

Sophie Turner 'humbled' to be nominated for Emmy

Sophie Turner is 'beyond humbled' to be nominated for Emmy's 'Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series' category for her performance in HBO drama series 'Game of Thrones'. **P14**

OP-ED 8 **Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh need immediate support**

THE DAILY **tribune**



Stars grace Jennifer Lopez's rescheduled MSG concert **14 CELEBS**

WORLD 5 **Pakistan arrests Mumbai attacks mastermind again**

Turkey blocked from F-35 programme
 Washington

The White House confirmed yesterday that Turkey would no longer be permitted to take part in NATO's F-35 stealth fighter jet program after it purchased a Russian missile defence system.

"Unfortunately, Turkey's decision to purchase Russian S-400 air defence systems renders its continued involvement with the F-35 impossible," White House spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said in a statement.

The US-made F-35 Joint Strike Fighter "cannot co-exist with a Russian intelligence collection platform that will be used to learn about its advanced capabilities," she said.

She said Washington had made "multiple" offers of its own Patriot missile defence system to Turkey, but Ankara went ahead and acquired the Russian system, running counter to a NATO pledge to avoid adopting Russian systems.

Saudi Arabia 'main pillar of regional security, stability'

Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, emphasised the importance and the value of Saudi Arabia in all hearts and souls in the Arab and Muslim worlds, being the cornerstone upon which the Ummah relies to confront the various challenges.

HRH the Premier stressed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia constitutes the strategic depth and the main pillar of security and stability in the region.

His Royal Highness praised the pivotal role of Saudi Arabia



HRH the Premier receives Dr Abdullah bin Abdul Malik Al Shaikh.

under the leadership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and HRH Crown Prince

Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Saudi Arabia, in supporting the cause of Arab and Muslim nations.

HRH the Prime Minister stressed the deep-rooted brotherly relations of amity and compassion, which charts a model of unique historic relationships established by the fathers and forefathers.

This came as HRH the Premier received Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Bahrain Dr Abdullah bin Abdul Malik Al Shaikh, in Riffa Palace, yesterday on the occasion of the conclusion of his term as his country's ambassador to Bahrain.

During the meeting, HRH the Prime Minister praised the ambassador's efforts in developing and bolstering the existing fraternal ties that mirror the directives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in advancing the level of co-operation to highest levels, wishing the outgoing ambassador success in the duties of his future assignment.

The Saudi ambassador expressed his deep gratitude and appreciation to HRH the Prime Minister for all the co-operation and support he received throughout his ambassadorial term that contributed to boosting the genuinely amicable brotherly ties.

Forum on Iran threat

Kingdom to host global maritime security conference to address threats from Tehran

The conference will aim to reach a common understanding on addressing the challenge posed by Iran.

Mr Hook did not specify which countries would attend the meeting.

New York

Bahrain will host a global maritime security conference to address the Iranian threat to navigation security in the Arabian Gulf.

The country's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, announced the summit alongside the US special representative for Iran, Brian Hook, yesterday.

Shaikh Khalid said the conference would probably take place this autumn and would follow up



The Amphibious assault ship USS Boxer and amphibious dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry conducting drills in the Arabian Sea.

a February meeting in Warsaw.

In Poland, 65 countries took part in the conference on Iran, including the UAE and other GCC and Middle East countries, and European representatives.

Mr Hook said that the same countries would be asked to attend in Bahrain "but the invitations have not been sent out yet".

The conference will aim to reach a common understanding on addressing the challenge posed by Iran, Shaikh Khalid said at the Atlantic Council in Washington.

Mr Hook highlighted the grow-

If Iran takes a step forward, we will take two.

SHAIKH KHALID

ing maritime threat in the Gulf. At least seven tankers have been attacked in the Gulf since May.

On Friday, Mr Hook will meet ambassadors to promote the US plan to build a maritime coalition to deter further attacks.

He said the Sentinel Programme would "make it harder for Iran to disrupt freedom of

commerce and navigation".

Mr Hook did not specify which countries would attend the meeting it is unclear which states have agreed to join the programme.

"We need more assets in the theatre," he said.

Mr Hook said at least 17 countries were affected by the May 12 attack on four tankers off the coast of Fujairah, which he attributed to Iran.

The US plans to install surveillance and protection for ships travelling through the Gulf.

It has already sent an aircraft

carrier and B-52 bombers to the region, which Mr Hook said had "disrupted and deterred much of what we feared" with Iranian plots in the area.

Shaikh Khalid said US intelligence shared with Bahrain helped to prevent Iranian-sponsored attacks in the country.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps "has plotted to overthrow the government of Bahrain since 1981", he said.

"You see them in Syria, in Iraq, in Yemen, in eastern Saudi Arabia, and in Kuwait a Hezbollah cell was arrested," Shaikh Khalid said.

"The US has always been with us to stop malign Iranian activities but these efforts intensified under the current administration."

But he stressed that Bahrain was not seeking regime change in Iran and Manama would take steps to improve relations if Tehran showed interest.

"What we are concerned with is the regime's behaviour," Shaikh Khalid said. "If the Iran takes a step forward, we will take two."

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LORD OF DRUGS

Life sentence for El Chapo

Brooklyn

A US judge has sentenced Mexican drug kingpin Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán to life in prison plus 30 years.

Guzmán, 62, was found guilty of 10 charges, including drug trafficking and money laundering, by a federal court in New York in February.

He escaped a Mexican jail through a tunnel in 2015, but was later arrested. He was extradited to the US in 2017.

He is a former head of the Sinaloa cartel, which officials say was the biggest supplier of drugs to the US.

The life sentence was the minimum Guzmán faced. The additional 30 years were for



El Chapo

unlawful uses of firearms.

He was also ordered to pay \$12.6 billion in forfeiture.

Prosecutors said Guzmán would be serving

his sentence behind "tonnes of steel", referring to a high-security prison in Colorado.

Guzmán's lawyer Jeffrey Lichtman announced plans to appeal against the verdict.

He argued that the trial had not been conducted fairly and claimed that jurors were influenced by media coverage.

"It was a show trial," he said.

El Chapo ran the cartel in northern Mexico.

In 2009, Guzmán entered Forbes' list of the world's richest men at number 701, with an estimated worth of \$1bn.

He was accused of helping bring hundreds of tonnes of cocaine into the US and of conspiring to make and distribute heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana.



BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, received Minister of Finance and National Economy Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa. The commander-in-chief discussed a number of issues related to co-operation and co-ordination between the BDF and Finance Ministry.



Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa yesterday received newly-appointed Tunisian Ambassador to Bahrain Salim Al Gheryani. He welcomed him, lauding strong relations between the two brotherly countries and growing cooperation mainly in the security fields. He wished the ambassador every success in his diplomatic duties.

Washington

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohamed Al Khalifa, yesterday met the US National Security Adviser, John Bolton, within the framework of the minister's official visit to the United States of America.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs affirmed that the distinguished Bahraini-US relations mirror the keenness of the two countries to prioritise these relations and embody their relentless endeavours to bolster joint cooperation at all levels.

He also noted the continued efforts of the United States to establish peace and stability in the region and the world, stressing that the Kingdom of Bahrain will remain supportive of these efforts.

John Bolton praised the deep-rooted friendly Bahraini-US relations and mutual keenness on activating bilateral co-operation frameworks at all levels.

'Bahrain supports US peace efforts in Mideast region'

Foreign Minister holds discussions with US National Security Adviser

He also expressed appreciation to the Kingdom for hosting the Peace to Prosperity workshop, which is a crucial step that reflects the Kingdom's role in establishing stability and security.

He stressed that the United States will continue its efforts to confront the Iranian threats in the region and its policy of intervening in the internal affairs of the region's country, as well as supporting terrorist groups and

militias and spreading chaos and violence.

He added that confronting the Iranian threat is a crucial step and a key goal to sustain peace and stability in the region, calling for the concerted efforts of the international community to achieve it.

Separately, Shaikh Khalid met Chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Jim Risch.

The Minister of Foreign Af-

spect and trust.

The Minister also expressed delight in the distinguished level of the bilateral co-operation between the two countries at the security, defence, trade, political and economic levels.

He also lauded the US efforts to establish stability and security at the regional and international levels and its efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and those who support and fund it, as well as meet the challenges facing world countries and its keenness to activate various frameworks of international cooperation for the overall benefit.



Shaikh Khalid with Mr Bolton.

fairs stressed the deep-rooted friendly relations between the Kingdom and the United States, which are based on mutual re-

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Bahrain 'united against Qatar's 'conspiracy targeting Kingdom'

Bahrain's security and stability, a red line that can never be compromised

● The authority made the comments during a meeting yesterday, which was chaired by Representatives Council Speaker Fawzia Zainal.

● The authority underscored the need for the GCC member states to take stances to protect cohesion.

Manama

The Representatives' Council Office authority yesterday stressed that Bahrain stands united against all terrorist practices carried out by the Qatari regime.

It affirmed that the unity of the Bahraini people, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, would remain one of the national fundamentals.

The authority affirmed that Bahrain's security and stability is a red line that can never be compromised.

It also underlined unity of the



Ms Zainal chairs the authority meeting.

Bahraini people and leadership against terrorism and sedition, pointing out that the Bahraini people can never be mistaken by false reports prepared by a satellite channel that is used to sowing sedition and dedicated to undermine the Kingdom's interests and incite differences, sedition and fallacies.

The authority made the comments during a meeting yesterday, which was chaired by Rep-

resentatives Council Speaker Fawzia Zainal.

It was attended by First Deputy Speaker Abdulnabi Salman, Second Deputy Speaker Ali Zayed, Head of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee Dr Hesham Al Ashiri, Head of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee Mohammed Al Sisi, Head of the Public Utilities and Environ-

“Bahraini people can never be mistaken by false reports prepared by a satellite channel that is used to sowing sedition.”

AUTHORITY

Hatab, Representatives Council Speaker Secretary General

Chancellor Rashid Mohammed Bunejma and Head of the Legal Advisors Panel Dr Saleh Ibrahim Al Ghathith.

The authority underscored the need for the GCC member states to take stances to protect cohesion and strength of the GCC system against all plots.

It also reviewed letters from the government and decided to include them in the council's agenda in the next session.

Tribune yesterday reported a statement criticising the Al Jazeera documentary titled "What is hidden is more immense?"

"The move is the latest episode of its series of conspiracies against the Kingdom within its attempt to undermine the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) and stir up strife among its members."

The BDF spokesperson stressed that Al Jazeera approach incites hatred and proves to the world that Qatar embraces terrorists and finances them to distort the Kingdom of Bahrain's image in an attempt to destabilise Bahrain's civil peace and sow sedition amongst the GCC states.

"Qatar's destructive tool will continue to target Bahrain, but the Kingdom will remain a strong, serene and secure Arab country ruled by the noble Al Khalifa family and in which the people have full allegiance to their leadership."

The BDF will remain the mighty, invincible shield of the beloved Kingdom under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa the Supreme Commander, the spokesperson added.

'No additional costs' for biodegradable garbage bags

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Biodegradable garbage bags that are being rolled out following the new legislations will come at no extra costs, according to official sources.

The source from the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning said that distribution of garbage bags will continue as usual without any changes.

He said that there are specific fees for garbage bags as they are contained within the municipal fees.

This comes in accordance with the Ministerial Resolution No 11 of 2019 regarding the technical regulations for plastic products, which will enter into force from July 21, banning all single use plastics bags across the Kingdom.

Meanwhile, the Director-General of the Capital Municipal Council, Shawqiya Humaidan stated that the municipality has conveyed to the garbage bag suppliers to incorporate new eco-friendly and biodegradable make up.

A study conducted by the SCE revealed that the transition to eco-friendly and biodegradable garbage bags will not affect the plastic products manufacturing sector in Bahrain.

"The SCE has implemented measures to expand the number of recycling businesses by increasing the total number of



The residents of Manama will soon be able to receive garbage bags from vending machines.

recycling bins, thereby reducing plastic-waste that ends up in landfills," said Supreme Council for Environment Chief Executive Officer Dr Mohammed Bin Daina.

He highlighted that 40 per cent of household waste is plastic, which can only be effectively reduced through prohibition and regulation.

The residents of Manama will soon be able to receive garbage bags from vending machines.

The Capital Municipality, in collaboration with the Ministry of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning, intends to install automated garbage bag vending machines to provide garbage bags for the residents of the governorate.

The municipality looks to follow the success of the Southern Governorate that has installed similar systems earlier this year.

According to the plans, the machine will store and provide the black garbage bags to the residents that need them.

Garbage bag vending machines project is named "Sahal" which translates to "Easy". The vending machines are meant to be user friendly, only requiring the users ID number and EWA account number to check eligibility of the user to receive the bag.

“The SCE has implemented measures to expand the number of recycling businesses by increasing the total number of recycling bins.”

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ThaiMart opening 'soon'

The project is expected to be completed within five months

● A contract signing ceremony was held yesterday on the premises of Diyar Al Muharraq.

● The bilateral trade between the Kingdom and Thailand has been improving over the years.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

ThaiMart, a Thailand-themed shopping mall will be opened in five months, it was announced.

The new mall, which will cover 6,700-sqm space, is result of a collaboration between Thailand's Vega Intertrade and Exhibitions LLC, and Bahrain counterpart Diyar Al Muharraq.

The new project follows Diyar Al Muharraq's success with Dragon City.

The shopping mall, which has been a success since its opening covers an area of 55,000 sqm, featuring around 800 wholesale and retail shops of Chinese products.

Opened in 2015, the Dragon City has received an overwhelming feedback from the locals and tourists from across the region.

In 2017, the mall welcomed over seven million visitors. ThaiMart will be located next to the Dragon City with around 200 shops.



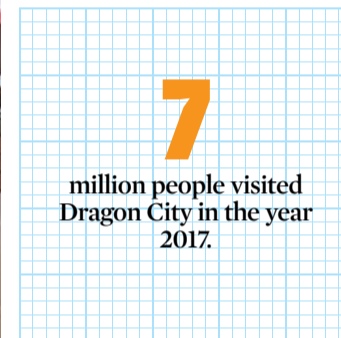
The contract signing ceremony was held on the premises of Diyar Al Muharraq.



Mr Akavut, Mr Inayadullah, Thailand's Ambassador to Bahrain Thanis Na Songkhla and other senior officials at the contract signing ceremony.

It will be featuring a wide range of authentic Thai products.

ThaiMart Managing Director Akavut Tangsilikusonwong described the project as an im-



portant milestone for Thai business in the Kingdom and a new important partnership between the two countries.

He said that ThaiMart will be a community mall with a Thai touch in the decoration, archi-

ture, products, services, and activities.

Inayadullah S, Managing Director of Crown Electro-Mechanical Services, said his firm will be in-charge of the construction of the project.

"We are delighted to be part of this iconic project."

When asked about the timeline for the construction of the project, he said, "The project should be done within five months."

A signing ceremony was held yesterday on the premises of Diyar Al Muharraq, where a contract for building of the mall was signed between Crown Electro-mechanical services and Vega Intertrade and Exhibitions.

The bilateral trade between the Kingdom and Thailand has been improving over the years.

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

Construction materials and related products are among the top items Thailand exports to Bahrain due to its high quality, excellent design and reasonable price, according to Thai Ministry of Commerce.

As part of efforts to boost trade ties between the two countries, a Thai trade delegation visited the Kingdom last month.

Bahraini importers, buyers and developers had a rare opportunity to interact with the delegation members during a special session that was held at the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Guidelines for local bakeries highlighted at Chamber event

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) in co-operation with the Ministry of Health held yesterday at Bait Al Tijjar an event themed "Measures to reduce salt and trans fat in bakery products".

The event, which targeted local bakeries and food producers, shed a spotlight on the ministry's efforts to enhance and ensure public health, particularly those in line with Ministerial Resolution No 28 for the year 2018 on limiting the proportions of salt additive and trans fat in bakery products.

Speaking at the event, the Assistant Undersecretary for Public



Dr Al Hajri speaking at the event.

Health of the Ministry of Health Dr Mariam Al Hajri reinstated the Ministry's keenness on protecting public health and encouraging healthy lifestyle.

She highlighted the ministry's efforts in meeting the standards

and recommendations of World Health Organisation (WHO), and encouraged all relevant parties and food producers in particular to work hand-in-hand with the ministry to achieve the common goals.

Dr Al Hajri also extended thanks to BCCI for its ceaseless co-operation with the ministry and contributing to encouraging the private sector to abide by health regulations and standards. For his part, BCCI's Chief Ex-

ecutive Officer Shaker Al Shater underlined the importance of enhancing and protecting public health and adopting top standards in line with the Kingdom of Bahrain's development strategy, which has people and their well-

being at its core.

He hailed the strenuous efforts of the ministry and vowed sparing no effort in supporting it in this endeavour.

The event included a number of presentations delivered by officials and nutritionists from the Ministry of Health, with a focus on the mechanism of implementing Ministerial Resolution No 28; the ministry's progress; overcoming production obstacles and gaining consumer satisfaction.

The event also included a presentation made by a representative of a local bakery sharing the bakery's success story in reducing salt and trans fat. Awareness-raising flyers and brochures were also distributed during the event.

CSB re-issues instructions on training scholarships, grants

Manama

Civil Service Bureau (CSB) President, Ahmed Al Zayed, issued Civil Service Instructions 5/2019 concerning training, grants and scholarships.

He clarified that the instructions aim at re-issuing Civil Service rules through updating the training and development system for government employees according to the controls specified in the executive regulations of the Civil Service Law.

The instructions also aim at defining the responsibilities of government entities and CSB in applying them. This is after modifying the provisions and setting the terms of reference in government agencies, in addition to updating the forms attached to these instructions and the training agreement to guarantee the principle of justice for all employees.

Regarding the role of government entities, the President of CSB explained that government

The most important duties of the Training and Development Committee are the adoption of the training plan, scholarships and grants.

MR AL ZAYED

entities provide training and study opportunities for its em-

ployees in order to develop the skills, knowledge and work behaviours required by their jobs, and to train employees to carry out greater responsibilities according to actual training needs and their career paths.

With regard to responsibilities, the CSB President clarified that the government entities should implement the provisions of the Civil Service Law to form a committee called the "Training and Development Committee" which aims to develop and qual-

ify employees through training and study programmes formed by specialised members in each government entity. The committee's presidency shall be at the level of Deputy Assistant Secretary at least.

Mr Al Zayed pointed out that the most important duties of the Training and Development Committee are the adoption of the training plan, scholarships and grants for professional, administrative and specialised development according to prior-

ities of the public interest in the government and its objectives in the short and long-term.

The committee will also be in charge of proposing general policies for training and career development, making recommendations on the training budget, as well as the results of the evaluation of the training programmes, studying the outcome of training, as well as the adoption, modification or cancellation of missions and academic studies.

WORLD
world

World Court orders review of sentence for Kulbhushan Jadhav



People wait before the issue of a verdict in the case by International Court of Justice in Mumbai

Reuters | The Hague

The World Court yesterday ordered Pakistan to review the death penalty given in 2017 to former Indian navy commander Kulbhushan Sudhir Jadhav who was convicted of being a spy.

The 16-judge panel said Pakistan has to provide an "effective review" of the case and added that a "continued stay of execution" of Jadhav was needed for that to happen.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the ruling, tweeting that "Truth and justice have prevailed".

Pakistan argued that based under a bilateral treaty between the nations it was not obligated to allow diplomatic assistance for people suspected of being spies or terrorists.

The court dismissed that argument and found by 15 votes to 1 that Pakistan had breached

Jadhav's rights under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, by not allowing Indian diplomats to visit him in jail or assist him during his trial at a military court.

The ICJ has no means to enforce its rulings which are final and without appeal. It is unclear from the ruling what exactly would constitute an effective review of Jadhav's sentence.

Judges did say that Islamabad would need to take all necessary measures including changing their laws to ensure Jadhav's case will be properly reviewed.

Pakistan's attorney general Anwar Mansoor Khan told journalists outside the Peace Palace in the Hague that he considers the case "a clear win for Pakistan" as the court did not order the acquittal and release of Jadhav as India had sought.

Pakistan arrests Mumbai attacks mastermind again

● Lashkar-e-Taiba is accused by India and Washington of masterminding the four-day assault on Mumbai.

Lahore, Pakistan

Pakistani authorities yesterday detained the alleged mastermind of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, a security official said, as the country faces increased pressure to crack down on militants operating on its soil.

Firebrand cleric Hafiz Saeed -- declared a global terrorist by the US and UN, and who has a \$10 million US bounty on his head -- was taken into custody following a raid by counter-terrorism forces in the eastern city of Gujranwala.

"Hafiz Saeed was going to Gujranwala to apply for bail in another case when he was arrested," said a security official with knowledge of the arrest, who requested anonymity.

A spokesman for Saeed's group, Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD), a wing of the militant organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT),



Hafiz Saeed (courtesy of Daily Times)

confirmed the arrest, but gave no further details.

Another security official said the arrest relates to terror financing charges.

Saeed has spent years rotating in and out of varying forms of detention, sometimes under house arrest, sometimes briefly arrested then released again by authorities.

But for the most part he has been free to move at will around Pakistan, enraging India which has repeatedly called for his prosecution over his alleged role

in the 2008 attack that killed more than 160 people.

Lashkar-e-Taiba is accused by India and Washington of masterminding the four-day assault on Mumbai. Saeed has denied involvement.

The move against Saeed comes as Pakistan is facing a potential blacklisting by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) -- an anti-money-laundering monitor based in Paris -- for failing to do enough to combat terror financing.

FATF is set rule on its fate in

the coming months after placing the country on a watchlist last year.

In February, Pakistani authorities banned Saeed's Jamaat-ud-Dawa and Falah-e-Insanat Foundation -- charities that have long been considered fronts for militant activity targeting India.

Washington and New Delhi have long urged Pakistan to take action against LeT, which was banned by Islamabad in 2002 but re-branded itself as JuD and FIF.

New video shows Trump Epstein partying at Mar-a-Lago



Donald Trump and Jeffrey Epstein speak at a party at Mar-a-Lago in November 1992 in Palm Beach, Fla. (Washington Post)

Washington, United States

A new video surfaced yesterday showing President Donald Trump partying with Jeffrey Epstein and a bevy of cheerleaders at the Mar-a-Lago club, despite Trump's claims he barely knew the financier accused of assaulting underage women.

NBC News said it found the 1992 video from Trump's Palm Beach, Florida club in its archives, showing the real estate tycoon welcoming Epstein to the party and appearing to discuss women dancing to music in front of them.

Trump is seen dancing with the women, cheerleaders for the Buffalo Bills professional football team, and, at one point, pointing to one and apparently saying to Epstein, "she's hot."

The video was filmed for an

NBC talk show at the time, "A Closer Look," for an episode about the lifestyle of Trump, who at the time was newly divorced from his first wife Ivana Trump and a year from marrying his second, Marla Maples.

But he has denied any close relationship with Epstein, who pleaded guilty in Florida in 2008 to a state charge of soliciting prostitution from a minor, and was arrested in New York on July 8 on charges of sexually exploiting dozens of underage teenage girls.

Trump has admitted knowing Epstein, and in a 2002 interview called him a "terrific guy" who "likes beautiful women as much as I do."

But last week he said they haven't spoken to each other for 15 years after a falling-out.

"I knew him like everybody in Palm Beach knew him," Trump said. "I was not a fan."

Sudan protesters, army rulers ink power sharing deal
Khartoum, Sudan

Sudan's protesters and ruling generals yesterday inked a deal that aims to install a civilian administration, a key demand of demonstrators since president Omar al-Bashir was deposed in a coup three months ago.

The move loosens a deadlock that has gripped the country, following nationwide mass protests that began against Bashir in December but then continued after a military council ousted him on April 11.

The unrest has also left scores dead, with more than 100 killed in a June 3 crackdown on a protest sit-in according to doctors close to demonstrators.

The deputy chief of the military council General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo -- who initialled the deal on behalf of the generals on Wednesday -- told AFP the agreement was a "historic moment" for Sudan.

It has "opened a new and promising era of partnership between the armed forces, RSF (Rapid Support Forces) and leaders of the glorious Sudanese revolution," Dagalo said in Khartoum after he had put pen to paper.

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Worsening world hunger affects 821 million, says UN

United Nations, United States

More than 821 million people suffered from hunger worldwide last year, the United Nations reported Monday -- the third year in a row that the number has risen.

After decades of decline, malnutrition began to increase in 2015, mainly because of climate change and war. Reversing the trend is one of the 2030 targets of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals which aim to improve the planet and its people.

But getting to a world where no one is suffering from hunger by then remains an "immense challenge," the report said, noting the number of people without enough to eat had risen from 811 million in 2017.

"We will not achieve zero hunger by 2030," said David Beasley, head of the World Food Programme, one of the UN agencies contributing to the report.

"That's a bad trend. Without food security we will never have peace and stability," said Beasley, deploring that the media carry more talk about Brexit and Donald Trump than children dying of hunger.

He warned that extremist groups were using hunger and

control over food supplies as a weapon to divide communities or recruit new members.

"The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World" report was produced by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other United Nations agencies including the World Health Organization.

"To safeguard food security and nutrition, it is critical to already have in place economic and social policies to counteract the effects of adverse economic cycles when they arrive, while avoiding cuts in essential services, such as healthcare and education, at all costs," it said.

A "structural transformation" was needed to include the poorest people in the world, the authors said.

This would require "integrating food security and nutrition concerns into poverty reduction efforts" while tackling gender inequality and the exclusion of certain social groups, they said.

Malnutrition widespread in Africa

Malnutrition remains widespread in Africa, where around 20 percent of the population is affected, and in Asia where more than 12 percent of people expe-

rience it. In Latin America and the Caribbean, fewer than seven percent of people are affected.

Adding those hit by food insecurity gives a total of more than two billion people, eight percent of whom are in North America and Europe, who don't regularly have access to enough nutritious, safe food, the report said.

The FAO said current efforts were insufficient to meet the goal of halving the number of children whose growth is stunted by malnutrition by 2030.

Robin Willoughby, the head of food and climate policy at Oxfam GB, said women were hit hardest by the rise in hunger.

"A toxic brew of climate shocks, inequality and conflict is unravelling years of progress," he said.

"If we are to meet the target of ending hunger by 2030, governments must urgently cut greenhouse emissions, provide more support for small-scale agriculture and increase efforts to end violent conflicts."

The French non-governmental group CCFD-Terre Solidaire said that in Africa and Latin America, food insecurity was affecting emerging economies as well, and not just those considered to be the least advanced.



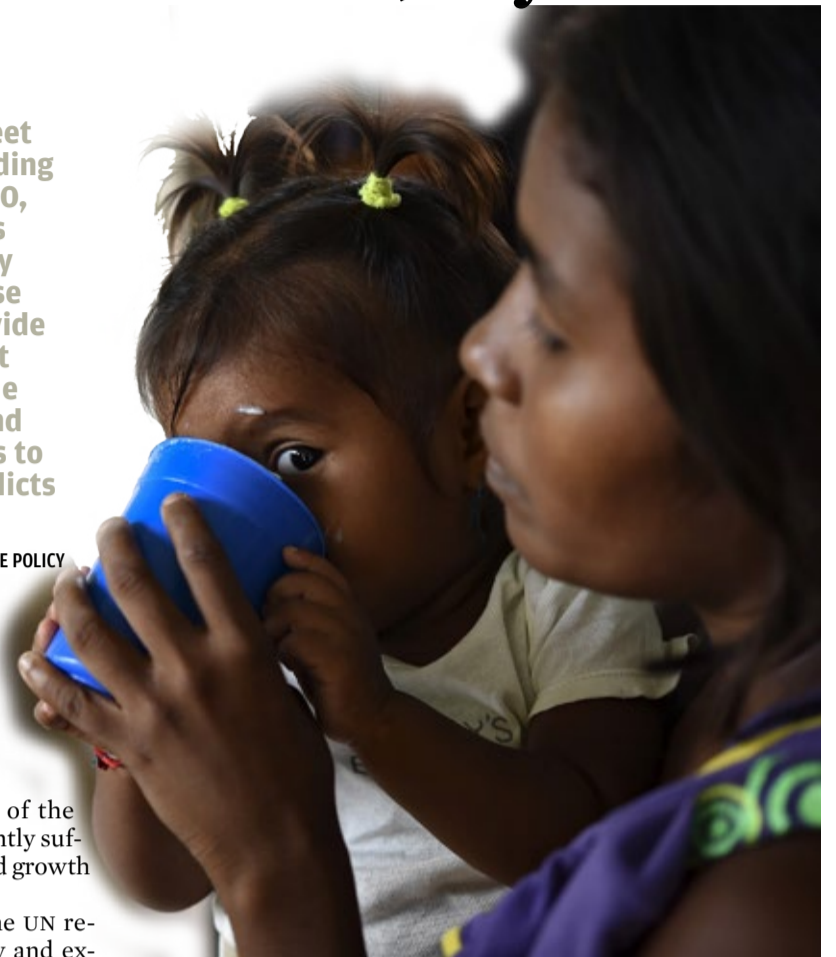
If we are to meet the target of ending hunger by 2030, governments must urgently cut greenhouse emissions, provide more support for small-scale agriculture and increase efforts to end violent conflicts

ROBIN WILLOUGHBY

THE HEAD OF FOOD AND CLIMATE POLICY AT OXFAM GB

Around 149 million of the world's children currently suffer from hunger-related growth delays.

At the same time, the UN report notes that obesity and excess weight are both on the rise in all regions, with school-age children and adults particularly affected.



Yukpa indigenous children, some of them suffering from malnutrition, are fed with supplements provided by CARITAS organization, at Los Angeles del Tukuko mission, near Machiques, Zulia state, Venezuela

UK raises alarm after mother held by Iran taken to mental ward

● **Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe's case has roiled Britain's relations with the Islamic republic since her 2016 arrest**

● **The Free Nazanin campaign said she was being held by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)**

● **The 40-year-old ended a 15-day hunger strike at the end of June**

● **Zaghari-Ratcliffe is a project manager with the Thomson Reuters Foundation**

London, United Kingdom

London demanded the immediate release Wednesday of a jailed British-Iranian aid worker whose husband said she has been transferred to the mental ward of a public hospital in Tehran.

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe's case has roiled Britain's relations with the Islamic republic since her 2016 arrest and conviction on sedition charges over which she has held a series of hunger strikes.

"We are extremely concerned about Nazanin's welfare and call for her immediate release," Prime Minister Theresa May's spokesman said.

"We urge Iran to allow family members to visit her and check on her care."

UK Foreign Office minister Andrew Murrison said Zaghari-Ratcliffe's husband had told him that she was moved to the ward on Monday.

"It would be indeed cruel to deny this lady, in a psychiatric ward of a public hospital, access to her family. That must hap-



Richard Ratcliffe, the husband of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, outside the Iranian embassy in London last month. (Courtesy of the Guardian)



It would be indeed cruel to deny this lady, in a psychiatric ward of a public hospital, access to her family. That must happen immediately

ANDREW MURRISON
UK FOREIGN OFFICE MINISTER

pen immediately," Murrison told parliament.

Zaghari-Ratcliffe has described her detention conditions to her family over the phone as "completely contrary to international norms," he added.

Suicide risk

The Free Nazanin campaign said she was being held by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) -- a vast and powerful branch of the Iranian military -- at Imam Khomeini hospital.

A psychiatrist has recommended that she be "instantly hospitalised due to her sharp deterioration since her previous meeting, and the risk of her taking matters into her own hands", the campaign group said, in an apparent reference to the possibility of Zaghari-Ratcliffe taking her own life.

The 40-year-old ended a 15-

day hunger strike at the end of June.

She was arrested in April 2016 while she was waiting for her flight out of Tehran after taking her then 22-month-old daughter Gabriella to visit her family.

"I was healthy and happy when I came to Iran to see my parents," Zaghari-Ratcliffe has been quoted as saying by her family.

"Three-and-a-bit years later and I am admitted to a mental health clinic. Look at me now. I ended up in an asylum. It should be an embarrassment."

Zaghari-Ratcliffe is a project manager with the Thomson Reuters Foundation -- the global media group's philanthropic arm -- but was in Tehran on a private visit to her family.

She was sentenced to five years in jail for allegedly trying to topple the Iranian government.

'Compassionate' release

Zaghari-Ratcliffe's case has added to long-standing tensions between Tehran and London -- a traditional ally and big arms supplier to Iran's arch-enemy Saudi Arabia.

Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif has previously raised the possibility of Zaghari-Ratcliffe being swapped for Iranian nationals held in the United States and Australia.

He told the BBC in an interview aired Wednesday that he also supported the idea of Zaghari-Ratcliffe being released on humanitarian grounds.

"That's not a decision for me to take, but that is an ideal situation for which I have tried and I will continue to try," Zarif said when asked about the possibility of her being "released soon on compassionate grounds".

Western analysts view Zarif as

a liberal with limited sway over the much more powerful IRGC and the clerics who surround Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"I am not happy to see a single individual in prison and I'll do my best to address that to the maximum of my capacity and my capability," Zarif said.

"But as foreign minister, I am responsible for the conduct of foreign affairs of the country. And she is an Iranian citizen."

Tehran's international isolation has been compounded by its decision to ramp up uranium enrichment in reprisal for Washington's decision last year to pull out of a landmark Iranian nuclear pact.

France and Britain are both signatories to the 2015 nuclear agreement.

The oil-rich Gulf nation confirmed Tuesday it had also arrested French-Iranian academic Fariba Adelkhah, 60.

No respite as monsoon rains pound South Asia

● Total death toll passes 200

● In India, the death toll rose to at least 120

New Delhi, India

Heavy monsoon rains across South Asia claimed more lives yesterday, with the death toll passing 200 as authorities tried to reach stranded villagers cut off by surging floodwaters.

The annual deluge is crucial to replenishing water supplies in the impoverished region, but the rains from June to September often turn deadly.

Across India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan, millions of residents have been affected and hundreds of thousands displaced, with homes and boats washed away.

In flood-prone Bangladesh, which is criss-crossed by rivers, around one-third of the country is underwater and people were being killed by lightning strikes, officials said.

In India, the death toll rose to at least 120 and entire communities were cut off by rising floodwaters which damaged or submerged roads.

"It's been 15 days (since) this area has been flooded," a local resident in Assam, where the death toll reached 22, said.

"The damage it has caused is very bad. Cattle have also been affected. Everything has been destroyed."

Video footage shared on social media showed rescuers pulling a rhinoceros calf from swollen



An Indian resident carries gas canisters as he wades through a flooded area following heavy monsoon rains in Muzaffarpur in the Indian state of Bihar

floodwaters at the state's World Heritage-listed Kaziranga National Park, which is home to two-thirds of the world's remaining one-horned rhinos.

In Bihar, which borders Nepal -- and like Assam is one of the worst-affected regions in India -- locals told AFP they were unable to reach food supplies.

Some 33 deaths have been reported and 2.5 million residents affected. Locals were erecting makeshift shelters on elevated land with the meagre belongings they had salvaged from the floodwaters.

In Mumbai, the number of victims from a building collapse following heavy rains rose to 13.

In the worst-affected Bangladesh district of Kurigram, deputy district administrator Hafizur Rahman told AFP a woman and four children died after their small boat sank in floodwaters.

Others were killed by landslides in Cox's Bazar district



Pakistani residents waded along a flooded street after heavy monsoon rains in Lahore

-- home to nearly one million Rohingya Muslim refugees who have fled a military crackdown in Myanmar.

In Nepal, the aid agency Save the Children said severe flooding and landslides had left tens of thousands of people homeless, with many stranded outdoors

or marooned. At least 78 people have died and 16,000 families have been displaced.

"It's absolutely essential that we reach these communities to avoid this turning into a health emergency," Save the Children's Nepal country director Ned Olney said in a statement.



General view of a flooded area following heavy monsoon rains in Muzaffarpur in the Indian state of Bihar



Bangladeshi people look at flood waters in Kurigram district, in the northern part of Bangladesh



Indian residents waded along a flooded street carrying their belongings following heavy monsoon rains at Sitamarhi district in the Indian state of Bihar

Woman rescued as death toll rises in building collapse



Indian National Disaster Response Force and Indian fire brigade personnel search for survivors amid debris after a building collapsed in Mumbai

Mumbai, India

Rescuers pulled a woman from the rubble of a Mumbai building a day after it collapsed but her two young children did not survive, officials said yesterday, as the death toll from the tragedy rose to 13.

Heavy monsoon rains on Tuesday trapped more than 40 people after the building crumbled in southern Mumbai's congested Dongri area, with rescuers and volunteers struggling to conduct their search among the narrow lanes.

"We rescued 28-year-old Alima Indrasi with her two children early on Wednesday morning," India's National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) spokesman Sachidanand Gawde said.

"She has sustained injuries but is undergoing treatment and her children did not survive... (we) are hopeful there may still be some victims who will survive."

He said rescue operations were in the final stages.

Disaster management spokesman Tanaji Kamble added that 13 bodies have been recovered so far.

Spontaneously combusting sushi flakes blamed in mystery blazes

● The two fires in Madison caused at least \$575,000 in damage

Washington, United States

A series of freak fires at sushi restaurants in the United States have been blamed on an unusual culprit: a deep-fried ingredient that, if not handled properly, spontaneously combusts.

Firefighters in the city of Madison, Wisconsin say two fires at local Japanese restaurants earlier this year were caused by chefs deep frying flour to make a tempura-like coating called "crunch," then leaving it to cool.

"Cooking oils, especially soybean oil and canola oil, are known to have a propensity to self-heat under certain circumstances," the Midwestern city's fire department said in a safety bulletin.

"Because the 'crunch' product is heated during the cooking



The charred remains of a sushi kitchen in Madison, Wisconsin.

process, then placed in a bowl or colander to cool and drain, the ability for the heat to dissipate is compromised. These conditions can create an environment for a fire to occur," the bulletin

continued.

The two fires in Madison caused at least \$575,000 in damage, and investigators blame "crunch" for at least five other blazes that they're aware of.

Seeking to forestall future infernos, the fire department recommended spreading the ingredient out on a flat surface like a baking sheet to keep it from catching fire.

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh need immediate support

Teaching self-reliance and integrated skills is essential to the work of the World Food Programme – because accessing food with dignity is a basic right



Rohingya refugee women in Balukhali camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

MAGEED YAHIA

In the humanitarian world, each situation is a mission, each crisis is a priority and every humanitarian need on the ground is a call to action. All situations deserve attention, compassion, commitment and, above all, perseverance in search of a solution that preserves people's dignity, ensures their rights and gives them hope for a better future. The plight of the Rohingyas is one such crisis. It calls for our attention and commitment. More than 900,000 Rohingyas have been uprooted from their homes into displacement camps. They fled violence in Myanmar in successive waves, over the years – about 745,000 since August 2017 alone, and many within the space of just a few months. All left Myanmar behind, escaping to Bangladesh in search of safety and security. Most ended up in Cox's Bazar, which hosts the largest and most densely populated refugee camp in the world.

This huge and rapid exodus has placed tremendous strains on the already scarce resources of the host community. It has placed humanitarian response capacity under enormous pressure and constrained humanitarian interventions towards meeting basic needs and mitigating the devastating impacts of monsoon rains and the cyclone season. It is, therefore, extremely important that the international community sustain and enhance its humanitarian response in all areas of the camp and across its surroundings. It is also vital to boost the efforts of the World Food Programme and the international community to create and strengthen food security, safeguard health, save lives, enhance livelihoods, improve education and empower women for their own benefit as well as that of their children and their households. This all starts with food security. A stable food supply is a must to safeguard people's dignity and ensure protection of

gains achieved in other areas of humanitarian response. Failure to maintain food security can jeopardise other humanitarian achievements and lead to a rapid deterioration in the situation in the camp and its surroundings. Accessing food with dignity is a basic right. When food security is undermined, people's overall human security takes a hit. Safeguarding and enhancing the food security achieved by the World Food Programme, with the support of the international community, is key to making gains in other areas of the humanitarian response in the camp and its surrounding area. Without proper funding, food security and stability in the camp will be in great danger. Initiatives put in place by the programme to improve food security and nutrition, including school feeding, treatment of malnutrition, and livelihood-enhancement programmes for women, could suffer enormously. Sustained international support and funding

Campaigns such as the UAE for Rohingya Women and Children initiative, launched recently to assist the displaced community, raise much-needed funds to support the international community's humanitarian response to this crisis.

is necessary to continue to effectively and efficiently attend to the humanitarian needs of the Rohingyas as well as those of their hosts. The majority of Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar still rely on food assistance for their survival. It is therefore of paramount importance that self-reliance programmes and integrated skills packages – such as the ones put

in place by the World Food Programme – are enhanced. They include myriad capacity-building initiatives, such as vegetable gardening, small-scale production pilot schemes and aquaculture training programmes. This not only contributes to improving the access of refugees to a more diverse range of food, it also provides them and their host community with economic opportunities and boosts their immediate and potential long-term livelihoods, self-reliance and resilience. Most importantly, it provides them with a safe and dignified way to benefit from humanitarian assistance. Campaigns such as the UAE for Rohingya Women and Children initiative, launched recently to assist the displaced community, raise much-needed funds to support the international community's humanitarian response to this crisis. They also help to raise people's awareness of humanitarian situations around the world, some of which have

unfortunately slipped out of the limelight – not because they have been successfully solved but because newer situations have emerged and overshadowed them in the public eye. This campaign brought the Rohingya crisis back to centre stage at a critical time. The Rohingyas community deserves a better future. Their plight remains one of the most alarming humanitarian situations in the world. For the vast majority of this community – mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, the old and the young, families just like yours and mine – the struggle for survival is real. Yet they continue to dream of a solution in the foreseeable future. To make this possible, we must all join hands and continue to work collectively to alleviate their suffering, support the host community and ensure they are not only helped to survive but also start to see hope for a better future for themselves and their children.

CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

Bahrain's fight against terror continues

Over the past couple of years Qatar has been the subject of hundreds of reports in the Arabic and international media, particularly from outlets like Al-Arabiya and Al-Sharq al-Awsat, producing evidence of Qatari support for radical and extremist groups. This included reports indicating Qatari attempts via third parties to undermine stability in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the region. On one occasion in 2017, Qatari officials turned up at

Baghdad Airport with a reported half billion dollars destined for Iran backed militants, including those which had trained GCC-based terrorist groups; with money earmarked for known terrorist figures like Quds Force's Qassim Soleimani and the Kataib Hezbollah's Abu-Mahdi al-Muhandis. This was part of a deal to secure the release of Qatari royal family members abducted by these elements. In July 2019 Qatar got in its retal-

iation for reporting about its links to extremist groups with a feature length documentary on Al-Jazeera trying to allege Bahraini links to extremists, including one Al-Qaeda linked figure who spent time in detention in Saudi Arabia for terrorist connections and whose current whereabouts are unclear. Much of the documentary was spent interviewing Bahrain opposition-linked figures who engaged in wild conspiracy theories and speculation,

with the overall aim of trying to portray the Bahraini people as being involved in various Al-Qaeda conspiracies. Indeed, former US Ambassador Adam Ereli said that he was "skeptical" about Al-Jazeera's claims as said that during his tenure he had witnessed no evidence of support by the Bahraini authorities for extremist elements. Given the complete lack of context and the many obviously falsified claims in this Al-Jazeera video,

here we see Bahrain's groups and Minister, S Al Khalifa, appearance inclusion ISIS. He en the world In Janua ernment re a list of in

1870

The First Vatican Council decrees the dogma of papal infallibility.

1872

The Ballot Act 1872 in the United Kingdom introduced the requirement that parliamentary and local government elections be held by secret ballot.

1914

The **U.S. Congress** forms the Aviation Section, U.S. Signal Corps, giving official status to aircraft within the U.S. Army for the first time.



1925

Adolf Hitler publishes Mein Kampf.

New Afghanistan should protect the future of women

The Taliban is showing signs of unprecedented openness, but is this position wholly genuine?

RASHMEE ROSHAN LALL

In 2012, a novel titled *The Taliban Cricket Club*, by the writer Timeri N Murari, was published worldwide. Set in Kabul, its main protagonist was Rukhsana, a young journalist who chafed at the restrictions placed by the Taliban regime on Afghan women. Fired from her job at the fictional Kabul Daily, Rukhsana uses a pseudonym to file news stories for an Indian newspaper on life under Taliban rule.

Eventually, she employs her unique skillset – knowledge of cricket – to outwit the Taliban’s attempt at complete control. Rukhsana coaches her brother and male cousins in order for them to win a government-organised cricket tournament. In this way, she is able to secretly challenge the Taliban’s stark injunction as described in the book: “Women must be seen only in the home and in the grave”. She makes her mark as an educated Afghan woman and “a good off-spinner”.

The *Taliban Cricket Club* is not a great literary work, but it does accomplish something few other books on Afghan women had managed until then. It makes the dreadful reality of Taliban rule easier to imagine and comprehend. Humans, as the philosopher Yuval Noah Harari says, “think in stories”.

Events in recent days suggest that Rukhsana’s resistance to the severe constraints imposed by the Taliban are becoming relevant once again. The US is talking to the Taliban about withdrawing troops. Intra-Afghan talks have been held in Doha, jointly organised by Qatar and Germany. Recently, the Taliban delegation indicated a new willingness to acknowledge women’s rights. The Taliban representatives were in the same room as Afghan women who weren’t related to them. They talked to the women and ate with them.

All of this has fed a new hopeful sense of coming change in Afghanistan. A new narrative is said to be taking shape, with the conflict-scarred country mov-



Suhail Shaheen, a spokesman for the Taliban, meets a group of women at the Intra Afghan Dialogue talks in Doha.

ing forward towards a brighter future, which is to be based on an intra-Afghan consensus. The US administration, which is understood to want a deal with the Taliban by September, has already been talking up the real and symbolic importance of what is under way.

Zalmay Khalilzad, US President Donald Trump’s special envoy for Afghanistan reconciliation, has denied the US wants to cut and run, abruptly ending the 18-year war it has prosecuted there. Instead, he insists, “We would like to leave a very positive legacy here”. And Alice Wells, acting US assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asia, has warned that Afghanistan’s future relationship with the US will “depend heavily” on preserving the gains made by women. “No current or future Afghan government should count on international donor support if that government restricts, represses or relegates Afghan women to second-class status,” she said.

This is tough talk but the

There are bound to be theological differences about Islam’s view of women’s rights. The Taliban do not have political positions so much as religious ones.

Americans may withdraw anyway, pronouncing themselves satisfied that Afghanistan is at peace. That may mean an unenforceable agreement with the Taliban both with respect to power sharing and gender rights. Many difficulties lie ahead.

First, there are the discrepancies in various translations of the declaration agreed in Doha. The Pashtu version, the only one likely to be read by the majority of the Taliban’s supporters, re-

portedly had no mention of protecting women’s rights. Was this mendacity or merely a mistake? Is the Taliban pretending it will safeguard women’s rights while reassuring its core constituency there will be no compromise on ideological positions with respect to gender?

Second, consider the Associated Press report on an exchange from the Doha conference. It might have been either playful or ominous, depending on who you ask. The news agency quoted Asila Wardack, a female member of the Afghan peace council. She said two of the Taliban approached her and other female conference participants. The Taliban said they had heard a group of “dangerous women” were going to be at the meeting. One of the men added: “Please don’t give us a hard time.”

What could that possibly mean? Was it a jocular way for the Taliban to acknowledge women had a right to be angry? Is the Taliban now willing to accept their five years in power, from 1996, were horrific for

women, who were barred from schools, colleges, offices and from any public presence except as veiled figures? Or did those two Taliban men speak in that way to Ms Wardak and other women because they honestly believe the female sex comprises harridans and termagants?

Finally, consider the “roadmap to peace” agreed between the Taliban and Afghan government representatives in Doha. The Taliban insisted the government representatives attend in a personal capacity, which means the roadmap doesn’t really have any official sanction. And the promised protections for women’s rights are to be within the vague and unspecified parameters of an “Islamic framework”. The Taliban could quite easily define the “framework” in terms of their past misogyny. There are bound to be theological differences about Islam’s view of women’s rights. The Taliban do not have political positions so much as religious ones. Political positions allow for compromise; moral ones do not.

will set out the facts about encounters with radical individuals.

2014 Bahrain’s Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed made a number of media announcements announcing Bahrain’s role in the coalition against the “deviated cult”.

In 2015 the Bahraini government revoked the citizenship of individuals associated with

terrorist entities; including many of those who had gone to fight with ISIS. The majority of those who had their citizenship revoked were based overseas, but have the right to appeal through legal channels.

It is understood that around 20 of these figures are associated with foreign terrorist groups like ISIS and Al-Qaeda. Many of the names on this list come from well-known Bahraini families: Turki al-Binali is a prominent extremist preacher and

propagandist from ISIS. Mohammed Mubarak al-Binali, Mohammed Isal-Binali and Ayoub al-Murbati all featured in the notorious YouTube video which threatened attacks against Bahrain. Abdulaziz al-Jowdar was reportedly involved in a suicide operation just a few days previously in Diyala in Iraq.

The Bahraini Government is right to use the powers available to it to prevent the return of terrorists who have travelled abroad, to target those

who plan to engage in acts of terrorism inside Bahrain and other states, and to dissuade others from associating themselves with ISIS and other terrorist groups.

These are all charges of a highly serious nature and few would disagree that those guilty of such charges are highly dangerous individuals who pose a severe threat to the safety of the public.

However, it is the authorities’ responsibility to demonstrate that

tangible evidence exists for each of these individuals and that the charges are justified, particularly as many are likely to appeal.

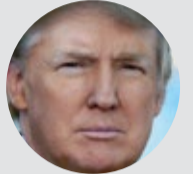
In April 2016 the Bahrain Government designated 68 groups as being terrorist entities; this included both groupings associated with Al-Qaeda, and Hezbollah. Also on the list were other entities active in Bahrain, like Al-Ashtar Brigades and the Resistance Brigades.

Citizens for Bahrain



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



After a ten year search, the so-called “mastermind” of the Mumbai Terror attacks has been arrested in Pakistan. Great pressure has been exerted over the last two years to find him!

@realDonaldTrump

02



Rep. Ayanna Pressley on calling Trump the “occupant” of the White House: “He is only occupying the space. He does not embody the principles, the responsibility, the grace, the integrity of a true president ... I’m not dishonoring the office. He does everyday.”

@kylegriffin1

03



In a major legal & diplomatic victory for India, the ICJ vindicates our stand & puts the death sentence of #KulbhushanJadhav on hold. It instructs Pakistan to “effectively review & reconsider” his conviction. The 15-1 verdict also allows consular access to India.

@HardeepSPuri

04



My mom was a domestic worker - she cleaned houses to support our family. As a little girl, I grew up reading books on other people’s staircases. I did homework on other people’s dinner tables. Today, as a Congresswoman, I’m proud to cosponsor the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights.

@AOC

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

business

Group's hotels performed better: GHG Chairman

● **Bahrain's hospitality industry stabilising**

● **Huge oversupply dampens Dubai market**

● **GHG's Net profit reported at BD90K**

● **Revenues jumped 10.75pc**

TDT | Manama

Gulf Hotels Group (GHG) Chairman yesterday said the Group's hotels performed better than last year backed by the Kingdom's hospitality industry which is showing signs of stabilisation.

Reporting its quarterly results, the Group's Chairman, Farouk Almoayed, however, said that the Dubai market remained challenging due to huge oversupply resulting in a "significant drop in room rates and lower than expected occupancy."

GHG's net profit for the second quarter of 2019 was BD490K, a decrease of 71.69pc from BD1.731 million reported in the year-ago quarter.

The group attributed the decline to BD 746K depreciation connected to a new Dubai property, the new Gulf Executive Residence Juffair and major projects executed during 2018. Besides, interest costs of BD240K, excess share of loss from an associate of BD120K and F1 movement to the first quarter also influenced Q2 results.

Revenues during the quarter increased 10.75pc to BD8.737m from BD7.889m recorded in the same quarter a year ago.

Earnings per shares were 2 fils compared to 8 fils in the second quarter of last year.

Gross operating profit was BD 2.724m, compared to BD 2.766m in the second quarter of last year, a decrease of BD 42K or 1.54pc.

Net comprehensive income was BD1.581m, compared to BD1.870m in the prior-year quarter, a decrease of 15.43pc.

H1 results

For the six months, net profit was reported at BD 2.788m compared to BD 4.622m in the previous year, a decrease of 39.67 pc. Earnings per shares were 12 fils compared to 20 fils in last year.

Net profit was negatively impacted by an increased depreciation of BD 1.501m resulting from the new Dubai property, the new Gulf Executive Residence Juffair (GERJ) and other major projects executed during 2018. Besides, the pre-opening expenses of the newly opened GERJ have been amortised and interest costs BD 483K have also affected the half-year results.

Revenue during the period was BD 18.819m, compared to BD 16.600m in last year, an increase of BD 2.219m or 13.37 pc.

The total assets for the YTD reached BD 134.971m compared to BD 141.644m in the previous year, with a decrease of 4.71 pc.

MoU with Kanoo

The Group has signed an MoU with Kanoo Real Estate, a division of YBA Kanoo to develop various restaurants in Block 338 and signed an MoU with Gulf Air Group Holding to develop and operate an airport transit hotel in the newly constructed airport terminal.

'Fusions by Tala'

A number of refurbishment projects are also under execution. "The Gulf Hotel is renovating its Fusion restaurant with the addition of an outdoor rooftop terrace," said CEO Garfield Jones.

The outlet when completed will re-open as 'Fusions by Tala', under the guidance of Bahraini chef, Tala Bashmi. Additionally, the Hotel will also renovate the Men's Health Club and main hotel lobby.

Gulf markets mixed

● **Emaar Properties drag down Dubai**

● **Dubai Islamic Bank up on Q2 profit**

● **Kuwaiti stocks optimistic on MSCI decision**

Reuters

Middle East stock markets were mixed yesterday with Abu Dhabi rising on financial stocks, while property stocks weighed on Dubai.

In Kuwait, the index for the premier market, home to the largest and most liquid companies, rose 0.2 per cent.

It has been boosted by MSCI's decision to move Kuwaiti equities to its main emerging-market index in 2020 and is up more than 28pc this year, outperforming its Gulf peers.

In Abu Dhabi, the market rebounded 0.1pc, after shedding in early trading, on the back of its top gainer National Bank of Fujairah, which soared 10.9pc, and Emirates

Telecommunications, which was up 0.1pc.



Visitors look at stock price information displayed on a digital screen inside the Saudi Stock Exchange

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲	9,076 pts
ABU DHABI	▲ 0.1pc	5,081 pts
DUBAI	▼ 0.2pc	2,716 pts
QATAR	▲ 0.1pc	10,614 pts
EGYPT	▼ 0.6pc	13,642 pts
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.2pc	1,539 pts
OMAN	▼ 0.3pc	3,748 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.2pc	6,769 pts

Saudi Arabia's main index traded flat after rising for seven straight sessions following EFG Hermes forecast profit for the kingdom's financial sector would grow 7.6pc in the second quarter.

Saudi Telecom rose 0.9pc, and Saudi Arabian Mining Company closed 1.9pc higher.

Egypt's blue-chip index fell 0.6pc as most of its shares turned red, with the country's largest lender Commercial

International Bank shedding 0.9pc.

Exchange data on Wednesday showed Egyptians and Arabs were net sellers of Egyptian stocks.

The Dubai index fell 0.2pc pressured by its largest listed developer, Emaar Properties, which was down 1.2pc.

However, Dubai Islamic bank added 0.2pc after it posted a higher second quarter profit, while Emirates NBD traded flat.

The Emirate's largest lender rose as much as 1.8pc during the day after reporting a 80pc surge in second-quarter profit mainly thanks to asset sales and foreign exchange gains.

Qatar's index edged up 0.1pc with Commercial Bank rising 1.9pc after the lender recorded a net profit of 934.1 million riyals (\$256.62 million) in the first-half of 2019, versus 855.1 million riyals a year earlier.

StanChart offers discounts with VIVA and Talabat

TDT | Manama

Standard Chartered and VIVA have announced an exclusive 75 per cent discount on all food orders through Talabat when using the Standard Chartered VIVA credit card.

Kunal Varma, Head of Retail Banking at Standard Chartered Bank Middle East (x UAE) said: "Through our strategic partnership with VIVA and Talabat, we are committed to offer exclusive propositions that best suits our customers' lifestyle and needs."

Standard Chartered VIVA Credit card holders can enjoy 75% off on their Talabat orders

Card holders can benefit discount up to three times during the promotional period, with a maximum discount of BD3.5 per order. New customers who receive their card during the promotion period can also benefit from the promotion.

The Standard Chartered VIVA credit card was launched in March 2019.

The Talabat offer will be valid until 11 August, 2019.

Batelco kicks-off digital technology summer camp

TDT | Manama

Batelco, in collaboration with Brinc Batelco IoT Hub, is organising a summer camp on Digital awareness, at the Brinc Batelco premises located in the Batelco Commercial Centre, Manama.

The camp which began on July 8, is designed to cater to 15-18-year-olds and will run until July 24.

Ahmed Al Aali, founder and CEO of The Hive Digital Hub, is delivering hands-on training to translate innovative ideas into a working prototype. The best prototype will be presented with a prize at the end of the



Brinc Batelco IoT Summer Camp

camp. A number of speakers will also deliver sessions throughout the programme. Topics covered during the camp will include an introduction to IOT (the Internet of Things), including understanding the different types of IOT, as well as their characteristics and benefits.



Aluminium Bahrain (Alba)'s Chief Executive Officer, Tim Murray, with participants during a special campaign on Safe Swimming launched for Alba's employees and families. Alba's CEO, along with other Executives, also visited a group of children in Alba's Summer Camp at Alba Social Club. Tim Murray, said: "We want our people to be safe in Alba and everywhere else - we believe that it is our responsibility to deliver this sense of extreme ownership in following safety rules in-and-around swimming pools."

Fashion for hire

Americans embrace clothing rental services

New York, United States

Remember when you bought an expensive evening gown for an event, only to ever wear it once or twice? Or picked up a trendy T-shirt, only to leave it gathering dust in the closet?

Those days are over for more and more American women, who are embracing clothing rental services as a way to freshen up their wardrobes -- but the growing sector could threaten the traditional fashion industry.

"Rental is the current buzzword in retail," says Kayla Marci, a market analyst at research firm Edited.

Just a decade ago, clothing rentals were for special occasions. But the business has since transformed and is raking in \$1 billion in sales worldwide, according to a study published in April by business consulting firm Grand View Research.

Cosmetics executive Jacqueline Jackson had her eureka moment when she realized that a monthly unlimited subscription for Rent The Runway, the leader in the American sector, would cost less than for her to rent one dress she wanted to wear to a wedding.

"It was just nice to have the option to have this kind of unlimited closet and be able to wear things that I wouldn't be able to own necessarily because a lot of the items are pretty expensive," said Jackson, a mother of two young children.

"I don't have any time to shop."

Like many of its competitors, Rent The Runway (RTR) -- which has more than 11,000 monthly subscribers -- offers ready-to-wear pieces from luxury labels like Victoria Beckham, Proenza Schouler and Phillip Lim. Each item would cost several

When you're buying your own wardrobe, you think 'What are the chances I would have to wear this thing? Am I going to get a lot of use out of it? So you tend to buy things that are more basic colors, not wanting to spend money on something that might be too trendy that you might only wear for one or two seasons. Here, you can wear the trendy things and even if you wear them one time, then it doesn't matter

COSMETICS EXECUTIVE JACQUELINE JACKSON

hundred dollars to buy.

For \$89 a month, a subscriber can get four pieces at a time from the company, now valued at \$1 billion. RTR also offers an unlimited subscription for \$159 a month.

Seattle-based start-up Armoire, which already has several thousand subscribers, offers a plan at \$149 a month.

Once a Rent The Runway client has worn an item and wants to swap it for something else, they can send it back via UPS or drop it off at a bricks-and-mortar store. The company handles cleaning.

Customers also have the option to buy the item at a reduced price.

"When you're buying your own wardrobe, you think 'What are the chances I would have to wear this thing? Am I going to get a lot of use out of it?'" Jackson says.

"So you tend to buy things that are more basic colors, not wanting to spend money on something that might be too trendy that you might only wear for one or two seasons."

Here, you can wear the trendy things and even if you wear them one time, then it doesn't matter."

The various clothing rental platforms currently on offer, which only cater to women for the time being, process the data they receive from users about preferences and measurements.

They then use artificial intelligence to propose pieces

they believe subscribers would want to wear.

"We'll show her items that we know she'll like but we can slowly push her outside her comfort zone and introduce items that she wouldn't normally pick for herself, that she wouldn't normally wear," says Lili Morton, who is in charge of community development at Armoire.

A move away from 'fast fashion'

The other trump card for clothing rental services is its sustainability and rejection of excessive consumption -- themes that resonate for their clientele.

Swedish furniture giant IKEA is moving into furniture rental, a service already provided in the United States by start-up Fernish.

"I think people like the idea of buying less fast fashion, things that you buy and are good enough quality to wear for one season," says Jackson.

"It's nice to have less of that junk in your closet and spend

money to wear quality clothes." According to several industry sources, most pieces are used about 15 times before they are taken out of rotation.

Armoire has reached a deal with non-profit organization Dress for Success, which offers free professional attire to women in need.

For some labels, rentals are providing a gateway to new customers. But more generally, it is offering competition to traditional ready-to-wear sales.

As the sector takes off, several platforms like Haverdash are launching low-cost options. Traditional brands like American Eagle, Ann Taylor and Urban Outfitters are following suit.

"These platforms are disrupting the fashion industry and changing the way we shop," says Marci.

Since she subscribed to RTR, Jackson says she has bought fewer items and more basics.

"Renting is really like sharing. You're not just buying, buying, buying," she adds.

Just a decade ago, clothing rentals were for special occasions. But the business has since transformed and is raking in \$1 billion in sales worldwide, according to a study published in April by business consulting firm Grand View Research.



Rosanna Falconer wearing an Ulla Johnson dress rented from Hurr (Courtesy of Evening Standard)

Merkel heir apparent joins cabinet in risky bid for power

Berlin

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's heir apparent joined her cabinet yesterday as defence minister, a high-profile job often called a poisoned chalice in Berlin's fraught political landscape.

The surprise appointment of Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer late Tuesday came just hours after the current head of the German military, Ursula von der Leyen, was elected as the first woman to lead the European Commission.

The decision by AKK, as she is commonly known, to take charge of a sprawling administration widely seen as unwieldy and scandal-prone was described as a risky gambit to shore up political support.

At a naming ceremony at the presidential palace in Berlin in Merkel's presence, the 56-year-old formally accepted the port-

folio from von der Leyen.

"The men and women of the Bundeswehr (armed forces) deserve the highest political priority and my full commitment," she said.

"I am aware of my great responsibility and want to live up to it."

Shakuntala Banerjee of ZDF public television said AKK was "stepping up and taking over the most difficult ministry".

"The chances to win big are there -- but the risk of failure is also greater."

News weekly Der Spiegel said the defence ministry, rocked by a series of mismanagement allegations on von der Leyen's watch, could prove to be a "minefield" for AKK.

"But because that's the case, the ministry also offers a chance for her to sharpen her profile, in an area where she lacks it: in foreign and security policy -- an



Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer (left) has taken over from Ursula von der Leyen at the helm of Germany's defence ministry

area where a chancellor needs some experience," said its commentator Philipp Wittrock.

"The chancellery remains the big goal and the defence ministry can serve as a stage for her to prove herself."

'Abusing the Bundeswehr'

However opposition politicians seized on AKK's lack of expertise in military affairs at a time when the Bundeswehr has suffered chronic equipment problems and accusations of underfunding, not least from US President Donald Trump.

"The chancellor and the CDU have shown once again that the needs of the Bundeswehr don't interest them at all," Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann of the Free Democrats told the daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

"They are abusing the stricken Bundeswehr for their little personnel games."

EU launches probe into Amazon's use of merchant data

Brussels, Belgium

The EU's powerful antitrust authority launched an in-depth investigation into Amazon yesterday, amid suspicions the US-based online behemoth misuses merchant data hosted on its website.

The formal investigation opens a new chapter in the European Union's campaign to curtail the dominance of US tech firms with Google, Facebook and Apple also regular targets of regulators in Brussels.

"I have... decided to take a very close look at Amazon's business practices and its dual role as marketplace and retailer (and) to assess its compliance with EU competition rules," the EU's anti-trust commissioner Margrethe Vestager said in a statement.

At the heart of the case is Amazon's service to third party merchants who use the world's biggest online retailer to access customers and broaden their reach.

In providing this service, Amazon "continuously collects data about the activity on its platform", the commis-



EU's anti-trust commissioner Margrethe Vestager

sion said. Preliminary findings, according to the statement, indicate that Amazon "appears to use competitively sensitive information -- about marketplace sellers, their products and transactions on the marketplace."

The investigation, which has no deadline, is likely to be the final offensive by Vestager against big tech before the end of her current mandate on October 31.

In an email, Amazon said: "We will cooperate fully with the European Commission and continue working hard to support businesses of all sizes and help them grow."

US hopes China to undo trade backtracking

Washington, United States

US officials hope China will reverse its decision to backtrack on commitments it made in the effort to settle the ongoing trade conflict, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said yesterday.

US and Chinese officials held high-level discussions by telephone this week and last as they try to re-start negotia-

tions. The talks collapsed in May after Washington accused Beijing of reneging on core issues it had agreed to earlier this year.

"This is a long, involved process. The fundamental question now, though, is will they go back to the point where they were before they changed their mind?" Ross told Fox Business Network on Wednesday.

Global stock markets weaker

London, United Kingdom

Global stock markets turned weaker Wednesday after recent record gains in the US while growing concerns about a no-deal Brexit kept the pound under pressure.

By the close in Europe, London's FTSE 100 index was down 0.55 per cent, Paris shed 0.76pc and Frankfurt dropped 0.72pc.

All three had been little changed earlier in the day.

The pound dropped to \$1.2382, its lowest since April 2017, but recovered some lost ground by late afternoon in London to trade at \$1.2433.

Sterling was also steadier against the euro after hitting fresh six-month lows.

Traders said the overall outlook depends on what happens to US interest rates as concerns continue over US-China trade tensions.

"Investors are clearly worried that the ongoing trade standoff between the US and China may hurt economic growth and require a looser monetary policy now rather than later," Fawad Razaqzada of Forex.com said in a note.

President Donald Trump hit out at what he said was a lack of follow-through from Beijing on promises to buy more farm goods just as more high-level talks were due to take place this week.

There had been hopes of some sort of progress after Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping agreed at the G20 last month to restart talks.

Tapas Strickland, senior analyst at National Australia Bank, said there were "no signs that tensions will abate anytime



A gold coin, produced by Perth Mint and supposedly worth \$45 million USD stands on display at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) located at Wall Street in New York City

Key figures around 1600 GMT

Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.2433 from \$1.2408 at 2040 GMT
Euro/pound:	■ at 90.32 pence
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1228 from \$1.1211
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 108.11 yen from 108.26 yen
London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.55pc at 7,535.46 points
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▼ 0.72pc at 12,341.03
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.76pc at 5,571.71
EURO STOXX 50:	▼ 0.56pc at 3,501.58
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 0.3pc at 21,469.18 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▼ 0.1pc at 28,593.17 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 0.2pc at 2,931.69 (close)
New York - Dow:	▼ 0.10pc at 27,305.79
Brent North Sea crude:	▼ 0.31pc at \$64.15 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 0.64pc at \$57.25 per barrel

soon".

Oanda analyst Craig Erlam said there was "little doubt that the threat of no-deal Brexit is

what's driving" the pound.

The battle to be Britain's next prime minister is entering the final stretch with both candidates hardening their positions on Brexit, putting the future government on a collision course with Brussels.

The business community and many lawmakers fear dire economic consequences from a no-deal Brexit which would lead to immediate trade tariffs for certain sectors including the automotive industry.

On the oil market, both main contracts were firmer after sharp losses of more than threepc on Tuesday as tensions between the US and Iran appeared to be easing.

However, prices slipped late afternoon to leave the market in the red.

France defiant in digital tax showdown with US at G7

Chantilly, France

France yesterday said it would push ahead with its law to tax tech giants that has sparked a row with the United States, saying that an international accord was the only way to solve the dispute.

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire met US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on the sidelines of the meeting of finance ministers from the world's seven most developed economies in Chantilly outside Paris.

"We don't always agree on all issues, but we do agree on many and it's always important to listen to each other," Le Maire tweeted non-committedly.

The French parliament earlier this month passed a new law that will tax digital giants on revenue accrued inside the country, even if their European headquarters are elsewhere, in a move that will affect huge US groups Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon.

The move has infuriated President Donald Trump and the United States has announced an unprecedented probe against France which could trigger the imposition of tariffs.

'Won't back down'

In comments to France Inter radio, Le Maire said France would not back down on its plans to impose the three-percent tax on revenue.

He said he would make clear



Italian Finance Minister Giovanni Tria (R) speaks with European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs Pierre Moscovici at the start of a meeting of Eurogroup Finance Ministers at the European Council headquarters in Brussels

that the French parliament had agreed the tax and this could only be withdrawn if there was an international agreement.

"The possibility of US sanctions against France exists," Le

Maire said. "There is a legal instrument for that and clearly there is the political will."

Even before the final vote by French lawmakers, the US announced it was opening a so-

called Section 301 investigation into the measure.

A Section 301 investigation was used by the Trump administration to justify its tariffs on China.

But Le Maire said: "France will not back down on the introduction of its national tax. It was decided upon, it was voted upon, it will be applied from 2019."

The minister had late Tuesday expressed confidence that the G7 could find a consensus for an international accord which would be overseen by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

"This would be the best way to solve this problem," said Le Maire.

France became the first major economy to pass such tax legislation last week when parliament gave its final approval.

Britain unveiled legislation last week and Spain's new government is expected to introduce its own version.

But smaller EU states such as Ireland and Luxembourg -- low-tax countries which host the European headquarters of the digital giants -- have prevented a consensus in the EU.

While the measure does not specifically target US internet giants, the French commonly call it the GAFAM tax, an acronym for Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon.

Work has been under way for several years on a reform of the international tax system to ensure that multinationals are not able to escape paying taxes in countries where they do large amounts of their business.

German Finance Minister Olaf

Scholz said he hoped that next year there could be international rules in place that "we can introduce everywhere, including in the EU and Germany."

'Serious concerns on Libra'

Plans by Facebook to launch a virtual currency called Libra have also stoked concerns among regulators in numerous countries about regulation and market oversight of cryptocurrencies.

Le Maire said the conditions were not yet in place to launch Libra, a virtual currency to be backed with a basket of real-world currencies that Facebook says will facilitate online financial transactions.

He said he hoped the G7 would consider the necessity of a "framework or a regulation" and also "what would be the conditions that would make such an instrument feasible."

Scholz said the ministers and central bankers present had "serious concerns" about the implications.

"We are talking about currency stability, security, data protection and democratic control," he added.

The ministers are also expected to discuss who will take over at the International Monetary Fund after Frenchwoman Christine Lagarde was named to head the European Central Bank. The IMF post has traditionally been held by a European.

celebs

Beyoncé's 'love letter to Africa', 'Spirit' music video out

Los Angeles

A week after releasing 'Spirit' from Disney's 'The Lion King', singer-songwriter Beyoncé has dropped the music video of the song.

The world premiere of the music video was aired on ABC News and 'Spirit' comes as the title track for Beyoncé's, upcoming album 'The Lion King: The Gift'.

"I wanted it to be authentic to what is beautiful about the music in Africa," The Hollywood Reporter quoted Beyoncé as saying.

Adding to it, the pop icon called it a "love letter to Africa" and added, "I wanted to make sure we found the best talent from Africa, and not just use some of the sounds and did my interpretation of it."

The 'Crazy in Love' singer also added that the song has made use of "a lot" of drums and "incredible new sounds mixed with some of the producers from America."

The four-minute thirty-second video is sure to take you on a journey to Africa as it features some mesmerizing landscapes of the continent.



Beyoncé

Stars grace Jennifer Lopez's rescheduled MSG concert

Los Angeles

Jennifer Lopez

Stars came out for singer Jennifer Lopez's rescheduled Madison Square Garden (MSG) gig on Monday.

The gig was rescheduled after the concert witnessed a major power failure on Sunday.

Those in attendance included TV star Gayle King, broadcaster Hoda Kotb and Lopez's fiancé Alex Rodriguez, reported Page Six.

"I'm so glad y'all came back tonight. We were gonna celebrate no matter what!" J.Lo told the crowd.

The singer, who will turn 50 on July 24, invited a lucky fan onstage for a lap dance and said, "Y'know what I like to do on my birthday? I like to give presents . . . You've gotta be generous!"

J.Lo also performed a duet with her daughter, Emme, on Monday.

According to Page Six, three front-row seats plus a J.Lo meet-and-greet was sold for a hefty USD 22,000 on the secondary market.



Leonardo DiCaprio finally addresses Jack's death in 'Titanic'

Los Angeles

Could Jack have survived in the final moments of "Titanic" is a question that still haunts fans 20 years later but just don't ask actor Leonardo DiCaprio.

Fans have long argued that Rose should have made room for Jack on the floating piece of lumber after Titanic's sinking. Rose, who lay atop the door, survived in the end while Jack, who held on to the edge, froze to his death in the icy Atlantic waters.

Both director James Cameron and actor Kate Winslet have weighed in on the scene but DiCaprio refused to get drawn into the debate despite gentle coaxing from his "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood co-stars Brad Pitt and Margot Robbie."

During an interview with MTV, DiCaprio was asked, "Could Jack have fit on that door at the end of "Titanic"?"

Jumping into the conversation, Robbie said, "Oh my gosh, I thought it. I remember bawling my eyes out when I was a (little) girl!" but a taciturn DiCaprio said, "I have no comment."

When the question was put to Pitt, he said, "That is funny. Well, I'm going to go back and look now, shoot."

The actor then turned to DiCaprio to slyly ask: "Could you have squeezed there? You could've, couldn't you?"

A smiling DiCaprio said, "No comments".

Calling it the "biggest controversy" in cinema, Robbie attempted to get an answer again.

"Did you mention it at the time? Were you like should we make the door smaller?" she asked.

"Like I said, I have no comment," an unmoved DiCaprio offered.

Cameron had called Jack's death an "artistic choice", which had nothing to do with the physics of two people fitting on the door.



Leonardo DiCaprio

Sophie Turner 'humbled' to be nominated for Emmy

Los Angeles

Sophie Turner is 'beyond humbled' to be nominated for Emmy's 'Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series' category for her performance in HBO drama series 'Game of Thrones'.

Emmy announced its nomination on Tuesday. The announcement turned out to be a pleasant surprise for 'GoT' which managed to set a new record for most nominations earned in a single year by any drama series, with double-digit Emmy nominations.

In addition to the nomination for best drama, the list also includes some individual nomination for cast members including Turner, Kit Harrington (Jon Snow), Emilia Clarke (Daenerys Targaryen), Lena Headey (Cersei Lannister), Maisie Williams (Arya Stark), and Gwendoline Christie (Brienne of Tarth), CNN reported.

Reacting to the prestigious nomination for the show in which she featured as Sansa Stark, the actor wrote on her Instagram story: "I'm beyond humbled. I truly never thought that this would ever happen. This is the best farewell to the show that has been my life for the past 10 years."

The 'Dark Phoenix' actor also tagged her fellow 'GoT' leads, who got nominated for the award, on her story.

"YES QUEEN to these queens- Gwendoline Christie, Lena Headey, and Maisie Williams," she added.

Sophie Turner big day was appreciated and celebrated by her family too. Her Husband Joe Jonas and sister-in-law Priyanka Chopra took to social media to congratulate the actor for her achievement.



Sophie Turner

I'm in exception company: Roberts on Emmy snub for 'Homecoming'

Los Angeles

Julia Roberts was a strong contender for an Emmy nod for Amazon's "Homecoming" but the actor is not too concerned about being omitted from the list, which also excluded George Clooney and Emma Stone despite notable performances.

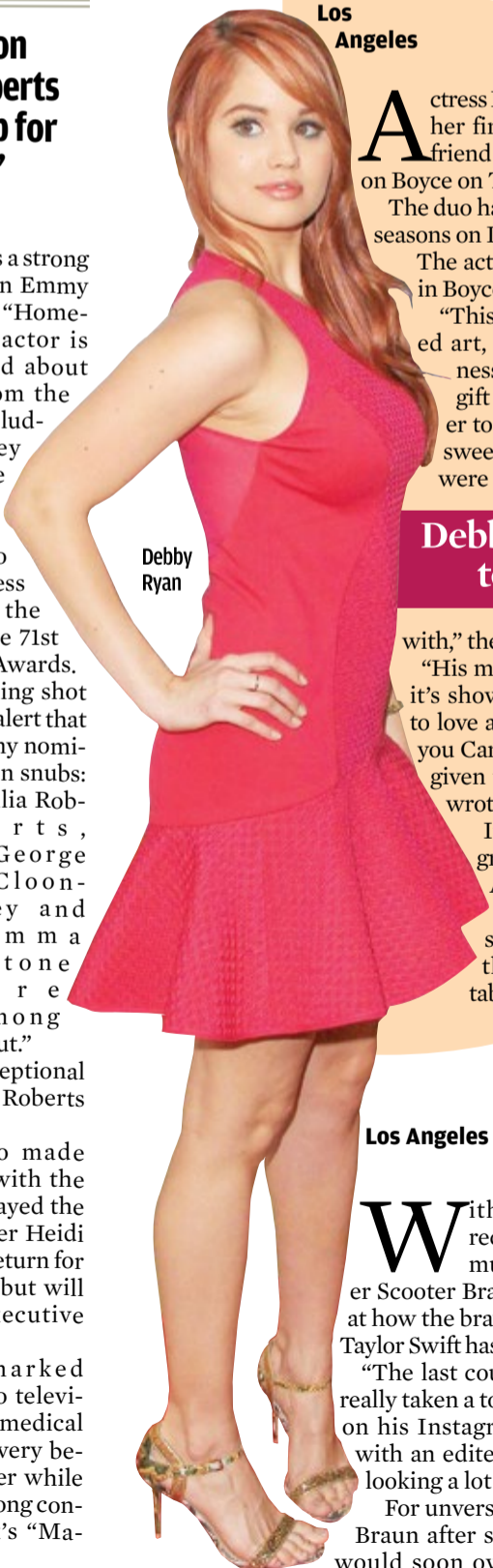
The actor took to Instagram to address her absence from the nominees list of the 71st Primetime Emmy Awards.

Sharing a screening shot of USA Today news alert that read, "Biggest Emmy nomination snubs: Julia Roberts, George Clooney and Emma Stone are among the A-listers shut out."

"Well, I'm in exceptional company at least," Roberts wrote.

The actor, who made her digital debut with the show where she played the role of social worker Heidi Bergman, will not return for the second season but will continue as an executive producer.

"Catch-22" marked Clooney's return to television following the medical drama "ER" in the very beginning of his career while Stone was also a strong contender for Netflix's "Ma-niac".



Debbie Ryan

Los Angeles

Actress Debbie Ryan bid her final goodbye to her friend and late actor Cameron Boyce on Tuesday.

The duo had worked together for four seasons on Disney Channel series 'Jessie'.

The actor shared a video on Instagram in Boyce's honour.

"This effervescent soul attracted art, respect, poetry, kindness, community-- what a gift to be brought together today in a deeply bitter-sweet celebration of life we were so fortunate to intersect



Cameron Boyce

Debbie Ryan bids last goodbye to late Cameron Boyce

with," the 26-year-old star wrote in the caption. "His mom told me, 'He is our compass.' And it's showing, as all directions have pointed to love and light and togetherness. We love you Cameron. Thank you for what you've given us, and continue to give us," she wrote further.

In the video, Boyce's old photographs, his artwork and a Los Angeles Laker's denim jacket and shirt can be seen displayed on the dedication table.

Has Taylor Swift drama taken a 'toll' on Scooter Braun?

Los Angeles

Without a direct mention, music manager Scooter Braun has hinted at how the brawl with singer Taylor Swift has affected him lately.

"The last couple of weeks have really taken a toll on me," he wrote on his Instagram account along with an edited photo of himself looking a lot older.

For unversed, Swift called out Braun after she learned that he would soon own the masters to

her recordings. Braun reportedly purchased the 'Bad Blood' singer's former label, Big Machine Records, for a reported USD 300 million, reported E! News.

In a scathing Tumblr post, Taylor said she was "sad and grossed out" by the news. She also alleged that the 38-year-old "bullied" her "for years."



Taylor Swift

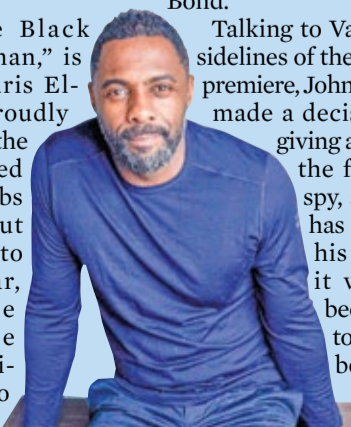
Idris Elba was initially meant to reference James Bond in popular 'Hobbs & Shaw' line

Los Angeles

"I'm the Black Superman," is how Idris Elba's Brixton proudly calls himself in the recently released trailer of "Hobbs & Shaw", but according to his co-star, Dwayne Johnson, the actor was earlier supposed to

make a reference to James Bond.

Talking to Variety on the sidelines of the film's world premiere, Johnson said Elba made a decision against giving a shout out to the fame British spy, a role which has long been in his wishlist, as it would have been "too close to what everybody's talking about".



Idris Elba

SPORTS

Ewan wins bunch sprint in Toulouse

● Aussie rookie Caleb Ewan wins Tour de France stage 11 as Julian Alaphilippe stays in yellow

● Ewan pips Groenewegen in mass sprint to win in Toulouse

● Alaphilippe retains his overall Tour de France lead

AFP | Toulouse, France

Australian Caleb Ewan picked up his first Tour de France stage win in a mass sprint at Toulouse yesterday as Frenchman Julian Alaphilippe kept the overall lead.

With defending champion Geraint Thomas and his Ineos teammate Egan Bernal also finishing in the pack, there was no change in the overall top three after a 167km run from Albi to Toulouse, marked by a fall that forced Nairo Quintana into a successful race to catch up.



Caleb Ewan crosses the finish line

Ewan timed his explosive burst to perfection, catching and overtaking Dutch sprinter Dylan Groenewegen right on the line after a long home straight. Elia Viviani was third on a finish designed for the pure sprinters.

"It took me half the Tour de France to get my win, but I got it in the end," said Ewan.

"I let him go, caught his wheel and just had him on the line," explained, the stocky 25-year-old.

In his first season with the Lotto-Soudal team, Ewan has now won stages on all three Grand Tours after three wins on the Giro and one on the Vuelta.

It was a narrow win with the photo-finish, which takes thousands of shots a second from both sides at the finish line, showing a marginal victory.

Sprint points leader Peter Sagan of Slovakia kept his green jersey after finishing fourth behind Ewan.

"I congratulate him, he's too fast for me on that kind of course, said the 30-year-old Sagan.

Colombian Bernal kept hold of the under-25's white jersey and said Ineos would remain calm in their quest for the yellow jersey.

"We won't be attacking just yet, but I feel good going into the mountains" said Bernal, on his second Tour.

There are two major mountains on the menu on stage 12 with yellow jersey Alaphilippe vowing to defend his lead.

"It won't be easy tomorrow, there will be attacks, and it will be a big day on the Tour, but I'm up for it," said the 27-year-old former soldier ahead of the first day in the Pyrenees.

Eubank family to attend Brave CF London event

TDT | Manama

Boxing royalty is supporting BRAVE Combat Federation's vision for the development of mixed martial arts in Europe and beyond. BRAVE CF has announced that both Chris Eubank Jr. and his father Chris Eubank Sr. will also be in attendance to witness a historic evening at the Copper Box Arena, inside the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on July 25th.

Brave 24: London will be an invite-only show, designed to connect the highest level of influencers, celebrities, businessmen and politicians to the sport of MMA, as BRAVE Combat Federations seeks to elevate the sport to another level in terms of building a new global ecosystem, focused on the sports industry instead of the events industry.

At 29 years of age, Chris Eubank Jr. is the current IBO Super-Middleweight champion, having regained the title against fellow Brit James DeGale in February of this year. Before that, Eubank Jr. won the interim WBA Middleweight title as well as the British Middleweight title.

The current champ is also the son of a legend of the sport. Chris Eubank Sr., one of the



Chris Eubank Jr. and his father Chris Eubank Sr.

best boxers of his generations, held world titles in two different weight classes, winning the Middleweight and Super-Middleweight belts for WBO. He was undefeated for the first ten years of his career and remained without a loss at Middleweight.

Both father and son will enjoy an unforgettable gala night, with the most luxurious MMA experience ever, as American Bubba Jenkins defends his BRAVE Combat Federation world Featherweight title against former Lightweight world champion Lucas "Mineiro" Martins in the main event.

Brave president interested in negotiating Lobov vs Khan

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation president Mohammed Shahid will look to put together a fight between Artem Lobov and Amir Khan.

The duo has gone back and forth in the past through social media, and Lobov's coach John Kavanagh has recently called on BRAVE CF to make the fight happen in their landmark event in Bahrain this November, which has sparked worldwide interest in social media.

Shahid has heard the outcry of fans for the fight to take place inside the BRAVE CF Arena and will look to start ne-

gotiations during BRAVE 24: London, a historic, invite-only event which takes place on July 25th, at Copper Box Arena.

"I love how you have these two great fighters in their peak are still looking for a challenge. I will definitely look into it, and I want to make it happen for our fans, for BRAVE Nation. I'm looking forward to an amazing night for mixed martial arts on July 25th and will sit down with Artem to talk about it. Unfortunately, Amir Khan will not be able to attend. We just talked and he has urgent matters to attend to on that date, but we'll be back on that front soon".



Shaikh Abdul Aziz Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Bahrain Tennis Federation and Khamis Mohammed Al-Muqla, President of the Bahrain Tennis Club during their visit to The Queen's tennis and racquet club on Monday. They were received by the CEO of "Queens" Club Andrew Stewart, who took them on a comprehensive tour of the stadiums and facilities of the club, located in the heart of London. During the tour the CEO introduced the history of this British club, founded in 1886 as a sports complex for a number of sports, before becoming a tennis and racquet club

Newcastle thrashed by Wolves as fans bemoan Bruce appointment

AFP | Nanjing, China

The scale of the task facing new head coach Steve Bruce was brutally laid bare as Newcastle United were thrashed 4-0 by Premier League rivals Wolverhampton Wanderers in China yesterday.

Former Manchester United defender Bruce, whose appointment was confirmed just hours before kick-off, will jet over to take charge of Newcastle's next friendly, in Shanghai on Saturday.

It was only a low-key exhibition match, but the heavy defeat to Nuno Espirito Santo's Wolves in Nanjing was more evidence that Newcastle are likely to be battling relegation this season.

Newcastle have risked stoking the anger of their frustrated fans by hiring former Sunderland boss Bruce, who has sealed a three-year contract to succeed the hugely popular Rafael Benitez.

There were even chants against hated club owner Mike Ashley during the Wolves loss.

Federico Fernandez, the Newcastle defender, called on fans angry with Bruce's arrival to get behind the new man.

"We are looking forward to working with him, he is a man of great experience, we are thinking positive," said the Argentine.

"I understand the fans' situation," he said, addressing supporters' negative reaction to the 58-year-old Bruce, a lifelong



Diogo Jota (L) of Wolverhampton Wanderers in action during Premier League Asia Trophy between Newcastle United and Wolverhampton Wanderers

Newcastle fan.

"For us, we want to work, we want to do better as a team... to show the fans and everyone that

“We are looking forward to working with him (Steve Bruce), he is a man of great experience, we are thinking positive

FEDERICO FERNANDEZ

we can compete.”

In a statement, Bruce, who resigned from Championship side Sheffield Wednesday to join Newcastle, called it “a very special moment for me and my family”.

“This is my boyhood club and it was my dad's club.”

Bruce might be a local boy, but his two-year spell as coach of Newcastle's fierce rivals Sunderland and a mediocre record as a Premier League manager are major black marks for an already infuriated fan base.

Bruce, who has won four promotions from the second tier of English football, has suffered relegation from the Premier League twice.

His highest finish was 10th with Birmingham in 2003-04 and Sunderland in 2010-11.

Bruce has his work cut out at Newcastle, who have lost their leading forwards from last season -- Salomon Rondon and Ayoze Perez -- and are the only Premier League club yet to make a summer signing.

Man United thrash Leeds



Manchester United players celebrate Mason Greenwood's strike

● Pogba, who has been linked with a move to Juventus and Real Madrid, starred in United's dominant first-half

● Mason Greenwood combined with Paul Pogba and Aaron Wan Bissaka to score for Manchester United

AFP | Perth, Australia

Paul Pogba shined as an under-pressure Manchester United stepped up their pre-season campaign with a 4-0 thrashing of old rivals Leeds yesterday.

United had faced criticism after an unconvincing 2-0 victory over a depleted Perth Glory on the weekend.

In a much-needed tonic, the Red Devils clinically dismantled Leeds, who have high hopes of returning to the English Premier League for the first time since 2004.

Pogba, who has been linked with a move to Juventus and Real Madrid, starred in United's dominant first-half and was part of a pretty chain of passing to set up 17-year-old Mason Green-

wood's first senior goal in the seventh minute.

Greenwood's energetic performance has the teenager in the frame for this Premier League opener against Chelsea on August 11, manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said.

"He's got a chance. He's more than capable and he'll always be there in and around the box creating chances," he told reporters after the match.

Moments later, a powerful strike from Pogba was well saved by goalkeeper Kiko Casilla.

But it was only a matter of time before United broke through with a moment of magic in the 27th minute from Marcus Rashford, a livewire in the first half.

After a wondrous dribble past the lead-foot defence, the 21-year-old expertly tapped it past Casilla.

Solskjaer changed his entire lineup at half-time in a repeat of Saturday's match against Perth.

United continued to dictate, with Phil Jones scoring a thumping header from a corner kick in the 51st minute.

Anthony Martial rounded out a spectacular performance in the 68th minute by converting a penalty after Tahith Chong was taken down in the box.

The first clash in eight years between the one-time bitter enemies fizzled out, but a near capacity Perth Stadium



Romelu Lukaku was once again absent fuelling speculation he had been dropped from the squad amid reports he was close to securing a move to Inter Milan

crowd of 55,000 underlined the rivalry's stature.

Romelu Lukaku was once again absent fuelling speculation he had been dropped from the squad amid reports he was close to securing a move to Inter Milan.

United said the Belgian suffered a knock at training.

"He's missed two chances to play 45 minutes and at this stage of the season it's important to get everyone fit, so hopefully he'll be available soon," Solskjaer said.

Illness kept out goalkeeper David de Gea, who is reportedly close to signing

Sterling hits brace as City hammer West Ham in China

AFP | Nanjing, China

Record Manchester City signing Rodri made his debut and Raheem Sterling scored twice as the Premier League champions came from behind to beat West Ham United 4-1 yesterday in China.

West Ham took the lead with a Mark Noble penalty before City levelled through David Silva, then Lukas Nmecha scored from the spot to give Pep Guardiola's side the half-time lead.

England international Sterling, who enjoyed his best season last year for club and country, scored a brace in the second half as West Ham's defence went AWOL in Nanjing.

Guardiola fielded a mixture of first-team regulars and reserves with Silva leading the side and Kevin De Bruyne, who missed most of last season injured, a second-half substitute.

He was joined after the break by German winger Leroy Sane, who has been linked with a big-money move to Bayern Munich.

Spanish international midfielder Rodri joined City earlier this month on a five-year deal from Atletico Madrid.

The 23-year-old officially became a City player a day after the La Liga club revealed the 70-million-euro (\$78.5 million) release clause in his contract had been triggered.

City's arrival in China for the Premier League Asia Trophy had been delayed by two days because of an "administrative issue".

But if it bothered the English champions it did not show, Sterling sealing a handsome City win with composed finishes on the hour and then again soon after.

In the other match in the exhibition tournament, the scale of the task facing new head coach Steve Bruce was laid bare as Newcastle United were thrashed 4-0 by Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Bruce, whose appointment was confirmed just hours before kick-off, will jet over to take charge of Newcastle's next friendly, against West Ham, in Shanghai on Saturday.

It was only a low-key friendly, but the heavy defeat to Nuno Espirito Santo's Wolves in Nanjing was more evidence that Newcastle are likely to be battling relegation this season.

City face Wolves in the final.



Manchester City's Raheem Sterling runs with the ball

a new five-year deal with United in excess of £350,000 (\$435,000) a week. United will have further pre-season games against Inter Milan in Singapore on July 20 and Tottenham in Shanghai on July 25, while Leeds will head to Sydney to face Western Sydney Wanderers.

Stokes plays down redemption talk after World Cup heroics

AFP | London

Ben Stokes admitted memories of the off-field incident that threatened his career triggered his tears after England's historic World Cup triumph.

Stokes was found not guilty of affray following a street brawl during a night out in Bristol in 2017.

The all-rounder was banned and fined by the England and Wales Cricket Board after accepting a charge of bringing the game into disrepute.

Stokes was also stripped of the Test vice-captaincy and missed the Ashes tour, but he worked his way back from that chastening incident to enjoy a key role in England's first ever World Cup title.

After some impressive displays on the road to the final,

Stokes cemented his place as an English cricket icon by scoring 84 not out and then starring in the Super Over that sealed Sunday's thrilling final win over New Zealand at Lord's.

"I won't look back and say I redeemed myself or anything like that - I'm an athlete and a cricketer and it's what we are paid to do, to win trophies," Stokes told ITV's Good Morning Britain yesterday.

"It was coming back from all of that, it was tough. Getting back into cricket obviously massively helped straight after that.

"It was a stressful time for me, my wife, my family back home. I had amazing people around me, my team-mates, friends, family. They have to take a lot of credit for helping me to get through that."

De Ligt arrives in Turin to complete Juventus signing

AFP | Rome

Ajax captain Matthijs de Ligt arrived in Turin on Tuesday to complete his transfer to Juventus.

The 19-year-old who led Ajax to the Champions League semi-finals is due to undergo a medical before signing for Juventus for a reported 75 million euros (\$85 million).

"Here he is!" Juventus announced on Twitter, with a video of the Dutch international disembarking from a private jet at Turin airport.

In a separate clip the teenager says: "Hello Bianconeri, this is Matthijs, I'm really happy to be here."

De Ligt has been linked with many of Europe's leading clubs after his impressive play for resurgent Ajax and Holland last season.

He has played 117 games for Ajax in



13 goals have been scored by Matthijs de Ligt in 117 games for Ajax in all competitions

all competitions, scoring 13 goals, including three as the club reached the last four of the Champions League last season, only to lose in the final seconds to Tottenham.

De Ligt scored the winner in Tu-

rin as Ajax eliminated Juventus in the quarter-finals.

He has played 17 times for the Netherlands.



Matthijs de Ligt