

**When Charlize Theron made out with dolls**

Oscar-winning star Charlize Theron says she started "making out" with herself and her dolls when she was seven. She said: "I was making out with myself at seven, I made out with dolls and with myself in the mirror." **P14**

OP-ED **8** The hard way to happiness in Bhutan

# THE DAILY tribune



Grammy winner Kacey Musgraves to present award at Oscars 2019

**14** CELEBS

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**Iran 'ready to improve ties'**

Dubai

Iran is ready to work with all of its neighbours to secure peace in the Middle East in the face of US and Israeli aggression, President Hassan Rouhani said yesterday.

But pressure is building on Tehran after President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of a 2015 nuclear deal with six world powers and re-imposed sanctions. Saudi Arabia welcomed the move.

**Filipino remittances down by 15.3pc**

Dubai

Money sent home by Overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in the Middle East went down 15.3 per cent to \$6.62 billion in 2018 from \$7.81bn a year earlier, latest government data shows.

Lower crude prices, which affected most OFW host countries in the region, the job nationalisation schemes of Gulf states and a deployment ban last year of household service workers to Kuwait were the primary reasons for the decline, a reversal from the 3.4pc remittance growth recorded in 2017.



Labour Minister opens Pre-Employment 2018 expo

Expat, 62, dies on way back home

Sanity test for man accused of committing eight crimes a day

## Saudi inks \$20bn in investment deals in Pakistan

Islamabad

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman yesterday oversaw the signing of unprecedented investment deals with Pakistan worth \$20 billion just a few hours after landing in Islamabad on his maiden state visit.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan along with senior civilian and military officials received the Saudi leader at the Air Force base outside the capital city. Khan later himself drove him to the palatial prime minister's complex where the

“Pakistan is gonna be a very, very important country in the future and we want to be sure that we are part of that.”

HRH MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN

two leaders held formal talks before overseeing the signing of agreements between their two delegations.

The two leaders later addressed the ceremony and their



Imran Khan drives a vehicle as he receives Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on his arrival at Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Nur Khan Base in Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

speeches were broadcast by state television. Crown Prince Salman, commonly known as MBS, noted his delegation signed "\$20 billion" worth of memorandum of understandings (MoUs).

"It's big for phase one and definitely it's gonna grow every month, every year in bigger numbers and will be beneficial for both countries," he said.

HRH Mohammed bin Salman underscored the importance of the bilateral relationship, saying he chose Pakistan on his first ever trip to the East since becoming the Crown Prince.

# Scores of Houthis killed

Continued conflict stirred by Houthis threatens peace agreement

More than 40 militants were killed in the southern Taiz province, and 18 others were killed on the Damt front in the southern Ad Dali province.

Dubai

More than 85 Iran-backed Houthi militants were killed and more wounded in clashes with the Yemeni army supported by the Arab Coalition across the country, Saudi state-news agen-



Clashes with Yemen troops has led to the deaths of scores of Houthi militia.

cy SPA reported.

According to the reports, more than 40 militants were killed in the southern Taiz province, and 18 others were killed on the

Damt front in the southern Ad Dali province, while more than 30 were killed in clashes with the Hajour tribe northwest of the country.

**40** militants were killed in the southern Taiz province, according to various reports.

Scores of militants were wounded, while the army seized military-grade equipment and ammunition.

Meanwhile, Yemen's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Al Hadrami said that the continued

conflict stirred by the Houthis threatens the Swedish peace agreement and any progress in the political process.

In a meeting with UAE's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Anwar Gargash on the sidelines of the 55th session of the Munich Conference of Security 2019, Al Hadrami said that the continued Houthi manipulation represents the failed opportunities for peace in Yemen.

For his part, UAE's Gargash stressed on the need to combine efforts and send clear messages to the international community revealing the truth behind the militia's violations on the ground.

RETURN PLEA

## UK teen who joined Daesh gives birth in refugee camp

London

A teenager who joined the Daesh group in Syria, gave birth to a baby boy in a refugee camp, as European governments grapple with what to do with returning extremists ahead of a US troop pullout. Shamima Begum, whose fate has stirred controversy ever since she and two friends fled London to join the terror network in 2015 aged just 15, told Sky News she had delivered a boy.

"I just gave birth so I'm really tired," the 19-year-old said as she made a renewed appeal to be allowed back to Britain with her newborn baby.

"I'm afraid he might even die in this camp. I feel a lot



Ms Begum fled to Syria with her two friends four years ago.

of people should have sympathy for me, for everything I've been through," she said.

"I didn't know what I was getting into when I left. I just was hoping that maybe for the sake of me and my child they let me come back," she added.

Her case comes as European nations struggle with how to deal with extremists eager to return home following the disintegration of Daesh's "caliphate" in eastern Syria. US President Donald Trump again demanded on Saturday that they take back hundreds of captured Daesh fighters.

Trump said on Twitter that the United States was asking Britain and other continental allies "to take back over 800 Daesh fighters that we captured in Syria and put them on trial."





His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received Sharia Court judges at Al Safriya Palace. His Majesty reiterated keenness on bolstering the independence of the judiciary and providing the judicial branch with competencies. HM the King took pride in the long history of the judiciary, highlighting its crucial role in strengthening the principles of justice and equality, protecting rights and liberties and maintaining social security and stability.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa paid tribute to the achievements of Bahraini journalism and its pioneering role throughout its march in the service of society, supporting the comprehensive development process and strengthening patriotism, expressing appreciation of its credibility and professionalism in covering events, defending the nation's interests, security, stability and documenting development achievements. This came as HM the King yesterday received Board members of Bahrain Journalists Association (BJA) led by President Ahdeya Ahmed marking the election of the new BJA board of directors.



His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa lauded Bahrain's urbanisation boom and developmental growth, which reflect a tireless government work despite all challenges. He was speaking as he received at Gudaibiya Palace yesterday members of the royal family. He underlined the importance of functions aimed at boosting the cultural and artistic movement, citing the annual Fine Arts Exhibition which enjoys every support due to its contribution to Bahrain's cultural scene.

## Labour Minister opens Pre-Employment 2018 expo

Manama

The eighth edition of the Bahrain Exhibition for Training and Education Pre-Employment 2018 opened yesterday at the Sheraton Hotel Bahrain.

The two-day exhibition, which concludes tomorrow, is being organised by Medpoint Design and

Events Management.

Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan patronised the opening of the exhibition, in the presence of Medpoint Design and Events Management Chairwoman Shaikha Noora bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, MP Ahmed Sabah Salloum, businessmen, heads of training and educational institutions.



Mr Humaidan opens the expo in the presence of Labour Ministry top officials and dignitaries.

A total of sixty establishments from the public and private sectors are taking part, with pavilions representing higher education institutions, universities accredited by the Higher Education Council at the Ministry of Education.

Privately-owned institutes under the authority of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development are also taking part in the

Bahrain Exhibition for Training and Education Pre-Employment 2018.

Companies, employment agencies are also participating in the exhibition, showcasing employment and training opportunities, in addition to the job vacancies bank, being run by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development Ministry.



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## New treatments for autism under spotlight



Children at Alia for Early Intervention and Alia National School.

TDT | Manama  
Harpreet Kaur

Alia for Early Intervention and Alia National School will organise a conference to discuss new treatment methods for autism and other neuro-developmental disorders on April 3rd and 4th at the Isa Cultural Centre.

'Untangle Autism 2019' will be held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of HM the King and the President of the Supreme Council for Women.

Speaking to Tribune, Centre's deputy director Haidy Henin said: "The conference will bring together, specialists and consultants from different countries in the field of special education, behaviour problems and neurological disorders. The conference will cater to benefit caregivers, teachers, parents, specialists, psychiatrists, speech and language pathologists to

better understand the varied spectrum of issues and how to deal with them along with.

"Coinciding with the conference, an exhibition will be held simultaneously involving the participation of all centres, hospitals, schools and educational stores."

"The main highlight of the conference is that there is always a hope to make the future better for those of the children where early intervention has proved to be the best technique. Experts will guide on where early intervention as a technique will be introduced in the conference and how intensive it should be and when it should be provided and the kind of team members that are needed for the early intervention of these children."

Among the experts, Dr Alok Sharma, a well-known neurologist from India, will highlight a new hope for the parents, citing latest research in the field of stem-cell therapy for incurable neurological disorders.

# Expat, 62, dies on way back home

Deceased was working as a heavy driver with a mining company

● Family sources said the death occurred in Dubai, from where he was supposed to catch a connection flight to India.

● A few months ago, a report was published by a newspaper in the Kingdom citing that the company, which employed Abdul Ghaffar, had defaulted for months on salaries to its employees.

TDT | Manama  
Harpreet Kaur

A 62-year-old Bahrain resident died on way back home yesterday. The deceased was identified as



The deceased Abdul Ghaffar

Abdul Ghaffar, who hailed from the Indian state of Maharashtra.

His immediate survivors include two daughters and a son.

Abdul Ghaffar was working as a heavy driver with a leading mining, earth moving and marble supply company in the

Kingdom for the past 17 years.

Family sources said the death occurred in Dubai, from where he was supposed to catch a connection flight to India.

They also alleged that he remained unpaid for the past 11 months.

Speaking to Tribune, Sanobar, daughter of the deceased, said: "My father had been working in the same company for almost 17 years. He was telling us that the company has been suffering huge losses in recent times and wasn't paying wages to its employees."

"My father wasn't paid for 11 months and the dues are still pending. His company would offer him voluntary retirement and provided him with a flight ticket back home."

"On his way home, we are still unsure as to whether he passed away at the airport or aboard the flight. Officials concerned has informed us that legal procedures are being carried out to fly the body home."

“My father wasn't paid for 11 months and the dues are still pending.”

SANOBAR

"The family is yet to come out of the shock. He was returning home as a desperate individual," she lamented.

A few months ago, a report was published by a newspaper in the Kingdom citing that the company, which employed Abdul Ghaffar, had defaulted for months on salaries to its employees.

The report quoted Indian Embassy officials who had vowed to file a complaint with the Kingdom's labour court over the non-payment of wages to workers.

Also, the workers had staged a protest at their accommodation facility over the issue.



Majlise Fakhre Bahrain organised an event dedicated to renowned Urdu poet Majrooh Sultanpuri at the Cultural Hall. Eminent poets from India, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia attended the Mushaira session. Renowned researcher and writer Asif Azmi was the guest of honour. Famous Urdu poets Dr Nawaz Deobandi, Mansoor Usmani, Charan Singh Bashar, Atul Ajnabi, Imran Aami, Azm Shakri, Dr Mahtab Alam, Salim Saleem, Khalid Sabrahadi, Ahmed Adil, Rukhsar Nazimabadi and Saeed Saadi enthralled the audience with their amazing verses.

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## NRIs can now register for voting

TDT | Manama

The Indian Election Commission has opened registration for Non-Resident Indians to apply for voting rights. Indian citizens living overseas, who have not acquired any other citizenships, are eligi-

ble to vote and can visit the ECI website and register for voting rights.

The Non Resident Indian voters wouldn't be issued voter IDs as their passport would suffice, according to sources.

Various reports claim one crore NRIs would be allowed to

vote through postal ballot.

The web portal was launched a few days after the government cleared a proposal to extend the facility of voting in Assembly and General elections by electronic means and proxy to NRIs by amending the Representation of the People Act.

### How to register?

Visit <https://eci.gov.in/voter/service-overseas-voter/>

Use the interactive map provided to find your polling station and the contact details of election officers from your area.

Fill Enrolment Form (Form 6A) online at [www.nvsp.in](http://www.nvsp.in) and upload the requisite proofs.

Alternatively, download Form 6A from ECI website [www.eci.nic.in](http://www.eci.nic.in). Fill Form 6A in 2 copies. Forms are also available free of cost in Indian Missions.

### Documents required

One recent passport size coloured photograph affixed in Form 6A.

Self-attested photocopies of the relevant pages of the passport containing a photograph address in India and all other

The page of passport containing the valid visa endorsement The form can be submitted in person or by post

If the application is sent by post, the photocopy of each of the documents referred to above should be duly self-attested.

### Getting Started: Registration in the Electoral Roll

#### Fill Enrolment Form

Find out the name of your Constituency and Part in the district/state of residence at [www.eci.nic.in](http://www.eci.nic.in)

Fill **Form 6A** online at [www.nvsp.in](http://www.nvsp.in) and upload the requisite proofs.

Alternatively download **Form 6A** from ECI website [www.eci.nic.in](http://www.eci.nic.in). Fill **Form 6A** in 2 copies and send to Electoral Registration officer ERO. The list of EROs of various constituencies are available on [www.eci.nic.in](http://www.eci.nic.in)

Forms are also available free of cost in Indian Missions.

### Documents Required

One recent passport size coloured photograph affixed in **Form 6A**.

Self-attested photocopies of the relevant pages of the passport containing photograph, address in India and all other details

The page of passport containing the valid visa endorsement

The photocopy of each of the documents referred to above, should be duly self-attested.

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# Sanity test for man accused of committing eight crimes a day

The crimes allegedly committed by the accused include impersonation, robbery and forgery

TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court is hearing an unusual case in which a man is accused of committing eight different crimes in one day.

The crimes include impersonation, robbery and forgery.

The court yesterday decided to adjourn the case to February 25, while the accused has been referred to a psychiatrist to verify his mental condition and determine if he was responsible for his actions.

The details of the case show that the defendant had stolen a

student's wallet from his car that was parked on the premises of a leading university in Salmabad.

The man used the victim's identity card and forged his signature to rent a car and purchase a mobile phone, iPhone 7, from one of the telecommunications providers in the Kingdom.

The defendant then sold the phone for BD300 to a local mobile phone shop and stole the salesman's mobile phone on his way out, as the salesman apparently left it unattended on the counter.

Court files also showed that police investigations were

**“**  
**The man used the victim's identity card and forged his signature to rent a car and purchase a mobile phone.**

PROSECUTORS

launched after the salesman lodged a complaint against the defendant for stealing his phone.

The salesman provided the police with CCTV footage clearly showing the theft and the de-

defendant's face.

A manhunt was launched and the search led to the first victim who's the owner of the identity card.

The first victim informed the police that his wallet was stolen from his car and denied that he had purchased the device or rented the car.

Additionally, the victim identified the defendant in the CCTV footage, stating that he had seen him suspiciously walking around his car on the same day of theft.

Further investigations led to the arrest of the suspect who

was detained after being accused by the Public Prosecution of committing eight crimes on the same day.

The charges were stealing the first victim's wallet, impersonating the first victim and forging his signature to rent and use a car without the victim's consent, impersonating the first victim and forging his signature in the application documents of the telecommunications provider and providing false data to it, purchasing the mobile phone by using fraudulent methods, and stealing the mobile phone of the second victim.

## Drug smuggling trial adjourned

TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court yesterday decided to adjourn the case of a Thai woman accused of smuggling narcotics into the Kingdom by hiding them in baby-powder containers, to Wednesday.

The court's decision was taken to assign a defence attorney for the accused, who was ordered to remain in custody.

The 24-year-old was arrested while arriving at the Bahrain International Airport from Bangkok on December 17, 2018.

**30,000**

Bahraini dinars worth drugs were seized from the Thai woman, say prosecutors.

## 'Kamala' to be staged at renowned art festivals

TDT | Manama

'Kamala', a dance drama produced by Bahrain-based artistes has been selected by the renowned cultural society Soorya for being presented at many art festivals organised by the society across India.

The inaugural show will be staged at Tagore Theatre Trivandrum, on 10 March, 2019.

The dance drama portrays Kamala's love for Siddhartha, their pairing and eventual understanding of the transitory nature of life and its myriad emotions.

It has been conceived and choreographed by Vidya Sreekumar, with music composed by Palak-



From left: Vidya Sreekumar, Sneha Ajith, Mr Raghu, Mr Mohanraj, Mr Karakkal, Mr Ajith Kumar and Sarada Ajith at the Press conference.

kad Sreeram and the Sanskrit lyrics by the famous poet Dr L Sampath. The script has been adapted by Sreekumar Ramakrishnan.

Sneha Ajith who elevated 'Kamala' with her dedicated artistic

talent and proficiency in dance forms is set to lead other Bahrain-based artists.

The event will be held at Soorya Trivandrum on Sunday, 10 March, 2019.

"Soorya is appreciating the

excellence of Bahrain-based artistes; Sneha and Vidya in particular," said Soorya Bahrain chapter secretary Varghese Karakkal, at a press conference held at the BKS.

BKS Acting President Mohan-

raj, BKS General Secretary M P Raghu, Mr Karakkal, Ms Ajith, Ms Sreekumar, Ajith Kumar and Sarada Ajith along with other BKS executive committee members were present at the Press conference.

Upon inspection, she was found to be carrying 162 grams of Methamphetamine, a drug commonly known as Shabu, whose market value is estimated somewhere in the neighbourhood of BD30,000.

The drug was hidden using five plastic bags stashed inside containers of baby powder, Vaseline and other skincare products kept in the luggage, according to prosecutors.

During the interrogation, the defendant confessed to smuggling the drugs into the Kingdom, claiming that it was given to her by her female boss, who's apparently based in Thailand.

## Traffic rule violator held in bid to smuggle drugs

TDT | Manama

An Asian man, aged 30, was arrested at the Bahrain International Airport, attempting to smuggle half a kilogram hashish into the Kingdom.

The arrest and subsequent investigations would reveal that he was consuming drugs while driving, which had led to a number of red light violations.

According to court files, the defendant hid the drugs in his luggage and he told prosecutors that he brought the hashish with an intention to consume.

"I have been working in Bahrain as a truck driver since 2015. But I was on drugs. Due to their high prices in Bahrain, I decided to smuggle some from my country and I concealed the hashish in my luggage.

"Prosecutors inquired about the defendant's status in Bahrain, and it was found that he ran red light on five occasions. And he admitted that the reason behind this was that he was doped."

## Infra boost for Bahrain Polytechnic labs

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Polytechnic has maintained a number of computer labs by providing the latest models of personal computers suitable for academic requirements as Bahrain Polytechnic delivers web media and software security programmes that need devices with high specifications, the institution said in a statement issued.

This came as Director of Information Communication Technology at Bahrain Polytechnic, Sameera Al Atawi, explained the features of the new equipment to Deputy CEO of Resources and Information Affairs of Bahrain Polytechnic, Shaikh Ali bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, during his inspection visit.

She pointed out that the renovation of the new personal computers will also bolster up the network and Internet capabilities for the students to benefit from a higher rate of service availability.

Last year, Bahrain Polytechnic has launched the Single Sign-On (SSO) feature, where students and staff are able to use one password to login to their emails, PC's, Moodle, Banner and Mahara.

This allows the user to easily login to their Self-Service



Shaikh Ali interacts with Bahrain Polytechnic officials during the inspection visit.

Banner (SSB) Portal with their existing computer/email credentials without the need to set

multiple passwords.

Following the inspection visit, Shaikh Ali Al Khalifa thanked

the Information Technology Communication Directorate for their efforts to provide high

quality and sustainable services to support the Bahrain Polytechnic community.

WORLD  
world**Egypt detains two foreigners for cocaine smuggling**

Cairo, Egypt

Egypt on Saturday detained two foreigners for drug smuggling after they flew in to Cairo international airport carrying a large quantity of cocaine, official sources told AFP.

A Cairo prosecutor ordered the German woman and Turkish man held "for four days for investigations on charges of bringing in 11 kilograms of cocaine" into the country, a judicial source said.

A security source said the pair arrived on an Emirates flight from Dubai.

**Surfer seriously injured in Australia shark attack**

Sydney, Australia

A 41-year-old surfer was airlifted to hospital Sunday after being bitten in a suspected shark attack on Australia's famed Byron Bay.

The man was out catching waves shortly after dawn at Belongil Beach when police said he was "bitten on the leg by a shark".

Images taken shortly after appeared to show a chunk bitten out of the tail of the man's surfboard.

"I was freaking. When I heard the screams he was making in the water and then I saw a chunk of his board floating off, that's when I realised it was pretty bad," a fellow surfer told national broadcaster ABC.

The victim managed to float back to shore on his board and signalled to other beachgoers for help.

**Venezuelans begin preparing for aid**

Caracas, Venezuela

Thousands of volunteers in Venezuela will begin mobilizing to bring American aid into their crisis-hit country despite a blockade by President Nicolas Maduro who claims the assistance could be cover for a US invasion.

Once-wealthy Venezuela is gripped by a power struggle between socialist leader Maduro and Juan Guaido, the head of the National Assembly who proclaimed himself interim president last month and now has the backing of more than 50 countries.

But even as the political battle pitting Guaido against Maduro continued to deepen, Caracas confirmed talks had taken place with an envoy for US President Donald Trump's administration.

The oil-rich country's economic meltdown under Maduro has left millions in poverty facing shortages of medicine and food, with hyperinflation making purchases impossible.

US aid that has been piling up in the Colombian border town of Cucuta has become the frontline



Trucks loaded with humanitarian aid for Venezuela arrive at the Tienditas Bridge in Cucuta, Colombia, on the border with Tachira, Venezuela

of the confrontation between Guaido and Maduro.

"Venezuela is preparing for the humanitarian avalanche," Guaido told about 4,000 supporters clad in white T-shirts and green scarves who gathered

Saturday to sign up as volunteers.

The throng included doctors, nurses and students.

Six hundred thousand people have registered to help bring aid in through border points,

Guaido told the Caracas rally, asking the volunteers to meet in town councils on Sunday to get instructions about the process.

Without revealing details that could jeopardize the operation, Guaido said volunteer brigades

will travel in a bus caravan to entry points for the aid which he wants to come in next Saturday.

Coromoto Crespo, 58, told AFP he volunteered because of the urgent need for supplies.

"To find medicines requires a miracle. I need tablets for high blood pressure, and what I find, I can't pay for," Crespo said.

"One of my relatives died because of a lack of antibiotics."

Guaido has targeted February 23 for entry of the aid, more of which arrived for the stockpile on Saturday. Three US military cargo planes delivered several dozen more tons (tonnes) of food assistance to Cucuta.

Another US aircraft is due in the Caribbean island of Curacao from Miami on Tuesday, and a collection center for Brazilian aid will open Monday on the border, Guaido's team said.

The US shipment Saturday was accompanied by a delegation led by Mark Green, head of the US Agency for International Development.

US assistance has been blocked by containers which Maduro loyalists placed on a border bridge to prevent access.

**24 bodies retrieved from flooded Zimbabwe gold mine: report**

Harare, Zimbabwe

Rescue workers retrieved 24 bodies and eight survivors Saturday from two flooded gold mines in Zimbabwe where officials fear dozens more illegal miners are still trapped, state television reported.

"Eight of the trapped minors have been rescued ... while 24 bodies have been retrieved to date as rescue efforts continue at Battlefields Mine," the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation reported.



A miner gets ready to descend into a mining pit during a mine search and rescue operation at Cricket Mine in Kadoma, Mashonaland West Province

The two disused mines are situated near the town of Kadoma, 145 kilometres (90 miles) southwest of the capital Harare.

The rescued received medical attention on site before being taken to hospital, but were in a stable condition, the report added.

Television footage showed some of the men, in soaked, muddy clothes, being helped to a makeshift clinic.

In a clip posted on Twitter, one survivor told journalists that the waters had risen to neck

level, forcing them to stand for days until it receded.

On Friday the government said that between 60 and 70 "artisanal" miners were trapped in two shafts.

It launched an appeal for \$200,000 to be used "to pump out water, feeding the bereaved families and the (rescue) teams on the ground, transportation and burial of the victims", local minister July Moyo said in a statement. Zimbabwe is in the throes of a deep economic crisis, the worst in a decade.

**Vaccine shock**

A child reacts during a Philippine Red Cross Measles Outbreak Vaccination Response in Baseco compound, a slum area in Manila. A growing measles outbreak in the Philippines killed at least 25 people last month, officials said, putting some of the blame on mistrust stoked by a scare over an anti-dengue fever vaccine.

**Marx memorial vandalised in London for second time**

London, United Kingdom

The memorial of German philosopher Karl Marx has been vandalised in London for the second time in two weeks, the cemetery that manages the site said on Saturday.

The words "architect of genocide", "terror and oppression" and "mass murder" were written in red paint on the grave in the capital's Highgate cemetery.

"Doctrine of hate" was also scrawled on the memorial, among other slogans.

The grave of Marx, who developed the theory of international communism, was also attacked on February 4 when it was seemingly struck several times with a blunt metal instrument.

A marble plaque with the names of Marx and his family -- the monument's oldest and most fragile part -- was repeatedly hit.



The tomb of German revolutionary philosopher Karl Marx, a Grade I-listed monument, is seen in Highgate Cemetery in north London.

"Vandals back at Marx Memorial, Highgate Cemetery. Red paint this time, plus the marble tablet smashed up," tweeted Highgate Cemetery on Saturday alongside photos of the memorial covered in red paint.

"Senseless. Stupid. Ignorant. Whatever you think about Marx's legacy, this is not the way to make the point," it said.

German revolutionary

philosopher Marx moved to London in 1849 and lived in the city for the rest of his life.

His theories became the basis for communism. He died on March 14, 1883, aged 64.

The granite slab monument in north London, 12 feet (3.7 metres) tall and topped with a bronze bust of Marx, was funded in 1956 by the Communist Party of Great Britain.

# End of Caliphate in sight

In east Syria, IS in last stand to defend dying 'caliphate'



Women and children who fled the Islamic State (IS) group's embattled holdout of Baghouz

AFP | Omar Oil Field, Syria

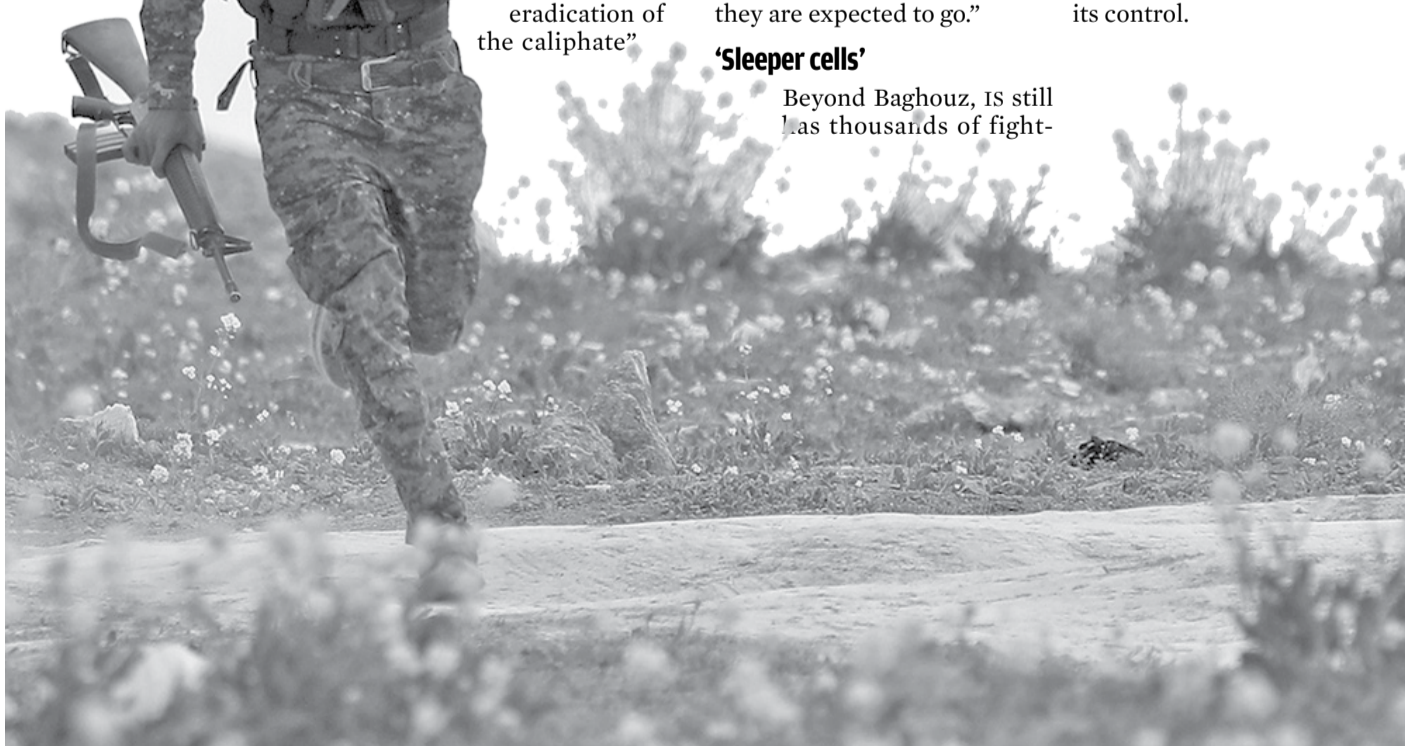
Diehard jihadists have blocked roads out of the last scrap of their Islamic State group "caliphate" in Syria, US-backed forces fighting them said yesterday, preventing hundreds of civilians from fleeing.

Ahead of a victory declaration expected within days and a subsequent US military pullout, US President Donald Trump called on his European allies to take back hundreds of alleged jihadists captured in Syria.

At a base for the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces behind the frontline in eastern Syria, a reporter heard airplanes darting in the sky.

The jihadists declared a "caliphate" across large parts of Syria and neighbouring Iraq in 2014, implementing their brutal interpretation of Islam on millions.

But several offensives have expelled them from all of it, except a tiny patch of less than half a kilometre square on the banks of the Euphrates river near the Iraqi border.



A fighter with the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) runs with a weapon during an operation to expel Islamic State group (IS) jihadists from the Baghouz area in the eastern Syrian province of Deir Ezzor

Thousands of people have streamed out of the so-called "Baghouz pocket" in recent weeks, but hundreds of civilians -- including IS family members -- are believed to still be inside.

SDF spokesman Mustafa Bali said IS had blocked roads out of their holdout, preventing those remaining from escaping to safety.

"Daesh has sealed off all the streets," he said, adding up to 2,000 civilians could still be inside.

IS is confined to "a few hundred metres square in... Baghouz with a number of civilians they hold hostage and refuse to release", he earlier said.

## 'Human shields'

A spokesman for the US coalition, which has been backing the SDF with air strikes, said IS was using these women and children as "human shields".

"Civilians who have escaped are reporting ISIS is using them as human shields and killing innocent civilians in order to intimidate others from trying to leave," Sean Ryan said.

Trump on Friday promised announcements linked to "the eradication of the caliphate"

within 24 hours, but a top SDF commander then warned the battle would take a few more days.

The US president in December shocked allies when he announced he would withdraw all 2,000 US troops from Syria because IS had been "beaten".

That plan is set to be accelerated after a victory announcement.

Since 2015, the SDF have been battling IS with backing from the international coalition, retaking one major town after another until reaching Baghouz.

They have detained hundreds of foreigners accused of fighting for IS and repeatedly called on their countries to repatriate them, but Western nations have been reluctant.

Trump early Sunday called on his European allies to bring their nationals home.

"The Caliphate is ready to fall," he said on Twitter.

"The United States is asking Britain, France, Germany and other European allies to take back over 800 ISIS fighters that we captured in Syria and put them on trial," he said, using an alternative acronym for IS.

"The alternative is not a good one in that we will be forced to release them."

"The US does not want to watch as these ISIS fighters permeate Europe, which is where they are expected to go."

## 'Sleeper cells'

Beyond Baghouz, IS still has thousands of fighters

and sleeper cells scattered across several countries.

In Syria, it retains a presence in the vast Badia desert, and has claimed deadly attacks in SDF-held territory.

The US Department of Defence has warned that without sustained counterterrorism pressure, IS could resurge within months.

"Over the past month, more than one foreign sleeper cell was arrested in multiple areas in Syria," spokesman Bali said Sunday.

Acting Pentagon chief Patrick Shanahan has struggled to convince sceptical allies in the international coalition to help secure Syria once US soldiers pull out.

Any withdrawal would leave Syria's Kurds exposed to a long-threatened attack by neighbouring Turkey, which views Kurdish fighters as "terrorists".

To prevent this, they have scrambled to seek a new ally in the Damascus government after spending most of Syria's civil war working towards self-rule.

Eight years into the conflict that has killed more than 360,000 people, President Bashar al-Assad's government controls nearly two-thirds of the country.

But the SDF hold around a third of the country still beyond its control.

## Putin's Judo moves



Russian President Vladimir Putin takes part in a training session with members of the Russian national judo team in Sochi

## NY museum says ancient Egypt coffin was looted

New York, United States

The Metropolitan Museum of Art will return an ancient gilded coffin to Egypt after New York prosecutors determined that it had been looted from that country, the museum said.

The museum had purchased the prized coffin, dating from the first century BCE, in July 2017 from a Paris art dealer for a price of nearly four million dollars.

But the Manhattan district attorney's office determined that the mummy-shaped golden coffin had been sold with fake documentation, including a forged 1971 Egyptian export license.

The statement Friday quoted Met CEO Daniel Weiss as apologizing to the Egyptian people and specifically to Antiquities Minister Khaled El-Enany.

"After we learned that the Museum was a victim of fraud and unwittingly participated in the illegal trade of antiquities, we worked with the DA's office for its return to Egypt," Weiss said.

The museum said it would "consider all available remedies to recoup the purchase price of the coffin" and would commit itself "to identifying how justice can be served, and how we can help to deter future offenses against cultural property."

MOMA vowed to "review and revise its acquisitions process."

The elaborately decorated coffin, viewed by nearly a half-million visitors since it was made the centerpiece of a major exhibition in July, is sheathed in gold, which the ancient Egyptians associated with the gods.



Prosecutors say this 1st Century BCE coffin of Nedjemankh, a high-ranking priest of the ram-headed god Heryshef of Herakleopolis, was looted from Egypt (Daily Mail)

It is inscribed with the name of Nedjemankh, a high-ranking priest of the ram-headed god Heryshef of Herakleopolis.

The Met took the coffin off view this week to deliver it to the district attorney's office for its eventual return to Egypt.

# Take back jihadists, Trump tells Europe

● 800 ISIS fighters are captured by the US in Syria

● American troops are ready to withdraw

AFP | Washington, United States

European nations must take back hundreds of Islamic State group fighters captured in Syria, President Donald Trump said late Saturday, after a delay in announcing what he said would be the end of the “caliphate.”

“The United States is asking Britain, France, Germany and other European allies to take back over 800 ISIS fighters that we captured in Syria and put them on trial,” Trump said in a tweet, using another acronym for IS.

“The Caliphate is ready to fall. The alternative is not a good one in that we will be forced to release them. The US



does not want to watch as these ISIS fighters permeate Europe, which is where they are expected to go.”

Once the US-led coalition declares it has taken all IS territories, the White House is expected to withdraw American troops.

When that happens, the risk is high that “foreign terrorist fighters” will escape SDF control, posing a new threat.

For about two weeks, the Trump administration has been pushing its allies to take their citizens home, and the US said it was ready to help in the repatriation, but time has been running out.

Several countries, including France, that have chosen to leave the jihadists in SDF detention now confront a diplomatic, legal, political and logistical puzzle.

“We do so much, and spend so much - Time for others to step up and do the job that they are so capable of doing. We are pulling back after 100% Caliphate victory!” Trump said

in his late-Saturday tweets.

On Friday he said announcements on the fall of the caliphate would be made “over the next 24 hours,” but that deadline came and went.

## Deep transatlantic rift

An SDF commander said his US-backed forces slowed their advance to protect civilians.

The jihadists declared a “caliphate” in large parts of Syria and neighboring Iraq in 2014, but have since lost all but a tiny patch of territory near the Iraqi border.

Trump’s Syria pullout has highlighted the deep trans-Atlantic rift that emerged under his presidency, and the differing views of the two sides were on display Saturday at a security conference in Munich.

A French government source criticized the Trump administration’s approach as “we’re leaving, you’re staying” and added: “They’re trying to manage the consequences of a hasty decision and making us carry the responsibility.”

## Cardiff considering legal action against Nantes over Sala ‘negligence’



Nantes’ French defender Nicolas Pallois (C-L) Dario Sala (L) brother of late Argentine footballer Emiliano Sala and Horacio Sala (R-back) his father, along with other relatives and friends, carry the coffin as they leave Club Atletico y Deportivo San Martin during the funeral service in Progreso, Santa Fe, Argentina

London, United Kingdom

occurring.

Cardiff City could launch a negligence claim against Nantes as soon as next week if an official report finds Emiliano Sala was flown to his death by a pilot who did not have the correct licence, according to Britain’s Sunday Telegraph.

Premier League side Cardiff already find themselves involved in a legal dispute with French side Nantes over whether they are contractually obliged to pay a transfer fee for the Argentinian striker, who died without playing a game for the Welsh side.

Sala had signed for Cardiff for a club record £15 million (\$19 million) and was flying to his new team from former side Nantes in France when his plane went missing over the Channel on January 21.

The wreckage was located on the seabed. Sala’s body was recovered but pilot David Ibbotson is still missing. The aircraft remains under the sea.

Details of how Sala died, and who was responsible, could be clarified in the coming days by Britain’s Air Accidents Investigations Bureau, which had previously said it intended to publish an interim report into the crash within a month of it

The Telegraph said an internal Cardiff inquiry had found no evidence that Ibbotson held the licence necessary to carry passengers on a commercial basis.

If the AAIB report upholds this view, it may constitute the basis for a claim of negligence against whoever recruited Ibbotson as the pilot for Sala’s flight.

Agents Willie and Mark McKay have said they arranged Sala’s flight but did not select the plane or pilot. The pair had been working for Nantes.

A successful negligence claim against Nantes would reduce the transfer fee that Cardiff owed the French club.

And that payment could decrease further if Cardiff can show that Sala’s transfer was incomplete at the time of his death because he had not yet been registered to play in the Premier League.

“We believe that the player was not registered with the Premier League,” Cardiff chairman Mehmet Dalman told the *Telegraph*.

Sala was buried in his hometown of Progreso in Argentina on Saturday, with Cardiff manager Neil Warnock and club executive Ken Choo among the mourners.

## Body in Croatian freezer might be woman missing for 18 years

Zagreb, Croatia

The mystery of a Croatian student who disappeared 18 years ago might have been solved with the discovery of a body in a freezer, press reports said yesterday.

The freezer was in a home in Mala Subotica, northern Croatia, belonging to the sister of Jasmina Dominic, who was 23 when she went missing in 2000, they added. Dominic was studying in Zagreb at the time, and her family informed police that she was gone only five years later, the daily Vecernji List said.

## Beauty and the beast



A participant poses for photographs with a young white lion during a family carnival and pet show in Karachi

## Girls sport their ancestors’ hair for Lunar New year in China

Longjia, China

Girls with large headpieces made from the hair of their ancestors and wearing intricately patterned dresses danced in isolated villages in southwest China to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

Against a stunning mountain backdrop, dozens of girls and women of the Long Horn Miao ethnicity performed for the annual flower festival or ‘Tiaohuajie’, held in Guizhou province on Thursday.

Onlookers watched -- smartphones in hand -- as the women swirled across a meadow, wearing dresses and jackets embroidered with pink roses and geometric patterns.

But it was the towering black headdresses of the dancers that really stood out -- made from wool, string and the hair of their

ancestors, and wrapped around animal horns with white fabric.

“It’s really special to be at the centre of attention like this. I feel quite proud,” said Yang Yunzheng, 16.

“We organise this festival once a year when we wear these headpieces. That doesn’t change with modernisation”.

The Miao ethnic minority is made up of some nine million people, mostly found in China’s southwest. Of those, around 5,000 “Long Horn Miao” live in just a dozen isolated villages in Guizhou.

Their headpieces are passed down through generations and worn on a number of occasions to honour their ancestors and preserve their traditions.

The festival is held on the 10th day of the Lunar New Year.



Girls from the Long Horn Miao, a branch of the Miao ethnic minority group, resting during the annual flower festival or ‘Tiaohuajie’ in the village of Longjia in China’s Guizhou province.



A girl from the Long Horn Miao, a branch of the Miao ethnic minority group, getting her wig set prior to the annual flower festival or ‘Tiaohuajie’ in the village of Longjia in China’s Guizhou province

# The hard way to happiness in Bhutan

*Severe pain and joy don't usually mix, unless you're mountain biking in Bhutan*



SCOTT YORKE

The Kingdom of Bhutan is perhaps best known for its credo of gross national happiness, or GNH, an official index of prosperity and quality of life in place of gross domestic product. GNH is based on four guiding pillars: good governance, sustainable socioeconomic development, environmental conservation, and the promotion and preservation of culture.

Part of this philosophy champions a healthy, active lifestyle as a vehicle to help citizens maximise their pursuit of happiness. Towards that end, in 2010, His Royal Highness Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck, president of the Bhutan Olympic Committee, started the Tour of the Dragon competition, billed as “the toughest one-day mountain bike race in the world.”

Last fall, after a summer of hard, solitary, sometimes less-than-happy training, I went to Bhutan — nestled above the far northeast corner of India — to compete in the Dragon race. The 167-mile course follows a chewed-up, menacing road under major construction while snaking its way over four mountain passes, three of which stand above 10,000 feet, all in one long, masochistic day with over 15,000 vertical feet of climbing. At 132 miles in, my system was fried and my GNH had plummeted, and I still had another 22 miles of steep, uphill pedalling in front of me, followed by a 13-mile descent.

By comparison, one of the hardest stages of the 2019 Tour de France will cover just over 13,000



Bhutan tops Gross National Happiness index.

feet of climbing, and that's on ultralight race bikes on fully paved roads. The Dragon race's course profile looks like an alarming EKG reading.

I expected my body to protest. It began with a three-part barrage of cramps that surged across my lower limbs in paralysis of all forward progress: As I staggered up the steepest section of the whole course, a painful stab seized my right IT band while another twisted knots into my groin, followed by an aftershock rumbling across the left thigh for good measure.

A fervent bicycle culture has seen rapid development in Bhutan. Its northern border with Tibet runs along a treacherous seam of the Eastern Himalayan mountain range, which has historically protected the Switzerland-size country from outside influence

and fortified it as one of the only nations in the world to never be colonised. This geographic and political isolation has long delayed Bhutan's modernisation. The cycling culture has grown thanks to the bike-crazy former Druk Gyalpo, or Dragon King, who spends his days cruising trail networks throughout the mountains. Bhutanese citizens idolise the royal family, often wearing lapel pins with the current king's handsome side-burned portrait.

“My goal has always been to create a world-class cycling event in Bhutan,” the prince said. “For someone who is a believer of healthy living, cycling is a very important sport to promote national happiness.”

The roadside scenery alone was enough to warm the heart, with hydro-powered prayer wheels spin-

**The unexpected surge of motivation from the children's impassioned cheers and encouragement instantly revived my near lifeless body and spirit and jolted me into high gear.**

ning beneath canopies of colourful prayer flags and wrinkled old women smiling toothless smiles as they shyly waved to passing cyclists. The landscape is so lush and green (over 70 per cent of Bhutan is

still covered in forest) that the hillsides explode with dense treetops resembling ripe heads of broccoli. It's a constant collage of enchanted scenery.

At 10 hours into the race — after a bleary-eyed 2 am start, a headlight dying prematurely in the dark, gravelly mud caked inside my eyelids and the onslaught of cramps as I pedalled through the upper end of a 50-degree temperature swing — I found it hard to smile. My achy legs felt like bags of concrete. My seizing lower back muscles were on the verge of snapping. My neck and shoulders were so fatigued that I couldn't even hold my head up to see where I was going. I had already doubled the distance of my longest training ride, and I was starting to look for a place to pull over and rest, or maybe just quit.

The road banked into a left turn, and I slowly coasted through, gazing down at the pavement. Just then, I was hit with an eruption of cheers coming from 100 school-children posted on the side of the road. Spectators across the entire country had lined the course to cheer for the riders while handing us bananas and chocolate. It was the largest crowd of “cheering team” volunteers I'd yet to encounter, and their energy was colossal. In a sea of white khata scarves, the fanatic children chanted “Do your best! Do your best!” while running alongside me, clapping and screaming as if I were locked in a dead sprint.

This unexpected surge of motivation from the children's impassioned cheers and encouragement instantly revived my near lifeless body and spirit and jolted me into high gear. Although it had been hours since I had seen another cyclist, I was no longer alone. The support cascaded down upon me until I burst into happy tears, something I've never experienced in team sports or recreational cycling.

My pedal cadence quickened as my body lurched with a replenished energy. Several more cheering congregations propped me up along the rest of the ride. Infected with the stoke, I began passing other riders one by one, offering my own upbeat cheers and words of encouragement, which ultimately propelled me across the finish line in a decent 13 hours 45 minutes 24 seconds.

I'd cycled thousands of miles all summer in dreadful preparation of this ride, and while I had never felt so much pain in my training, I had never felt so much happiness, either.

(Scott Yorke is a freelance journalist based in Boulder, Colo.)

## Future jobs and disruptive technologies



PROF ODEH AL JAYYOUSI

Which jobs are likely to disappear in the future decade and what is the best job in the future? These questions pose critical concerns about the sustainability and viability of future jobs in a globalised digital world.

In essence, the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the Internet of Things are likely to disrupt the fabric of socio-economic system worldwide and GCC as well.

We are witnessing trends due to the emergence on robotics, smart city, driverless cars, and artificial intelligence. These disruptive technologies are likely to make some jobs obsolete.

However, are we prepared to

cope with such deep transformation in economy and society?

Reflecting on the US experience in the last 200 years in technology and agriculture, it was illuminating to note that agriculture used to constitute about 70 per cent of GNP in 1800 and it was reduced in 1990 to about 3pc of GNP.

However, this drastic change in US economy did not cause unemployment. In contrast, new jobs were created in the service economy, industry and technology.

For countries in GCC and Bahrain in particular to be prepared for the future job market, a number of measures and reforms need to be adopted that cover education reform, new business model, and culture and mindset.

Education reform is imperative to cope with new platforms and models of learning and education in light of open source education, e-learning and distance learning.

Quality education for the future is pivotal for future jobs. Future

jobs need an education that pays attention to reflection, understanding, imagination, and synthesis.

This genuine reform entails redefining what constitutes happiness, success, and good life. Also, life-long education is key for future educators since there will be multiple sources for learning like U-tube channels and social media and on-line open sources like Khan Academy and Coursera.

Hence, the conventional role of teachers is likely to change to be more of a facilitator and convener. Despite the fact that many jobs may vanish or change its nature in the future, education and health care providers will be in demand.

Emotional intelligence (not IQ), imagination and empathy will be highly needed in the era of robotics and internet of sensors and Big Data. New paradigm of learning and education should be developed to enhance multiple intelligences, especially nat-

**The digital space, the web and cloud are offering virtual limitless space and domain for users to be publishers, bloggers, film makers, and researchers.**

uralistic intelligence to address the nature-deficit-disorder due to addiction to social media and e-games.

New business model is to be developed to cope with disruptive technologies and future jobs' demands. It is envisioned that future jobs will highly depend on new skills and talents. For example,

models of free lance and outsourcing will be on the rise, like the concept of flash organisations that have a mandate to solve specific tasks.

The digital space, the web and cloud are offering virtual limitless space and domain for users to be publishers, bloggers, film makers, and researchers.

Team work and work from home for mothers and old people and working less hours are all viable options for policy makers and business owners.

Better balance between work and leisure can be attained if we can harness technology in a balanced manner. Teachers, nurses and doctors will always be in demand in the future since quality service depends on human communication and empathy. However, on-line education and virtual universities offer new possibilities for millions of people in remote areas.

New business culture and mindset are crucial in shaping the future employee. For example, con-

sumerism and fast pace of life are forcing people live beyond their limits.

This is vividly illustrated in the statement “we work at a jobs that we do not like to buy things that we do not need”. New metrics other than GDP for measuring the health and wealth of nations are needed. Happiness index and sustainability index are attempts to re-define new meaning for work and progress.

In sum, the journey from slavery to democracy was unimaginable and unthinkable but was transformative and enlightening. Nevertheless, human civilisation is founded on new ideas and human talent. Future jobs are limitless and can be cultivated by quality education that celebrates diversity, critical thinking and long-life learning.

(Prof Odeh Al Jayyousi is the Professor in Innovation and Technology Management at Arabian Gulf University. He can be reached at odjayousi@gmail.com.)



1865

**American Civil War:** Union forces under Major General William T. Sherman set the South Carolina State House on fire during the burning of Columbia.

1873

Bulgarian revolutionary leader **Vasil Levski** is executed by hanging in Sofia by the Ottoman authorities.

1878

**John Tunstall** is murdered by outlaw Jesse Evans, sparking the Lincoln County War in Lincoln County, New Mexico.



1885

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by **Mark Twain** is published in the United States.

# The real mommy war is against the State

*Stop blaming yourselves. Blame the total lack of social supports*



CAITLYN COLLINS

A lawyer and I stepped into a windowless conference room in her office building in Washington, DC, and she reflexively closed the door. I had forgotten to restock my tissues and would soon regret that. By then, I had been interviewing American mothers about their work-family conflict for several weeks. I asked women I had just met what their bosses said to them when they announced a pregnancy, what their parental leave was like, if they could ever work remotely when a child was sick.

This time, I didn't get even 20 minutes into the conversation before the woman I was interviewing dissolved in tears.

She recalled scrambling after her son was born to accomplish two tasks: "knitting back together" from her C-section and assembling a patchwork of enough disability leave, vacation and sick days, and unpaid time off to rest briefly and care for her infant son before returning to work. The United States is the only country in the industrialised world without federally mandated paid maternity leave. This do-it-yourself approach is often the only option.

"You could have children, but the general expectation was, if you made that choice, you needed to have a plan for someone else to care for them," the lawyer in Washington told me.

Since 2011, I've interviewed 135 middle-class employed mothers in Sweden, Germany, Italy and the United States to understand their work-family conflict. (I spoke to mothers specifically because in wealthy nations, mothers have historically been the focus of work-family policies and they're still responsible for most housework and child care. They report greater work-family conflict and they use work-family policies more often than men.) And I had a personal interest: I'd watched my own mother struggle to navigate her work and family obligations — a decade long juggling act that involved occasionally toting my sister and me to boardroom meetings to nap in sleeping bags when babysitters fell ill or schools closed. Years later, it seemed as though the conflict hadn't eased for many of my peers.

In the United States, almost every woman I interviewed had reached the same conclusion: It was her — or her and her partner's — responsibility to figure out child care, cobble together a leave of absence (often unpaid), get on a preschool waiting list, find a baby-sitter, seek advice from friends and acquaintances, and engineer



any number of other highly improvised coping techniques. In the lawyer's case, this meant, among other things, joining a less prestigious firm that demanded fewer hours and finding the right hands-free breast pump to multitask in her cubicle. The common thread in every conversation was that the parents had to solve their problem themselves, no matter how piecemeal the solutions.

That all makes perfect (if outrageous) sense: The United States has the least generous benefits, the lowest public commitment to caregiving, one of the highest wage gaps between employed men and women, and among the highest maternal and child poverty rates of any Western industrialised nation.

In the course of my interviews, I discovered that American working mothers generally blame themselves for how hard their lives are. They take personal responsibility for problems that European mothers recognise as having external causes. The lesson here isn't for overwhelmed American parents to look longingly across the Atlantic; it's to emulate the Swedes, Germans and Italians by harbouring the reasonable expectation that the state will help.

All the American mothers I interviewed said they felt enormous

**The United States has the least generous benefits, the lowest public commitment to caregiving, one of the highest wage gaps between employed men and women.**

guilt and tension between their work and family commitments. So did the Italians. But Italian women tended to blame the government for their problems: "Social benefits? Zero. Less than zero. Nobody helps me," laughed one woman I met, a single mother working at a hospital in Rome. "Does the government help me? No," she said, "but they should think about helping you a little bit."

In Sweden, working mothers I spoke with wanted full gender equality and expected to seamlessly combine paid work and child rearing. Mothers there also anticipated that the government would support them in these endeavours — and that's exactly what the Swedish state, its work-family policy, and the country's cul-

lives up to its image as a place where women come closest to having successful careers and fulfilling family lives. But consider the national policy focus responsible for that lifestyle: Sweden prizes gender neutrality, universal child care and a "dual earner-carer" model that features women and men equally sharing breadwinning and child-rearing roles.

Women in Stockholm seemed confused or laughed out loud when I used the term "working mother." "I don't think that expression exists in Swedish," an urban planner and mother of two told me. "It's not like there's a 'nonworking mother,'" she said. "I mean, what else would she do?"

But we can't simply import social policies and hope they'll have the same effect in a different context. For instance, American parents tend to marvel at Germany's comparatively luxurious-sounding three-year parental leave, which was available to new parents, for decades. So I was taken aback when many working mothers in Germany told me they despised the policy because of the cultural stigma it heaped on their shoulders to not return to work until they absolutely had to. A teacher who went back to work before the end of the allowable parental leave described people telling her: "You cannot do this. You are selfish, you're a career whore."

"Balance" is a term that came up relentlessly in my conversations with women in the United States. But framing work-family conflict as a problem of imbalance is merely an individualised way to justify a nation of mothers engulfed in stress. It fails to recognise how institutions contribute to this anxiety.

The stress that American parents feel is an urgent political issue, so at least part of the solution must be political as well. We have a social responsibility to solve work-family conflict. Let's start with paid parental leave and high-quality, affordable child care as national priorities.

Women — again, on this side of the Atlantic — routinely assume it's their duty to stitch together time off after childbirth. Those fortunate to qualify for parental-leave benefits — even two months at full pay, or six weeks at partial pay — feel real gratitude for such slim provisions. And in a country where most women (too often the poor and racial-ethnic minorities) receive no paid leave at all, that gratitude makes sense. But being able to work and raise the next generation of taxpayers and employees should never be deemed a matter of mere "luck."

Everyone should feel entitled to more.

(Caitlyn Collins is an assistant professor of sociology at Washington University in St Louis and the author of "Making Motherhood Work: How Women Manage Careers and Caregiving," from which this essay is adapted.)



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



...The U.S. does not want to watch as these ISIS fighters permeate Europe, which is where they are expected to go. We do so much, and spend so much - Time for others to step up and do the job that they are so capable of doing. We are pulling back after 100% Caliphate victory!

@realDonaldTrump

02



Afghanistan to UNSC: call on the Government of Pakistan to take decisive action against known terrorist and extremist groups on its territory, which pose a common threat to Afghanistan, Pakistan and the region

@sidhant

03



The President's national emergency declaration is completely unnecessary and a waste of taxpayer resources. This is a crisis of his own making.

@KamalaHarris

04



The world keeps getting older, but Africa stays the same age. It sounds confusing, but it makes sense when you break it down

@BillGates

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

# business

## BisB names new Money Laundering Reporting Officer



Mohamed Mattar

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) has announced the appointment of Mohamed Mattar as its new Money Laundering Reporting Officer (MLRO) within the Bank's Compliance Department.

"Mohammed brings more than 13 years of experience in the Anti-Money Laundering (AML) field," said the Chief Executive Officer of BisB, Hassan Jarrar.

Mattar will be in charge of establishing and maintaining the Bank's AML/CFT policies and procedures, ensuring that the Bank complies with the AML Law and any other applicable AML/CFT legislation and regulations. In addition, he will be the Bank's main point of contact in respect of handling internal suspicious transactions reports.

## Trump's choice for UN ambassador withdraws

Reuters | Washington

US President Donald Trump's choice for ambassador to the United Nations, Heather Nauert, has withdrawn from consideration for the job for family reasons. Nauert was State Department spokeswoman when Trump chose her for the UN position after working as a host for the conservative-leaning Fox News Channel. She had been criticized by Democrats for her lack of diplomatic experience.

# Saudi agrees joint venture with France to boost navy

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Saudi Arabia's state arms producer and a French government-majority firm signed an agreement yesterday on a joint venture to boost the kingdom's navy.

The memorandum of understanding between Saudi Arabian Military Industries (SAMI) and France's Naval Group is aimed at providing the Gulf state's navy with "state-of-the-art systems", a statement said.

"Through design, construction, and maintenance activities, the joint venture will contribute significantly to further enhancing the capabilities and readiness of our Royal Saudi Naval Forces," SAMI boss Andreas



SAMI boss Andreas Schwer (Courtesy of Defence News)

Schwer said. A spokeswoman for Naval Group -- which is owned by the French state and French multi-

national giant Thales -- refused to give any more details. France, one of the world's biggest arms exporters, has sold equipment to Riyadh and fellow coalition member the UAE -- notably Caesar artillery guns and ammunition, sniper rifles and armoured vehicles.

OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia has been one of the world's top arms buyers for the past several years.

But in 2017, the kingdom's Public Investment Fund set up SAMI to manufacture arms locally with the fund expecting it to become one of the world's top 25 defence companies by 2030.

national giant Thales -- refused to give any more details.

France, one of the world's biggest arms exporters, has sold equipment to Riyadh and fellow coalition member the UAE -- notably Caesar artillery guns and ammunition, sniper rifles and armoured vehicles.

## Falak Unreasonable Thinking Summit Manama

The Third Annual Falak Unreasonable Thinking Summit 2019 will be held at ART Rotana Amwaj under the auspices of Sheikh Mohamed Bin Khalifa AlKhalifa, Minister of Oil on 3rd and 4th of March 2019.

The two-day summit will host experts from a wide range of industries including: Cem Tarek, Managing Director, Unilever Middle East - UAE, John Sanei, Author and Strategist - South Africa, Dr Shashi Tharoor, Politician - India, Dr Samer Aljishi, President of BFG International - Bahrain, Lucia Valencia Dongo, Social Entrepreneur - Peru, Victor Ochen, Nobel Peace Prize Nominee - Uganda, and Kazuhide Sekiyama, Founder of Spiber Inc - Japan.

## Japan PM nominated Trump for Nobel after US request: report

Tokyo, Japan

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe nominated US President Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize last autumn after being requested to do so by Washington, a Japanese newspaper reported yesterday.

Washington sounded out Tokyo over the possibility of nominating Trump for the prize after his landmark summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un in June last year, an unnamed Japanese government source told the Asahi Shimbun.

The report came after Trump's claim on Friday that Abe had nominated him for the prize.

Trump said Abe had sent him a copy of a five-page nomination letter delivered to the Nobel Peace Prize committee in which the Japanese leader praised his efforts in defusing tensions with Pyongyang.

"He said 'I have nominated you respectfully on behalf of Japan. I am asking them to give you the Nobel Peace Prize.' I said thank you," Trump told



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

reporters at the White House. "Many other people feel that way, too. I'll probably never get it. That's okay."

Japanese officials did not respond to requests for comment on Trump's claim or the newspaper report.

## UK's May to speak to every EU leader in bid to break Brexit deadlock

London, United Kingdom

British Prime Minister Theresa May on Saturday vowed to speak to every EU member state leader "over the coming days", as she wrote to Conservative MPs to appeal for unity over Brexit.

In the letter to her fractious colleagues, excerpts of which were released by Downing Street late Saturday, May urged the party to "move beyond what divides us".

The embattled British leader said ruling Tories need to sacrifice "personal preferences" for the "higher service of the national interest".



## HK economy stalls amid trade dispute: fin chief

Hong Kong, China

Hong Kong's economy stalled last year as the ongoing China-US trade dispute and retail woes dragged down local business, the city's financial chief said yesterday.

Beijing and Washington have already imposed duties on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade, roiling global financial markets and weighing heavily on manufacturing output in both countries.

"The impact of China-US trade frictions on Hong Kong's exports has clearly emerged at the end of last year," said finance secretary Paul Chan.

Economic growth in the semi-autonomous Chinese city for the last quarter of 2018 was less than 1.5 per cent -- the weakest since the first quarter of 2016 and a "significant slowdown" from the average growth rate of 3.7pc in the first three quarters, Chan wrote on his official blog.

The slowdown brought last year's growth rate to an estimated three percent, down from the higher-than-forecast 3.8pc recorded in 2017, he added.

"It was almost 'zero-growth' for commodities exports in the fourth quarter, which



Finance secretary Paul Chan

was a sharp drop compared to the average 6pc growth in the first three quarters," he wrote.

Chan said consumer sentiment had also dampened with retail sales rising only 2.1pc year-on-year in the fourth quarter, a far cry from the more than 12pc increase in the first half of the year.

"The external political and economic situation remains unclear... Therefore, we repeatedly stress the need to support enterprises, safeguard employment, stabilise the economy and benefit people's livelihoods," he wrote, hinting at the ongoing trade negotiations between the world's top two economies.

Chan is expected to deliver the Hong Kong budget on February 27.

# UK airline flybmi collapses under fuel costs, Brexit pressures

London, United Kingdom

British regional airline flybmi announced on Saturday it had ceased operations and was filing for administration, blaming spikes in fuel and carbon costs and uncertainty over Brexit.

Parent company British Midland Regional Limited said it had cancelled all flights with immediate effect, and would not be able to purchase, rearrange or reschedule any bookings on behalf of customers.

Flybmi, based in the East Midlands region of England, operated 17 aircraft on routes to 25 European cities, and had 376 employees based in Britain, Germany, Sweden and Belgium.

"It is with a heavy heart that we have made this unavoidable announcement today," a company spokesperson said in a statement posted on its website.

"The airline has faced several difficulties, including recent spikes in fuel and carbon costs. "Current trading and future

prospects have also been seriously affected by the uncertainty created by the Brexit process," the spokesperson added.

Flybmi had been unable to secure post-Brexit flying contracts in Europe and feared it may not be able to continue serving destinations on the continent after Britain leaves the EU on March 29, according to the statement.

"Against this background, it has become impossible for the airline's shareholders to continue their extensive programme

of funding into the business, despite investment totalling over £40 million in the last six years," it said.

The airline, which said it carried 522,000 passengers on 29,000 flights last year, operated under codeshare agreements with a host of European partners, including Lufthansa, Turkish Airlines and Air France.

Britain is scheduled to leave the European Union in less than six weeks.



A BMI passenger jet at Heathrow airport in London (Bloomberg)

Iraqi youths work at "The Station", Baghdad's incubator for would-be entrepreneurs



# Rebuilding Station

To fight off unemployment, Iraqi youth plant start-up seeds

AFP | Baghdad, Iraq

Stuck between an endless waitlist for a government job and a frail private sector, Iraqi entrepreneurs are taking on staggering unemployment by establishing their own start-ups.

The first murmurs of this creative spirit were felt in 2013, but the Islamic State group's sweep across a third of the country the following year put many projects on hold.

Now, with IS defeated, co-working spaces and incubators are flourishing in a country whose unemployment rate hovers around 10 per cent but whose public sector is too bloated to hire.

Many self-starters begin their journey at an aptly named glass building in central Baghdad: The Station.

There, they sip on coffee, peruse floor-to-ceiling bookshelves for ideas and grab a seat at clusters of desks where other stylish Iraqis click away at their laptops.

"We're trying to create a new generation with a different state of mind," said executive director Haidar Hamzoz.

"We want to tell youth that they can start their own project, achieve their dreams and not just be happy in a government job they didn't even want," he told AFP.

Youth make up around 60 per cent of Iraq's nearly 40 million people.

After graduating from university, many spend years waiting to be appointed to a job in the government, Iraq's biggest employer.

Four out of five jobs created in Iraq in recent years are in the public sector, according to the World Bank.

And in its 2019 budget, the government proposed \$52 billion in salaries, pensions, and social security for its workers -- a 15 percent jump from 2018 and



Iraqis sit at "The Station", Baghdad's incubator for would-be entrepreneurs, in the Iraqi capital

more than half the total budget.

But with graduates entering the workforce faster than jobs are created, many still wait indefinitely for work.

Among youth, 17 per cent of men and a whopping 27pc of women are unemployed, the World Bank says.

## After IS, innovation reigns

When IS declared Mosul its seat of power in Iraq back in 2014, resident Saleh Mahmud

was forced to shutter the city's incubator for would-be entrepreneurs.

With Mosul now cautiously rebuilding after the jihadists were ousted in 2017, Mahmud is back in business.

"Around 600-700 youth have already passed by Mosul Space" to attend a seminar or seek out resources as they start their own ventures, said the 23-year-old.

He was inspired after watching fellow Mosul University



Iraqis are pictured inside "The Station"



An Iraqi youth works at the "Mosul Space"

graduates hopelessly "try to hunt down a connection to get a job in the public sphere."

"A university education isn't something that gets you a fulfilling job," he said.

Another start-up, Dakkake-na, is capitalising on Mosul's rebuilding spirit, too.

The online shopping service delivers a lorry-full of home goods every day to at least a dozen families refurbishing after the war.

"On the web, we can sell things for cheaper than stores because we have fewer costs, like no showrooms," said founder Yussef al-Noaime, 27.

Noaime fled IS to the Netherlands, where he was introduced to e-commerce. When he returned home, the computer engineer partnered with another local to found their venture.

A similar service, Miswag, was set-up in the capital Baghdad in 2014 and last year reported

hundreds of thousands of dollars in profits.

## Banks and big dreams

On an autumn day, some 70 young Iraqi innovators converged for a three-day workshop in Baghdad on founding start-ups.

They flitted among round tables planning projects, their Arabic conversations sprinkled with English terms.

"What we're doing is showing youth what entrepreneurship is -- not necessarily so they succeed, but so they at least try," said organiser Ibrahim al-Zarari.

He said attendees should understand two things: first, that the public sector is saturated. And second, that oil isn't the only resource on which Iraq -- OPEC's second-largest producer -- should capitalise.

More than 65pc of Iraq's GDP and nearly 90pc of state revenues hail from the oil sector. Many youth turn to it for work, but it only employs one percent of the workforce.

Widespread corruption and bureaucracy also weaken Iraq's appeal for private investors. The World Bank ranks it 168th out of 190 for states with a good business environment.

Under current legislation, private sector employees are not offered the same labour protections or social benefits as those in the public sector.

And Iraq's stuttering banking industry appears too cautious to dive in, said Tamara Raad, 26, who researches start-ups.

"The banks have a role to play. They must make loans without interest and help young entrepreneurs," she said.

Banks or no banks, Mahmud in Mosul is already planning how he'll grow his business in 2019.

"We will open a new, larger space for new gatherings," he said excitedly, to bring together returning designers, developers and other inventors.

# UAE property earnings boost Gulf

● Emaar, Aldar post better-than-expected results

● Real estate sector gets confidence boost

● DAMAC gains despite 87 pct drop in Q4 net profits

● Bank stocks down in Saudi Arabia

● Orascom Investment extends gains in Egypt



A trader watching stock movements on the floor of Tadawul (file)

### Closing Bell

SAUDI	▼ 0.4 pc	» 8,592 pts
DUBAI	▼ 0.6 pc	» 2,550 pts
ABU DHABI	▲ 0.7 pc	» 5,070 pts
QATAR	▲ 0.7 pc	» 10,011 pts
EGYPT	▲ e 1.4 pc	» 15,199 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.1 pc	» 5,427 pts
OMAN	▼ 0.8 pc	» 4,077 pts
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.6 pc	» 1,381 pts

ed a 27pc rise in fourth-quarter profit.

The stock rose 2pc yesterday. DAMAC Properties closed up 0.8pc, despite having reported a nearly 60pc fall in full-year profit and an 87pc drop in fourth-quarter net profits.

In Abu Dhabi, Aldar Properties gained 3.6pc. Last week, the developer reported a rise in fourth-quarter earnings and higher dividends for 2018.

In other sectors, Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank rose 0.5pc after saying it had no merger and acquisition plans.

This was in response to a

Bloomberg report last week which said the bank was considering such options.

The Saudi index closed 0.4pc down, in contrast to the rest of the region's markets.

Arab National Bank reported an increase in full-year net profit to 3.13 billion riyals (\$834.62 million) from 3.03 billion riyals one year earlier. The stock remained unchanged and this failed to give support to the banking sector.

Alinma Bank and Al Rajhi Banking & Investment Corp lost 0.3pc and 0.6pc, respectively.

In Egypt, where the main index gained 1.4pc, Orascom Investment Holding, up 3.2pc, was among the stocks attracting the highest trading volume.

Shares in the company jumped last week after its chairman, Egyptian billionaire businessman Naguib Sawiris, said he saw possible investment opportunities in North Korea if a summit between its leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump later this month was successful.

Reuters | Dubai

Most stock markets in the Middle East closed higher yesterday, reflecting a rally in global stock markets yesterday, and were also boosted by better-than-expected company results, particularly in real estate.

The Abu Dhabi index gained 0.7 per cent and the Dubai index 0.6pc, as two of the largest property developers in the United Arab Emirates posted positive fourth-quarter financial results last week that beat market expectations.

"The market is starting to re-

build confidence in earnings as a driver for sentiment," said Arqaam Capital in a research note.

"Sentiment on the UAE was very weak in 2018, specifically for real estate, on concerns over oversupply risk, pricing pressure that is leading to extended payment plans, and a rental yield

compression that is continuing to fall," Arqaam said.

"But Q4 numbers provided evidence that a few developers have emerged as winners (Emaar Co's, Aldar) out of market consolidation."

Emaar Properties, Dubai's largest listed developer, report-



The second vice-chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Mohammed Al Kooheji receiving at Bait Al Tijjar yesterday the First Counsellor and Head of Trade Section of the Riyadh-based European Union's delegation accredited to Bahrain Alberto Martelli accompanied by the Trade Affairs Officer Mohammed Zakzouk. The meeting deliberated about the business relation between the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council in general and focused on the prospect of business between the EU and Bahrain. The meeting also mulled stepping-up cooperation between the Bahrain Chamber and the EU delegation office and consolidating efforts to empower Small and Medium Enterprises.

## UAE announces \$1.1 billion of military deals with international cos: IDEX

Reuters | Abu Dhabi

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said yesterday it had signed military deals worth 3.87 billion UAE dirhams (\$1.1 billion) with international companies. A spokesman for the IDEX defense conference said the UAE had also announced military deals worth 1.1 billion UAE dirhams with local companies.

The value of deals during the five-day event is likely to exceed the Dh19.17bn reached in 2017, IDEX organisers said earlier this month. The biennial event taking place in Abu Dhabi has attracted a record number of exhibitors and countries.



Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum (R), Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai attends the opening of the International Defence Exhibition and Conference at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre. Left, Members of the UAE Armed forces perform a military drill during the opening of the Defence Exhibition and Conference

## US millennials a popular but elusive target for brands

New York, United States

American millennials -- the generation of people aged 17-35 -- are a popular target for advertisers and brands, but companies risk missing out by approaching them as one homogenous population.

From Gillette razors to McDonald's and American Express, every major American company is touting its efforts to attract these young people, considered the workforce of tomorrow and the new generation of consumers.

ExxonMobil and Chevron no longer hesitate to highlight their late and forced conversion to the fight against climate change, a subject important to millennials, who will suffer its most serious consequences.

"I think it's a good idea to focus on millennials in the sense that it's a huge market," said Ajay Kohli, a professor at Georgia Tech University.

"But I don't think it makes sense to play millennials as a

homogenous group of people who want the same products or same services, or believe in the same values, or are equally price sensitive or equally responsive to give a message," Kohli said.

It is an opinion shared by Kelly O'Keefe, a marketing professor at the University of Virginia, who notes that there is significant diversity in the 75 million millennials who reside in the United States.

"Some voted for Trump. Some for Clinton. Some drink craft beer. Some Pabst. Some only buy organic foods, but Millennials are also among the largest consumers of processed foods," O'Keefe said.

"Many companies make the mistake of treating Millennials like they share a single personality and a common set of values. They don't!"

Faced with public mistrust of banks after the financial crisis, Capital One is seeking to become the bank of choice for millennials by transforming

branches into cafes where you can have a cappuccino while negotiating a loan.

"People who actually go to bank branches, we call them 'wanters' and 'needers.' You found millennials among 'wanters' and you also found millennials among 'needers,'" said David Allison, an expert in consumer habits whose firm has conducted thousands of surveys to form a database in the United States, Canada and China.

"Wanters' are looking for a personal relationship with the banks; 'needers' are looking for a social status, for them a bank is a serious place, they will be looking after my money and that's going to make me feel like I'm a serious person who has money," Allison said, adding that what matters is what services to offer the two categories.

He urges companies to eliminate demography in their marketing approach because it often leads to stereotypes.



Representative picture (Courtesy of Forbes)



celebs



Katy Perry and Orlando Bloom

**Katy Perry, Orlando Bloom keen to have children**

Los Angeles

Singer Katy Perry and actor Orlando Bloom want to have children as soon as possible. "Katy is slowing down her career this year. They want to get married and start a family sooner rather than later. They both want kids together and will prioritise this," a source told people.com. Although Bloom, 42, surprised Perry, 36, with his proposal, the pair have been taking about marriage for some time. The source said: "They have been talking about getting engaged for a while. After reconciling Katy has felt very secure with Orlando and they both knew it was different this time. They made their relationship a priority and both of them literally flew all around the world to keep their relationship strong. "She was in such a bad place after her split from (her first husband) Russell Brand, so to be getting married again is a huge deal. Their friends and family are so happy and excited for them. They are such a great couple. They really took their time to figure out if they could work as a couple. They really wanted to from the beginning, but things are not always easy. They are both proud of how far they have come. Everyone is super excited about the engagement," added the source.



Charlize Theron

Oscar-winning star Charlize Theron says she started "making out" with herself and her dolls when she was seven. She said: "I was making out with myself at seven, I made out with dolls and with myself in the mirror." During her appearance at "The Ellen DeGeneres Show",

**When Charlize Theron made out with dolls**

the 43-year-old star, who has denied the rumours linking her to actor Brad Pitt, also joked that her childhood antics explains why she is currently single, reports femalefirst.com. Theron, who has two adopted children, Jackson and August, said: "It's why I'm single."

**Ryan Coogler will speak if 'Black Panther' wins best picture at Oscars 2019, says Kevin Feige**

Los Angeles

Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige has made it clear that if his film "Black Panther" wins the Oscar for Best Picture at the upcoming Academy Awards, it will be director Ryan Coogler who will receive the trophy. In an interview with Entertainment Weekly's The Awardspodcast, Feige, who is credited to be the man behind the studio's highly successful Marvel Cinematic Universe, said he would make Coogler deliver a speech should the film wins the top Oscar award. "He will have no choice. Without question because it is Ryan's film, and it is Ryan's achievement. It would be a must. I would ask him, very kindly, to be there," he said. Directed by Coogler, "Black Panther" was the first Marvel film to be led by a person of colour - Chadwick Boseman - and featured a virtually all-black cast with Michael B Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o, Danai Gurira, Andy Serkis, among others.



Ryan Coogler

**Grammy winner Kacey Musgraves to present award at Oscars 2019**

Los Angeles

Singer-songwriter Kacey Musgraves has been added to the list of people who will be presenting the trophies to the winners at the upcoming 91st Academy Awards. The 30-year-old musician recently won the 2019 Grammy Album of the Year award for her critically acclaimed, genre-bending record "Golden Hour". Apart from this, she also won awards for best country album, best country song and best country solo performance. According to Variety, the Academy is yet to announce which award Musgraves will present at the awards ceremony but it is expected to be one of the two music awards best original song and best original score. She joins previously announced presenters -- Chris Evans, Brie Larson, Awkwafina, Daniel Craig, Tina Fey, Whoopi Goldberg, Jennifer Lopez, Amy Poehler, Maya Rudolph, Amandla Stenberg, Charlize Theron, Tessa Thompson, Constance Wu, Javier Bardem, Angela Bassett, Chadwick Boseman, Emilia Clarke, Laura Dern, Samuel L Jackson, Stephan James, Keegan-Michael Key, KiKi Layne, James McAvoy, Melissa McCarthy, Jason Momoa and Sarah Paulson.



Kacey Musgraves

**Daniel Radcliffe recalls his first meeting with girlfriend Erin Darke**

London

Actor Daniel Radcliffe has revealed that he first met his girlfriend, Erin Darke, on the sets of his 2013 film "Kill Your Darlings". The "Harry Potter" star recently appeared on People magazine's "Couch Surfing" series, where he talked about shooting an intimate scene with Darke for the film. "It'll be a hell of a story to tell our kids one day because of what our characters do with each other," Radcliffe said. The actor said he now views the scene between their characters as a "sweet record" of his first meeting with Darke. "Our characters are meeting and flirting with each other, so there is this kind of sweet record of us just meeting for the first time and flirting," he said.



Erin Darke and Daniel Radcliffe

**Second marriage was my downfall: Kerry Katona**

Los Angeles

Singer Kerry Katona says her second marriage was her "downfall". Katona, who has Molly, 17, and Lilly-Sue, 15, with first husband Brian McFadden, Heidi, 11, and Maxwell, 10, with second

spouse Mark Croft and Dylan-Jorge, four, with third husband George Kay, said she was "crushed" when her union with the West-life singer McFaddenAended and her biggest mistake was to wed her drug dealer, reports femalefirst.co.uk.



Kerry Katona

SNIPPETS

**Actor Bruno Ganz dead at 77**

Los Angeles

Legendary actor Bruno Ganz, who played Adolf Hitler in the film "Downfall", is dead. He was 77. Ganz's agent on Saturday announced the news of the actor's demise. He was battling intestinal cancer, reports theguardian.com. The Swiss actor became internationally renowned for his 2004 portrayal of the dictator of Germany. He was even the holder of the Iffland-Ring, the most important award for German-speaking actors.



Bruno Ganz

**I wanna be a global musical artiste: Jaden Smith**

Los Angeles

"The Karate Kid" star Jaden Smith, also a rapper, had one of his "favourite performances ever" here. He doesn't want to just make strides in acting but also in music. "I love hip-hop music. It's amazing. It's a way for all of us to express ourselves... I would love to collaborate with some rappers from India. That would be a dream of mine because I really wanna be a global musical artiste," Jaden told select media including IANS here after his performance at Vh1 Supersonic 2019 on Saturday.



Jaden Smith

**David Beckham and all four children sit front row at Victoria Beckham's AW19 show**

London

On Sunday morning Victoria Beckham debuted her autumn/winter 2019 collection at London Fashion Week, the Spice Girl turned designers second show in the capital. As expected, the front row was packed with fashion industry heavyweights from Vogue's Anna Wintour and Edward Enninfu, to the entire Beckham family. David Beckham cut a suave figure in a black suit as he entered the show space at the Tate Britain followed by 16-year-old Romeo and 13-year-old Cruz.



Victoria Beckham

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# Messi penalty lifts Barca

Griezmann overtakes Torres on Atletico Madrid's top-scorer list as they beat Rayo

● **Barcelona beat Valladolid to go seven points clear in Spain**

AFP | Madrid

Lionel Messi scored a penalty and missed another as La Liga leaders Barcelona ground out an unconvincing 1-0 win over Real Valladolid, while Antoine Griezmann surpassed Fernando Torres with his 130th goal for Atletico Madrid.

Messi's fitness was again in the spotlight on Saturday after a niggling thigh strain in recent weeks, but he completed the full 90 minutes at the Camp Nou and hit the 30-goal mark at Barcelona for the 11th straight season.

The Argentine coolly dispatched a spot-kick just before half-time, drilling beyond the reach of Jordi Masip after Gerard Pique was bundled to the ground by Valladolid midfielder Michel.

Masip brilliantly tipped over a Messi volley soon after the interval and Luis Suarez wasted a huge opportunity to double the lead shortly after replacing Kevin-Prince Boateng with an hour gone.

Messi found himself booked for dissent after an apparent foul on him went unpunished, and he



Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi shoots a penalty kick

then blew the chance to kill off Valladolid when Masip kept out his second penalty of the night -- awarded following a trip on Philippe Coutinho.

The excellent Masip alertly gathered Messi's follow-up header and again denied Suarez late on as Barca pulled seven points clear of Atletico ahead of their trip to Lyon in the Champions League last 16.

"We haven't played well. The truth is it wasn't a good match

today. The only good thing is the victory," Pique, who made his 300th appearance in La Liga told Movistar.

"Getting back on track with three points is important after two draws in the league. But we definitely have to improve. We have to be better on Tuesday otherwise we'll have a tough time."

**'Extraordinary player'**

Griezmann scored a sec-

ond-half winner in Atletico's 1-0 victory at neighbours Rayo Vallecano to provide a timely boost going into next week's showdown with Cristiano Ronaldo and Juventus.

The French forward surpassed Torres -- now playing for Sagan Tosu in Japan -- for fifth all-time on the Atletico goalscoring charts as they shook off two successive defeats, including last week's 3-1 loss at home to Real Madrid.



Griezmann struck for the tenth time in his last 11 outings, forcing home from six yards on 74 minutes after Alvaro Morata laid off a high, looping ball inside the area.

"Griezmann is an extraordinary player, he always adapts to what the team needs. He's very important for us," Atletico coach Diego Simeone said.

The late Luis Aragones, who coached Spain to the European Championship title in 2008, is Atletico's record goalscorer with 172.

"It's always tough at this stadium. We started off well and we had chances in the first 15 minutes such as Saul's header, but then they improved," Simeone added.

"Our second half substitutions gave us more offensive strength and that allowed us to get our goal. It was a very tough match."

## Neymar's father denies any contact with Barca over return

AFP | Paris

Neymar's father reiterated yesterday that there has been no attempt to contact Barcelona over a possible return to Spain for the world's most expensive player.

Neymar joined Paris Saint-Germain for a world record fee of 222 million euros (\$251 million) in August 2017 but has repeatedly been linked with a move back to Barcelona.

"Barca are a huge club, we were very happy over there," Neymar Sr told TF1 yesterday. "It's impossible to leave a player like him out of these (transfer market) rumours. But it's a lie, there hasn't been a call with Barca."

"There are two people who speak for Neymar: himself and me. Neither of us has spoken about this intention to return to Barcelona," he added.

"These rumours amuse us a lot. These journalists are funny. The future is in Paris, the present is in Paris."

Neymar Sr took to social media last month to brand a report in Spain which claimed he had begged Barca to resign his son from PSG as "fake news".

The Brazilian forward is currently on the sidelines after he was ruled out for 10 weeks with a metatarsal injury suffered in a French Cup win over Strasbourg on January 23.

PSG hope the 27-year-old, who suffered a fracture to the same right foot at the end of February last year, will be back in time for a potential Champi-



Neymar

**There are two people who speak for Neymar: himself and me. Neither of us has spoken about this intention to return to Barcelona**

NEYMAR SR

ons League quarter-final.

The French club hold a 2-0 lead over Manchester United ahead of the return leg at the Parc des Princes in their last-16 tie.

Neymar Sr also called on referees in France to offer his son more protection.

"It's not the French league that is the problem, it's the referees who must protect the players," he said.

## Schnur's dream run continues, Opelka outguns Isner

AFP | Manama

Canadian qualifier Brayden Schnur punched his ticket to the ATP New York Open final by outlasting US journeyman Sam Querrey 7-6 (9/7), 4-6, 6-3 on Saturday.

Schnur, a 23-year-old from Montreal ranked 154th in the world, defeated 10-time ATP title-winner Querrey in one hour and 54 minutes in the semi-finals.

He will try to complete a fairy-tale championship run yesterday against American Reilly Opelka, who outgunned top seed John Isner in three sets 6-7 (8/10), 7-6 (16/14), 7-6 (7/4) in the other semi-final.

The all-American showdown



Sam Querrey hits a return

set a Tour record for the most combined aces in a three set match with 81. The previous record was 71 set by Nick Kyrgios and Ryan Harrison earlier this year in Brisbane.

Schnur, the last alternate in the qualifying draw, had been winless in five career tour-level matches.

World number 49 Querrey, 31, was in his first ATP semi-final since last year in New York, when he lost to South African Kevin Anderson in the final.

Schnur denied Querrey's first four break chances on set points in the 10th game then held to 5-5 on his fifth ace of the match as they battled into a tie-breaker.

Querrey double faulted to 4-4 and Schnur grabbed three set points before finally breaking through to claim the first set after 53 minutes.

Schnur broke Querrey in the second game of the second set on the way to a 3-0 lead, but the US veteran roared back to win six of the next seven games and force a third set.

## BIC joins in on Sports Day festivities

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) took part in Bahrain's National Sports Day festivities last week.

BIC hosted several activities at its Sakhr premises to mark the occasion. Dozens of staff members and guests took part.

For women, the activities included yoga, cycling, a marathon, and a walkathon.

Meanwhile, held in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation, there was also plenty of action in Autocross held at BIC's car park, as well as in karting at Bahrain International Karting Cir-



Participants ride cycles at the BIC

cuit.

Bahrain's National Sports Day was organised by various sporting institutions across the nation in compliance with the decision of the Presidents of National Olympics Committees in the GCC, who agreed to hold

such an event on the second week of February in all GCC countries.

Bahrain's National Sports Day is now held every year and spearheaded by the BOC, it seeks to activate the noble Olympic principles.

## BBK junior tennis ends today

TDT | Manama

The final matches and the closing ceremony of 24th BBK Juniors Open Tennis Championship 2019, held under the patronage of Reyadh Sater (BBK's Chief Executive) and organized by Bahrain Tennis Club, will be held today.

The final in the Unisex Under 8 Category between Mohamed Al Khadem (KSA) and Isak Texmo (SWE) will be held at 4pm at Mini Court. The Under 14 Boys Singles Final will also be held at the same time.

The final in the Unisex Under 10 between Hashim Al Tobli (BRN) and Ahmed Al Sayed (BRN) will be held at Center Court at 5pm.

## Umtiti set for return against Lyon

AFP | Barcelona

Samuel Umtiti is set to make his long-awaited return from injury after Barcelona named him in the squad yesterday to face Lyon in the Champions League.

A knee problem has caused Umtiti to play only once in almost five months but the defender resumed training at the end of January and has been included in Barca's squad for the trip to Lyon on Tuesday.

Umtiti is unlikely to start the first leg against his former club but his availability is a plus for coach Ernesto Valverde, with difficult fixtures to come.

After Lyon, Barcelona face a trip to Sevilla in La Liga before two Clasicos in four days, the first in the Copa del Rey and the second in the league, both at the Santiago Bernabeu.

## Cardiff considering legal action against Nantes over Sala 'negligence'

AFP | London

Cardiff City could launch a negligence claim against Nantes as soon as next week if an official report finds Emiliano Sala was flown to his death by a pilot who did not have the correct licence, according to Britain's Sunday Telegraph.

Premier League side Cardiff already find themselves involved in a legal dispute with French side Nantes over whether they are contractually obliged to pay a transfer fee for the Argentinian striker, who died without playing a game for the Welsh side.

Sala had signed for Cardiff for a club record £15 million (\$19 million) and was flying to his new team from former side Nantes in France when his plane went missing over the Channel on January 21.

The wreckage was located on the seabed. Sala's body was recovered but pilot David Ibbotson is still missing. The aircraft remains under the sea.

# Real overturned by Girona

Sergio Ramos sent off as Real Madrid's resurgence is ended by Girona

● **Marcelo and Ramos disaster rocks Real title hopes in the shock defeat**

● **A brilliant second-half performance from Girona saw them come from a goal down to win at the Bernabeu**

● **Real were left nine points adrift of league leaders Barcelona as their seven-game unbeaten run came to an end**

AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid threw away their lead and perhaps their hopes of catching Barcelona as Girona came from behind to pull off a shock 2-1 victory at the Santiago Bernabeu yesterday.

Girona had not won in 13 matches and looked on course for a seventh straight defeat when Casemiro headed a dominant Madrid ahead in the first half.

But complacency set in, and Girona took full advantage as Cristhian Stuani scored a penalty and Portu nodded in at the back post, leaving the European champions scrapping even for a point before Sergio Ramos was sent off in the 90th minute.

They failed even to muster that, with defeat here a major act of self-harm for what was beginning to look like a serious resurgence in La Liga's title race.

Barcelona had beaten Real Valladolid by a single goal on Saturday but their stodgy display



Girona's Uruguayan forward Cristhian Stuani (2ndL) scores a penalty

continued a period of uncertainty for the Catalans, while Madrid arrived here on the back of seven wins and a draw at the Camp Nou.

Barca still have to go to the Bernabeu later this month but that Clasico will be a lot less nervy now. Their cushion has been extended to nine points over Real, with Atletico jumping back above them into second, seven points off the top.

"It's a shame," Real coach Santiago Solari said. "We drop points and our rivals won. It is a pity because we were on a great run." Is the league over? "Not at all," he said.

The frustration for Solari will be that his team had this game in the palm of their hands, in control against a Girona side that celebrated at the end as if they had secured survival.

Their first league victory since

November pushes them four points clear of the bottom three. Solari will also take some of the blame after he fielded a rotated line-up following the Champions League win over Ajax in midweek.



Gareth Bale and Vinicius Junior both started on the bench, while Luka Modric was suspended. Marcelo came in at left back and was again unconvincing for Girona's second.

Madrid barely broke sweat in the first half, in control but playing within themselves as long spells of possession were only occasionally turned into a clear-cut chance.

The best move was marked by two scoops, the first by Toni Kroos, who lifted the ball over Pere Pons and squared for Lucas Vazquez, who repeated the trick, dinking it between two defenders, only for his finish to be saved by Bono.

It was no surprise in the 25th minute when Casemiro nodded in Kroos' cross after Bono elected to punch rather than catch the initial ball in.

## Comfortable to complacent

Eusebio brought on both Aleix Garcia and Anthony Lozano at half-time, and the impact was almost instant, as Garcia blazed over a rebound after Lozano's

header.

Madrid slipped from comfortable to complacent and shortly after the hour they were punished. Stuani's header spilled out to Douglas Luiz, whose finish was blocked by the hand of Ramos.

Ramos' yellow card might have been red, the defender perhaps only spared by two white shirts behind him. Stuani made no mistake with the penalty.

Girona almost scored again, Portu's shot rattling the outside of the post, and then they did. Casemiro missed a tackle in midfield and Lozano's shot was parried to Portu. Marcelo dangled a leg but failed to stop the header

creeping inside the post.

Vinicius and Bale both came on but Vinicius three times missed the target from good positions, while Bale was whistled at one point after losing possession.

Casemiro wanted a penalty when he felt Pedro Alcalá's hand on his shoulder and moments later Ramos was sent off, drawing a second yellow card catching Alcalá in the face with an attempted volley.

Even Courtois was allowed up for a late corner and he got his head on it too but the ball flashed wide. The surprised applause quickly turned to groans at full-time.

## FA Cup

Bristol City	0	-	1	Wolverhampton Wanderers
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## English Championship

Blackburn Rovers	0	-	1	Middlesbrough
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## Italian Serie A

SPAL	1	-	4	Fiorentina
Empoli	3	-	0	Sassuolo
Genoa	2	-	1	Lazio
Udinese	1	-	0	Chievo

## German Bundesliga

Eintracht Frankfurt	1	-	1	Borussia Monchengladbach
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## Spanish La Liga

Real Madrid	1	-	2	Girona
Valencia CF	0	-	0	Espanyol

## French Ligue 1

Bordeaux	2	-	1	Toulouse
Caen	0	-	0	Strasbourg
Lille	0	-	0	Montpellier
Reims	1	-	0	Rennes

\*Scores as of closing

## VAR helps Fiorentina beat SPAL amid controversy



Mattia Valoti of SPAL scores his team's second goal which was disallowed by the referee

AFP | Milan

Fiorentina were saved by VAR yesterday amid chaotic scenes after the referee disallowed SPAL a goal and instead awarded a penalty which the Tuscans converted before winning 4-1.

Mattia Valoti's deflected strike after 75 minutes had been greeted with delight by the home crowd as it had given relegation-threatened SPAL a 2-1 advantage after 75 minutes in Ferrara.

But the referee immediately ordered a video review which confirmed Felipe had fouled Federico Chiesa in the build-up to the goal which he disallowed and instead awarded Fiorentina a penalty.

Jordan Veretout stepped up and converted from the spot with the decision proving to be a killer blow for SPAL who instead of being 2-1 up were 2-1 down.

The hosts scrambled to get back into the game but conceded a goal with Giovanni

Siemone adding a third minutes later, and Brazilian Gerson a fourth two minutes from time.

SPAL had taken the lead through Andrea Petagna after 36 minutes before Edmilson Fernandes grabbed the equaliser just before the break.

Fiorentina move up to eighth -- seven points off the Champions League places -- after their eighth win this season.

SPAL sit three points above the relegation zone after their 12th defeat.

## Cavaleiro sees Wolves into FA Cup quarters

AFP | London

Ivan Cavaleiro's goal was enough to give Wolverhampton Wanderers a 1-0 win away to Bristol City yesterday that saw the Premier League club end their 16-year wait for an appearance in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup.

Second-tier Bristol City had their chances but midfielder Cavaleiro's 28th-minute finish at Ashton Gate ended their 15-match undefeated run and nine-match winning streak.

Victory kept alive Wolves' bid to win the FA Cup for the fifth time, with the Midlands club last having lifted the knockout trophy back in 1960.

Cavaleiro was one of three changes made by Wolves manager Nuno Espirito Santo to the side that drew 1-1 with Newcastle, along with goalkeeper John Ruddy and Romain Saiss.

Nuno's decision-making was rewarded at both ends of the pitch, with Cavaleiro scoring after he was played in by the influential Matt Doherty, who hit the post three minutes later.

Meanwhile 32-year-old keeper Ruddy tipped Bailey Wright's shot over the bar after 69 minutes and then denied Marlon Pack from the ensuing corner.

Ruddy made an even better save to repel a close-range flick from Matt Taylor and even had to save a shot from opposite



**Of course the goal was important and I'm very happy to score but the most important thing is the team move on to the next round**

IVAN CAVALEIRO

number Frank Fielding after the City goalkeeper came up for a corner in stoppage time.

Wolves now join top-flight rivals Manchester City, Brighton and Watford in the last eight, with Cup-holders Chelsea playing Manchester United shortly before Monday's draw in a repeat of last season's final.

"Of course the goal was important and I'm very happy to score but the most important thing is the team move on to the next round," Cavaleiro told BT Sport.

"It was a tough game, very hard game, they have great players, very good players and it was a great win for us."

Nuno added: "(I'm) very happy for the boys. It's a tough team. It's hard to defend when they put so many people in the box and you just hope for the best sometimes."



Matt Doherty of Wolverhampton Wanderers evades Jay Dasilva of Bristol City