

Tigers maul Windies

Bangladesh powered to the second highest run chase in World Cup history as Shakib Al Hasan's brilliant century clinched a remarkable seven-wicket win over the West Indies yesterday.

P16

THE DAILY tribune



First prisoner freed under First Step Act praises Kim Kardashian

14 CELEBS

WORLD 6 Iraq lifts nearly 30 km of blast walls from Baghdad: official



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Houthis accused of diverting aid

New York

The head of the United Nations food agency has accused Yemen's Houthi rebels of diverting food from the country's hungriest people and threatened to suspend food aid.

David Beasley, executive director of the World Food Programme (WFP), said the agency had found "serious evidence" that food supplies had been diverted in the capital, Sana'a and other Houthi-controlled areas in the country, which is in the midst of a four-year civil war. He called on the Houthis to implement agreements that would allow the UN agency to operate independently.

Looming Iran nuclear threat

Tehran

Iran has announced it will breach on 27 June the limit on its stockpile of enriched uranium that was set under a 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

Its atomic energy agency said it had quadrupled production of the material, which is used to make reactor fuel and potentially nuclear weapons.



02 Charity efforts lauded

04 Hearing date set for man accused of insulting Islam

05 Over 1,000 violations recorded at healthcare facilities last year

Tracking progress

Cabinet approves GAP follow-up mechanism in line with GAP goals

● The Cabinet hailed the good performance of the national economy during the first quarter of this year.

● The session discussed Bahrain's national risk assessment report in the field of anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism.

Manama

The Cabinet chaired by Deputy Prime Minister HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa yesterday approved a mechanism to follow up on ministries' implementation of the programmes and plans included in the Government Action Plan (GAP) 2019-2022.

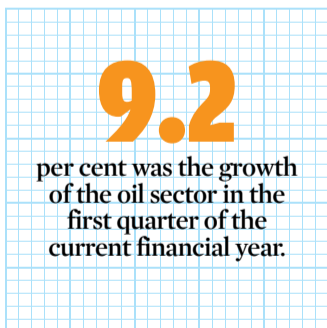
The mechanism will be included in the follow-up system



HH Shaikh Mohammed

supervised by HRH the Prime Minister's Court.

HH Shaikh Mohammed directed ministries and government departments to submit periodic reports to the Cabinet on the im-



plementation progress of each programme or plan included in GAP, and to submit follow-up memoranda to take the necessary measures to overcome any obstacles, said Cabinet Secretary-General Dr Yasser Al Nasser in a post-session statement.

Among other things, the Cabinet hailed the good performance of the national economy during the first quarter of this year, citing the remarkable increase of the gross domestic product (GDP) to 2.7 per cent.

Figures included in the quarterly economic report for the Kingdom, presented by the Minister of Finance and National Economy, showed a growth in the oil sector by 9.2pc, as well as in the contributions of non-oil sectors to the GDP.

The report revealed that the contributions of the hotels and restaurants sector, financial corporations sector and the construction sector to the GDP have gone up by 8pc, 3.5pc and 2.9pc, respectively, in the first quarter of 2019 compared to the same period of 2018.

Egypt ex-president Mursi dies after collapsing in court

● Mursi had fainted after a court session and died afterwards.

● A top figure in the Muslim Brotherhood, he was toppled by the military in 2013.

Cairo



Mursi, a top figure in the Muslim Brotherhood, was toppled by the military in 2013.

Egypt's state TV said the country's former President Mohamed Mursi collapsed during a court session and died on Monday.

It said Mursi had fainted after a court session and died afterwards.

Mursi, a top figure in the Muslim Brotherhood, was toppled by the military in 2013 after mass protests against this rule.

He had been serving a seven-year sentence for falsifying his candidacy application for the 2012 presidential race.

State television said Mursi, who was 67, was in court for a hearing on charges of espionage emanating from suspected contacts with the Palestinian group Hamas.

Mursi was also serving a 20-year prison sentence for a conviction arising from the killing of protesters during demonstrations in 2012 and a life sentence for espionage in a case related to Qatar.

Mursi and nearly all leaders

of the now-outlawed Muslim Brotherhood were detained after the military, then led by President Abdel Fattah El Sisi, removed the former president in July 2013 amid a wave of street protests against his divisive, one-year rule.

Mursi was elected in 2012, a year after a popular uprising toppled the 29-year regime of Hosni Mubarak.

His short time at the helm was defined by a much-criticised power grab in late 2012 when he issued a constitutional declaration that gave him far-reaching powers and gave his executive orders legal immunity.

His rule was also characterised by what many Egyptians saw as a failure to be president for all Egyptians, showing blatant bias in favour of the Brotherhood and its supporters.

TRAGIC ORDEAL

12 dead, 31 rescued as migrant boat sinks

Ankara

A boat carrying migrants to Greece sank off the Turkish coast yesterday, leaving at least 12 migrants dead, Turkey's coast guard said.

The coast guard said 31 other migrants were rescued after the boat capsized in the Aegean Sea, off the coast of Bodrum. The region is close to the Greek island of Kos.



Turkish Coast Guard rescue illegal migrants after their boat sank in the Aegean sea.

The 12 bodies were found inside the wreck of the boat at a depth of 32 meters (105 feet), the coast guard said in a state-

ment. It said the search-and-rescue operation involving two coast guard boats, a helicopter and a

55 The 12 bodies were found inside the wreck of the boat at a depth of 32 meters.

TURKISH COAST GUARD

team of divers, is continuing. It was not immediately clear why the boat sank. There was no immediate information on the

migrants' nationalities.

Although the number of people heading to the Greek islands from the Turkish coast has decreased since the height of the refugee crisis in 2015, hundreds continue to make the crossing each week.

In Spain, the maritime rescue service said it rescued 292 migrants Monday who were attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe from North Africa.



His Majesty with new BRCS board chairman Shaikh Khalid and members.

Charity efforts lauded

HM King receives BRCS new Board Chairman, members

● **HM the King stressed the Kingdom's glorious history and civilisation, which have always been based on tolerance and coexistence.**

● **Shaikh Khalid affirmed that the royal support to BRCS has enabled it to become one of the oldest**

and most pioneering societies in the region.

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) new Board Chairman Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa and members at Sakhir Palace yesterday.

His Majesty congratulated them on the formation of the new Board of Directors, wishing them every

success.

HM the King underlined Bahrain's keenness on supporting charity, humanitarian and voluntary work, lauding the Kingdom's initiatives in this respect which reflect the Bahraini people's belief in the importance of solidarity that emanates from Islamic precepts and the inherent Bahraini traditions.

His Majesty thanked BRCS board Chairman and members for their tireless efforts to achieve the society's goals, praising the key role of BRCS in promoting the cul-

ture of voluntary work, solidarity and co-operation.

HM the King stressed the Kingdom's glorious history and civilisation, which have always been based on tolerance and coexistence.

HM King Hamad recalled the efforts of late Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalid Al Khalifa in charity and humanitarian work and his contribution to boosting BRCS regional and international participation while chairing its Board of Directors.

He also commended the efforts

and contribution of former BRCS chairman and members.

BRCS Board member Taqi Al Baharna presented HM the King with some of his literary publications.

The BRCS Board Chairman extended heartfelt thanks and gratitude to HM the King for the meeting, voicing pride in his being the society Honorary President which reflects the royal keenness on enabling the society to continue achieving its noble goals for which it was set up in 1970.

Shaikh Khalid affirmed that the royal support to BRCS has enabled

it to develop over the past years to become one of the oldest and most pioneering societies in the region given the key role it plays at the regional and international level.

He pointed out the society's relief efforts at the international level, including building schools, hospitals and shelters as well as providing immediate relief aid to disaster-stricken regions.

He also pointed out the society's contribution to providing the needed training in more than 30 states, in co-operation with national associations.

Azerbaijan to open tourism promotional office in Bahrain

Baku

Deputy CEO of Azerbaijan Tourism Board, Rufat Baghirov, highlighted the importance of the Kingdom as a gateway for Gulf travellers to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

At a press meeting held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in the presence of reporters from Bahraini local press, Bahrain News Agency and social media activists, Mr Baghirov highlighted the intention of the Azerbaijani Tourism Board to establish a tourism promotion office in the Kingdom to attract more tourists from the Gulf and Arab countries.

“
The promotional plan includes diversifying tourism markets to support tourism in Azerbaijan by opening new tourist offices in the promising regions.

MR BAGHIROV

Mr Baghirov said the promotional plan includes diversifying tourism markets to support tourism in Azerbaijan by opening new tourist offices in the promising regions, such as the Arabian Gulf,

Asia, Latin America and Central Europe.

He added flights arriving from Manama could benefit from this promotional plan, which contributes to increasing the number of tourists arriving from the Arabian Gulf region to Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan Airlines inaugurated its first direct flight between Manama and Baku in a celebration held at Bahrain International Airport, which was attended by officials from Bahrain's Civil Aviation Authority, representative of the Azerbaijan Airlines in Bahrain and strategic partner of the Azerbaijan Airlines in Bahrain Ibn Firmas Travel.

Forum invitation



Health Minister Faeqa Al Saleh yesterday received Chinese Ambassador to Bahrain Mr An Wa'er, who presented her with an invitation by her Chinese counterpart to take part in the second edition of the Arab-Chinese Co-operation Forum in the Health Sector, which will be held in August, 2019, in China. The Health Minister hailed the invitation, stressing its importance and keenness on achieving maximum benefit to enrich the health sector. She also lauded strong relations between the two friendly countries, stressing the need to bolster bilateral co-operation mainly in the health field.

Portuguese National Day celebrated in style

TDT | Manama
Supriya Reginald

The Portuguese Community celebrated their National Day on Sunday at the Royal Golf Club in Riffa.

More than 150 attended the celebration including ambassadors, diplomats, senior officials and businessmen.

The event was organised by prominent resident Mrs Benediça Budagher, one of the longest Portuguese residents in the Kingdom (40 years), and her husband former Gulf Air Captain Ameen Fahad Budagher.

The couple has been organisers of the Portuguese National Day celebrations in Bahrain for the past decade.

Guest of Honour Tawfeeq Ahmed Al Mansoor, Assistant Undersecretary for Western



Capt Budagher with envoys of different countries, senior government officials and dignitaries at the cake-cutting ceremony.

Countries and Afro-Asian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bahrain, conveyed greetings from the Undersecretary of International Affairs at

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, who wished the citizens of the Portuguese Republic further progress

and prosperity.

Historically, the relationship between the two countries began nearly 500 years ago in 1521 with the first arrival of Portu-

“
Both countries share a great deal of cultural similarities, the Portuguese language incorporates a number of Arabic words more than any other language.

CAPT BUDAGHER

guese navigators in Bahrain.

“Both countries share a great deal of cultural similarities, the Portuguese language incorporates a number of Arabic words more than any other language,” said Capt Budagher.

On a diplomatic scale, both

countries forged a relationship in 1976.

“The Portuguese have been involved in many projects in Bahrain, including Asry,” revealed Capt Budagher.

The Portuguese community in Bahrain account to nearly 100 citizens spread across various fields such as medical, engineering, trade and education.

“The relationship the Portuguese have with Bahrain is very courteous. There are many forms of relationship, such a trade, business and tourism,” said Capt Budagher.

“We have a lot of Bahrainis that seek higher education in Portugal. Our future plans to strengthen and improve the bond between both countries is to emphasis on trade, education and cultural-exchange,” he added.

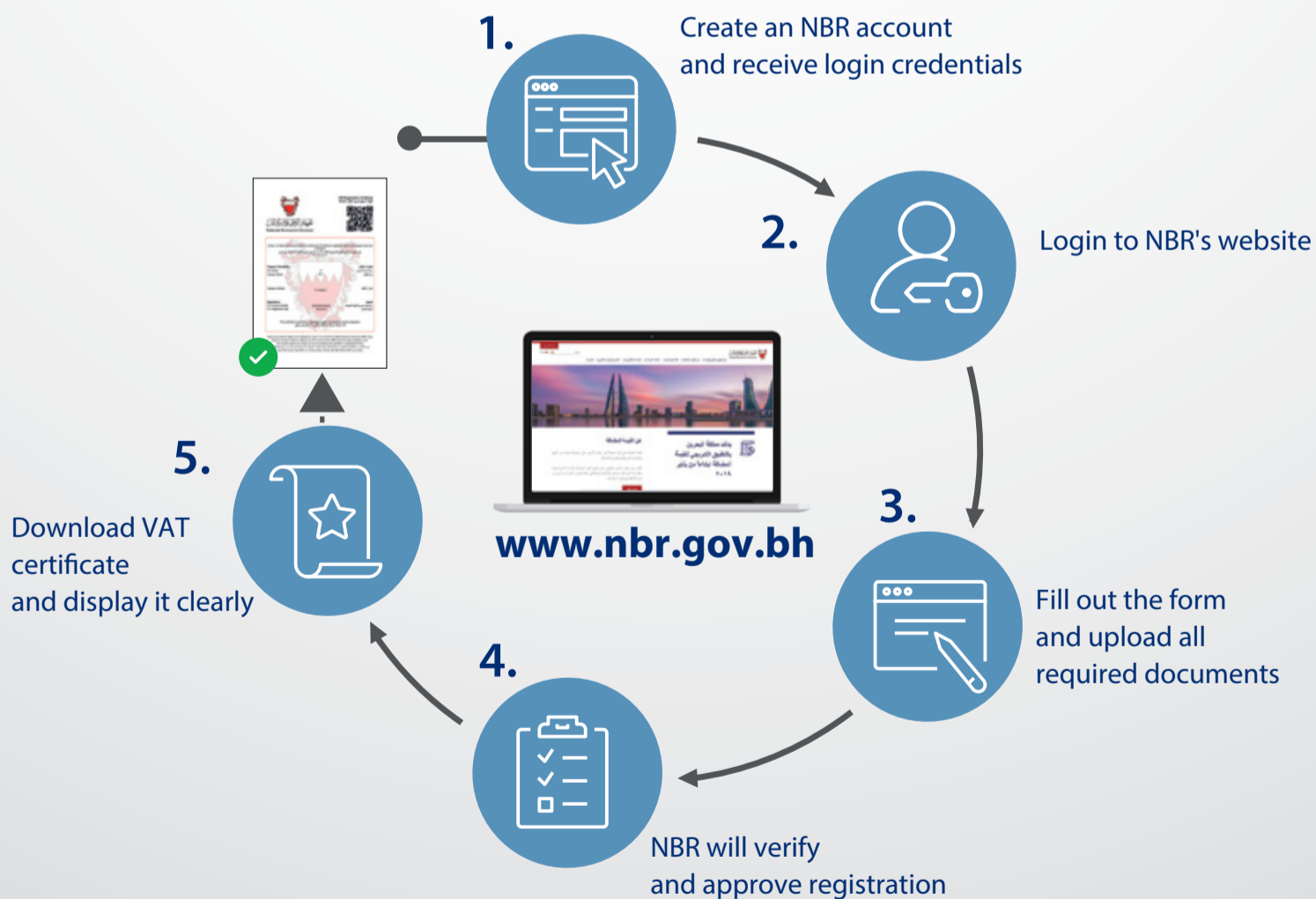
Ensure effective implementation of VAT



The next registration phase

All entities generating, or expected to generate, between BHD 500,000 and BHD 5,000,000 in annual supplies are required to register by June 20th, 2019.

Follow the steps below to register your company:



Bahrain participates in Paris Air Show

Paris

In line with the directives of HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Personal Representative, Chairman of Bahrain International Air Show (BIAS)'s High Organising Committee, the Minister of Transportation and Communications, Deputy Chairman of BIAS High Organising Committee, Kamal Ahmed, participated in the opening of the International Paris Air Show.

Bahrain's participation is aimed at promoting communication between the Kingdom and the participating aviation companies to accentuate Bahrain as a hub attractive to businesses in the aviation sector in the Middle East.



Mr Ahmed with other Bahraini officials at the Paris Air Show.

The minister highlighted the significance of Bahrain's participation in encouraging the largest number of international aviation companies to take part in the upcoming Bahrain International Air Show, where businessmen, economic and industrial com-

panies meet on November 18-20, 2020, at the Sakhir Airbase under the royal patronage.

He said Paris Air Show is the largest air show in the world, a unique forum for leading civil and military aircraft manufacturers, making it an ideal platform for the promotion of Bahrain International Air Show 2020.

On the sidelines of Paris Air Show, the Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications met the UAE's Minister of State for Higher Education and Advanced Skills, a number of telecommunication ministers and representatives from international companies participating in the international event within the framework of boosting co-operation for the progress of the aviation sector in the region.

Hearing date set for man accused of insulting Islam

Suspect accused of delivering a religious sermon that included insults to the companions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

TDT | Manama

A man who is accused of insulting the companions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) during a sermon that he recently delivered, will stand trial before the judges on June 19, 2019, it was announced yesterday.

Capital Governorate Chief Prosecutor Abdullah Al Thawadi yesterday confirmed in a statement that the suspect will remain behind bars until he's referred to the Minor Criminal Court.

Mr Al Thawadi stated that the prosecution has interrogated the suspect and evidences proved that he committed the crime, which he is accused of.

The man is accused of delivering a religious sermon that included insults to the companions of the Prophet at a worship place and in front of a big crowd.

The Chief Prosecutor added: "Freedom of opinion and expression is guaranteed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the law, provided that it does not affect religion and its symbols, and does not incite division and sectarianism."

The man has been identified as Ahmed Abdulaziz Al Mahdi, as mentioned in a press statement issued by Interior Ministry on June 10, 2019.

In the statement, Hoorah Po-

Freedom of opinion and expression is guaranteed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the law, provided that it does not affect religion and its symbols.

CHIEF PROSECUTOR

lice Station Head said the man was summoned and arrested for "delivering a sermon that included defaming contents of

the Caliphs of the early years of Islam known as 'the Rashidun.'

"The sermon wasn't considerate to the importance of those individuals to Muslims of different sects. Al Madhi violated article 310/2 of the Penal Code law by publicly defaming through his sermon an essential symbol to a sect.

"His act also promoted sedition and extremism in a way that threatens civil peace and social fabric," the official was quoted in the statement.

If convicted, the suspect would be facing a punishment for a period not exceeding one year imprisonment or a fine not exceeding BD100, as per the Kingdom's Penal Code.

Employer faces court trial for faking employee's signature

TDT | Manama

A Bahraini employer is facing trial for seeking electricity and water connection from the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) under his Pakistani employee's name without obtaining the latter's consent.

The case was referred to the First High Criminal Court, after the employee lodged a complaint as he discovered that he's obliged to pay BD900 to settle outstanding EWA bills.

The victim discovered this when he approached the authority to obtain a power and water connection for his household for the first time.

He was then informed about the money he owed to the authority since 2015.

Court documents show that the incident occurred in the Northern Governorate, where the employer, with the assistance of another unknown individual, forged the victim's signature to obtain power and water connection for a commercial shop.

The employer forged the victim's signature and willingly used it in official documents.

PROSECUTORS

The employer also used the identity card of the victim to complete the crime.

The Public Prosecution accused the employer of forging the victim's signature and willingly using it in official documents.

The victim told the interrogators that he had worked with the defendant from 2011 to 2013, adding that he left the job because he wasn't receiving his pay regularly.

He said he discovered the matter when he rented an apartment and approached the authority to apply for a power connection.

The court yesterday ordered to adjourn the case to July 2.

Defendant to learn fate in traffic embezzlement case

TDT | Manama

A traffic policeman, who's accused of embezzlement, will learn his fate on July 1, as confirmed by the First High Criminal Court on Sunday.

The defendant, who works at the Registration Department in the General Directorate of Traffic, is accused of unlawfully collecting vehicles'

registration fees without entering their data in the directorate's system and embezzling the paid amounts.

As shown in court files, the crimes occurred in 2016, but the matter was only discovered a year later.

In 2017, many drivers complained that their cars were not registered for an entire year, as the directorate's sys-

tem was not updated, despite the fact that they paid the fees to the defendant and received receipts from him, according to prosecutors.

The directorate launched an investigation into the matter and the records led to the defendant, as the incidents occurred during his shift, court files say.

When interrogated, he denied

The suspect is charged with embezzlement and misusing his authority as a public servant entrusted to collect money on behalf of Interior Ministry.

PUBLIC PROSECUTION

that he stole any amounts. He also claimed that his login password was used on several other computers in the department, adding that he had reported it to his superior, but no action was taken.

However, the defendant couldn't support his claims with any evidence and he later confessed that he had taken the money and didn't hand it over

to the concerned department.

The Public Prosecution earlier accused him of embezzlement and misusing his authority as a public servant entrusted to collect money on behalf of Interior Ministry.

The prosecution's accusations came after interrogating the suspect, hearing witnesses statements and reviewing the evidence.

Volunteers meet



Future society for youth and its "Smile" initiative, held a meeting with initiative members and volunteers. The event included a number of activities and provided an opportunity to discuss future projects. Future Society's chairman Subah Al Zayani stressed that the aim of the meeting was to gather members and volunteers to consolidate their relations and to share ideas to improve Society's role in voluntary work.

Over 1,000 violations recorded at healthcare facilities last year

Violations ranged from medical waste disposal to improper sterilisation

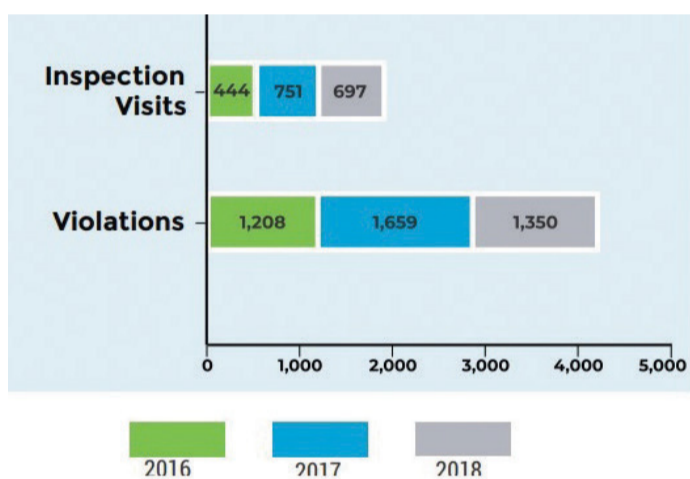
At 95, the Capital Governorate has the maximum number of pharmacies in the Kingdom.

Engineering, fire safety, licensing and patient record violations were as well discovered during inspections.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Over a thousand violations were found at healthcare facilities during the past one year, according to the regulator.

The National Health Regulator



Majority of the violations were related to the facility structure, followed by devices failing the safety test and improper medical waste disposal.

AUTHORITY

ry Authority (NHRA) says violations ranging from medical waste disposal to improper sterilisation were found at different healthcare facilities as its teams carried out inspections from time to time last year.

The authority said that 697 inspection visits were made last year out of which 384 were part of routine inspections.

“One hundred and eleven inspection visits were made to new healthcare facilities while 62 visits focused on auditing. The rest were follow-up visits, inspections based on complaints, adding services and changing facilities.”

According to NHRA, majority of the violations were related to the facility structure (267), followed by devices failing the safety test and improper medical waste disposal.

Others include engineering, fire safety, licensing and patient record violations.

Meanwhile, 40 violations were committed by the pharmacies in the Kingdom last year, according to the authority.

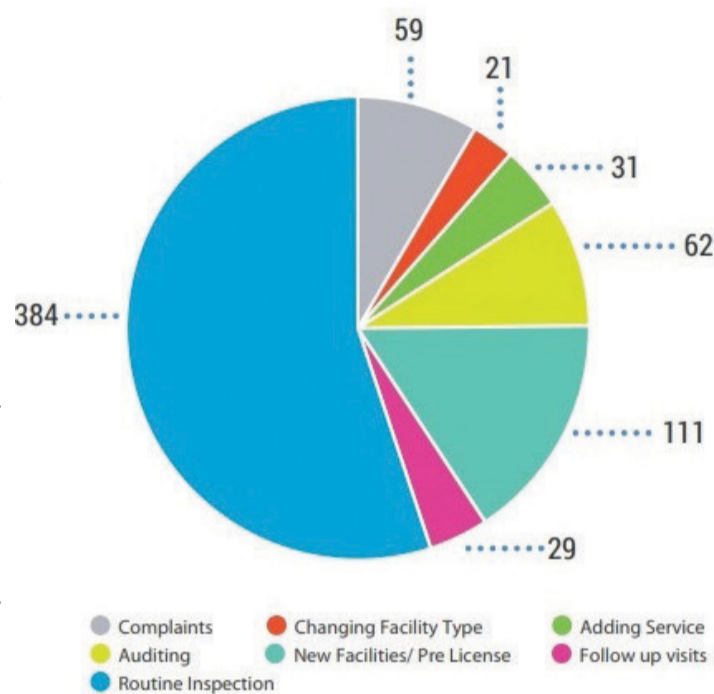
The NHRA has classified violations committed by these pharmacies into five categories. The most common category was related to medicines sold (15), followed by price price cheating (8), pharmacy set up violations (5), licensing violations (6) and temperature/humidity/refrigerator violations (6).

The authority said that 600 inspection visits were made to pharmacies last year.

The latest statistics says that there are currently around 263 licensed pharmacies, an increase of 50 when compared to 2017. Among them, 59 are hospital pharmacies while 204 are private pharmacies.

At 95, the Capital Governorate has the maximum number of pharmacies. It is closely followed

Inspection Visits 2018



697 inspection visits were made last year by different teams assigned by the authority.

by Northern Governorate (61), Southern Governorate (57) and Muharraq Governorate (51).

Most of the newly-started pharmacies were in the Capital Governorate (28). Thirteen pharmacies were launched in the Southern Governorate last year, while the Northern and Muharraq Governorates saw the opening of four and eight pharmacies respectively last year.

Jail term upheld for Bahraini drug dealer

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal has upheld a 10 year imprisonment sentence issued against a Bahraini man, who was convicted of peddling drugs and illegally possessing weapons (swords).

Court files show that the appellant was arrested after the other two suspects led to him, as he was their main provider of hashish and other narcotics.

The first two defendants were separately caught by the Anti-narcotics police and they confessed during the interrogation that they bought drugs from the appellant in return of certain amounts of money.

One of the arrested agreed to co-operate with the police and a trap was set after one

As many as nine pieces of hashish, seven narcotics, five swords and BD6,000 were found possessed by the appellant at the time of his arrest.

PROSECUTORS

of the undercover officers offered to buy drugs worth BD100 from him.

As many as nine pieces of hashish, seven narcotics, five swords and BD6,000 were found possessed by the appellant at the time of his arrest, according to prosecutors.

Laboratory tests of the three suspects' urine and blood samples at the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Sciences showed traces of different types of drugs.

The High Criminal Court sentenced the three defendants last year. The trio were convicted of possessing and using drugs.

The first and second defendants were acquitted from the charge of selling drugs and were sentenced to one year imprisonment and to pay BD1,000 fine each, while the appellant was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and fined BD5,000 for selling drugs, in addition to a six-month imprisonment sentence and a BD100 fine for illegal possession of weapons.

He appealed against the verdict, but the court rejected his appeal.

'No-one sought info' from police in Russian woman death case

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

The police haven't received any request for information from the family of Lyubov Mezentsev, contrary to international reports, the Ministry of Interior clarified yesterday.

Responding to media reports about a Russian woman who died after a fall earlier this month, the ministry stated that no request was received from the family of the deceased for

information.

Reportedly on June 5, Lyubov Mezentsev fell to her death from the sixth floor of a hotel room.

A report in the UK publication Daily Mail stated that the Russian woman, 22, was pushed to her death from a sixth floor hotel window in Bahrain.

According to the report, the woman came to the Kingdom to be with a man she met online.

The report quoted the woman's sister who made various claims.



Lyubov Mezentsev

Responding to the report, the ministry clarified yesterday: "In response to a report on a local newspaper and the Daily Mail about a Russian woman who fell to her death from a building on June 5, in which her family said that Bahrain Police are not sharing information with them, the following points would be highlighted.

"First: the Ministry of Interior posted on its Twitter Account on June 6 about the death of a European woman, 22, after falling from a build-

ing in Hoora area, highlighting that the concerned authorities are taking the required procedures.

"Second: the Capital Governorate Police Directorate hasn't received any request from the family of the deceased for information.

"Third: The case was referred to the Public Prosecution, as it is the authorised organisation to publish such information if it decides to inform the public or any other bodies concerned."

Bahrain Pavilion gears up for GITEX 2019

GITEX will be held from October 6 to 10, 2019, at Dubai World Trade Centre.

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH) and WorkSmart for events management has announced the setting up of the Bahraini Pavilion at the biggest tech show in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia.

GITEX will be held from October 6 to 10, 2019, at Dubai World Trade Centre.

BTECH Chairman Ubaydli Al Ubaydli said that BTECH and WorkSmart have joined hands for the last 13 years to organise the Bahraini Pavilion at GITEX, in a strategic partnership with government bodies including the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Information and e-Government Authority and the Economic Development Board.

Mr Al Ubaydli praised Tamkeen's efforts to support the Bahrain Pavilion in order to achieve common objectives in supporting private sector institutions to expand their business and grow their profits, as well as supporting Bahraini entrepreneurs and emerging technolo-



Every year in October we take part at GITEX as a group of integrated Bahraini companies to reflect together the progress of the ICT sector in Bahrain.

MR UBAYDLI



Through the Bahraini Pavilion, we provide tech companies a unique opportunity to enter the rapidly growing regional markets, now valued at billions.

MR AL HUJAIRI

gy companies to develop their projects.

"Every year in October we take part at GITEX as a group of integrated Bahraini companies to reflect together the progress of the ICT sector in Bahrain. We are able to enter into negotiations, get deals and hold discussions with our national counterparts and large companies seeking joint investments in the technical sector," said Mr Ubaydli.

For his part, WorkSmart chief executive officer Ahmed Al Hujairi said, "The accumulated output of Bahrain's national pavilion at Gitex for 13 years and again this year, push organisers to do their best to ensure that

participants get the maximum benefit, through the acquisition of a strategic location for the pavilion at this exhibition, which is witnessing a fierce global competition for the reservation of space in it, and provide all the logistical support needed for exhibitors."

"This important week is where the world's technology leaders, enterprises and startups come together to showcase the future of every business as it happens. Through the Bahraini Pavilion at GITEX we provide tech companies a unique opportunity to enter the rapidly growing regional markets, which are expected to reach \$ 168.8 billion by 2020," Mr Al Hujairi added.

WORLD

Brain disease kills 97 children, 'heat curfew' imposed



Union Health Minister @drharshvardhan visits SKMCH, #Muzaffarpur today to review the AES cases (Courtesy of Ministry of Health, India)

● **Virus potentially linked to lychees killed almost 100 children**

● **Bihar has seen temperatures hovering around 45 degrees for several days**

Patna, India

The Indian state of Bihar grappled yesterday with twin crises, with a brain virus potentially linked to lychees killing almost 100 children and extreme heat leaving 78 people dead.

The heatwave -- India's second-longest on record -- prompted authorities in part of the northern state, one of the country's poorest, to impose curfew-like restrictions.

Daytime temperatures across large parts of India have hovered above 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) for the past 32 days, just one short of a record 33-day period in 1988.

Temperatures touched 50.3 degrees Celsius in the town of Churu in the northern desert state of Rajasthan recently, just below India's record of 51 degrees.

Bihar, home to almost 100 million people, has seen temperatures hovering around 45 degrees for several days.

Severe heat there has killed 78 people -- most of them aged above 50 -- across three districts since Saturday afternoon, local official Sandeep Kumar told AFP.

More than 130 others were undergoing emergency treatment for heatstroke in various hospitals.

Authorities in Gaya district which has borne the brunt of the heatwave invoked an Indian law to prohibit resi-

dents from going outdoors for non-essential work.

The district magistrate also banned construction work and any outdoor programme between 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Heatstroke is usually caused by prolonged exposure to sun or from physical exertion in high temperatures.

It has left more than 36 people dead in southern India in recent weeks. Large parts of India are also reeling from drought, with annual monsoon rains late in coming.

Last week four passengers on a train travelling from Agra -- the city of the Taj Mahal -- to Coimbatore in the country's south died from heatstroke.

Cramped beds

Bihar has also been struggling with an outbreak of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES), a viral infection, since the start of this month.

Eighty children have now died in the state's biggest government-run hospital -- the Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH), in the city of Muzaffarpur -- and 17 others at a private facility, health official Ashok Kumar Singh said.

Most of the victims had suffered a sudden loss of glucose in their blood, Singh said.

TV channels showed distraught parents sitting next to their children, several of whom were cramped on one bed.

One parent heckled India's Health Minister Harsh Vardhan as he took his entourage around the SKMCH for an inspection.

Several years ago US researchers had said the brain disease could be linked to a toxic substance found in lychee.

Known locally as Chamki Bukhar, the disease claimed a record 150 lives in 2014.

The outbreak of the disease has happened annually during summer months in the same districts since 1995, typically coinciding with the lychee season



Iraq lifts nearly 30 km of blast walls from Baghdad: official

● **Since the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, T-walls have surrounded potential targets of car bombs or other attacks**

Baghdad, Iraq

Iraqi authorities have removed nearly 30 kilometres of concrete blast walls across Baghdad in the last six months, mostly around the capital's high-security Green Zone, a senior official said.

Since the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, T-walls -- thick barriers about six metres tall and one metre wide -- have surrounded potential targets of car bombs or other attacks.

When premier Adel Abdel Mahdi came to power last year, he promised to remove barriers, checkpoints and other security measures to make Baghdad easier to navigate.

"Over the last six months, we removed 18,000 T-walls in Baghdad, including 14,000 in the Green Zone alone," said Staff Lieutenant General Mohammed al-Bayati, the PM's top military advisor.

Hundreds of the security checkpoints that contributed



Workers remove cement blast walls surrounding the Iraqi foreign ministry near Baghdad's Green Zone

Over the last six months, we removed 18,000 T-walls in Baghdad, including 14,000 in the Green Zone alone

MOHAMMED AL-BAYATI
STAFF LIEUTENANT GENERAL

to Baghdad's notorious traffic jams have also been removed.

And according to the Baghdad municipality, 600 streets that had been closed off to public access have been opened in the last six months.

Among them are key routes crossing through Baghdad's Green Zone, the enclave where government buildings, UN agencies and embassies including the US and UK missions are based.

It was long inaccessible to most Iraqis until an order from

Abdel Mahdi last year, and families can now be seen picking their way across its manicured parks for sunset pictures.

Iraq is living a rare period of calm after consecutive decades of violence, which for Baghdad peaked during the sectarian battles from 2006 to 2008.

It was followed, in 2014, by the Islamic State group's sweep across a third of the country and a three-year battle to oust the jihadists from their urban strongholds.

Argentina, Uruguay restore power after massive blackout

● **The episode was the first time a power cut had affected the majority of Argentina**

Buenos Aires

Electricity services have been restored to all of Argentina and Uruguay following a massive blackout that left around 48 million people without power on Sunday, authorities said.

The cut, which began just after 7:00 am, also caused short, localized losses of power in Paraguay, but didn't impact Tierra del Fuego in Argentina's extreme south because the region is not part of the national system.

The episode was the first time a power cut had affected the majority of Argentina, with a population of more than 44 million, and the entirety of Uruguay, which has 3.4 million inhabitants.

"These are failures that occur (even) with diligence. The amazing thing is the chain of events that took place to cause the total disconnection," Argentina's Energy Ministry Gustavo Lopetegui told a press conference.

He said the outage took place "automatically to protect the



A woman prepares milk bottles by candle lights at her home in Montevideo during a massive power failure

system."

"We don't have any more information right now on how it occurred. We're not ruling out any possibility, but a cyber attack is not among the main alternatives being considered."

Hospitals, clinics on generators

Argentina's energy secretariat had earlier said the "interconnection system" had "collapsed," producing "a massive power cut" for which its generators had been unable to compensate, but that the causes had not been determined.

Sources from the official energy agency of Paraguay, which borders Argentina to the north-

east, told AFP that cuts there had been "momentary."

A spokesperson for RGE, the biggest energy distributor in Brazil's southern Rio Grande do Sul state that borders both Argentina and Uruguay, said they'd had no reports of cuts.

Earlier in the day, power had returned to some sectors of Buenos Aires but the metro and trains were still halted.

Public hospitals and private clinics were running on generators.

"The only inconvenience is the elevators. We only have one working, but all services are operating without problems," said an employee at the Fernandez Hospital.

Dozen killed in Indonesia bus crash after passenger argument



Jakarta

Twelve people were killed and dozens more injured in an Indonesian traffic accident yesterday after a passenger tried to wrest control of a bus steering wheel following an argument with the driver, police said.

The accident happened at around 1:00 am Monday (1800 GMT Sunday) when the coach swerved into oncoming traffic on a toll road in West Java, smashing into two cars and causing a truck to roll.

Some 43 people were injured in the multi-vehicle accident and rushed to hospital, police said.

"In the middle of the journey, a passenger attempted to forcibly take control of the steering wheel... and the bus then lost control," Atik Suswanti, the head of the Majalengka police traffic unit, said.

The bus driver was killed, according to authorities, while the 29-year-old passenger was severely injured.

HK activist leaves jail, vows to join protests

- Organisers said two million people marched on Sunday calling for the resignation of chief executive Carrie Lam
- Many Hong Kongers believe China's leaders are stamping down on the financial hub's unique freedoms and culture.
- China's foreign ministry said the protests are "not in line with the mainstream public opinion in Hong Kong"
- Hundreds were still blocking a road outside Lam's office



Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong (C) leaves Lai Chi Kok Correctional Institute in Hong Kong

- One of the main leaders of the 2014 pro-democracy "Umbrella Movement," which paralysed key intersections of the city for more than 2 months
- Co-founder of Demosisto movement, which calls for self-determination of Hong Kong through non-violent means

Jailed for six months in August 2017 for his role in the protests but released after prison term was overturned

Sent to jail for contempt of court May 16, 2019, a separate protest-related charge

Released from jail June 17

Xi Jinping dealt a blow

Analysts say China's powerful president Xi Jinping has been dealt a rare setback with the suspension of the extradition law -- although they warned Beijing would bite back by tightening its grip on the semi-autonomous city.

"It's a massive repudiation of the idea that Hong Kong will be effectively, over time, fully absorbed into mainland China," said Bill Bishop, publisher of the Sinocism China Newsletter.

"You will see a redoubling of efforts by the party to squeeze Hong Kong in ways that are not necessarily going to be totally obvious," he said.

The violent crowd control measures on Wednesday, used by police as protesters tried to storm the city's parliament to stop the bill being debated, have proved enormously costly for Lam's government.

"I think she has lost any remaining credibility or legitimacy to rule in Hong Kong because of her own mishandling of this whole affair," lawmaker Charles Mok told RTHK Radio.

Protesters have called on her to resign, shelve the bill permanently and apologise for police using tear gas and rubber bullets on Wednesday. They have also demanded all charges be dropped against anyone arrested.

"We will have to stay here till Carrie Lam changes her mind," said Candy, 32.

But others weren't sure if Lam's resignation would make a difference given Beijing's hold on the city.

Hong Kong, China

Leading Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong walked free from prison yesterday and vowed to join historic anti-government protests rocking the finance hub, as activists kept up pressure on the city's embattled pro-Beijing leader.

Organisers said some two million people -- more than a quarter of the population -- marched in tropical heat on Sunday calling for the resignation of chief executive Carrie Lam and protesting against a bill that would have allowed extraditions to the Chinese mainland.

Hundreds were still blocking a road outside Lam's office on Monday, demanding dialogue with the authorities.

The city has witnessed unprecedented scenes with two record-breaking rallies a week apart punctuated by violent clashes between protesters and police armed with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Wong, the poster child of the huge pro-democracy "Umbrella Movement" protests of 2014, became the latest voice to call for Lam's resignation as he was released from a sentence imposed over his leadership of those demonstrations.

"She is no longer qualified to be Hong Kong's leader," said Wong, who was sent to prison in May but released early for good behaviour. "I will also fight with all Hong Kongers to oppose the evil China extradition law."

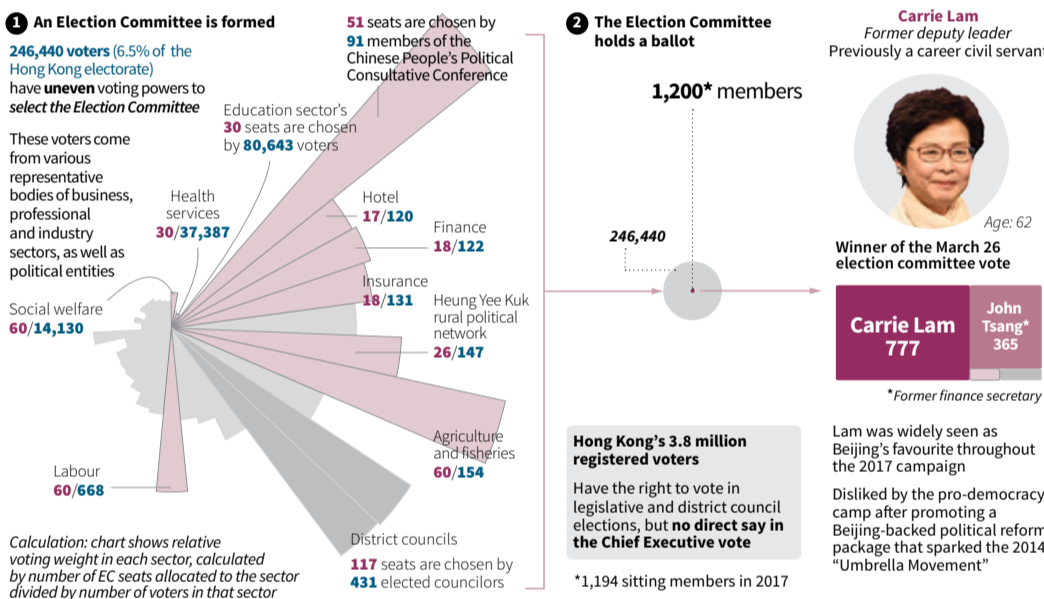
Opposition to the extradition bill united an unusually wide cross-section of Hong Kong in recent weeks, from influential legal and business bodies to religious leaders.

And while the spark for the last week of protests has been the threat of extradition to China, the movement has since morphed into the latest expression of public rage against both the city's leaders and Beijing.

Many Hong Kongers believe China's leaders are stamping down on the financial hub's unique freedoms and culture.

Chosen by the few: Hong Kong's Chief Executive

The system that picked Carrie Lam as leader of the autonomous Chinese territory with 777 votes. The Election Committee (EC) chose the Chief Executive via a simple majority vote, but the process of selecting that committee was based on an uneven distribution of voting power



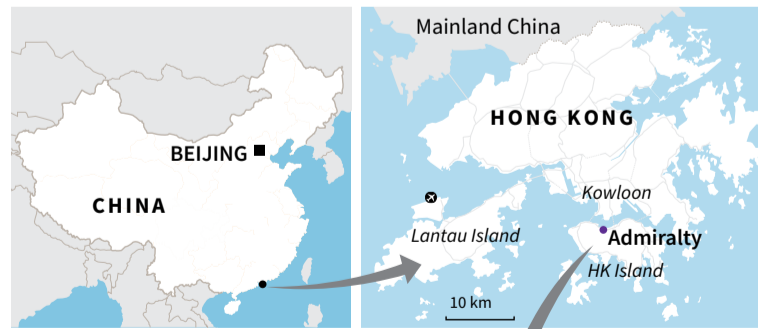
She is no longer qualified to be Hong Kong's leader. I will also fight with all Hong Kongers to oppose the evil China extradition law

JOSHUA WONG



Hong Kong protest June 16

Huge crowds turned out the day after Hong Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam said she would 'suspend' the bill that would have allowed extraditions to China



- ▶ Organisers estimate a near 2 million turnout
- ▶ Police counted 338,000 at its 'peak'
- ▶ Lam's office late Sunday put out a statement admitting the shortcomings in her administration had "led to a lot of conflict and disputes"

They point to the failure of the "Umbrella Movement" to win any concessions, the imprisonment of protest leaders, the disqualification of popular lawmakers and the disappearance of Beijing-critical booksellers, among recent examples.

Critics feared the Beijing-backed extradition law would entangle people in China's notoriously opaque and politicised courts and damage the city's reputation as a safe business hub, sparking unprecedented protest turnouts.

In an interview with HK01 on Monday, Lam's top advisor Bernard Chan said no chief executive would dare reintroduce the bill now.

The estimate for Sunday's massive rally has not been independently verified but if confirmed it would be the largest demonstration in Hong Kong's history.

Police, who historically give far lower estimates for political protests, said 338,000 people turned out at the demonstration's "peak" -- still their largest crowd estimate on record.

Trump to raise HK protests with Xi at G20: Pompeo

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump will discuss the mass protests in Hong Kong with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at the upcoming G20 summit, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sunday.

"I think we'll get the opportunity to see President Xi in just a couple weeks now at the G20 summit. I'm sure this will be among the issues that they discuss," Pompeo said in an interview with "Fox News Sunday." "We see what's happening, what's unfolding in Hong Kong. We are watching the people of Hong Kong speak about the things they value," Pompeo added. Trump said he hoped the protesters would "work it out" with China, while stopping short of condemning the legislation.

Beijing says will 'firmly support' Hong Kong leader Lam

Beijing

Beijing reiterated its backing of Hong Kong's embattled leader Carrie Lam yesterday.

Although Lam offered a rare concession on Saturday, she

stopped short of committing to permanently scrapping the unpopular law.

Her gesture was swiftly rejected by protest leaders who called on her to resign, shelve the bill

entirely and apologise for police using tear gas and rubber bullets earlier in the week.

But Lam -- the first woman to get the international financial hub's top job -- continues to

enjoy support from the Chinese leadership.

"The central government will continue to firmly support the chief executive and efforts by the government of the Special

Administrative Region to govern according to law," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang told a regular briefing.

"Many facts have shown that foreign governments and even

some politicians have been making inflammatory remarks since the decision of the Hong Kong government to start amending the extradition ordinance in February," Lu said.

Turkey may now have a deal

Tensions over the President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's S-400 missile defence system deal

SIMON WALDMAN

Last week, the acting US secretary of defence Patrick Shanahan penned a polite and formal letter to his Turkish counterpart. Its content, however, was far from cordial. He wrote that if Turkey were to follow through with its purchase of the Russian S-400 missile defence system, then Turkey's participation in the F-35 joint strike fighter programme would be discontinued.

If that were not enough, the letter also warned that Turkey could face action under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, and that Turkey's decisions would hinder the its own "ability to enhance or maintain co-operation with the United States and within Nato".

This was the most harshly worded correspondence from the US to Turkey since 1964, when US President Lyndon B Johnson

wrote to Ismet Inonu, warning the Turkish Prime Minister not to intervene in the Cyprus crisis and highlighting the damage such a move would cause to Nato.

Back in 1964, a shocked and disappointed Ankara reluctantly heeded Johnson's demands. This time, however, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has rebuffed Washington and insisted that there is no going back on the S-400 deal. Instead, it was reported that upon their receipt, Turkey might position S-400 batteries towards the east Mediterranean, a posture threatening to Cyprus, given the dispute between the two nations over drilling for offshore natural gas. Ankara also intimated that if excluded from the F-35 programme, it might purchase Chinese J-31s or Russian Su-57s instead.

Turkey, a Nato member since 1952, has the second-largest army in the alliance. Located in an important geostrategic region, Nato

benefits from the use of several Turkish bases and enjoys the nation's support in the Aegean and Black Sea. Turkey has also participated in important Nato missions, such as those in Kosovo and Afghanistan.

But, from the US perspective, these contributions may no longer be enough. The S-400 issue is just one of a number of US misgivings. These include Mr Erdogan's threat to "Ottoman slap" the US military in Syria, where positions of special forces had been leaked by Ankara; the arbitrary arrest and imprisonment of US citizens and consular workers; Turkey's initial blind eye to foreign fighters crossing its border into Syria to join ISIS; not to mention Erdogan's bodyguards attacking protesters carrying the flag of a Kurdish political party outside Turkish ambassador's residence in Washington DC, two years ago. If that was not enough, last year a Turkish state-owned

bank was found to be in violation of the Iran Sanctions Act, and Ankara has openly sided with US enemies, most recently President Nicolas Maduro in Venezuela.

Following these developments, it is little wonder that some commentators have argued that Turkey should be expelled from Nato. However, doing so would be very difficult.

There is nothing written in the North Atlantic Treaty that pertains to expulsion. Nor is there a precedent for removing a member state. A country may leave Nato of its own volition. Article 13 states that "any Party may cease to be a Party one year after its notice of denunciation".

However, if Nato members were absolutely determined to expel Turkey, such an action would have to pass through the North Atlantic Council (NAC), the organisation's senior decision-making body.

However, NAC decisions must



US President Donald Trump speaks to Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during a meeting.

West Bank annexation is a long-established goal

With Benjamin Netanyahu under pressure and the US signalling its support, the time to realise this catastrophic

JONATHAN COOK

When Israeli prime ministers are in trouble, facing difficult elections or a corruption scandal, the temptation has typically been for them to unleash a military operation to bolster their standing. In recent years, Gaza has served as a favourite punching bag.

Benjamin Netanyahu is confronting both difficulties at once: a second round of elections in September that he may struggle to win; and an attorney general who is widely expected to indict him on corruption charges shortly afterwards.

Mr Netanyahu is in an unusually tight spot, even by the standards of an often chaotic and fractious Israeli political system. After a decade in power, his electoral magic may be deserting him. There are already rumblings of discontent among his allies on the far right.

Given his desperate straits, some observers fear that he may need to pull a new kind of rabbit out of the hat.

In the past two elections, Mr Netanyahu rode to success after issuing dramatic last-minute statements. In 2015, he agitated against the fifth of Israel's citizens who are Palestinian asserting their democratic rights, warning that they were "coming out in droves to vote".

Back in April, he declared his intention to annex large chunks of the occupied West Bank, in violation of international law, during the next parliament.

Amos Harel, a veteran military analyst with Haaretz newspaper,

observed last week that Mr Netanyahu may decide words are no longer enough to win.

Action is needed, possibly in the form of an announcement on the eve of September's ballot that as much as two-thirds of the West Bank is to be annexed.

Washington does not look like it will stand in his way.

Shortly before April's election, the Trump administration offered Mr Netanyahu a campaign fillip by recognising Israel's illegal annexation of the Golan Heights, territory Israel seized from Syria in 1967.

This month David Friedman, US ambassador to Israel and one of the chief architects of Donald Trump's long-delayed "deal of the century" peace plan, appeared to offer a similar, early election boost.

In interviews, he claimed Israel was "on the side of God" – unlike, or so it was implied, the Palestinians. He further argued that Israel had the "right to retain" much of the West Bank.

Both statements suggest that the Trump administration will not object to any Israeli moves towards annexation, especially if it ensures their favoured candidate returns to power.

Whatever Mr Friedman suggests, it is not God who has intervened on Israel's behalf. The hands that have carefully cleared a path over many decades to the West Bank's annexation are all too human.

Israeli officials have been preparing for this moment for more than half a century, since the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza were seized back in 1967.



A Palestinian villa in the West Bank village of Turmus'ayya, with the Israeli settlement of Shilo in the background.

That point is underscored by an innovative interactive map of the occupied territories. This valuable new resource is a joint project of the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem and Forensic Architecture, a London-based team that uses new technology to visualise and map political violence and environmental destruction.

Titled Conquer and Divide, it reveals in detail how Israel has "torn apart Palestinian space, divided the Palestinian popula-

tion into dozens of disconnected enclaves and unravelled its social, cultural and economic fabric".

The map proves beyond doubt that Israel's colonisation of the West Bank was never accidental, defensive or reluctant. It was coldly calculated and intricately planned, with one goal in mind – and the moment to realise that goal is fast approaching.

Annexation is not a right-wing project that has hijacked the be-

nign intentions of Israel's founding generation. Annexation was on the cards from the occupation's very beginnings in 1967, when the so-called centre-left – now presented as a peace-loving alternative to Mr Netanyahu – ran the government.

The map shows how Israeli military planners created a complex web of pretexts to seize Palestinian land: closed military zones today cover a third of the West Bank; firing ranges impact

38 Palestinian communities; nature reserves are located on 10 per cent of the territory; nearly a quarter has been declared Israeli "state" land; some 250 settlements have been established; dozens of permanent checkpoints severely limit movement; and hundreds of kilometres of walls and fences have been completed.

These interlocking land seizures seamlessly carved up the territory, establishing the wall

1778

American Revolutionary War: British troops abandon Philadelphia.

1799

Action of 18 June 1799: A frigate squadron under Rear-admiral Perrée is captured by the British fleet under Lord Keith.

1812

The United States declaration of war upon the United Kingdom is signed by President **James Madison**.



1946

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, a Socialist, calls for a Direct Action Day against the Portuguese in Goa.

Deteriorated Nato role

with Moscow threaten to destroy a decades-long strategic partnership



During the Nato summit in Brussels in July 2018.

be agreed unanimously by all 29 member states. In the unlikely event that all of Nato's members concur that Turkey should be ousted, all Ankara has to do is use its veto.

But there is no reason to suspect that Turkey wants to leave. Nato offers it a strategic umbrella, a fallback alliance, in case it finds itself in trouble with belligerent neighbours such as Iran and Russia. Turkey's membership is central to Ankara's security relations with the EU, and Nato offers Turkey information and intelligence exchanges, as well as the opportunity to participate in joint military exercises and training.

The only conceivable scenario where Turkey's veto would be ignored is in the very unlikely event of a direct and deliberate Turkish strike against another Nato member state. This might trigger Article 5, which states that "an armed attack against one

If Turkey's ties with the US, the most important member of Nato, continue in their current trajectory, it will find itself a member of Nato in name only, a disappointing end to a 67-year association.

or more... shall be considered an attack against them all". This is highly improbable.

In short, Turkey cannot and will not be formally expelled from Nato. However, upon its receipt of the S-400s, it will no doubt find itself increasingly isolated inside Nato's civilian and military bodies. To some extent,

this has already happened. Last month it was reported that Turkish military and civilian personnel were not invited to important meetings about air defence and intelligence. In future, such exclusions will become more regular.

The US and other Nato members would slowly reduce their reliance on Turkish bases and increase their presence and infrastructure in other nations, such as Greece, Cyprus, Jordan, or, in a nightmare scenario for Turkey, Iraqi Kurdistan. Meanwhile, Turkey's role in Nato operations will be also discouraged, and when Nato plans and prepares future strategies and tactics, Turkey's interests will be ignored or sidelined.

If Turkey's ties with the US, the most important member of Nato, continue in their current trajectory, it will find itself a member of Nato in name only – a disappointing end to a 67-year association.

CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

Please, stop targeting Sarfaraz Ahmad



Without bringing in any historic change, Pakistan has lost another world cup match to India. And now social media is full of comments blasting Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmad for choosing to field after winning the toss.

Many cricketers have been cruel in their criticisms. Shoaib Akhtar even went to the extent of calling the captain "brainless".

But these criticisms are hampering the real sportsman spir-

it. After all, it's a game where one party is expected to win while the other suffers a defeat.

Instead of completely blaming the captain, why can't the blame be extended on the entire team, its coach, and of course the selectors?

Blame the bowlers for they couldn't earn wickets from time to time.

Blame the batsmen for they couldn't chase the score; forget about chasing, they couldn't even give a decent fight.

Blame the fielders for they

could have lessened India's score by at least 30 to 40 runs.

Blame the selectors for they did not select a team, which is a more balanced one, to compete against world's best teams.

Pouring out emotions on the team captain for his decision is undoubtedly against the principles of good sportsman spirit. So let's stop that and do a balanced analysis so that the team will emerge powerful in the days to come.

Faisal vp

Deal for Israel

ambition may be fast approaching

The Oslo accords cemented Israel's absolute control over 62 per cent of the West Bank, containing the Palestinians' key agricultural land and water sources, which was classified as Area C.

Although Israel has concentrated Palestinians in 165 disconnected areas across the West Bank, its actions effectively won the international community's seal of approval in 1995.

The Oslo accords cemented Israel's absolute control over 62 per cent of the West Bank, containing the Palestinians' key agricultural land and water sources, which was classified as Area C.

Occupations are intended to be temporary – and the Oslo accords promised the same. Gradually, the Palestinians would be allowed to take back more of their territory to build a state. But Israel made sure both the occupation and the land thefts sanctioned by Oslo continued.

The new map reveals more than just the methods Israel used to commandeer the West Bank. Decades of land seizures highlight a trajectory, plotting a course that indicates the project is still not complete.

If Mr Netanyahu partially annexes the West Bank – Area C – it will be simply another stage in Israel's tireless efforts to immiserate the Palestinian population and bully them into leaving.

This is a war of attrition – what Israelis have long understood as "creeping annexation", carried out by stealth to avoid a backlash from the international community.

Ultimately, Israel wants the Palestinians gone entirely, squeezed out into neighbouring Arab states, such as Egypt and Jordan. That next chapter is likely to begin in earnest if Mr Trump ever gets the chance to unveil his "deal of the century".

of dozens of tightly contained prisons for Palestinians in their own homeland.

Two Nasa satellite images of the region separated by 30 years – from 1987 and 2017 – reveal how Israel's settlements and transport infrastructure have gradually scarred the West Bank's landscape, clearing away natural vegetation and replacing it with concrete.

The land grabs were not simply about acquisition of territory. They were a weapon, along with increasingly draconian movement restrictions, to force the native Palestinian population to submit, to recognise its defeat, to give up hope.

In the immediate wake of the West Bank's occupation, defence minister Moshe Dayan, Israel's hero of the hour and one of the architects of the settlement project, observed that Palestinians should be made "to live like dogs, and whoever wants to can leave – and we shall see where this process leads".



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Text from former 2016 Trump campaign staffer: "I was told by multiple people when I came aboard to never cough or sneeze while in the presence of Trump. He thinks it's a sign of weakness and lack of control. Nobody ever recovers."

@JaxAlemany

02



"He's coughing in the middle of my answer. I don't like that, you know. I don't like that. If you're going to cough, please leave the room. You just can't, you just can't cough."

@brianstelter

03



The Trump campaign is cutting ties with Michael Baseline and Adam Geller, who both did work for the 2016 campaign. A person familiar with the purge said the firings were less about the accuracy of the polling and more about mollifying Trump.

@kaitlancollins

04



"I think that we have a very real risk of losing the presidency to Donald Trump if we do not have a presidential candidate that is fighting for true transformational change in the lives of working people in the United States."

@justicedems

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

BUSINESS

GPIC backs women empowerment drive



Dr Jawahery applauds the role of HRH Princess Sabeeka in empowering Bahraini women

TDT | Manama

Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) President Dr Abdulrahman Jawahery yesterday pledged to continue efforts to boost the Kingdom's women empowerment drive.

Expressing pride in the role of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa in this regard, Dr Jawahery said, "We now have 25 per cent of job disciplines at the GPIC that entitle women to work in."

"This represents 10 per cent of the company's total staff, including three women in leadership positions in Exec-

utive Management, as well as other supervisory centres," he added.

Hailing the new name of this year's award to mark Bahraini Women's Day, the GPIC Presidents said, "This prestigious award has added a lot of momentum to the celebration of Bahrain Women's Day."

The Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Women announced on June 16 the launch of the sixth edition of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Award for the Advancement of Bahraini Women. It is awarded every two years to the best ministries, government, private and civil society institutions.

KFH-Bahrain launches new financial products

TDT | Manama

Abdul Razak Jawahery, Executive Manager of Private Banking and Wealth Management at Kuwait Finance House-Bahrain (KFH-Bahrain), has announced the launch of a new line of Shari'a compliant investment products.

KFH-Bahrain Call Accounts, Wakala Deposits Accounts and Flexi Wakala Investment Accounts have been introduced to better suit the needs and requirements of Private Banking clients.

The Call Accounts combines the benefit of savings and current accounts into a single product, with the added benefit of calculating profit daily and distributing the profits every month to investors. Call Account can be opened in Bahraini dinars and or US dollars.

"Wakala Investments Ac-



Abdul Razak Jawahery



Ebrahim Al Ahmed

KFH-Bahrain Call Accounts, Wakala Deposits Accounts and Flexi Wakala Investment Accounts have been introduced to better suit the needs and requirements of Private Banking clients

counts" expands the choice of financial tools available to clients. Wakala Investment Accounts can be opened in Bahraini dinars and/or US dollars. Profit is distributed every month.

The new Flexi Wakala Investment Accounts offers the flexibility to withdraw up to 20 per cent of the investment amount during the investment period.

These can be opened in Bahraini dinars and/or US dollars. Profit is distributed on the maturity date.

On this Occasion, Abdul Razak Jawahery, stated, "Our newest Call Accounts, as KFH-Bahrain's Private Banking Department will offer a superior level of service through its comprehensive product offerings."

Ebrahim Al Ahmed Head of Private Banking added: "We are delighted to launch a new line of financial products for our clients, which comes in line with KFH-Bahrain strategy which steers all its subdivisions to adopt a unique approach to the banking services."



Farah Hassan Ahmed the monthly MyHassad winner for BD100K

Farah Hassan Ahmed wins MyHassad BD100K

TDT | Manama

Ahli United Bank (AUB) named Farah Hassan Ahmed as the winner of the monthly MyHassad draw for BD100K.

"I thank God for winning this prize of BD100K, which was a surprise for me and my family, and I have participated in MyHassad since 2009 at the

Budaiya branch," said Farah.

When asked about her plans for the prize money, she said: "We have a lot of loans, and I will use the prize money to settle them." MyHassad has offered cash prizes exceeding BD67 million in Bahrain for more than 16 thousand winners from its customers.

AUB recently announced the launch of the new version of the

popular savings programme, "MyHassad", which is being launched again this year with a series of prizes, the largest in Bahrain with a total of more than US\$8 million. This will be topped by the "MyHassad Millionaire" award, which will award one million US dollars to one winner in the draw to be held later this year for this prestigious Grand Prize.

Thai trade delegation to visit Bahrain

● Thailand's exports to the Kingdom from January-April 2019 have seen an increase of 9.65 per cent at \$42 million

TDT | Manama

As part of efforts to boost trade ties between the two countries, a Thai trade delegation will visit the Kingdom between June 19 and June 21.

Bahraini importers, buyers and developers will have a rare opportunity to interact with the delegation members during a special session to be held at the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Thursday between 10 am and 12 noon.

The visit attains immense significance amidst bilateral trade showing a growth of 43 per cent last year when compared to 2017.

Construction materials and related products are among the



Panot Punyahotra, Executive Director of the Department of International Trade Promotion, Thai Ministry of Commerce

Bahraini importers, buyers and developers will have a rare opportunity to interact with the delegation members during a special session

top items Thailand exports to Bahrain due to its high quality, excellent design and reasonable price, according to the Thai Ministry of Commerce.

"Aside from the competent and high-quality of products imported, Thai companies are also known to be highly professional in international trade and well known to be of trustworthy in services and dealings."

The delegation is the first official team representing the Thai Ministry of Commerce to visit the Kingdom in many years.

The members of the delegation will be showcasing various products and opportunities to create a strong trade collaboration between both nations, according to Panot Punyahotra, Executive Director of the Department of International Trade Promotion, Thai Ministry of Commerce.

"The delegation consists of 12 Thai companies and will have business meetings with representatives of BCCI," Panot said.

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba)'s Chief Executive Officer, Tim Murray, during a keynote presentation of KPMG Entrepreneurship Forum held yesterday at Gulf Hotel. The presentation was based on Alba's CEO's "Words of Wisdom (WoWs)", which are a collection of principles, quotations and concepts that Murray applied during his tenure as the CEO of one of the world's leading aluminium smelters. The forum also addressed other industry-related topics and the impact of Alba's Line 6 Expansion Project on the local economy after its full ramp-up. Alba's Deputy Chief Executive Officer and other members of the Executive Management Team attended this session



MEIRA, BIBF to roll out certified Investors Relations Programme

● The CIRO programme has been launched as a joint initiative between Bahrain Bourse (BHB), MEIRA, and the BIBF

● The signing ceremony took place at Bahrain Bourse premises

TDT | Manama

Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA) and the Bahrain Institute of Banking & Finance (BIBF) in the presence of MEIRA Bahrain Chapter Head, signed an agreement to roll-out the Certified Investors Relations Programme (CIR) in the Kingdom under the Investment Academy umbrella.

The CIRO programme has been launched as a joint initiative between Bahrain Bourse (BHB), MEIRA, and the BIBF.

The signing ceremony took place at Bahrain Bourse premises and it was followed by a seminar with representatives from locally listed companies.

The CIRO programme aims to offer professional talent a unique opportunity to acquire certification within IR, which is increasingly becoming an important function within listed companies. The CIRO programme will be fully supported



Front: from right, Dr Ahmed Al-Shaikh - BIBF Director, John Gollifer - General Manager of MEIRA. Back, from right, Burhanu Deen Jayah, BIBF Head of Centre - Banking, Accounting & Finance, Marwa Al Maskati - Director of Marketing & Business Development at Bahrain Bourse & Head of MEIRA Bahrain Chapter

by Tamkeen (Labour Fund) under its Training & Wage Support programme.

John Gollifer, General Manager of MEIRA commented stating: "The CIRO qualification offers a timely and useful international benchmark in the Middle East when regional capital markets are opening up and becoming of greater interest to investors around the world."

The BIBF's Director, Dr Ahmed Al Shaikh commented: "The CIRO programme allows IR professionals to demonstrate their knowledge of the financial and market environment,

the regulatory and reporting requirements for listed companies and their sound understanding of the principles of investor relations, which will enable them to operate competently and safely.

Marwa AlMaskati, Director of Marketing & Business Development and MEIRA - Bahrain Chapter Head stated: "The CIRO program has been rolled out under the Investment Academy to nurture talented professionals within the growing IR field."

In the Middle East, the programme is organised by the

Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA), in partnership with the UK IR Society (UKIRS) and delivered by the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) in the Kingdom of Bahrain. A three-day intensive training course of a total of 20 hours, is followed by a 60-minute exam.

The programme focuses on six key topics: principles & practices of investor relations, global financial markets, companies & regulation, regulatory environment, accounting, valuation & investment principles, effective IR in practice.

Facebook to unveil new cryptocurrency



Analysts say launching a cryptocurrency could help propel Facebook forward in terms of engagement with users and creating new revenue streams

London

Facebook is set to unveil a bid to bring cryptocurrency payments into the mainstream, reportedly with the endorsement of governments and financial giants.

The world's biggest social network is expected to outline details of a virtual currency launching next year that it hopes will avoid the roller-coaster volatility of "blockchain" technologies such as bitcoin.

Facebook is setting up a consortium called "Libra" which, according to the Wall Street Journal, has been joined by more than a dozen companies including Visa, Mastercard,

PayPal and Uber.

The companies along with venture capitalists and telecommunications firms will reportedly invest around \$10 million each into the consortium.

Facebook has been trying to ward off hostile regulatory scrutiny after a series of privacy abuses and the spread of fake news.

The consortium will be managed externally and will seek to build trust among consumers by pegging the virtual coin to a basket of currencies including the dollar and euro, the Journal said.

Facebook has already sought blessings from the US Treasury and the Bank of England, the BBC reported last month.

Jet Airways lenders to go to bankruptcy court

Mumbai, India

Lenders to crippled Jet Airways said yesterday they would start bankruptcy court proceedings after failing to find someone to take over the Indian carrier.

Once India's biggest private airline, Jet stopped operating in April after it ran out of cash and its planes were grounded. Doubts have mounted since over whether the carrier will fly again.

The airline's creditors, who are owed more than \$1 billion, said after a meeting in Mumbai that only one "conditional" offer has been received for Jet Airways. That is be-

lieved to have come from Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways, which already had a 24 percent stake in Jet.

The creditors, led by State Bank of India, said the meeting decided to turn to India's insolvency and bankruptcy code (IBC).

"After due deliberations, lenders have decided to seek resolution under (the) IBC since only a conditional bid was received," the lenders said in a statement.

They added the bidder had sought "exemptions" on pricing from the Security and Exchange Board of India, which was only possible under the insolvency code.

French billionaire Drahi acquires Sotheby's in \$3.7 bn deal

Paris, France

French-Israeli telecoms and media mogul Patrick Drahi is acquiring Sotheby's auction house, one of the world's biggest art brokers, in a \$3.7 billion deal, the British-founded company announced yesterday.

Drahi, the billionaire head of the Altice empire which

owns Virgin Mobile and several French media houses including BFM news channel and Liberation newspaper, is paying \$57 per share to acquire Sotheby's through his company BidFair USA, the art house said. The deal sees Sotheby's return to private ownership after 31 years as a publicly traded company on the New York Stock Exchange.

SNC-Lavalin unit awarded 1.9 billion British rail contract

Montreal, Canada

Canadian engineering group SNC-Lavalin announced Monday it has won a \$1.9 billion contract to upgrade a rail network in London and to the north of the British capital.

In a statement, the Montreal-based firm said its Atkins subsidiary "has won a contract to design £1.5 billion of track upgrades for Network Rail."

It said Atkins "will support the delivery of upgrade work across London North West, London North East and East Midlands routes for the next decade."

Atkins president Philip Hoare said it was "the biggest upgrade to Britain's railways in 150 years."

SNC-Lavalin, which employs 9,000 people in Canada, is currently at the center of a corruption case that has plunged Prime Minister Justin Trudeau into a serious political scandal.

His former justice minister accused Trudeau aides of improperly pressuring her to settle the case, which involved charges that SNC-Lavalin paid millions of dollars in bribes to obtain contracts in Libya between 2001 and 2011.

Huawei phone sales plunge, cutbacks planned as US pressure bites

Shenzhen, China

Huawei's founder said yesterday the Chinese telecom giant's overseas smartphone sales have tumbled since the US last month threatened to blacklist the company, and he warned the embattled firm would slash production to weather the US drive to isolate it.

The announcements by Huawei founder and CEO Ren Zhengfei marked the first clear indication from the company of the impact of the US pressure, which is being applied over concerns in Washington that Huawei is in bed with China's security apparatus.

Speaking at a panel discussion organised by the company at headquarters in the city of Shenzhen in southern China, Ren was asked if he could confirm media reports citing anonymous sources which said its overseas smartphone sales had fallen by up to 40 percent.

"Yes, (sales) have fallen 40 percent," said Ren.

He gave no further details on the sales plunge but a Huawei spokeswoman later clarified that he was referring to a 40 percent fall from May to June in the wake of the US blacklist threat.

Ren added, however, that sales growth in China's domestic market remained "very fast".

Huawei was the world's number two smartphone producer last year, ahead of Apple and



Huawei founder and CEO Ren Zhengfei laughs as he hosts a panel discussion on technology, markets and enterprise in Shenzhen, Guangdong province

behind South Korea's Samsung, as well as the largest provider of telecom networking equipment.

Huawei has said it shipped a total of 206 million smartphones in 2018, about half in China and half overseas.

Ren, 74, said Huawei planned to cut production by \$30 billion over the next two years to ride out the storm. He did not specify which lines of business would be hit most.

Huawei earned just over \$100 billion in revenue in 2018, so a \$30 billion reduction would

equate to about 30 percent of last year's overall business.

But Ren, who compared Huawei to a damaged but still-flying aircraft, added that he expected the company to soon back on track.

"In 2021, we will regain our vitality and (continue to) provide services to human society," he said.

Grim outlook

Huawei has emerged as a key bone of contention in the wider China-US trade war that has seen tit-for-tat tariffs imposed on hundreds of billions of dollars worth of goods.

President Donald Trump's administration has essentially banned Huawei from the huge US market.

Last month it also added Huawei to an "entity list" of companies barred from receiving US-made components without permission from Washington, though the company was granted a 90-day reprieve for now.

The US fears that systems built by Huawei could be used by China's government for espionage via secret security "backdoors" built into telecom networking equipment.

Those fears have revolved in large part around Ren's background as a former Chinese army engineer, and questions over the privately-held Huawei's corporate ownership structure, which some critics say is unusual and opaque.

China's Xi to visit North Korea this week ahead of G20

Beijing, China

Xi Jinping will make the first trip to North Korea by a Chinese president in 14 years this week, state media said yesterday, as Beijing tightens relations with Pyongyang amid tensions with the United

States. Xi will visit Pyongyang on Thursday and Friday at the invitation of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, said Chinese broadcaster CCTV.

The timing is likely to raise eyebrows at the White House as it comes one week before the G20 summit in Japan.

Saudi market snaps losing streak

● **NCB, Riyadh Bank gain after JP Morgan raised TP**

● **Elsewedy gains on acquisition of energy assets**

● **Financial stocks weigh on Abu Dhabi**

● **16 of 20 stocks on Qatar's index slide**

● **Dubai's Salama rises after electing chairman**

Reuters

The Saudi market rose moderately yesterday, recovering some losses from previous sessions with most of its stocks gaining. Other indexes in the Gulf were mixed with Abu Dhabi and Qatar extending losses following last week's oil tanker attacks.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Saturday urged the international community to take a "decisive stand" but said Riyadh does not want



Kuwaiti traders follow the stock market at the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) in Kuwait City on October 14

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 1pc to 8,976 pts
ABU DHABI	▼ 1.1pc to 4,901 pts
DUBAI	■ at 2,614 pts
QATAR	▼ 0.9pc to 10,390 pts
EGYPT	▲ 0.2pc to 14,241 pts
BAHRAIN	■ at 1,450 pts
OMAN	▲ 0.1pc at 3,919 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.1pc to 6,356 pts

a war.

The Saudi index rose 1 per cent with Saudi Arabian Mining Co gaining 3.9pc and Dar Al Arkan Real Estate Development Company jumping 6.2pc.

National Commercial Bank (NCB) and Riyadh Bank added 1pc and 1.3pc respectively after JP Morgan raised their target prices.

In Egypt, the index increased

0.2 per cent with Commercial International Bank closing 1.1pc higher and Elsewedy Electric was up 2.4pc.

The latter on Sunday acquired a portfolio of renewable energy assets in Greece for a total consideration of 55 million euros.

The Abu Dhabi index extended its losses for the third straight session mainly pressured by its

financial stocks. A 0.8pc slide in First Abu Dhabi Bank, and a 2.7pc drop in Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank pushed the index down by 1.1pc.

Emirates Telecommunications (Etisalat) was down 1.2pc.

A prospectus published on Saturday by the bourse regulator AMMC showed that the Moroccan government is selling 8pc stake in Maroc Telecom, in which Etisalat owns 53pc, to local investors.

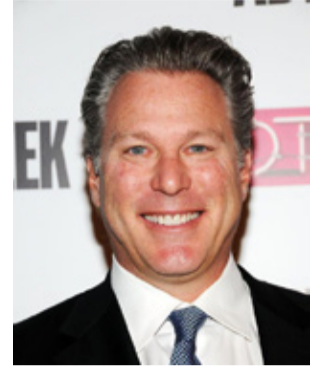
Analysts see the stake sale to local institutional investors as a way to prevent Etisalat further increasing its stake.

Qatar's index declined 0.9 per cent with market heavyweight Industries Qatar dropping 2.1pc and Commercial Bank losing 3.1pc.

In Dubai, the index traded flat with telecom operator Emirates Integrated Telecommunications gaining 1pc. The company said on Sunday the United Arab Emirates' sovereign wealth fund, Emirates Investment Authority, had increased its stake by buying 463.3 million shares from Mamoura Diversified Global Holding and General Investments.

Islamic Arab Insurance (Salama) surged 3.9pc. On Monday, the board elected Jassim Alsediqi as chairman.

Sports Illustrated to be headed by former Yahoo CEO



Ross Levinsohn

New York, United States

Sports Illustrated's media operations were sold for the second time in less than a month in a deal announced yesterday that puts former Yahoo top executive Ross Levinsohn at the helm of the iconic sports magazine.

The Maven, a small publicly traded firm focused on digital publishing, said it acquired rights to operate Sports Illustrated from Authentic Brands, which last month paid \$110 million to buy the magazine from Meredith Corp.

In the announcement, Maven said Levinsohn, who served as interim CEO at Yahoo in 2012 and later headed the interactive arm of Tribune Publishing, would become the CEO of the licensed business.

Stock markets cautiously rise at start of hectic week

● **The indices in London and Paris closed modestly ahead after Hong Kong**

● **US will unveil its monetary policy announcement on Wednesday**

● **Many observers are tipping a US rate reduction next month**

● **In Hong Kong, investors returned to buying after three days of losses**

London, United Kingdom

The world's stock markets mostly ticked upwards yesterday as investors moved cautiously at the start of a busy week packed with key interest rate decisions, in particular from the US Federal Reserve.

The indices in London and Paris closed modestly ahead after Hong Kong stocks rallied, with investors there cheering a decision by the city to suspend plans to push through a controversial extradition law.

Wall Street also slightly rose as traders took a breather ahead of the G20 summit next week, where US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping are due to hold hotly-awaited talks on their long-running trade war.

"There isn't a tonne of conviction in the early going, partly because the market appears to be caught up in a swirl of headlines carrying loose ends," said Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare. One of those swirling head-



Pakistani stockbrokers monitor share prices on a computer monitor during a trading session at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi

lines is the ongoing tension between the US and Iran -- on Monday Tehran announced its uranium stockpile will soon pass the limit set under a nuclear deal that Washington abandoned last year.

The news exacerbated an already strained relationship after the US blamed Iran for two tanker attacks in the Gulf of Oman last week, claims that Tehran calls "baseless".

"Tensions in relation to trade and the Iranian situation still persist, and they are hanging over stock markets," said analyst David Madden at trading firm CMC Markets UK.

Fed U-turn?

Naeem Aslam at London-based trading firm ThinkMarkets said this week "the focus is going to remain on central banks and their monetary policies".

Key figures around 1540 GMT

London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.2pc at 7,357.31 points (close)
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▼ 0.1pc at 12,085.82 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.4pc at 5,390.95 (close)
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ 0.1pc at 3,382.21
New York - Dow:	▲ 0.2pc at 26,150.10
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 0.03pc at 21,124.00 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▲ 0.45pc at 27,240.35 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.20pc at 2,887.62 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1231 from \$1.1208 at 2100 GMT
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.2563 from \$1.2589
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 108.61 yen from 108.56 yen
Oil - Brent North Sea:	▼ 26 cents at \$61.75 per barrel
Oil - West Texas Inter:	▼ 21 cents at \$52.30

"Traders are betting that the Federal Reserve will take a U-turn this year for its monetary policy and it is only a matter of time before we see a rate cut by the Fed," she added.

The US central bank will

unveil its monetary policy announcement on Wednesday, followed by both the Bank of Japan and the Bank of England on Thursday.

Many observers are tipping a US rate reduction next month

as the world's biggest economy shows signs of stuttering.

"Anything less than a clear signal that the Fed is open to cutting rates soon in response to building downside risks to the US economic outlook could leave financial markets disappointed," noted MUFU currency analyst Lee Hardman.

"The US rate market is well priced for at least a (quarter-point) rate cut to be delivered by July."

'Cooler heads' in Hong Kong

In Hong Kong, investors returned to buying after three days of losses that saw the Hang Seng drop more than two pc after protests against the law -- which would have allowed extradition to China -- turned violent on Wednesday.

Another, peaceful, demonstration Sunday saw around two million people take to the streets, according to organisers.

The plan had also spooked business leaders who feared it would damage the city's reputation as an international business hub.

Traders "will breathe a loud sigh of relief today, as on Wednesday when tear gas and rubber bullets were filling the air, the markets were getting extremely jittery that this ticking time bomb was about to explode", said Stephen Innes, managing partner at Vanguard Markets.

"Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed."

In individual stocks, shares in Sotheby's auction house soared by more than 57pc after the company announced it would be acquired by French telecoms and media mogul Patrick Drahi.

Facebook shares rose 3.3pc as the world's biggest social network prepares to outline details on Tuesday of a virtual currency launching next year.

'Just a collision': Duterte downplays sinking



Philippine's President Rodrigo Duterte

Manila, Philippines

The sinking of a Filipino fishing boat by a Chinese vessel in the disputed South China Sea was "just a collision", the Philippine's President Rodrigo Duterte said as he moved to soothe anger over the crash.

The typically brash Duterte urged calm in his first public comments about the June 9 incident, which has fed into outrage over China's expansive claims to the resource-rich waterway.

Critics have voiced anger over the Chinese trawler's failure to rescue the 22 Filipino fishermen after what some Philippine officials have called a "hit-and-run" incident.

"Do not believe those stupid politicians. They want to send the Navy," Duterte said.

"That is just a collision of boats. Do not make it worse," Duterte added as he addressed the Philippine Navy, reiterating the country was not ready to go to war against China.

Duterte has largely set aside the Philippines' row with Beijing over the key waterway to court trade and investments, but he has occasionally criticised China's actions there.

show

OASIS JUFFAIR

1-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME) NEW
 *KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
 FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.15 + 5.00 + 7.45 + 10.30 + 1.15 AM
 DAILY AT (VIP): 4.15 + 9.45 PM

2-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA) NEW
 *SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 9.45 AM + 12.45 + 3.45 + 6.45 + 9.45 + 12.45 MN

3-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY) NEW
 *VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.00 + 4.45 + 7.30 + 10.15 + 1.00 AM
 DAILY AT (VIP): 1.30 + 7.00 PM



11.45 PM + 2.30 AM

2-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA) NEW
 *SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 8.00 AM + 11.00 + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 + 2.00 AM

3-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY) NEW
 *VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 9.45 AM + 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM + 2.15 AM
 DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 11.45 AM + 5.00 + 10.15 PM
 DAILY AT (VIP II): 9.15 AM + 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM + 1.45 AM

4-X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW
 *SOPHIE TURNER, JENNIFER LAWRENCE, JESSICA CHASTAIN
 FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
 DAILY AT: 8.15 AM + 8.45 AM + 10.45 AM + 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 1.45 + 3.45 + 4.15 + 6.15 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 9.15 + 11.15 + 11.45 PM + 1.45 AM + 2.15 AM
 DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 9.15 AM + 2.30 + 7.45 + 1.00 AM

5-THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW
 *PATTON OSWALT, KEVIN HART, HARRISON FORD
 FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH AT 8.00 PM ONWARDS
 DAILY AT: 9.45 AM + 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM + 1.45 AM

6-CASABLANCA (PG-15) (ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER) NEW
 *AMIR KARARA, GHADA ADEL, EYAD NASSAR
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 9.00 AM + 11.15 + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM + 12.45 MN + 3.00 AM

7-SABIE AL BOROMBA (PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY) NEW
 *RAMEZ GALAL, BAYOUMI FOUAD, JAMEELA AWAD
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 8.00 AM + 10.00 AM + 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN + 2.00 AM

8-THE HUSTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME) NEW
 *ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP
 FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
 DAILY AT: 9.00 AM + 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + 1.00 AM + 3.00 AM

9-RASHID & RAJAB (PG) (ARABIC/COMEDY) NEW
 *MARWAN ABDULLAH SALEH, SHADI ALFONS, SHEEMA
 FROM EID DAY

DAILY AT: 12.30 + 6.30 + 12.30 MN

10-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)
 *WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 9.00 AM + 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN + 2.30 AM

11-MA (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR)
 *OCTAVIA SPENCER, MISSI PYLE, DIANA SILVERS
 DAILY AT: 8.30 AM + 10.30 AM + 2.30 + 4.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM + 2.30 AM

12-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)
 *BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
 DAILY AT: 8.00 AM + 11.30 AM + 3.00 + 6.30 + 10.00 PM + 1.30 AM

SEEF (I)

1-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME) NEW
 *KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
 FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
 DAILY AT: 10.00 AM + 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM + 2.30 AM

2-X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW
 *SOPHIE TURNER, JENNIFER LAWRENCE, JESSICA CHASTAIN
 FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
 DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.15 + 4.45 + 7.15 + 9.45 + 12.15 MN + 2.45 AM

3-THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW
 *PATTON OSWALT, KEVIN HART, HARRISON FORD
 FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH AT 8.00 PM ONWARDS
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + 1.00 AM (ARABIC DUBBED)
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + 1.00 AM

4-CASABLANCA (PG-15) (ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER) NEW
 *AMIR KARARA, GHADA ADEL, EYAD NASSAR
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN + 2.15 AM

5-SABIE AL BOROMBA (PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY) NEW
 *RAMEZ GALAL, BAYOUMI FOUAD, JAMEELA AWAD
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + 1.00 AM + 3.00 AM

6-THE HUSTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME) NEW
 *ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP
 FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
 DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM + 12.45 MN + 2.45 AM

7-RASHID & RAJAB (PG) (ARABIC/COMEDY) NEW
 *MARWAN ABDULLAH SALEH, SHADI ALFONS, SHEEMA
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 12.30 + 4.30 + 8.30 PM + 12.30 MN

8-BLOOD BOUND (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER) NEW
 *TIMOTHY HUGHES, EDEN BROLIN, ROSA ARREDONDO
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 2.30 + 6.30 + 10.30 PM + 2.30 AM

9-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)
 *WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM + 1.30 AM

SEEF (II)

1-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA) NEW
 *SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 10.00 AM + 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 11.00 PM + 1.00 AM + 2.00 AM

2-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY) NEW
 *VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 PM + 1.30 AM

3-CHHALAWA (PG-15) (URDU/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
 *MEHWISH HAYAT, AZFAR REHMAN, ZARA NOOR ABBAS
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 4.15 + 9.00 PM + 1.45 AM

4-WRONG NO.2 (PG-13) (URDU/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
 *SAMI KHAN, NEELAM MUNEEB, MEHMOOD ASLAM
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 1.45 + 6.30 + 11.15 PM

5-VIRUS (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW
 *KUNCHACKO BOBAN, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS
 FROM FRIDAY 7TH ONWARDS
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.30 + 4.30 + 7.30 + 10.30 PM + 1.30 PM

SAAR

1-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME) NEW
 *KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
 FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.15 + 7.30 + 10.15 PM + 1.00 AM

2-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA) NEW
 *SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.30 + 6.30 + 9.30 PM + 12.30 MN

3-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY) NEW
 *VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.00 + 4.45 + 10.00 PM + 12.45 MN

4-X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW
 *SOPHIE TURNER, JENNIFER LAWRENCE, JESSICA CHASTAIN
 FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS

DAILY AT: 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM + 1.15 AM

5-THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW
 *PATTON OSWALT, KEVIN HART, HARRISON FORD
 FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH AT 8.00 PM ONWARDS
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 PM

6-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)
 *WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
 DAILY AT: 10.00 AM + 5.00 + 7.30 PM

AL HAMRA

1-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA) NEW
 *SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 9.00 AM + 12.00 MN

2-VIRUS (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW
 *KUNCHACKO BOBAN, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS
 FROM FRIDAY 7TH ONWARDS
 DAILY AT: 12.00 + 9.00 PM + 3.00 AM

3-CHILDREN'S PARK (PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW
 *DHURVAN, VISHNU UNNIKRISSHAN, SHARAFUDHEEN
 FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
 DAILY AT: 3.00 PM

4-KOLAIGARAN (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW
 *VIJAY ANTONY, ASHIMA NARWAL, ARJUN SARJA
 FROM THURSDAY 6TH AT 3.00 PM ONWARDS
 DAILY AT: 6.00 PM

WADI AL SAIL

1-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME) NEW
 *KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
 FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
 DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.00 + 4.45 + 7.30 + 10.15 + 1.00 AM

2-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/DRAMA) NEW
 *SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 9.30 AM + 12.30 + 3.30 + 6.30 + 9.30 + 12.30 MN

3-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY) NEW
 *VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.45 + 4.30 + 7.15 + 10.00 + 12.45 MN

4-X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW
 *SOPHIE TURNER, JENNIFER LAWRENCE, JESSICA CHASTAIN
 FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
 DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 + 1.15 AM

5-THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW
 *PATTON OSWALT, KEVIN HART, HARRISON FORD
 FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH AT 8.00 PM ONWARDS
 DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 PM

6-CASABLANCA (PG-15) (ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER) NEW
 *AMIR KARARA, GHADA ADEL, EYAD NASSAR
 FROM EID DAY
 DAILY AT: 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 + 1.30 AM

7-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)
 *WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 + 1.30 AM

CITYCENTRE

1-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME) NEW
 *KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
 FROM WEDNESDAY 5TH ONWARDS
 DAILY AT: 9.00 AM + 11.45 AM + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 + 1.30 AM
 DAILY AT (VIP I): 10.00 AM + 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 +

MOVIE REVIEW

Rocketman: Elton John's sparkliest spectacle yet

Rocketman is a 2019 biographical musical film based on the life of musician Elton John. Directed by Dexter Fletcher and written by Lee Hall, it stars Taron Egerton as John, with Jamie Bell, Richard Madden, and Bryce Dallas Howard.

The film follows John's early days as a prodigy at the Royal Academy of Music to his musical partnership with Bernie Taupin. The film is titled after John's 1972 song "Rocket Man".

On review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, Rocketman holds an approval rating of 90% based on 312 reviews, with an average rating of 7.64/10. The site's critical consensus reads, "It's going to be a long, long time before a rock biopic manages to capture the highs and lows of an artist's life like Rocketman."

On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 70 out of 100, based on 49 critics, indicating "generally favorable reviews".

Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of "A-" on an A+ to F scale, while those at Post-Trak gave it an average 4 out of 5 stars and a 69% "definite recommend".



Taron Egerton as Elton John in Rocketman

Steve Pond of TheWrap said: "It's all grand and fun and corny; a musical fantasy that reaches for the sky and gets there often enough to make it diverting."

The Guardian's Peter Bradshaw gave

the film three stars out of five, saying Egerton did a "good impression of the flamboyant musician" and writing: "Rocketman is an honest, heartfelt tribute to Elton John's music and his public image." In the same newspaper, Mark

Kermode gave it five stars, writing that "Fletcher is the real star of this show, a director whose enthusiasm for musical storytelling shines through every frame".

Chicago Sun-Times critic Richard



Taron Egerton is terrific as the singer, but the real star of this electric biopic is director Dexter Fletcher

Roeper also greatly enjoyed the film, giving it three-and-a-half stars out of four, praising it's "almost documentary-level eye for detail when it comes to re-creating historic chapters such as the sold-out shows at Dodger Stadium in 1975 when Elton wore a sequined Dodgers uniform and belted out one hit after another to the adoring masses."

Conversely, Christy Lemire of RoperEbert.com had mixed feelings about Rocketman, awarding it two-and-a-half stars out of four and stating that the film is a "formulaic, paint-by-numbers biopic."

celebs

US fashion icon, socialite Gloria Vanderbilt dead at 95



Gloria Vanderbilt
Los Angeles

Gloria Vanderbilt, the “poor little rich girl” who lived a life at the highest levels of fashion, society and wealth as an heir to one of the greatest family fortunes in U.S. history, died on Monday at the age of 95, her son CNN correspondent Anderson Cooper said.

Vanderbilt became a fashion icon in the 1970s with an eponymous line of tight-fitting blue jeans that bore her signature and trademark swan logo. They were a must-have for any woman with aspirations to style.

Vanderbilt wrote that as a girl she had considered becoming a nun, which would have been an incredible loss to the chroniclers of high society, celebrity and tumult. Instead of a nunnery, she went on to a life that could have provided storylines for dozens of soap operas, romance novels, Broadway musicals and tear-jerker movies.

JLo honours ex-husband Marc Anthony, fiance Alex Rodriguez on Father’s Day

Los Angeles



Jennifer Lopez

In a sweet gesture, pop star Jennifer Lopez honoured both her ex-husband Marc Anthony and beau Alex Rodriguez on Father’s Day.

The 45-year-old Lopez took to her Instagram account on Sunday and posted a throwback picture and a video for Anthony.

The picture features Lopez, Anthony and their

twins and the video shows their son Max giving a Father’s Day card to his dad.

“Happy Fathers Day to you Flaco!!! Emme and Max love you soooo much!!! Thank you for these two beautiful coconuts!!! Feliz Dia Del Padre!!! #throwback,” she captioned. Lopez and Anthony split in 2011.

The pop singer also posted a video for Rodriguez with Bon Jovi song ‘Always’ playing in the background.

“How lucky are we to have you in our lives...not only do you make us all laugh every day, you help us to be our best selves with a loving gentle hand,” Lopez wrote.

“Being there and caring with a consistent presence that doesn’t ever waiver. Macho...I cannot begin to tell you how much you have come to mean to me and Max and Emme!!

Seeing the father you are to Tashi and Ella is one of my greatest joys and they are so fortunate to have you to call Daddy!!! We all love you so much!! Happy Father’s Day!!!!” she continued.



Marc Anthony



Alex Rodriguez

Ryan Reynolds, Ellen Degeneres to feature in Taylor Swift’s ‘You need to calm down’ music video

Los Angeles



Taylor Swift

Pop star Taylor Swift has revealed that her friends Ryan Reynolds, Ellen Degeneres and “Orange is the New Black” actor Laverne Cox will feature in the music video of her song “You need to calm down”.

She shared the names of the celebrities who will appear in her video on Instagram.

Also included in the video are all of the Queer Eye fab five, “Modern Family” actor Jesse Tyler-Ferguson, Ciara, RuPaul, Billy Porter, Todrick Hall and Hayley Kiyoko.

The new music video is set to be released on Monday.

Janelle Monae to not replace Cardi B at Bonnaroo Festival

Los Angeles

Fans can now breathe a sigh of relief as American rapper Cardi B will not be replaced by singer Janelle Monae at the Bonnaroo Festival.

A Reddit user posted in the r/Bonnaroo thread, claiming that they spoke with a staff member this morning and it was true that Monae was replacing the ‘Kodak Yellow’ rapper, reported USA Today.

“I heard Janelle Monae sound checking this morning, and I asked a staff member about it and she confirmed Janelle was replacing Cardi,” a Reddit user posted on the r/bonnaroo thread, promoting



Cardi B and Janelle Monae

Google searches and some tweets about Cardi B’s scheduled show.

Festival spokesperson Ken Weinstein put all the speculations to rest, confirming that Cardi is still going to perform at the event.

“Reddit is inaccurate,” he said.



Lena Heady

Los Angeles

Kim Kardashian who used her celebrity status to free prisoners with minor charges has earned her immense respect.

Matthew Charles became the first prisoner to be freed under the First Step Act and sang praises for the ‘KUWK’ star, reports TMZ.

“She was instrumental in speaking with President Donald Trump on my behalf about granting me clemency. As the first step, they have allowed to set me free.”

Not only Kardashian managed to free Charles but will also cover his rent for the next five years.

First prisoner freed under First Step Act praises Kim Kardashian

“Kim Kardashian stepped up again to my rent for five years. Overall she has been a tremendous play. Her celebrity status and voice is very necessary and has provided results.”

Kardashian stole the limelight as she headed to the White House on Thursday to unveil her latest prison reform initiative.

The new reform will allow the captives to go for job interviews, in a bid to turn the inmates into productive citizens.



Kim Kardashian

Wanted better death for Cersei: ‘GoT’ star Lena Heady

Los Angeles

“Game of Thrones” star Lena Heady says she has some complaints about the way her character Cersei Lannister met her death and she hopes to share her concerns with HBO showrunners David Benioff and Dan B Weiss over a drink soon.

Heady’s Cersei was crushed by falling masonry along with her brother-lover Jaime (played by Nikolaj Coster-Waldau) in the penultimate episode of the show, which had its season fi-

nale on April 19.

“I invested as a viewer and I have my favourite characters. And I’ve got a few of my own gripes. But I haven’t sat down drunkly with David and Dan yet,” the actor told The Observer in an interview.

Asked what she will say when she has that drink with writer duo, famously known as ‘D&D’, she said, “I will say I wanted a better death.”

Heady said a character can be killed off in “any way” in the series, known for its uncertain plot twists. But she was “gutted” when she read how Cersei would die.

Adele’s fan girl moment at Spice Girls’ concert



Adele

Los Angeles

It was a fan moment for American singer Adele who was present to witness the last show of Spice Girls during their tour on Saturday.

The ‘Someone Like You’ singer was present at the Wembley Stadium and had a great time cheering, singing along with the girls as well as hanging out with them after the show, reported Billboard.

The crazy fan was quick enough to share series of pictures and videos on Instagram where she can be seen crooning the song ‘Stop’ by the Spice Girls and a picture with a member of the band, Geri Halliwell also known as Ginger.

“Oiii last time I saw the Spice Girls at Wembley was 21 years ago! Tonight with my nearest and dearest I cried, laughed, screamed, danced, reminisced and fell back in love with my 10-year-old self. It’s no secret how much I love them, how much they inspired me to run for my life and never look back.” she wrote.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **VINOD KUMAR S/O. DHULJI**, holding Indian Passport No **H5863159** dated 05/07/2009 issued at **BAHRAIN**, having permanent residence at **GANODA, GHATOL, BANSWARA RAJASTHAN**. Presently residing at **FLAT NO. 1, BUILDING. NO. 989, ROAD NO. 521, BLOCK NO: 305, MANAMA, BAHRAIN** will henceforth be known as (Given Name) **VINOD**, (Surname) **KUMAR**, objection if any may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O.Box 26106, Bldg No. 1090, Road No. 2819, Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

SPORTS

Uruguay crush 10-man Ecuador

● Suarez, Cavani score as Uruguay cruise past 10-man Ecuador in Copa America opener

● Uruguay earn comfortable 4-0 win over rivals

AFP | Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Luis Suarez and Edinson Cavani were on target as Uruguay thumped 10-man Ecuador 4-0 in their opening Group C match at the Copa America on Sunday.

Nicolas Lodeiro opened the scoring after just six minutes before Ecuador full-back Jose Quintero was dismissed for a flailing arm.

With a numerical advantage, Uruguay ran riot at the Mineirao stadium in Belo Horizonte as Cavani and Suarez netted before the break. The rout was completed 12 minutes from time with an Arturo Mina own goal.

"We had chances in the first half, we managed to take them and that gave us the tranquility to manage the game," said Cavani, who finally scored his first Copa America goal in his fourth participation.

"It was an important step."

It was the ideal beginning for Uruguay in a tough Group C alongside champions Chile and guests Japan, who meet on Monday in Sao Paulo.

"We're not as bad as that,"



Uruguay's Luis Suarez celebrates after scoring against Ecuador

lamented Ecuador's Colombian coach Hernan Dario Gomez.

"It was a match that got away from us, especially in the first half when it got away from us in every aspect."

Uruguay were off to a dream start.

Suarez crossed from the right and Lodeiro proved the coolest customer in the Mineirao stadium as he beat one defender with his chest control, flicked the ball over another and then hit a crisp, low volley into the bottom far corner.

"We knew they would be very tough opponents. The important thing was start the game with maximum concentration and we managed that," said Cavani.

Uruguay were rampant and had the ball in the net soon af-

terwards only for Cavani to be given offside in the build-up.

Ecuador brought a physicality to the contest that upset the Uruguayan players and Quintero was perhaps lucky to escape punishment when catching Diego Laxalt with an elbow in an aerial challenge.

But moments later, his arm made contact with Lodeiro's face when challenging for another header, this time drawing blood.

Brazilian referee Anderson Daronco -- whose bulging arm muscles put even Ecuador's strapping players to shame -- initially showed the full-back a yellow card but after consulting VAR he changed that to red.

That left Ecuador with a mountain to climb.

post one-handed.

But it was third time lucky on 33 minutes as Diego Godin headed the ball into the danger area and Cavani acrobatically rasped a bicycle kick from seven yards past a helpless Dominguez, his 47th international goal.

Patient Uruguay

Nahitan Nandez wasted a good chance, shooting straight at Dominguez but Suarez put the game to bed a minute before the break, stealing in at the back post to poke home a flick-on from Martin Caceres.

With the game all but over as a contest, the second half was a damp squib of an affair.

Uruguay had the ball in the net soon after the restart but Cavani was offside again.

Ecuador showed plenty of commitment, continuing to rough up Uruguay's more technical players, but never looked like they believed they would get anything out of the game.

Uruguay looked content to play a patient possession game without pushing for more goals.

Cavani did send Suarez scampering in on goal after a defensive mistake but Dominguez was quickly off his line to snatch the ball off the Barcelona forward's toes.

The fourth came in calamitous fashion as Gaston Pereiro tried to pick out Suarez from Cavani's cross even though he was only six yards from goal.

His header dropped to Ecuador center-half Mina, who inadvertently volleyed into his own goal.

“We had chances in the first half, we managed to take them and that gave us the tranquility to manage the game. It was an important step

EDINSON CAVANI

On 27 minutes, Alexander Dominguez made a brilliant low save to turn behind Cavani's half-volley from 15 yards.

Paris Saint-Germain forward Cavani was denied again when Dominguez stunningly tipped his clever back-flick onto the

'Life-changing' operation rekindles returning Murray's love of tennis



Andy Murray looks sharp during a practice session at Queens

Reuters | London

Andy Murray has said that surgery helped him rediscover his passion for tennis as he prepares to make his comeback at Queen's Club this week.

The 32-year-old will feature in the men's doubles alongside Spaniard Feliciano Lopez on Wednesday, five months after undergoing a hip resurfacing operation.

"There have been a number of times over the past 18 months where I did want to stop," he said.

"I didn't want to play anymore. I was getting no enjoyment out of tennis at all, whether that be training, practice, matches.

"I wasn't bothered about winning matches either because it wasn't fun. Now I like playing tennis, getting out on the court and hitting balls. I want to keep playing if I can because I enjoy it."

Murray said at the Australian Open in January that he intended to retire after Wimbledon due to crippling pain that stopped him from doing everyday tasks like pulling on socks.

The three-time Grand Slam winner admitted that the progress he has made since then has been better than anticipated.

"I didn't expect to be in this position," said the former world number one.

"I didn't know how it would feel if I went and had the operation. But it has been brilliant, completely life-changing for me from where I was.



Salah in action with Guinea's Aly Keita

Salah helps Egypt to another warm-up victory

AFP | Johannesburg, South Africa

Egypt superstar Mohamed Salah came off the bench but did not score as the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations hosts defeated fellow qualifiers Guinea 3-1 Sunday in a warm-up match.

Marwan Mohsen gave the Pharaohs an early lead in Alexandria that was cancelled by Sory Kaba midway through the second half.

Ahmed Ali, recalled for the Cup of Nations after a lengthy

absence from the national squad, put Egypt ahead again and Omar Gaber scored a late goal to ensure victory.

It was the second warm-up victory for Egypt, who defeated qualifiers Tanzania 1-0 three days ago at the same stadium.

Egypt are in Group A with the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Zimbabwe for the June 21-July 19 tournament as they seek a record-extending eighth African title.

While Egypt are on a winning streak, serious title contend-

ers Morocco suffered a second home loss in a row as they fell 3-2 to non-qualifiers Zambia.

Ajax Amsterdam star Hakim Ziyech equalised twice for a team considered one of the biggest threats to title favourites Egypt only for Enock Mwepu to snatch a 75th-minute winner.

Morocco, who lost to the Gambia last Wednesday, are guided by Frenchman Herve Renard, the only coach to win the Cup of Nations with different countries.

BRAVE and Shaikh Khalid praised for 'stepping up' in MMA development

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation and Kingdom of Bahrain have been praised for the roles they have played in development of mixed martial arts on a grass-roots level.

IMMAF-WMMMA president Kerrith Brown was recently in Bahrain for the announcement of the third edition of the International Combat Week, which will take place in the second week of November, alongside the IMMAF-WMMMA World Championships, and having the biggest BRAVE event in the year as its crowning moment.

Brown spoke of his excitement at, once again, joining forces with BRAVE, Bahrain, and the Bahraini MMA Federation, and hailed their involvement in the vision of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, as well as their help in the growth of MMA in the most basic level.

"HH Shaikh Khalid has worked very hard to help us deliver an amazing event, by giving the athletes all the conditions possible so they can be able to put on world-class performances when it matters. Our relationships with BRAVE and His Highness are the best possible. We have the same visions and goals for the sport. They have stepped up to the plate in terms of understanding our vision and putting the sport at the highest level and I'm thankful to be partners with them", said Brown.

Sarfraz refuses to blame senior men for Pakistan's troubles

Reuters | Manchester

Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed refused to put the blame for his team's defeat to India and poor World Cup on the senior players, saying all his squad needed to step up their game.

India's comprehensive victory at Old Trafford left Pakistan in ninth place after just one win from five matches and needing a huge turnaround in form to have any chance of making the semi-finals.

Pakistan were outclassed with India making 336 for five and apart from a 104-run second-wicket partnership between Fakhar Zaman and Babar Azam, Pakistan never looked like mounting a real challenge.

"It definitely is very disappointing. It is hard. We were going really well, especially if you talk about our batting. I thought, when we lost the first wicket, Imam and Fakhar, they made a good partnership," Sarfraz said.

Tigers maul Windies

Shakib stars as Bangladesh thrash West Indies with second highest World Cup chase

AFP | Taunton

Bangladesh powered to the second highest run chase in World Cup history as Shakib Al Hasan's brilliant century clinched a remarkable seven-wicket win over the West Indies yesterday.

Shakib blasted 124 from 99 balls and Linton Das hit a superb 94 from 69 deliveries to lead Bangladesh to 322-3 with 8.3 overs to spare at Taunton.

Bangladesh's highest one-day international run chase put them behind only Ireland's 329-7 against England in 2011 in the history of successful World Cup chases.

Mashrafe Mortaza's side remain in with a chance of reaching the semi-finals after their second win in five matches.

It was a brutal day for the West Indies, who were sham-bolic in the field and bowled far too loosely.

A third defeat from their five games means a semi-final berth is extremely unlikely as the optimism from the thrashing of Pakistan in their opener fades away.

The highest chase in the current World Cup prior to the masterclass from Mashrafe's men was New Zealand's 248 against Bangladesh.

But the Tigers had already posted 330 in the first innings of their win over South Africa earlier in the competition and they were never intimidated by



Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan plays a shot

their task against the Windies.

Opener Tamim Iqbal set the tone in the chase with six fours in his 53-ball innings of 48 before being superbly run out by Sheldon Cottrell.

Tamim and Soumya Sarkar had taken the score to 50 in the ninth over.

Soumya was dismissed for 29 when he scooped Andre Russell to Chris Gayle in the slips.

But there were huge cheers from the Bangladesh fans around the ground when Shakib became just the second player to score 6,000 career ODI runs for the Tigers.

After reaching his fifth successive ODI 50, Shakib -- who scored 121 against England earlier in the tournament -- took

command with a scintillating innings that climaxed when he stroked a boundary to reach his century.

Shakib is now the highest run scorer at this year's World Cup so far and the West Indies were helpless as he and Das demolished their wayward bowling to romp home.

Epic success

Adding to the epic nature of the success, the unbroken stand of 189 between Shakib and Das was the second highest for the fourth wicket in World Cup history.

Shakib finished with 16 fours, while Das bludgeoned eight fours and four sixes.

Earlier, Shai Hope's 96 and the

joint-fastest fifty of the tournament from Shimron Hetmyer helped the West Indies reach 321-8.

The Windies couldn't be contained in the second half of the innings as Hope laid the foundations for his country's fourth highest World Cup score with a resolute 121-ball innings.

Hitting around Hope, Evin Lewis made 70 from 67 balls before Hetmyer smashed 50 in 26 balls, featuring four fours and three sixes.

It was the equal fastest 50 in this year's tournament and the third quickest by a West Indies batsman in World Cup history.

Lewis's partnership of 116 with Hope was the West Indies' first century stand of the World Cup.

A towering six from Nicholas Pooran off Mehidy Hasan Miraz left a hole in the roof of one of the Taunton stands.

And skipper Jason Holder's 33 from 15 balls -- including four fours and two sixes -- ensured the Windies went past 300.

West Indies

C. Gayle	c Mushfiqur b Saifuddin	0
E. Lewis	c sub (Sabbir) b Shakib	70
S. Hope	c Das b Mustafizur	96
N. Pooran	c Soumya b Shakib	25
S. Hetmyer	c Tamim b Mustafizur	50
A. Russell	c Mushfiqur b Mustafizur	0
J. Holder	c Mahmudullah b Saifuddin	33
D. Bravo	b Saifuddin	19
O. Thomas	not out	6
Extras (lb6, w16)		22
Total (eight wickets, 50 overs)		321

Bangladesh

Tamim Iqbal	run out (Cottrell)	48
Soumya Sarkar	c Gayle b Russell	29
Shakib Al Hasan	not out	124
Mushfiqur Rahim	c Hope b Thomas	1
Liton Das	not out	94
Extras (b1, w25)		26
Total (three wickets, 41.3 overs)		322



A third defeat from five games means a semi-final berth is extremely unlikely for West Indies as the optimism from the thrashing of Pakistan in their opener fades away



Cricket World Cup 2019 standings

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	No result	Run rate	Points
Australia	5	4	1	0	0	0.812	8
New Zealand	4	3	0	0	1	2.163	7
India	4	3	0	0	1	1.029	7
England	4	3	1	0	0	1.557	6
Bangladesh	5	2	2	0	1	-0.270	5
Sri Lanka	5	1	2	0	2	-1.778	4
West Indies	5	1	3	0	1	0.272	3
South Africa	5	1	3	0	1	-0.208	3
Pakistan	5	1	3	0	1	-1.933	3
Afghanistan	4	0	4	0	0	-1.638	0

Getting Babar out was 'dream' delivery: Yadav

AFP | Manchester

India's Kuldeep Yadav admitted bowling Pakistan batsman Babar Azam in the World Cup with a magical delivery that tossed and turned was a "dream" for any spinner.

Yadav returned figures of 2-32 with his left-arm wrist spin to play a key role in India's 89-run victory via DLS over arch rivals Pakistan in Manchester on Sunday.

Yadav got Azam bowled through the gate -- the ball nipping between bat and pad -- for 48 to end a 104-run second wicket stand involving Fakhar Zaman, who top scored with 62.

"Getting Babar Azam out was the best delivery for me in this tournament. I got him out in the Asia Cup as well," Yadav told reporters.

"After the rain break I went back and watched that delivery. It had drift and turn, so any spinner will love that delivery.

"It's a proper dream delivery and a proper Test delivery. Deceiving the batsman in the air and making him commit the mistake. A perfect delivery," he said with a smile.

India paceman Kumar could be out for 'three games at most' says Kohli



Bhuvneshwar Kumar leaves the field of play after picking up an injury

AFP | Manchester

Bhuvneshwar Kumar could be out of India's next three World Cup games after injuring himself in Sunday's win over Pakistan, according to captain Virat Kohli.

Kumar opened the bowling for India in Pakistan's initial chase of 337, but could only manage 2.4 overs before leaving the Old Trafford field due to a hamstring problem.

The injury saw him sit out the rest of a

rain-affected game that his side eventually won by a commanding 89 runs on the Duckworth/Lewis method.

"Bhuvneshwar Kumar has a slight niggle, he slipped on the footmarks," Kohli told Sky Sports after the match.

"It doesn't look too serious and hopefully he will be ready in a few games, the maximum is three games.

"We are not too worried," the star batsman added.

A three-game absence would rule Kumar out of group fixtures against Afghanistan, the West Indies and England, with India's final round-robin game of the 10-team first round stage against Bangladesh on July 2.

One consolation for India on Sunday was that Vijay Shankar, who had to complete Kumar's unfinished over, struck with his very first ball to have Imam-ul-Haq lbw for seven.

India were inspired by Rohit Sharma's 140 as they posted a challenging total of 336-5 after being put into bat, with Kohli making a sparkling 77.

India were already awaiting the return of opener Shikhar Dhawan, who injured his hand during his match-winning century in the team's win over Australia.

Dhawan, who did not play against Pakistan, is under medical observation and travelling with the team.

Rising star Rishabh Pant has been flown in as cover for the left-handed batsman.

Today's matches

England vs Afghanistan




Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester 12:30pm

- » England is the top-ranked side while Afghanistan in the bottom ranked side in the ICC World Cup 2019
- » Afghanistan has three quality spinners in its squad
- » England is miles ahead of Afghanistan in every aspect of the game

England

England have now won 10 out of the 13 completed one-day internationals that they have played this year. They have won three and lost one out of the four matches they have played so far in this World Cup and are currently occupying the fourth place on the CWC 2019 points table with six points.

Probable XI

Jason Roy/James Vince, Jonny Bairstow, Joe Root, Jos Buttler (wk), Eoin Morgan (c)/Moeen Ali, Ben Stokes, Chris Woakes, Liam Plunkett, Jofra Archer, Adil Rashid, Mark Wood

Afghanistan

Afghanistan have won four and lost seven out of the eleven one-day internationals they have played this year. They are the only team in the tournament who are yet to win a game and they are currently languishing at the bottom of the CWC 2019 leaderboard with four defeats from four matches.

Probable XI

Hazratullah Zazai, Noor Ali Zadran, Rahmat Shah, Hashmatullah Shahidi, Asghar Afghan/Najibullah Zadran, Gulbadin Naib (c), Mohammad Nabi, Ikram Ali khil (wk), Rashid Khan, Aftab Alam, Hamid Hassan

PITCH REPORT



The weather has been dull and gloomy in Manchester for the last few weeks and the same is expected for this match. We should be able to get a result in but some showers are expected to interrupt the match and cause stoppages. The pitches were well protected and there was some spin for the bowlers in the match between India and Pakistan. A high scoring pitch with help for the spinners is what we expect in this game also.

Head to Head

England and Afghanistan have faced each other just once in the 50-over format of the game - at the 2015 ICC Cricket World Cup at the Sydney Cricket Ground in Australia. Electing to field first after winning the toss, England had Afghanistan at 111/7 in the 37th over before rain intervened and ended Afghanistan's innings. England were then set a revised DLS target of 101 runs from 25 overs and they completed their chase in the 19th over to seal a comprehensive nine-wicket win.