavar, Makkal Thilagam MGR in #Thalaivi . A teaser follows at 10.30 am today. Hope you like it,” he captioned.

The film stars Kangana Ranaut as Jayalalithaa. “Thalaivi” will release in Tamil, Hindi, and Telugu. It is being directed by A.L. Vijay.

sports

Stokes, Pope hundreds and late wickets put England on top



Ben Stokes celebrate his century with Ollie Pope

AFP | Port Elizabeth, South Africa

Centuries by Ben Stokes and Ollie Pope, followed by two late wickets, put England in a dominant position on the second day of the third Test against South Africa at St George's Park yesterday.

England declared on 499 for nine and South Africa were struggling on 60 for two when rain brought an early close to a day which the hosts would probably prefer to forget.

It started with the news that strike bowler Kagiso Rabada would miss the fourth and final Test in Johannesburg next week because of his fourth disciplinary transgression within 24 months.

Then, after taking a pummeling from the England batsmen, the day ended with the hosts facing an uphill battle to avoid going into that match one-down in a series which is tied at 1-1.

Off-spinner Dom Bess took both wickets for England, while Mark Wood bowled with electrifying pace and hit not out batsman Dean Elgar a painful blow on the left forearm.

World player of the year Stokes (120) and Pope (135 not out) set up England's big total by putting on 203 for the fifth wicket. They came together on the first day when their side were struggling at 148 for four.

In contrast to an attritional first day, when England could



only score 224 for four in 90 overs, the tourists scored freely for most of the day, although Pope made hard work of moving from 75 at lunch to his century, needing most of the afternoon before he punched Anrich Nortje through mid-wicket for his 14th boundary after facing 190 balls.

While Pope, 22, moved cautiously to join Dom Sibley in scoring a maiden Test hundred during the series, Sam Curran provided the impetus for England as he hit an aggressive 44 off 50 balls, with six fours and a six. He and Pope put on 59 for the seventh wicket, with Pope contributing 13.

England were already in a strong position when they reached tea at 426 for eight. The 37 minutes after the break rubbed it in as Wood joined Pope with a licence to score as quickly as possible.

Wood slammed five sixes in an innings of 42 off 23 balls, dealing out severe punishment to left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj before holing out to give Maharaj his fifth wicket, albeit at a cost of 180 runs.

Barty sets up Adelaide final

● Rublev wins thriller

AFP | Adelaide

World number one Ashleigh Barty will warm up for the Australian Open with a final at the Adelaide International after a 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7/5) comeback win over Danielle Collins yesterday.

The Australian, whose matches have been 5,000-strong sell-outs all week at Memorial Drive, will face Dayana Yastremska on Saturday for the title.

Ukrainian teenager Yastremska defeated her third top-20 opponent in a row with a 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) win over Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus.

The men's final will be a contest between in-form Andrey Rublev and South African Lloyd Harris, who defeated fellow qualifier Tommy Paul 6-4, 6-7 (3/7), 6-3.

Rublev is the first man since 2004 to play finals in the first two weeks of a season after the Doha champion outlasted Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime in a 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (7/9), 6-4 thriller which took a shade over three hours.

Auger-Aliassime, 19, saved two match points in the second set and grabbed a 3-0 lead in the third before his Russian opponent fought back.



Ashleigh Barty of Australia plays a forehand to Danielle Collins of the USA

"This match was unreal," said world number 18 Rublev.

"I don't know how I won. I lost myself a bit when I trailed 2-0 (third set). I told myself to start again, breathe and fight for every point."

'It makes me feel old'

Barty took a while to get going against 27th-ranked American Collins who dominated the opening set.

But the second was a different story, with top seed Barty quickly finding her game to level the match.

The third set went to a tie-break after the players traded breaks of serve.

Barty lost a 4-2 lead in the breaker, but won on her second match point as a Collins return

clipped the top of the net.

"I worked hard tonight, and we got the result that we're after," she said. "I felt I had a lot of clarity with what I wanted to do. "Danielle has the ability to take the match out of your hands a little bit."

Barty beat Yastremska in their only previous meeting last March in Miami.

"Dayana brings a lot of variety to her game, she's an exceptional ball-striker. All of these young girls are hitting so hard, it makes me feel old," the 23-year-old said.

Harris reaches first final

Yastremska thrashed world number 20 Donna Vekic in the quarter-finals and was a set up against former Australian Open

“I worked hard tonight, and we got the result that we're after,” she said. “I felt I had a lot of clarity with what I wanted to do

ASHLEIGH BARTY

winner Angelique Kerber when the German retired from their last-16 match with back pain.

Ranked 24th, Yastremska is bidding for the fourth title of her career.

Harris, 22, will be competing in his first ATP final.

"To be honest, it doesn't seem real now," he said. "It was a tough match for both of us, we were both nervous."

"I tried to lift my level, but it was a difficult match all in all, one of those days where I felt like I wasn't at 100 percent."

"I wasn't playing my best, but somehow I managed to battle through it -- that was amazing for me."

Harris needed two hours and 11 minutes to advance past the American, firing 13 aces and breaking four times while losing his own serve twice.

India beat Australia to level one-day series



Virat Kohli plays a shot

AFP | Mumbai

Steve Smith hit a swashbuckling 98 but Australia could not stop India powering to a 36 run victory to level their one-day series yesterday.

Thrashed by 10 wickets in the first of the three-match series, Shikhar Dhawan made 96, KL Rahul 80 and captain Virat Kohli 78 as India made 340 for six in their 50 overs and Australia soon fell behind in the run chase.

India completely turned the tables on Australian captain Aaron Finch, who won the toss and put India in to bat. India were a totally different proposition to the side that was never in the Mumbai contest while Finch's bowlers struggled.

Despite Smith's 102-ball innings with a six and nine fours

and Marnus Labuschagne's battling 46, Mohammed Shami came close to a hat-trick as India's pace attack took control and Australia were bowled out for 304 with five balls of the innings left.

Shami bowled Ashton Turner and Pat Cummins with successive yorkers and had an appeal for the third wicket turned down on review. He finished with three for 77.

"It was good to see that we came back so strongly," said Dhawan. "We had a good discussion, we knew we had to target specific bowlers and we showed more intent. Once we were set, we put the pressure on them."

The series, a key preparation for both sides ahead of this year's Twenty20 World Cup, will now be decided in Bangalore on Sunday.

Ross Barkley will stay with Chelsea, says Frank Lampard

AFP | London

Frank Lampard says Chelsea midfielder Ross Barkley will not be allowed to leave during the January transfer window despite reported interest from West Ham.

West Ham manager David Moyes is said to be keen on a loan deal for Barkley after the pair worked together at Everton.

But Lampard is keen to keep the 26-year-old England international at Stamford Bridge after his recent return to form.

Lampard criticised Barkley earlier this season for lacking professionalism after a row with a taxi driver during a night out in Liverpool.

But Barkley, who has made only six league starts this term, is back from a nagging foot injury and impressed during Chelsea's win over Burnley last weekend, prompting Blues boss Lampard to insist the midfielder remains firmly in his plans.

"There's no talk here of Ross Barkley going anywhere; he's our player," Lampard told reporters yesterday.

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Albert Finney steals the show

Albert Finney takes narrow victory to lift Al Salam Bank Cup



HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman watches the races with other VIPs



HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman and REHC Executive Director Shaikh Salman bin Rashid Al Khalifa during an award presentation

TTT | Manama

Albert Finney clinched the seventh and main race of the day yesterday at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) in Riffa, lifting the Al Salam Bank Bahrain Cup and taking home the lion's share of the BD4,000 total prize.

The event took place in the presence of His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Deputy Chairman of the High Committee at REHC.

Owned by Victorious and trained by Hesham Al Haddad, jockey Husain Makki steered Albert Finney to the victory in the 10-furlong event for imported horses.

The three-year-old won by the narrowest of margins, completing the distance in a time of two minutes 04.257 seconds, just a head or 0.034 seconds in front of Cartago, who was competing for Al Adiyat Racing, Alan Smith and A Jaleel Ahmed.

Fayez came third for owners Al Mohamediya Racing, trainer Hesham Al Haddad and jockey Paddy Mathers; while in fourth, taking the final share of the total prize, was Macaque, another Victorious-owned entrant trained by Hesham Al Haddad and ridden by Anas Al Siyabi.

The race featured a highly competitive field of 13 horses in all.

The fifth race of the day was for an REHC Cup, and it also carried a total prize of BD4,000, which was the richest of the day. Covering a distance of eight furlongs, Al Nimra was the victor in 1:38.990

for owner Abdulla Fawzi Nass, Hesham Al Haddad and Paddy Mathers.

A length-and-a-half behind was The Dark Knight, owned by Victorious, trained by Alan Smith and ridden by Paul Hanagan. Ramani for Al Afoo Racing, trainer Mohammed Saeed and jockey Lee Newman came third; while Shamikh was fourth competing for His Highness Shaikh Hamad bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, James Naylor and Brett Doyle.

Three other races yesterday were also for Al Salam Bank Bahrain Cups while one other was for an REHC Cup.

In race six held over eight furlongs with a BD3,000 prize, Desert Lion was the winner of an Al Salam Bank Cup amongst the participating imported horses in a time of 1:37.976. Owned by Isa Mahmood Al Seddiqi, trained by Hesham Al Haddad and ridden

by Paddy Mathers, Desert Lion triumphed two lengths ahead of Jabir, competing for Ali Hussain Ali Alsaegh, Jaffar Marzooq and Brett Doyle.

Bathos was third for Mahmood Syed Adnan Hashim, Osama Hashim and Ahmed Maki; while in fourth place, taking the last share of the prize money, was Emerald for the Late A Rasool K Darwish Stable, Abdulla Haji and A Rahim Jasim.

The day's fourth race over six furlongs and a BD2,000 prize was won by World Order in 1:11.837. World Order was competing for Al Mohamediya Racing, Jaber Ramadhan and Paddy Mathers. Empiricist was the runner-up one-and-a-quarter-lengths behind for Ghalya Raed Ali Abdulla, Samir Dawood and Abdulla Faisal. In third was Born to Boom for Ali Saeed Salman, Osama Hashim and Ahmed Maki, while fourth came Android, owned by Al Mal-

lah Syndicate, trained by A Jaleel Al Mallah and ridden by Andrew Elliott.

Pulsar claimed race three for Abdulla Fawzi Nass, Hesham Al Haddad and Husain Makki. Pulsar completed the 12-furlong race with a BD2,000 prize in 2:40.312. Good News was second for M and E Racing, Alan Smith and A Rahim Jasim; while Raed was third for His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, James Naylor and Andrew Elliott. Daarej was classified fourth for His Highness Shaikh Hamad bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, James Naylor and Brett Doyle.

In the day's second race for the other REHC Cup, having a distance of 1,400m and a total prize of BD3,000, Pulp Fiction won in 1:29.189 for Al Adiyat Racing, Alan Smith and Paul Hanagan. Saraab was the runner-up for Al Afoo Racing Stable, Mohammed



Winners from yesterday's events

Saeed and Lee Newman; while Alejandro came third for Al Adiyat Racing, Alan Smith and A Rahim Jasim. Jazla finished in fourth place for His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, James Naylor and Andrew Elliott.

The first race of the meeting over 1,400m and offering a BD2,000 prize was won by Al

Rabda 1749 for Al Wasmiya, A Kuwaiti and Brett Doyle. Al Musannah was the runner-up for Al Riffa, Yousif Alboainain and Hasan Al Saffar. In third came Al Mlolesh 1748 competing for Victorious, Yousif Taher and Abdulla Faisal, while fourth from the six-field horse race was Al Krush 1751 for Al Sakhir, Jaffar Marzooq and Andrew Elliott.



Winners from yesterday's events



A tight finish in one of the day's races

Pakistan's Hafeez to retire after Twenty20 World Cup

AFP | Karachi

Recalled Pakistan allrounder Mohammad Hafeez yesterday said he will retire from international cricket after the Twenty20 World Cup later this year, vowing to end his career on a positive note.

Maguire will take over as skipper from Ashley Young, who is expected to complete his move to Inter Milan yes-

terday.

The England international, 26, has led the side in games when Young has been absent and was an obvious choice for the role having played in every Premier League match this season.

"Harry has been wearing the captain's armband and he will keep wearing it," said Sol-skjaer, whose side take on runaway leaders Liverpool at Anfield on Sunday.

Maguire named as new Man Utd captain

AFP | London

Ole Gunnar Sol-skjaer has confirmed Harry Maguire as Manchester United's new captain less than six months after his £80 million (\$104 million) move from Leicester.

Maguire will take over as skipper from Ashley Young, who is expected to complete his move to Inter Milan yesterday.

The England international, 26, has led the side in games when Young has been absent

and was an obvious choice for the role having played in every Premier League match this season.

"Harry has been wearing the captain's armband and he will keep wearing it," said Sol-skjaer, whose side take on runaway leaders Liverpool at Anfield on Sunday.

"He's come in and been a leader in the group. I have

not been surprised but I've been impressed by his leadership skills."

"He is part of a group that we've had that have been leading this young group," added Sol-skjaer.

"Ashley has been of course, Harry Maguire

Marcus (Rashford) is a young lad but he has been involved, David (de Gea) and Harry, so Harry will keep on wearing the armband now."

Young, who moved to Old Trafford in 2011, will link up at the San Siro with former United teammates Romelu Lukaku and Alexis Sanchez.

"Ashley has been a good servant for the club, he's been captain, he's won trophies, the league, various cups," said Sol-skjaer.

