

**Paul McCartney scores US No. 1 after nearly four decades**

Paul McCartney is back on the top of the charts, on Sunday earning his first solo number-one album in the United States in 36 years.

P16

Political mainstream has to fight back in war against fascism

THE DAILY **tribune**

Hazard can be top-scorer: Sarri



New evidence: Russia claims Ukraine downed flight MH17

**Voluntary work award winners honoured**  
Manama

A ceremony was held yesterday to distribute the Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa Voluntary Work Award.

Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa attended the ceremony, which was held under the patronage of Bahrain Basketball Society (BBS) chairman, Good Word Society honorary president Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

Also present were Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Southern Governor Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, ministers, officials representing the Arab League, the Arab Association for Voluntary Works and Arab and Foreign Ambassadors.

Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa paid tribute to His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa and Deputy Premier Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa for their directives and support.

He congratulated the winners of this year's award and welcomed them to Bahrain, stressing the Kingdom's strides, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa.

**Over 100 killed in Nigeria floods**  
Abuja

Floods in much of central and southern Nigeria killed over 100 people across 10 states, the country's emergency and disasters agency said yesterday.

Such flooding tends to occur every year in the rainy season, exacerbated by poor infrastructure and lack of planning to protect against inundation, but this year the destruction has been the worst since 2012.

**King Hamad Causeway work to start in 2021**

Jeddah

The work on King Hamad Causeway connecting Saudi Arabia and Bahrain will start by mid-2021 and will be completed in three years, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Bahrain has said.

"The tender for King Hamad Causeway will be issued after six months," Abdulla Al Shaikh was quoted by Arab News.

The causeway will also include a rail line for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) network, cargo trains and vehicle lanes.

Al Shaikh estimated that the cost of the project will be in the neighbourhood of \$4 billion, adding that it will act as a new link between the two countries and will contribute to boosting trade in all fields.

The new causeway, expected to be 25-km long, will run in parallel with the existing King



The tender for King Hamad Causeway will be issued after six months.

ABDULLA AL SHAIKH

25 kilometres will be the approximate length of King Hamad Causeway.

Fahd Causeway, the only terrestrial link between the two

kingdoms, which opened in November 1986.

Vehicles carrying millions of passengers as well as trucks have been using the busy causeway over the years, with a daily average of 40,000 people.

The construction of the new causeway was announced during a meeting between His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud in Jeddah in 2014.

**SpaceX to name first passenger to moon**



A file picture showing SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket lifting off from historic launch pad 39-A at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Los Angeles

SpaceX, Elon Musk's space transportation company, is all set to name the first private passenger who will take a trip around the moon aboard its forthcoming Big Falcon Rocket spaceship, taking the race to commercialise space travel to new heights.

SpaceX said it will name the first passenger to travel to the moon since the United States'

Apollo missions ended in 1972 at an event at the company's headquarters and rocket factory in the Los Angeles suburb of Hawthorne.

In moves typical of his publicity-seeking style, Musk, who is also the billionaire chief executive of electric car maker Tesla Inc, has already teased a few tantalizing details about the trip and the passenger's identity, but left major questions unanswered.

**Missiles fired at Syrian city**

Missiles targeted ammunition depots in the eastern outskirts of Latakia

During the more than seven-year conflict in neighbouring Syria, Israel has grown deeply alarmed by the expanding clout of its arch enemy Iran - a key ally of Assad.

Beirut

Missiles were fired from the sea at several locations in the Syrian coastal city of Latakia yesterday

but were intercepted by air defences, Syrian state media said.

The official SANA news agency said the Technical Industry Institution in the state-controlled city had been targeted. SANA added that it was not immediately known who fired the missiles.

"Air defences have confronted enemy missiles coming from the sea in the direction of the Latakia city, and intercepted a number of them," SANA quoted a military source as saying.

State-run Ikhbariya TV said 10 people were injured in the attack. Eight were discharged



A screengrab from a video showing a large explosion near Latakia, Syria, on Monday night.

shortly after being admitted to a nearby hospital.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based war monitor, said huge explosions were heard in the city.

The missiles targeted ammunition depots of the Technical Industry Institution in the eastern outskirts of Latakia, the Observatory said. It was not immediately clear what activities the state institution was engaged in.

One of the missiles fell in an open area to the west of central Homs city causing a fire in an orchard, Ikhbariya TV said.

TRAGIC END

**Expatriate dies 'after being beaten up by co-worker'**

We are still clueless as to what happened at the worksite. It's really shocking and hard to believe, Suresh told Tribune.

TDT | Manama  
Harpreet Kaur

An Indian national died yesterday allegedly after being beaten up by a co-worker following a worksite quarrel in Juffair. The accused is also an Indian national, according to sources.

The deceased was identified as Subash Janardhanan, who



The deceased Subash

hailed from the Indian state of Kerala.

Subash was working for a contracting company and sources said he got into a quarrel

with a co-worker at the construction site over a work related issue.

The quarrel led to a fist fight and Subash was badly thrashed, the sources said.

Speaking to Tribune, Suresh, Subash's younger brother, who is also a resident in the Kingdom, said, "The incident occurred around 5.30 pm on Sunday at the construction site. Everyone at the site was calling it a day when an argument broke out between my brother and his co-worker over folding the ladder and keeping it in its place.

"Almost an hour later I got a call from Subash saying that his nose was bleeding. I live in Umm Al Hassam and my

We are not sure as to what would have caused the death. But the doctors at the hospital told us that he suffered a head injury in the fight and that could have led to the death.

SURESH

brother in Gudaibiya.

"I went to Gudaibiya and brought him to my place and he seemed fine. After a few hours, he started complaining of pain

all over the body and we rushed him to the BDF Hospital.

"The doctors at the hospital declared him dead two hours after reaching the hospital.

"We are not sure as to what would have caused the death. But the doctors at the hospital told us that he suffered a head injury in the fight and that could have led to the death."

Sources said the accused has been arrested and investigations are ongoing.

We are still clueless as to what happened at the worksite. It's really shocking and hard to believe, Suresh told Tribune.

The body of the deceased will be flown home once all legal procedures are completed, it is learnt.



03 Over 50pc of treated water 'wasted to sea'

04 High elections committee formed

05 Appeal verdict date set in murder trial



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Deputy King His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday met His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa at the Gudaibiya Palace. They praised the efforts of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to boost relations between Bahrain and brotherly and friendly countries at the GCC, Arab and international level. The Deputy King and HRH the Premier lauded the development programmes adopted by the government and their effectiveness in dealing with the requirements of the current phase according to a more dynamic economic approach aimed at boosting financial stability and backing the economic development efforts.

# Waste management plans reviewed

Eight projects being implemented by the Works Ministry to tackle the waste crisis



HRH the Premier chairs the Cabinet.

● The session requested the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning to submit the schedule of the completion of the implementation of the eight projects, according to each phase.

● The Cabinet praised Saudi Arabia's progress, and increasing political, economic and strategic weight at the regional and international levels thanks to King Salman's successful policies.

### Manama

The weekly Cabinet chaired by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday reviewed the implementation progress of the Integrated Waste Management Strategies that were approved in last February.

The Cabinet was informed, through a presentation by the Deputy Premier and Chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Construction and Infrastructure, Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa and the Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, about eight projects launched as part of the implementation process.

The projects include the recycling and management of household, agricultural, construction and industrial waste according to the international practices in force.

The session requested the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning to submit the schedule of the implementation of the eight projects, according to each phase.

Among other things, the Cabinet lauded the kingdom's multiple democratic achievements, noting that the democratic gains have increased during His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's prosperous era, and have been consolidated through the existing "constructive and fruitful" cooperation among the constitutional branches.

At the request of HRH the Prime Minister, Deputy Premier, Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, informed the session about the outcomes of his recent visit to Kuwait, where he conveyed a message from HM King Hamad to the Kuwaiti Amir Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah.

The session lauded the distinguished brotherly Bahraini-Kuwaiti relations, and hailed the advanced level of cooperation between them in various fields.

HRH the Prime Minister extended deepest congratulations to the Saudi King, government and people on Saudi Arabia's 88th National Day.

The Cabinet praised Saudi Arabia's progress, and increasing political, economic and strategic weight at the regional and international levels thanks to King Salman's successful policies.

HRH the Premier commended the contributions of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to reaching the Jeddah Peace Agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea, noting that the Saudi Arabia's successful efforts confirm its role in maintaining global security and stability, and

embodies the status of its leadership as global peace mediators.

HRH the Prime Minister requested the Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry to maintain the cleanliness of the streets and roads in which religious events will be held during the Ashoora Commemoration season, praising, in this regard, the Hussainiya Processions Authority's cooperation and keenness to activate the community partnership principle.

The session endorsed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the operation and financial contributions to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)'s Regional Centre for the Middle East and North Africa.

The Cabinet approved a draft edict to be issued by the Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications to regulate the registration and use of Bahrain Domain (.bh) and its extensions up to the second and third levels.

Under the edict, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) will be responsible for registering the (.bh domain) through accredited registrars, as recommended by the Ministerial Committee for Legal Affairs.

The session endorsed a draft edict to be issued by the Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications on amending the provisions of the list of public transport activities' licenses, promulgated by Edict 11/2015, as recommended by the Ministerial Committee for Legal Affairs.

Under the amendment, new licenses for public transport activities, including the rent of luxurious or limousine cars with drivers, will be added.

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# big story

## Over 50pc of treated water 'wasted to sea'

High transportation costs cited as the reason behind the decision



Seven hundred farms directly benefit from the Tubli Wastewater Treatment Plant.

● The study revealed that the treatment process was 100pc effective with zero presence of harmful bacteria or microbes in the treated water.

TDT | Manama  
Thamer Tayfoor

More than half of the treated water in the Kingdom is pumped out into sea, wasting millions of dinars spent for the treatment processes, it is learnt.

The authorities cite high transportation costs as the reason behind this move, sources say.

This was confirmed to Tribune by an official in the Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry, on grounds of anonymity.

"Transporting treated water to different areas across the Kingdom is an expensive thing and there is no department budgetary allocation for the purpose.

"Hence, what is being done now is to waste treated water into sea. With proper plans in place, this water can be used for many purposes including irrigation."

The source said that around 120 million cubic metres of



Dr Binthani and his team carried out the study on the quality of water treated at the plant.



**More efforts are needed to effectively use the treated water with an aim to increase green spaces across the Kingdom.**

MR JAWAD

**What is being done now is to waste treated water into sea. With proper plans in place, this water can be used for many purposes including irrigation.**

SOURCE

**120**

million cubic metres of water is treated at the Tubli Wastewater Treatment Plant on a daily basis.

Plant on a daily basis, out of which only 54 million cubic metres of water is only used for irrigation purposes.

"Seven hundred out of 900 farms in the Kingdom benefit from this treated water, which constitute almost 25 per cent of the Kingdom's agricultural produce."

"The ministry is the sole authority over the functioning of the plant and transporting of treated water."

Speaking to Tribune, environmentalist Mohammed Jawad said that more efforts are needed to effectively use the treated water with an aim to increase green spaces across the Kingdom.

"It's unfortunate that we don't have proper reservoirs to store this 'excess water'."

A study recently conducted by a team from the University of Bahrain showed that the treatment process used at the plant effectively eliminated coliform bacteria from the water.

Coliforms can be found in the aquatic environment, in soil and on vegetation; they are universally present in large numbers in the feces of warm-blooded animals.

While coliforms themselves are not normally causes of serious illness, they are easy to culture, and their presence is used to indicate that other pathogenic organisms of fecal origin may be present.

The study was conducted between 2014 and 2018 by Dr Ali Salman Binthani, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Life Sciences

within the University's Faculty of Science, and his team comprising many students from the

same department.

The study revealed that the treatment process was 100pc

effective with zero presence of harmful bacteria or microbes in the treated water.

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Coliforms can be found in the aquatic environment, in soil and on vegetation; they are universally present in large numbers in the feces of warm-blooded animals.

water is treated at the Tubli Wastewater Treatment



# High elections committee formed

Elections to parliament and municipal councils will commence on November 24

Manama

Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Minister, Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa, yesterday issued an edict, forming the High Committee to oversee the integrity of the elections of the members of the Council of Representatives.

Under the edict, the panel, chaired by the Justice Minister, comprises Judges Abdulrahman Al Sayed Ahmed, Masooma Abdulrasool Isa, Khalid Hassan Ajaji, Judge Mohammed Hassan Al Buainain, Chancellor Wael Al Bualai, Chancellor Osama Ali Al Auqi and Judge Mohammed Said Al Aradi.

The minister also issued a second edict, appointing the President of the Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission (LLOC), Chancellor Nawaf Abdullah Hamza, as Director of the Executive Committee of the High Elections Committee.

In a third edict, the minister formed the elections' supervisory centres for the parliamentary elections.

The Capital Governorate Supervisory Centre will be located at the Khawla Secondary Girls School and chaired



Shaikh Khalid

by Judge Fatima Faisal Hubail while Muharraq Governorate Supervisory Centre will be located at the Al Hidayah Al Khalifa Secondary Boys School and will be chaired by Advocate General, Dr Ahmed Al Hammadi.

According to the Edict, the Northern Governorate Supervisory Centre will be located at the Hamad Town Primary Girls' School, and will be chaired by Judge Mohammed Mirza Aman.

The Southern Governorate Supervisory Centre will be located at the Al Mustaqbal Primary Girls School, and

Voting centres	
<b>Capital Governorate</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Ahmed Al Omran Secondary Boys School</li> <li>2- Huteen Primary Boys School</li> <li>3- Al-Sanabis Intermediate Girls School</li> <li>4- Um Al Hassam Primary Boys School</li> <li>5- Halima Al Saadia Intermediate Girls School</li> <li>6- Al Ettihad Club</li> <li>7- Al Wafa Secondary Girls School</li> <li>8- Sitra Primary Girls School</li> <li>9- Garnata Primary Girls School</li> <li>10- Al Taawon Secondary Boys School</li> </ol>	<b>Northern Governorate</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Karranah Primary Girls School</li> <li>2- Jaber Bin Hayan Primary Boys School</li> <li>3- Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa Primary Boys School</li> <li>4- Jidhafs Intermediate Boys School</li> <li>5- Saar Primary Boys School</li> <li>6- Aali Intermediate Girl School</li> <li>7- Saar Secondary Girls School</li> <li>8- Hamad Town Primary Boys School</li> <li>9- Ghazi Al Qusaibi Secondary Girls School</li> <li>10- Al A'ahd Al Zaher Secondary Girls School</li> <li>11- Ibn Tufail Primary Boys School</li> <li>12- Al-Malkiya Intermediate Girls School</li> </ol>
<b>Southern Governorate</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Isa Town Primary Boys School</li> <li>2- Isa Town Secondary Girls School</li> <li>3- Imam Malik bin Anas Primary Boys School</li> <li>4- East Riffa Intermediate Girls School</li> <li>5- East Riffa Secondary Boys School</li> <li>6- Oqba Bin Nafea Primary Boys School</li> <li>7- West Riffa Secondary Girls School</li> <li>8- East Riffa Primary Girls School</li> <li>9- Zallaq Primary Girls School</li> <li>10- Durrat Al Bahrain</li> </ol>	<b>Muharraq Governorate</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Sh. Khalifa Bin Salman Institute of Technology</li> <li>2- Busaiteen Primary Girls School</li> <li>3- Muharraq Secondary Girls School</li> <li>4- Hassan bin Thabet Primary Boys School</li> <li>5- Ruqaya Primary Girls School</li> <li>6- Al Dair Primary Intermediate Girls School</li> <li>7- Al Khawarizmi Primary Boys School</li> <li>8- Hidd Secondary Girls School</li> </ol>

chaired by Judge Ibrahim Sultan Al Zayed, the Edict adds.

The minister also issued a fourth edict, determining the voting and voting-counting centres in the constituencies.

## Region's first biometric payment network to be launched soon

TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Zafran

Amidst Bahrain making huge advancement in the implementation of different technologies in the financial sector, the region's first ever biometric payment network will be soon launched in the country, it was announced.

Ithmaar Bank and Eazy Financial Services, with the support of Tamkeen, will soon be launching the biometric payment network in Bahrain. Once implemented, Ithmaar Bank customers will no longer be required to use their bank cards at ATMs.

Instead, they will be able to use their fingerprint along with their PIN to process financial transactions. The implementation is expected to add convenience and stronger security in financial transactions.

Speaking during a press conference held at Four Seasons Bahrain Bay yesterday, Eazy Financial Services CEO, Khaled Al Ahli said that customer needs were carefully studied before deciding on the technology.

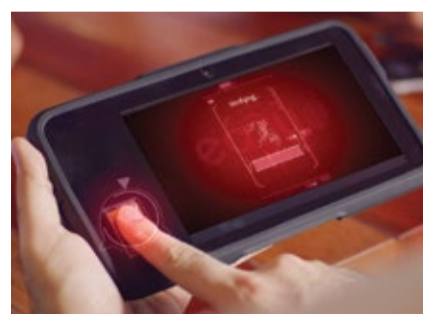
"I think the payment process has never been about having an exciting experience, but we expect it to be convenient and practical with a good user experience as well as to have a secure way to transact.

"The world is changing quickly; there are cutting edge technologies and solutions coming out rapidly. We took a step back for a moment to understand the market and the behavioral changes. We found that people just wanted a practical and convenient way to transact," he said.

"What we found was that fingerprint would make that difference. We are all already conformable with using biometric technologies, so we decided to take this to the banking and financial



From left, Yousif Al Khan, Assistant General Manager, Head of Information Technology and Administration; Abdul Hakeem Al Mutawa, DCEO, Banking Group, Ithmaar Bank; Fahad Yateem, Director - Islamic Financial Institutions Supervision, Central Bank of Bahrain; Ahmed Abdul Rahim, CEO, Ithmaar Bank; Khalid Al Rumaihi, CEO, Economic Development Board Bahrain; Khaled Al Ahli, CEO, Eazy Financial Service; Nayef Al Alawi, Vice Chairman, Eazy Financial Services; Dr Jarmo Kotilaine, Chief Planning and Monitoring Office, Tamkeen, at the event.



sector," he said.

"With this you can use your fingerprint to make any payment or banking transaction. Whether you want to withdraw your cash from the ATM or make a transaction at a branch or make a purchase at a shop, all you would need is your fingerprint and PIN."

The agreement is a result of the financial support of Tamkeen, with the

support of the EDB and CBB, and will see the new Biometric Payment Network available in phases for Ithmaar Bank customers as early as Q1 2019.

Ithmaar Bank CEO, Ahmed Abdul Rahim, said: "As part of our Digital Strategy, we continue to invest heavily in technology that provides our customers a more convenient, simpler and more secure way to conduct their financial transactions. Our customers are tech-savvy and expect friction-less access to banking services - and the introduction of biometrics is another major step that direction. We are leading the financial industry with this new, tangible solution which is a real-time example of how we put innovation and our customers at the forefront of everything we do."

Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) Chief Executive, Khalid

Al Rumaihi, commented: "With this announcement Ithmaar Bank and Eazy Financial Services are truly showcasing Bahrain as a hub for innovation, specifically in the financial services industry. This partnership comes in line with our strategy to encourage innovation that supports high value job creation in the Kingdom. Bahrain's forward-thinking regulatory approach provides an attractive environment for FinTech - particularly in areas such as Islamic finance and payments. We look forward to welcoming more home-grown initiatives such as this."

Praising the initiative, Tamkeen Chief Executive Dr Ebrahim Janahi said: "Tamkeen's support for the FinTech industry comes as part of our efforts to support enterprises across stages of development and making the private sector a key driver of economic

growth. We believe Ithmaar Bank and Eazy are both well ahead of the curve and this strategic initiative will result in a major positive change in the Kingdom's economy and capital market"

Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) Executive Director, Khalid Hamad, said: "This very forward-looking partnership is proof that FinTech initiatives are delivering tangible, real-world results - ahead of similar initiatives across the region - while maintaining the overall safety and soundness of the financial system in Bahrain."

The platform, developed by Eazy Financial Services, is built on an Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) one of the most reliable and trusted biometric engines which is deployed and implemented in many countries around the world for both civil and forensic applications.

## Bahraini 'kicked out 74-year-old wife to marry young Asian woman'

TDT | Manama  
Ali Tarif

A Bahraini man in his seventies kicked out his 74-year-old wife after he got married to an Asian woman in her mid-thirties, the court heard.

The woman had to resort to the Court of Urgent Matters in bid to return to the house and judges ruled in her favour, according to her lawyer Manar Al Tamimi.

"The Court of Urgent Matters issued an order with immediate effect to allow the woman return to her house because she has a valid marriage

My client spent her money on building and furnishing this house and it's unacceptable for her to be kicked out, especially considering her age.

MANAR AL TAMIMI

contract with him, although he expelled her from the house after his marriage with an Asian woman.

"My client spent her money on building and furnishing this house and it's unacceptable for her to be kicked out, especially considering her age," Al Tamimi said.



# Appeal verdict date set in murder trial

Duo killed Egyptian national by beating up with hockey stick, stabbing in his chest

● The Cassation Court ordered for them to be re-tried before another High Appeals Court.

● The attack took place on one of the streets in Juffair as Mr Saleh allegedly owed one of the assailants his commission for renting out the apartment.

TDT | Manama  
Ali Tarif

Two Egyptian men, aged 36 and 37, convicted in a murder case will learn the fate of their appeals on October 29.

The duo was earlier sentenced to life in prison by the High Criminal Court and the ruling was upheld by the High Appeals Court.

However, the Cassation Court ordered for them to be re-tried before another High Appeals Court, which set the aforementioned date to announce its decision.

Egyptian Taqi Ahmed Saleh, 26, died after being beaten up by the duo with a hockey stick and stabbed in the chest

”  
He then called me the next day and told me that his victim had died. I asked him to send his children back to Egypt before surrendering before the police.

THIRD SUSPECT

with a knife during a brawl on October 24, 2013.

Mr Taqi's wife took him to the nearby Bahrain Specialist Hospital, but doctors were unable to save him.

The attack took place on one of the streets in Juffair as Mr Saleh allegedly owed one of the assailants his commission for renting out the apartment.

And his wife earlier told the High Criminal Court that the defendants had sent several threat messages to her husband before carrying out the assault.

“They rang our apartment's bell, and he went down. After a few minutes I went down to check on him and found that he

was lying in a pool of his blood,” she told prosecutors.

The duo was charged with premeditated murder for their direct link with the crime.

A third suspect – a Bahraini policeman was also involved in the case. But his sentence was reduced from three to two years behind bars after he filed an appeal.

He was accused of concealing crucial information from the authorities and not reporting the murder on time.

“The suspect called me at night and asked whether I knew about a brawl and stabbing incident on Juffair Street,” the officer said in his statement to prosecutors.

“I said ‘no’ to him. I was drinking alcohol and was watching a football game. After a few minutes I fell asleep, forgetting to report the incident to higher officials.

“He then called me the next day and told me that his victim had died. I asked him to send his children back to Egypt before surrendering before the police.”

A fourth man was earlier detained on suspicion of supplying the men with weapons but was later released due to lack of proof.

“I did not know the suspects' intentions and they took the hockey stick from my car without my permission,” he had told prosecutors.

## Court to hear four murder cases today

TDT | Manama  
Ali Tarif

The High Criminal Court will be swarmed today with murder cases including that of the cold-blooded killing of Bahraini imam.

Two suspects in the imam murder trial are expected to appear before the court for the first time in a “speedy trial” as described by Chief Prosecutor Ahmed Al Hammadi.

The imam's body was cut into pieces and was found inside plastic bags, near a scrapyard in Askar more than a month ago.

Subsequently, the main suspect, a prayer caller at the same mosque in Muharraq, where the imam worked, was arrested along with his accomplice.

The main accused is a 35-year-old Bangladeshi national who was allegedly into free visa trade.

“The imam had warned him many a time against engaging in free visa trade and he killed him in an act of revenge,” according to sources.

The court will also hear the case of a Bahraini man accused of beheading a Filipina woman and pulling her eyes out.

The defendant had told prosecutors that he committed the crime after his victim forced him into having sex at her house.

“She hugged and kissed me. I tried to avoid her but she wouldn't leave me. After a few minutes, I got angry, grabbed a knife and stabbed her several times before beheading and pull-

”  
**She hugged and kissed me. I tried to avoid her but she wouldn't leave me. After a few minutes, I got angry, grabbed a knife and stabbed her several times before beheading and pulling her eyes out.**

DEFENDANT

ing her eyes out.”

In the third case, a Bahraini man accused of murdering his father will appear before the court after the medical report confirmed that he was responsible for the murder.

The 31-year-old self-confessed drug addict told prosecutors that he didn't intend to murder his father but was provoked by his brother to commit the crime.

The fourth hearing will see a Sudani national, accused of murdering an Indian national, appearing before the court. The 41-year-old suspect had told prosecutors that he killed the man “out of his love for Bahrain”.

“I saw my victim in an inebriated state on the road and advised him to stop drinking. But he was not seriously listening to me. I followed him to his apartment and strangled him to death following a fight,” the man had told prosecutors.

## Bahrain ‘regional leader in FinTech sector’

● On Sunday, the Deputy King, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, chaired the board meeting of the Economic Development Board (EDB) held at the organization's headquarters at Bahrain Bay.

● HRH Prince Salman stressed that the Kingdom remains committed to strengthening its regulatory system by incorporating modern technologies and processes, increasing the efficiency of government services for investors and citizens.

TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Zafran

Bahrain is leading the way in the field of FinTech in the region and can soon become leaders globally as well, according to a senior government official.

FinTech is growing quickly in Bahrain as various government initiatives have removed obstacles for the private sector, said the Chief Executive Officer of the Economic Development Board (EDB), Khalid Al Rumaihi.

Speaking to Tribune, he said FinTech being a new area, countries are just beginning to get a fix on it and Bahrain has managed to become a leader in the FinTech sector in the region.

“This is a new global phenomenon. Being a young industry, countries are still filling up regulations. Everyone is trying to come to terms, especially with regulations in financial services.



FinTech Bay was opened to help Bahrain advance in the Fintech Sector.

You need to protect consumers, money flows, ensure transparency, protect against money laundering etc,” he pointed out.

“I see Singapore, and the United Kingdom to be at the forefront globally. We are behind these countries but we are not that far behind. When we look at the region, we are right at the forefront. We have set up an onshore regulatory sandbox and we are the only country in the Middle East to have done this, although some neighbouring cities have a sandbox but are limited to a zone.

“We need to continue to innovate and I don't believe we should limit our-



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**We need to continue to innovate and I don't believe we should limit ourselves to being a regional leader in the sector; we could become global leaders or be amongst the global leaders.**

MR AL RUMAIHI

selves to being a regional leader in the sector; we could become global leaders or be amongst the global leaders.

“When I talk about moving to the cloud and blockchain, it is to pursue our goal of how we can continue to push the envelope. By doing this we will attract innovation, from all over the world. They would want to incubate their ideas in Bahrain in a similar fashion as to what is happening in Singapore.

“If we are nimble and agile then we have the opportunity to become not only a region leader but also a global one, this is the ambition,” he said.

He said that Bahrain's leadership as well as the authorities remains all committed to make this happen. “Yesterday we were honoured by HRH the Deputy King visiting the Bahrain Fintech Bay. He reiterated instructions to remove all obstacles to innovation and to continue to encourage innovation.

“On the tour were also other senior officials, who also echoed support for innovation. I think the government has done a lot, a regulatory sandbox was introduced and also made it easier for banks and companies to move to cloud computing etc. We are going to put everything in place for FinTech to thrive.”

On Sunday, the Deputy King, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, chaired the board meeting of the Economic Development Board (EDB) held at the organization's headquarters at Bahrain Bay.

HRH the Deputy King instructed the swift implementation of initiatives designed to increase Bahrain's competitiveness and facilitate opportunities for citizens.

HRH Prince Salman stressed that the Kingdom remains committed to strengthening its regulatory system by incorporating modern technologies and processes, increasing the efficiency of government services for investors and citizens.



**Co-operation discussed**



The Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa yesterday received Secretary-General of Royal Charity Organization (RCO) Dr Mustafa Al Sayed, and discussed boosting cooperation. The BTEA CEO pointed out the RCO's key role in disseminating the culture of charity work, praising its adoption of human, social initiatives in the interest of citizens. The RCO Secretary-General welcomed broadening cooperation and launch joint initiatives.

**Toastmasters Int'l to hold webinar**

TDT | Manama

The District 20 of the Toastmasters International is conducting its first webinar for the year 2018 hosted by two of its artistic and adroit members T M Nada Qamber and T M Naseema Khan in partnership with Canva.com. The free webinar in design and toastmaster branding will take place on September 19 at 7:15 pm (Kuwait time). The webinar would help all those who wish to learn the basics of design thinking and to gain the basic skills needed in digital designs for toastmaster meetings/events promotions. The webinar can be accessed on your mobile devices or laptop. For registrations and further information, contact District 20 PR Manager T M Naseema Khan on 65567460 or drop an inquiry at pr.district20@gmail.com.

# Prosecution witnesses to testify in illegal sit-in case

- The defendants are facing charges of assault, possessing Molotov cocktails, using violence against police, rioting and taking part in an illegal gathering.
- Of the 171, however, only 24 defendants are in police custody as the remaining suspects have been granted BD200 bail each, pending the outcome of their trial.

TDT | Manama  
Ali Tarif

Prosecution witnesses will take the stand before the High Criminal Court to provide evidence in the trial of 171 defendants accused of attacking police officers, who were tasked to disperse the illegal gathering outside the house of Shi'ite cleric Sheikh Isa Qassim. Tribune earlier reported that the demonstrators who organised the sit-in had weapons and grenades, according to a police officer's statement before the High Criminal Court. "One of the defendants whom we arrested guided us to a

**We seized a lot of weapons, grenades and firebombs that were meant to attack police officers and disrupt the law and order.**

OFFICER

cache, where a lot of weapons, grenades as well as firebombs were stored," the officer said, adding: "They were meant to

be used to attack police officers and disrupt the public order." Police say rocks, bricks, and metal rods, as well as firebombs, were used in attacking police from Isa Qassim's home, while officers were trying to arrest terrorists hiding among the protesters. The police officer who testified before the High Criminal Court said that all the protesters attacked them while they were attempting to restore order in Duraz - the stage of almost year-long protest. Five outlaws were killed and 31 policemen were injured during the operation. A total of 171 people have

**171** defendants are accused of assault, possessing Molotov cocktails, using violence against police, rioting and taking part in an illegal gathering.

tensions and establishing organisations with foreign links. Authorities decided to raid the illegal gathering in May 2017 after Isa Qassim and two accomplices were convicted of laundering millions of dinars, for which they received suspended jail sentences. Of the 171, however, only 24 defendants are in police custody as the remaining suspects have been granted BD200 bail each, pending the outcome of their trial. The defendants are facing charges of assault, possessing Molotov cocktails, using violence against police, rioting and taking part in an illegal gathering.

**Lending a helping hand**



Under the theme 'Children is our future', all Rotary Clubs in the Kingdom took part in an event aimed to distribute schools bags to orphans supported by many charity societies in the Kingdom. The event organisers said that nearly 600 school bags were distributed to various charities.



# business

## BTEA scholarships for Vatel School students

TDI | Manama

Twenty-five scholarships will be granted to students who are interested in enrolling at Vatel Hotel and Tourism Business School, which will open in Bahrain next month.

The scholarships, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa said, will be given in collaboration with Tamkeen and the private sector.

"25 students who enrol in the school via the website (Vatel.bh) would benefit from the scholarships and will be matched with jobs that meet their academic qualifications," said the CEO of BTEA, Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa.

To enrol in BTEA's Student Scholarship Programme log on to [www.vatel.bh](http://www.vatel.bh) or call 17616061.

## China will hit back at new tariffs: ministry

Beijing, China | AFP

China's foreign ministry said yesterday it would strike back at the US if Washington moved forward with new tariffs on \$200 billion of its exports.

"If the US launches any new tariff measures, China will have to take counter-measures to firmly ensure our legitimate rights and interests," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters during a regular press briefing.

The two countries have been embroiled for months in a trade conflict that has threatened to hurt consumers in both countries. Trump has already imposed 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion in goods from China.

Last week Beijing welcomed Washington's offer to hold fresh trade talks and said the two sides were discussing details, providing some hope the world's top two economies could step back from the brink of an all-out trade war.

But over the weekend the Wall Street Journal reported US President Trump planned to announce tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods early this week and that the move could cause Chinese officials to cancel the talks.

The US imports around \$500 billion in goods from China.

"An escalating trade conflict serves no one's interests," Geng said.

"We have always stated that negotiations on the basis of equality, honesty and mutual respect represent the only right way out of the current trade issue between China and the US," said Geng.

# India to merge three state-owned banks

The proposed merger follows a similar move by the government in February last year

● To merge Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank

● Capital support to the merged bank will continue

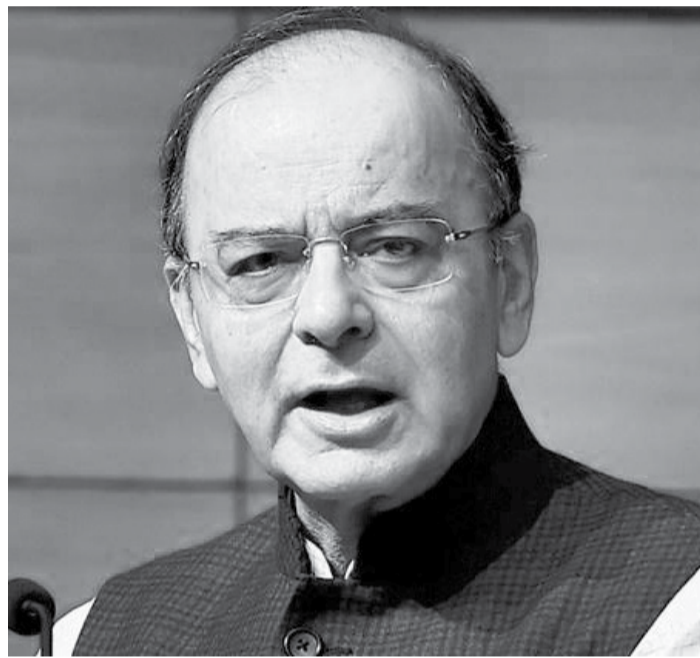
● New Delhi owns majority stakes in 21 lenders

Reuters | New Delhi

India plans to merge three state-run banks, Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank, the financial services secretary said yesterday, as part of efforts to clean up the country's banking system.

The government will continue to provide capital support to the merged bank, expected to be India's third largest, Rajeev Kumar told reporters.

"It is a major economic, com-



Arun Jaitley, India's finance minister (Courtesy of Indian Express)

mercial decision," finance minister Arun Jaitley added.

Banking sector reforms are a major plank of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's administration to revive credit growth, which has slowed to multi-decade lows as banks struggle with bad loans.



The proposed merger follows a similar move by the government in February last year when it merged State Bank of India with its five subsidiary banks

New Delhi owns majority stakes in 21 lenders, which account for more than two-thirds of banking assets in Asia's third-biggest economy.

But these banks also account for the lion's share of more than \$150 billion in sour assets plagu-

ing the sector, and need billions of dollars in new capital in the next two years to meet global Basel III capital norms.

India's decision to merge the three banks will first need to be approved by the board of directors of Bank of Baroda, Dena and Vijaya.

The government will then prepare an amalgamation scheme for the banks which will need to be approved by the cabinet of ministers and the houses of parliament, Jaitley said, adding he expected the process to be completed in the current financial year ending March 31, 2019.

The proposed merger follows a similar move by the government in February last year when it merged State Bank of India with its five subsidiary banks, helping the country's largest lender by assets increase its scale and cut expenses through synergies.

In August last year India set up a ministerial panel to speed up consolidation of other state-run banks.



Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Sameer Nass during a meeting with a delegation from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) spearheaded by legal expert Karon Monaghan representing ILO's Director-General. Board members and Chief Executive Officer Shaker Al Shater were present during the meeting held at Bait Al Tijjar. The meeting discussed key topics including creating jobs, equal opportunities, women employment, and the work environment, and stressed on consolidating efforts between ILO and the chamber.



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr Abdulhussain Mirza receiving Sudanese Ambassador Ibrahim Mohammed Al Hassan. The minister stressed Bahrain's keenness to further develop bilateral relations, especially in the electricity, water and renewable energy sectors. The two sides reviewed projects implemented in these sectors.

## 01 Systems launches "Switch to Digital" Innovation Lab in Bahrain FinTech Bay

TDI | Manama

01 Systems has announced the launch of its "Switch to Digital" Innovation Lab at Bahrain FinTech Bay. The innovation lab will showcase 01 Systems' latest products and solutions in the digital space that are meant to help organisations in their digital transformation journey.

The Innovation Lab will also showcase applications from the world's leading FinTech software providers.

01 Systems is a banking software solutions provider, with more than 30 years of innovation in the fields of enterprise



Officials during a photocall following the inauguration

signatory management, content management, business process automation and branch digiti-

zation. "Being a founding partner of Bahrain FinTech Bay, we aim to

help the financial sector in Bahrain to move forward towards a more digitized environment,"

said Ali Sharif, Founder and CEO of 01 Systems.

"The establishment of the 01 Systems Innovation Lab is a key step in furthering Bahrain's FinTech ecosystem and spreading more awareness about the digital transformation process," said Khalid Saad, CEO of Bahrain FinTech Bay.

Bahrain FinTech Bay (BFB) provides a physical hub to incubate insightful, scalable and impactful FinTech initiatives through innovation labs, acceleration programmes, curated activities, educational opportunities and collaborative platforms.



## Air France-KLM chief to invest salary in airline

Paris, France

Air France-KLM's new boss said Monday that he would invest half of his fixed salary into the company's stock as a gauge of his "confidence" in returning the strike-prone airline to a more solid footing.

Benjamin Smith made the pledge in a video message to staff as he officially took up his new position as chief executive at the French-Dutch airline.

His fixed salary is 900,000 euros (\$1.0 million) a year, but his total compensation can reach as high as 4.25 million if performance targets are met.

The pay package was roundly criticised by unions, as it is more than three times the amount paid to Smith's French predecessor, who quit in May after gambling his job on getting staff to accept a pay deal that was rejected in a company-wide vote.

## No-deal Brexit 'would entail substantial costs'

London, United Kingdom

Britain's economy would suffer "substantial costs" should it leave the European Union in March with no divorce agreement, the International Monetary Fund warned yesterday.

Brussels and London have failed to resolve "fundamental" aspects of Brexit and this could leave London defaulting to World Trade Organisation (WTO) tariffs, the IMF said in its annual outlook on the UK economy.

"Fundamental questions -- such as the future economic relationship between the two and the closely-related question of the status of the land border with Ireland -- remain unanswered," the institution noted in a statement.

"Resolving these questions is critical to avoid a 'no-deal' Brexit on WTO terms that would entail substantial costs for the UK economy -- and to a lesser extent the EU economies -- particularly if it were to occur in a disorderly fashion," the IMF added.

## Amazon probing staff data leaks

San Francisco, United States

Amazon is investigating allegations that some of its staff sold confidential customer data to third party companies particularly in China, the online giant confirmed on Sunday.

According to a Wall Street Journal report, which did not give figures, employees of the e-retailer sell internal data and other confidential information -- usually through intermediaries -- to merchants who sell their goods on the US giant's website.

# Saudi sovereign fund gets \$11 billion loan

PIF has committed to investments worth \$95 billion including stakes in high-risk tech firms such as electric car company Tesla

● PIF aims to beef up its assets to \$400 billion by 2020.

● Its current holdings are estimated at \$230 billion

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund said yesterday it had secured its first ever international loan, boosting the kingdom's diversification drive.

The Public Investment Fund said in a statement that it had obtained an \$11 billion (9.4 billion euro) loan as "the first step in its strategic, medium-term debt funding programme".

"We are pleased to have completed this international syndicated loan", the fund's managing director Yasir al-Rumayyan said.

Diversification is a key focus of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 plan, which aims to transform the



Yasir Al Rumayyan, chief executive of the Public Investment Fund (Courtesy of the National)

Saudi economy through a slew of projects from hi-tech startups to a new mega city.

The fund said that under the Future Investment Initiative launched in October 2017, it aims to beef up its assets to \$400 billion by 2020.

Its current holdings are es-

timated at \$230 billion, mostly in the form of major stakes in companies including SABIC petrochemicals, Saudi Arabia's largest listed firm.

The PIF is in talks to sell its 70-percent stake in SABIC to Aramco for an estimated \$70 billion as another way of raising

cash.

The fund is aggressively pushing a host of big-ticket investments -- from Uber to the planned \$500 billion NEOM mega city on the Red Sea coast.

It has also invested in British tycoon Richard Branson's space tourism company Virgin Galac-

## \$1bn in Lucid Motors

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia announced it has signed off on a \$1 billion investment in US carmaker Lucid Motors with the aim of helping the Tesla rival roll out electric cars.

The Public Investment Fund, which invests on behalf of the Saudi government, said the outlay was aimed at funding the commercial launch of the Lucid Air model in 2020, pending regulatory approvals and closing conditions.

Tesla chief executive Elon

Musk disclosed last month that he was in talks with Saudi Arabia's PIF and other investors to take the electric automaker private. Musk said in a blog post on August 13 he had "no question" that the Saudis would finance such a transaction following a July 31 meeting. He also revealed the PIF had bought almost five percent of Tesla stock through public markets. His comments sparked speculation over whether he would need to borrow massive amounts of money to take Tesla private.

tic and pledged tens of billions of dollars to funds run by SoftBank and Blackstone.

Since 2016, PIF has committed to investments worth \$95 billion including stakes in high-risk tech firms such as electric car company Tesla, according to the International Monetary Fund.



The Minister of Industry, Commerce & Tourism Zayed bin Rashid Alzayani receiving Moroccan Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain Ahmed Rashid Khatabi. They reviewed bilateral relation and ways to enhance it, especially in the economic aspect

## Abu Dhabi to sell over 25 pc of Spain's Cepsa

Madrid, Spain

Abu Dhabi plans to float at least 25 per cent of Spain's Cepsa by the end of 2018, the energy company announced yesterday, in what would be the largest listing in a decade on the Madrid stock exchange.

Cepsa did not say how much the deal would be worth but market sources said the listing could value the firm, which operates across the entire oil and gas value chain, at around 10 billion euros (\$11.6 billion).

Spanish business daily Expansion said the listing, which is subject to market conditions, is set to be the biggest Spain has seen in a decade.

Cepsa has since 2011 been wholly owned by Mubadala, whose vast portfolio also includes stakes in private equity firm Carlyle, telecoms company Etisalat Nigeria and gas firm Emirates LNG.

"We are proud of our partnership with Cepsa, which is a strategic energy investment for Mubadala and a national industrial champion for Spain," said Musabbeh Al Kaabi, head of petroleum at Mubadala.

The planned listing on the Madrid stock exchange is "a natural and strategic fit for Cepsa that will provide wider access to capital markets to support financial flexibility," he added in a statement.



Top performing students of the employees of the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) during an honouring ceremony held by its Labour Union. GPIC President Dr Abdulrahman Jawahery and Bahrain Free Labour Unions Federation Chairman Yaqoub Yousif Mohammed were present on the occasion during which 278 students were honoured. GPIC annually honours outstanding students who obtain 90 per cent or more in their academic examinations.



## Germany rolls out hydrogen train

Bremervorde, Germany

Germany yesterday rolled out the world's first hydrogen-powered train, signalling the start of a push to challenge the might of polluting diesel trains with costlier but more eco-friendly technology.

Two bright blue Coradia iLint trains, built by French TGV-maker Alstom, began running a 100-kilometre (62-mile) route between the towns and cities of Cuxhaven, Bremerhaven, Bremervorde and Buxtehude in northern Germany -- a stretch normally plied by diesel trains.

"The world's first hydrogen train is entering into commercial service and is ready for serial production," Alstom CEO Henri Poupart-Lafarge said at an unveiling ceremony in Bremervorde, the station where the trains will be refuelled with hydrogen.

Alstom has said it plans to deliver another 14 of the zero-emissions trains to Lower Saxony state by 2021, with other German states also expressing an interest.

Hydrogen trains are equipped with fuel cells that produce electricity through a combination of hydrogen and oxygen, a process that leaves steam and water as the only emissions.

Excess energy is stored in ion lithium batteries on board the train.

## Coke eying cannabis-infused drink market

Reuters

Coca Cola Co said yesterday it was closely watching the growing marijuana-infused drinks market, responding to a media report that the world's largest beverage maker was in talks with Canada's Aurora Cannabis Inc.

The discussions over a possible product tie-up, reported by Canadian financial channel BNN Bloomberg, could open a new front in Coke's battle to overcome sluggish demand for its sugar-heavy sodas by diversifying into coffee and health-focused drinks.

The report said there was no guarantee that talks between the companies would be successful but Aurora shares responded by soaring 22 percent. Coke stock gained slightly on a New York market weakened by concerns over trade tariffs.

The marijuana industry has been attracting interest from a handful of big corporate names as Canada and a wave of US states move to legalize recreational use of the drug.

However, US corporations are still cautious about taking steps into a business that remains illegal under US federal law.

Both Coke and Aurora, in separate statements, said they were interested in cannabidiol infused beverages but could not comment on any market speculation.

# Saudi rebounds from low

● **Dubai real estate shares drop despite long-term visa news**

● **Inflation data shows real estate deflation deepening**

● **Egypt posts lowest close this year**

● **But Qalaa and EFG stabilise after tumbling manipulation case**

● **Saudi ends five-day slide as some blue chips leap**

Reuters | Dubai

Middle East stock markets mostly fell yesterday because of US-China trade tensions, with Dubai sliding despite a new visa policy designed to support slumping real estate prices. Saudi Arabia's market, however, rebounded after a five-day slide.

The United Arab Emirates announced visa rules allowing retired expatriates to stay in the country with renewable five-year visas, which could encourage them to buy homes or



Traders monitor stock information at Dubai Financial Market, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (Courtesy of Zawya)

make other investments. The government also introduced lower electricity tariffs for the industrial sector.

But stock markets remained weak and the Dubai index lost 0.8 per cent to a 32-month low. Blue chip Emaar Properties shed 1.7pc and DAMAC Properties sank 2.9pc.

In Abu Dhabi, the index slid 1.7pc as top real estate firm Aldar Properties dropped 2.7pc. The biggest bank, First Abu Dhabi, lost 2.6pc.

"It's obviously a positive development from a long-term perspective for the UAE real estate sector," Ayub Ansari, senior analyst at SICO in Bahrain, said of the visa policy.

"Near-term, the sentiment in

the stock market remains weak and (we) don't expect much reaction on UAE real estate stocks from this announcement."

A local fund manager said the step was too incremental by itself to move the needle in the stock market.

Dubai inflation data published on Monday showed housing market deflation deepening; housing and utility costs fell 3.6pc from a year earlier in August, after a 3.2pc drop in July and a 2.6pc decline in June.

In Egypt, the stock index shed 0.7pc to its lowest close this year, after sliding 3.6pc on Sunday in response to news that an Egyptian criminal court had ordered the arrest of ousted President

Hosni Mubarak's two sons on charges of stock market manipulation.

Two stocks that were hit particularly hard by the legal case stabilised on Monday, however. Qalaa Holdings, which had plunged 6.0pc on Sunday, last traded up 0.6pc; its investor relations head Amr El-Kadi was detained in connection with the case, the company said.

Investment bank EFG-Hermes, which had tumbled 8.6pc, rebounded 3.3pc. The company said its non-executive vice chairman Yasser El Malawany had been detained in connection with the case.

The big exception to the downtrend in regional markets was Saudi Arabia, where the

### Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 1.9%	7,610
DUBAI	▼ 0.8%	2,752
ABU DHABI	▼ 1.7%	4,883
QATAR	▼ 1.1%	9,833
KUWAIT	▼ 0.03%	5,346
BAHRAIN	▼ 0.2%	1,339
OMAN	▼ 1.0%	4,516
EGYPT	▼ 0.7%	14,651

index gained 1.9pc, rebounding from a six-month low hit on Sunday.

Saudi Kayan Petrochemical was the best performer, soaring 8.1pc in heavy trade. Bank stocks also did well after reassuring remarks by an official at the central bank during a news conference on Sunday.

Ayman bin Mohammed al-Sayari, the bank's deputy governor for investment, said rising market interest rates were not worrying as they were based on a gradual rise of global rates from a low base, and because Saudi banking system liquidity remained ample.

He also said recent capital outflows from Saudi Arabia had been in large part the result of rising investment by Saudi quasi-sovereign institutions, and that foreign reserves remained in an uptrend.

## Oil prices rise on supply concerns

Reuters | London

Oil prices rose yesterday as investors focused on the impact of US sanctions on Iran despite assurances by Washington that Saudi Arabia, Russia and the United States could together raise output fast enough to offset falling supplies.

US Energy Secretary Rick Perry said in an interview with Reuters on Friday that he did not expect any price spikes and that the world's top three oil producers could between them raise global output in the next 18 months.

Brent crude oil was up 70 cents a barrel at \$78.79 by 1345

GMT. US light crude was up 55 cents at \$69.54.

"Oil is pushing higher on widespread expectations of Iranian supply shortages," said Stephen Brennock, analyst at London brokerage PVM Oil.

Iran's oil exports have been falling in recent months as more buyers, including its second-largest buyer India, cut imports ahead of US sanctions that take effect in November. Washington aims to cut Iran's oil exports down to zero to force Tehran to re-negotiate a nuclear deal.

Also weighing on oil prices, US drillers added two oil rigs in the week to Dec. 1, bringing the total count up to 749.

## ECB unveils new euro notes

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

The European Central Bank on Monday unveiled new versions of the 100- and 200-euro banknotes, saying new security features would make them harder to counterfeit.

Like other second-generation notes in the "Europa" series introduced since 2013, the new paper money includes different holograms in a silver strip and an "emerald number" showing the denomination -- this time in an enhanced form with small euro symbols inside the numerals.

Designers also reduced the notes' height to match the 50-euro version.

That leaves the length of the paper as the only size difference between denominations, with longer notes bearing a higher



A new 100- and 200 euro banknote are presented on a light table

value.

The green 100-euro banknotes represent some 23 percent of the value of euro paper money in circulation, ECB board

member Yves Mersch told reporters in Frankfurt, making them "not just a niche product and also not just a rich (person's) product."

## Stocks wobble as trade war worries deepen

London, United Kingdom

### Key figures around 1540 GMT

New York - Dow Jones:	▲ 26,143.92 points
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 7,302.10 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▼ 0.2pc at 12,096.41 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.1pc at 5,348.87 (close)
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ 3,008.73
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▼ 1.3pc at 26,932.85 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 1.1pc at 2,651.79 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	Closed for a public holiday
Euro/dollar:	▲ \$1.1689 from \$1.1627 at 2030 GMT on Friday
Pound/dollar:	▲ \$1.314 from \$1.3069
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 111.98 yen from 112.00 yen

Stock markets were uneasy and the dollar fell Monday following reports that US President Donald Trump is planning to hit China with another round of tariffs, dealing a blow to hopes for conciliatory talks between the two economic giants.

Traders had late last week welcomed US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin's offer to meet officials from Beijing to avert an all-out trade war.

However, The Washington Post and Wall Street Journal said the president had decided to impose 10-percent levies on \$200 billion of Chinese imports and could make an announcement in the coming days.

That would come on top of the

\$50 billion already announced over the summer and would account for about half of China's exports to the United States.

Beijing has threatened to retaliate against any measures. Reports suggest China would call off any meetings if the new

duties take effect.

Fanning the flames of the trade conflict, Trump on Monday hailed his aggressive use of tariffs as a success for American business.

Hong Kong's stock market led losses Monday, while the main European indices were lukewarm. While investors are in a selling mood, some positives could be taken from reports that Trump was considering 10 percent tariffs instead of the feared 25 percent, said JP Morgan Asset Management global market strategist Kerry Craig.

Elsewhere on foreign exchange Monday, emerging market currencies continue to struggle as investors fret over a possible spillover from financial crises in Argentina, Turkey,

and South Africa. "Equities in emerging Asia have been hit harder than those in the rest of the world today as last week's small recovery has come to a swift end. We would not be surprised if they continued to underperform," Capital Economics analysts said in a note.

Meanwhile, the pound held up as uncertainty over Brexit loomed large, with British Prime Minister Theresa May warning that her plan is the only alternative to crashing out of the European Union without an agreement.

May's warning came as the International Monetary Fund warned that Britain's economy would suffer "substantial costs" should it depart the EU in March with no divorce deal.



# Political mainstream has to fight



**BARIA ALAMUDDIN**

*If the extreme right can win 17.5pc of the vote in moderate, tolerant Sweden, then God help the rest of Europe*

In these divisive times, it has become rare to see collective displays of European unity; a reassertion of the bloc's core values of tolerance, human rights and the rule of law. It was thus cause for celebration last week when a two-thirds majority of MEPs supported a motion that Viktor Orban's regime in Hungary posed a "systemic threat" to the EU's democratic model, paving the way for sanctionary measures. Nevertheless, the 197 MEPs who opposed this motion are a warning sign of how xenophobic populists have transformed themselves from a contemptible minority to a continent-straddling insurgent force.

Orban stands accused of corruption, repression of migrants and undermining the rule of law. Measures against Hungary's civil society, oppositionists and the media pave the way toward single-party statehood. Comparable measures in Poland for dominating the Supreme Court render the judiciary beholden to

its authoritarian masters. Italy, Austria, France, Denmark and elsewhere are similarly blighted by a resurgent far right, with scarcely-disguised encouragement from Moscow. Meanwhile, racist violence in Germany is a stark reminder of fascism's ugly face.

Democratic Europe breathed a sigh of relief last week when the anti-refugee Sweden Democrats only gained 17.5 percent of the vote in the Swedish elections, despite fears that it could outperform the mainstream parties. The integration of refugees was a dominant issue when I chaired the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's 2016 security conference and I was impressed by the refreshingly enlightened desire of politicians and citizens alike to facilitate the absorption of Syrians and Iraqis into Swedish society. If the extreme right can win 17.5pc of the vote in moderate, tolerant Sweden, then God help the rest of Europe.

Having proved too treacherous and self-serving even for Donald Trump, the loathsome fascist demagogue Steve Bannon has embarked on a never-ending road-trip to unite Europe's disparate extreme right. If these transnational forces of



Extreme right showed its strong presence in Swedish elections.

evil act collectively invade EU institutions, neo-Nazis could wield greater international influence than at any moment since World War II. America, with its com-

plex federal system, has a long way to go before becoming an authoritarian state; yet the Trump administration's war against the media, gerrymandering of state

boundaries, obstacles to minorities' voting rights, and demagogic governance style fly in the face of the US Constitution's inspiring aspirations.

# The suburbs, where madness me

*There's a killer stalking suburban London. Or is there*



**EVA WISEMAN**

There is a serial killer stalking the suburbs here, leaving small heads in quiet gardens. Often, he keeps the tails.

When I told a friend I was writing about the Croydon cat killer, as he (or a copycat) appears to be holidaying in Washington State, her lips collapsed into a little moue, and then she looked away. "What?" I pressed, and she paused before replying, earnestly, "But what if he comes for you?" It was a risk I'd considered, having just celebrated our kitten's first birthday, but one I am willing to take, because this story — some believe the same man has killed more than 500 cats over the last four years — is compelling and terrifying. And it encourages obsession: It pricks at ancient anxieties.

In midcentury America, the suburbs were seen by some as a dangerous social experiment — this style of living brought sickness. Suburban men fell ill from the stress of commuting; suburban women, trapped at

home, had it even worse. In a best-selling 1961 study the authors renamed these regions "Disturbia."

The place of suburbs in our collective psyche has been on my mind recently, as last year, with great internal drama, I moved out of the city, got a cat for my daughter — pets, of course, traditionally being tools for children to practice grief upon — and settled all the way down. In Britain the idea of suburbia has none of the David Lynchian perversion or drama of the United States. But it's still thought of as an in-between place, a punchline, where small neat gardens reflect the dimensions of their owners' minds. Suffocating, but safe. Until a predator shatters the illusion.

The first deaths happened in a place called Croydon. A South London suburb that, for David Bowie, "represented everything I didn't want in my life, everything I wanted to get away from." It was a "complete concrete hell," he said cheerfully in 1999. "I suppose it looks beautiful now." (It doesn't.)

Accounts vary on when pets began to turn up on their owners' doorsteps, cut in half, decapitated and disemboweled. But by late 2015, patterns had begun

emerging — the killer appeared to be moving in concentric circles around the capital. One Facebook group nicknamed him "Jack the Rippurr." A local couple formed an improbable team of crime fighters under the name South Norwood Animal Rescue and Liberty, or Snarl. "She's a cat person," Tony Jenkins explained of his partner, Boudicca Rising (between them the middle-aged couple house 31). As the victims added up — Ukiyo, belly sliced open; Oscar, decapitated; Charlton, head and tail missing — Jenkins and Rising recorded the deaths, collected remains, performed post-mortems, and approached the police, but it was their petition of more than 40,000 signatures that led to an official investigation.

And for a period, the police took them seriously. Last November, a detective sergeant, Andy Collin, expressed his concerns that the killer might, eventually, "cease getting that gratification and escalate the attacks to humans, specifically vulnerable women and girls." But today, as deaths continue to rise, more figures of authority are backing away from humans as the cause. Writing in *The New Scientist* this summer, Stephen Harris, a retired professor of environmen-

tal sciences at the University of Bristol, declared that the deaths that have captivated the capital for years are in fact the work of foxes. "We have known for decades that foxes chew the head or tail off carcasses, including dead cats," he wrote, claiming no killer has been caught "because there is no 'killer.'" (Jenkins and Rising loudly dispute this interpretation.)

And yet, somehow that does little to dispel London's feeling of existential threat. Headlines like "Slaughter in Suburbia" have given way to stories about an increase in murdered rabbits, while the cats continue to turn up, bloodless and cleanly disemboweled. One head was left on the penalty spot of a garden football pitch. "Does he exist?" we ask ourselves, and then, "Does it matter?" We have invoked him anyway, and he lurks in shadows inside us, and in half-remembered folklore — perhaps our gardens are just his most recent hiding place.

In Michelle McNamara's true crime best-seller "I'll Be Gone in the Dark," about her search for a murderer who stalked the California suburbs, it was the lamp-lit detail, more than even the crimes themselves, that stayed with me — the way the





1962

Burundi, Jamaica, Rwanda and Trinidad and Tobago are admitted to the United Nations.

1981

The Assemblée Nationale votes to abolish capital punishment in France

1984

Joe Kittinger completes the first solo balloon crossing of the Atlantic.



2007

Buddhist monks join anti-government protesters in Myanmar, starting what some call the Safran Revolution.

# back in war against fascism



implosion of Israel's political center ground. Instead of being challenged by a resurgent left wing, Israel's far right was outflanked and hijacked by a messianic extreme right, which gleefully hacked to pieces any remaining hopes for Oslo's enlightened vision of two sovereign states living peacefully side by side.

During the EU vote on Hungary, the UK's Conservative Party MEPs disgustingly held their noses and voted on Orban's behalf. As one Tory politician explained: "We are going to gain brownie points with people who might be able to help us in the Brexit negotiations." This demonstrates how Brexit necessitates Britain's surrender of the moral high ground on the world stage. The EU has collectively faced down autocrats in Russia, China, Israel, Iran and Turkey over human rights abuses. When the EU stands determinedly together, it is difficult for bullying authoritarian states to take retaliatory measures against individual European nations.

As Britain attempts to go it alone, the land of the Magna Carta and the cradle of parliamentary democracy finds itself groveling and scraping before tinpot dictators to win trade deals, appease

**Political mainstream must rise to the challenge and define its strategy in this war against anti-liberal authoritarianism, while winning back disaffected communities vulnerable to far-right incitement.**

egos and avoid disfavor. A populist knee-jerk referendum vote for supposedly reasserting sovereignty has surrendered the UK's international relevance as a core European state, leaving the British Isles fading into humiliating dotage as a declining backwater.

As former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown warned last week, such insular, populist tendencies undermine the world's ability to muster a collective response to severe economic crises, humanitarian threats or genocide. The US' escalating trade war against friends and foes alike also exemplifies how populist leaders are resorting to petty, spiteful and counterpro-

ductive measures that ultimately punish their own most fervent supporters.

The Hungary vote may give MEPs a sense of righteous vindication, yet Orban and his cronies will become even more trenchant in mobilizing supporters against "liberal European elites." The last time European parliamentary democracy collapsed heralded the ascendance of Nazism, a world ripped apart by war and the senseless slaughter of millions in industrial-scale extermination camps. If this Pandora's box of hatred, prejudice and violence is unleashed again, should we expect the consequences to be fundamentally different a second time around?

Why is it only the ultranationalists who are mobilized and organized, with the likes of Bannon and Nigel Farage contributing their malevolent talents to subverting the mainstream? Why is it only populist propagandists who are tapping into the frustrations of ordinary citizens? Liberals appear so transfixed by the Mueller inquiry and Trump's Twitter feed that they miss the bigger picture of how the world is being deluged by an authoritarian tidal wave, exemplified by Vladimir Putin, Orban, Xi Jinping, Ali Khamenei and Recep

Tayyip Erdogan.

It is axiomatic to the liberal world view that mankind collectively benefits by working together to address global challenges. Compare this with fascism's nihilistic ideology that diametrically opposed civilizations are fated to fight to the death. How could such a narrative ever be considered populist?

The malign disease of fascism sets communities against each other, infiltrates and subverts institutions of state, and erodes the very foundations of democracy. The political mainstream must rise to the challenge and define its strategy in this war against anti-liberal authoritarianism, while winning back disaffected communities vulnerable to far-right incitement.

If they fail to vigorously block these extremists at every turn and mobilize the world behind an optimistic, progressive world view, then the political center ground will find itself brutally swept aside and banished to the margins, as the train of human progress thunders off its rails and plunges into hell.

(Baria Alamuddin is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK. She is editor of the Media Services Syndicate and has interviewed numerous heads of state.)

# pets cat murder

killer prowled his victims' cul-de-sacs over decades, peering through their windows at night. The most chilling thing was the suggestion that a side effect of suburban architecture is that the houses become stages for roadside audiences after dark, who watch their inhabitants dance from kitchen to sofa, to bathroom to bed. For all the apparent safety of these homes in the sticks, it seems they have the danger built in.

A year ago, after our baby was born, my partner and I moved to the area where I grew up, to a quiet street at the end of the Northern Line where the capital opens out into golf courses and garden centers, and I immediately began boring him with much existential whining about the shame of having returned to the safety of a life I'd thought left behind. Then, a month after we moved, our house was broken into. The bed was stained with muddy footprints — the burglar had turned over our furniture and opened my face cream, seemingly confused by the lack of jewelry. That night, tidying up, my partner said quietly, "I wonder what he thought of us." The city had broadcast its dangers, using sirens and loud lights, but we learned quickly the sub-

**Our pets are where we keep the stuff we can't put anywhere else — our fawning adoration, our aspirations for security and unconditional love, our grief. In the suburbs, more than just curtains are twitching.**

urbs hide theirs; here, on school fences, cartoon drawings warn of the threat of accidents and strangers' cars in cute, childish scribbles. Now we always keep a light on.

We bought our kitten shortly after the burglary, presenting it to our child with a jangly collar and promise of distant grief. "Here you go, love!" I said to my daughter. "Death! Vaccinated, purring death with green eyes, death that thinks shoelaces are mice." The suburbs had given us the space to teach our daughter about grief — there's only so much loss you can fit in a one-bedroom flat. And the kitten was easy to love. She crept

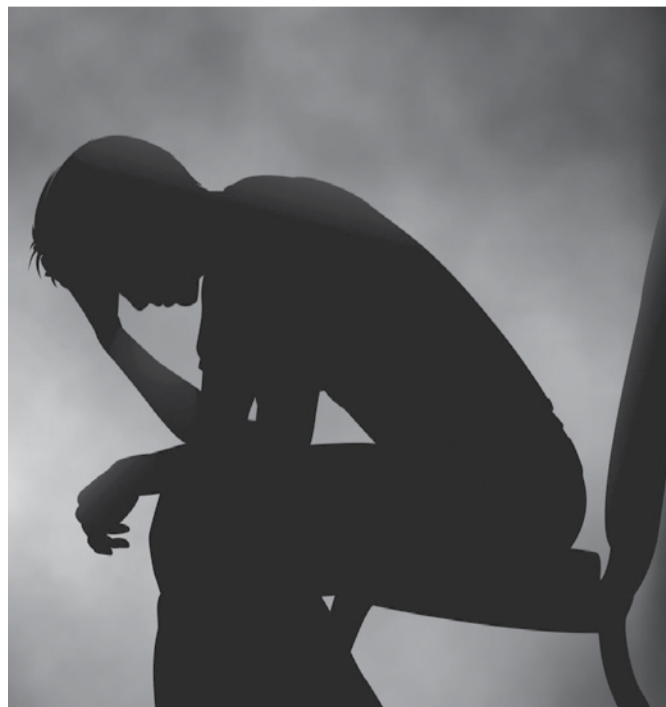
under our duvet at night and slept on my feet. We talked to her in song, and applauded her skill in climbing curtains. It was a couple of months later that I saw the post on a neighborhood website, alongside plant pots for sale, warning that the cat killer had arrived.

In August, after a Guardian writer pointed out that the cat killer story had "parallels with moral panics," The Croydon Advertiser reported that the writer had subsequently "been subjected to foul abuse." That same week, Jenkins suggested that, as the killer is someone he believes moves around for work, "There is certainly a possibility that a journalist" might be committing the crimes. There's a high-pitched madness here, and I don't like it, and neighbors are curfewing their cats, and there is a confluence of tensions as people look at their cats and see their own vulnerability. Our pets are where we keep the stuff we can't put anywhere else — our fawning adoration, our aspirations for security and unconditional love, our grief. In the suburbs, more than just curtains are twitching.

(Eva Wiseman is a columnist and editor at The Observer.)

## CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

### Alarming suicides



Visiting a therapist or a psychiatrist is considered a taboo in our society. And in my knowledge, majority would see the act of meeting a therapist as a sign of emotional incapability. This must change. Many lives can be saved by just talking to a person who is trained to handle complex emotions and psychiatrists are those who can guide people in the right direction. It is particularly unfortunate that so many expatriates are taking their lives, which could have been prevented with right counselling.

We need to be highly careful about what we value the most in life and how much. Even if we lose that, we should not lose ourselves.

Babu Padam



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Mohan Bhagwat gives Indian National Congress its due by saying its self-sacrificing leaders built a national movement & are an inspiration even today. In the end he said RSS was willing to work with anyone in a constructive way. Clearly a smart PR pitch for a broader engagement

@mkvenu1

02



Remember when Obama was president and Republicans pretended to care about the national debt? Now Trump and the Republicans have added more than \$1.5 trillion to the debt in the past year.

@keithboykin

03



Putin said he and Erdogan have yet to come to an agreement on Syria's Idlib. "I am very happy to see you, not only to exchange views on this entire range of issues, but also to search for solutions where we not yet have them," RIA Novosti quoted him telling Erdogan

@borzou

04



It will be a terrible mistake if #Trump withdraw our forces from Syria & leave it to the whims of #Putin, #Rouhani & #Erdogan. This won't only exclude the US from having a say about Syria's future but put Israel's & Jordan's security at risk & invite regional instability

@AlonBenMeir

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



WORLD  
world

# Pakistan pledges citizenship to Afghans, Bengali refugees

● Pakistan houses 1.4 million Afghan refugees

● There are also roughly a quarter of a million Bengalis

Karachi, Pakistan

Pakistan's new premier Imran Khan has vowed to give citizenship to some Afghan refugees and Bengali immigrants, officials confirmed yesterday, granting rights to many who have lived in the country for decades.

Pakistan, one of the world's largest refugee-hosting nations, is home to roughly 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees, some of whom have lived in the country since fleeing the Soviet invasion of 1979.

There are also roughly a quarter of a million Bengalis, many of whom arrived during Pakistan's civil war in 1971, when East Pakistan broke away to declare independence and become Bangladesh.

Khan, who visited Karachi on Sunday, told a fundraising dinner that his government would take steps to grant nationality to those who had been there longest.

"The first thing I will do going back (to Islamabad), God willing, is that we will get those people from Bangladesh, who are perhaps living here for more than 40 years and their children have grown older, issued passports and national identity cards," he said, according to footage of the dinner seen by AFP.

"And those Afghans whose children have grown older here, who were born in Pakistan, they would also be issued the passports and ID cards," he continued.

"When you are born in America, you get the American passport. It is the practice in every country in the world, so why not



Afghan women wait during the visit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi at the Azakhel Voluntary Repatriation Centre in Nowshera

here? How cruel it is for them." However he also noted that Bengali immigrants and Afghan refugees have created an "underclass" in Karachi that has

helped fuel street crime in the megacity of more than 20 million people.

Officials confirmed Khan's comments Monday and said a

draft policy would have to be prepared for cabinet before legislation could be written and debated in parliament.

Pakistanis have long viewed

## Austerity drive: Government begins car auctions

Reuters | Islamabad

Pakistan's new government yesterday began auctioning off about 100 government-owned vehicles as part of new Prime Minister Imran Khan's highly publicised cost-cutting drive.

Auction official Mohammad Asif said the vehicles could bring in about 2 billion rupees (\$16 million) to the cash-strapped government's coffers, although that estimate depends on finding buyers for four bullet-proof Mercedes, estimated in value together at 1 billion rupees.

The auction has been billed as part of Khan's drive to give "the nation's wealth to its rightful owners", though critics say most of the new government's



People visit an auction of government owned used cars at the premises of Prime Minister House in Islamabad

cost-cutting measures are more symbolism than significant savings.

"It is a change of mindset," Khan said in a speech on Friday.

"I will be counting every single rupee I have to spend on me."

Auctions of aging govern-

ment vehicles, for example, have taken place for years, though not so publicised.

The 36 Mercedes and BMW vehicles was a larger number than at previous auctions - and the sale offered bullet-proof luxury sedans estimated to be worth 250 million rupees (about \$2 million) each.

Still, nearly three-quarters of the 101 vehicles on offer were more than 10 years old, some noticeably knocked about. Two were 32-year-old Toyota Corollas.

Even if the auction were to bring in its projected 2 billion rupees, that is a drop in the bucket compared with the government's 5.9 trillion rupee (\$48.19 billion) budget, which projects a 1.7 trillion rupees in deficit spending.



Imran Khan, Pakistan's new premier

“The first thing I will do going back (to Islamabad), God willing, is that we will get those people from Bangladesh, who are perhaps living here for more than 40 years and their children have grown older, issued passports and national identity cards

IMRAN KHAN

PAKISTAN'S NEW PREMIER

Afghan refugees in particular suspiciously, with police accusing them of harassment and extortion. Many say they have overstayed their welcome.

In 2016 a wave of forced repatriations sparked fears of a humanitarian crisis, with Human Rights Watch issuing a scathing report describing Pakistan's "coercive" approach. It accused the government of arbitrary detentions and other violations.

The United Nations refugee agency welcomed Khan's announcement Monday.

"We will continue to work closely with the Government of Pakistan on this issue in the coming weeks," spokesman Qaiser Khan Afridi said.

## Turkey bolsters military presence in Syria's Idlib

Istanbul, Turkey

Turkey's military has sent its most significant batch of reinforcements to the northwestern Syrian province of Idlib in weeks, reports said Monday, as Ankara seeks to prevent a Moscow-backed assault by forces of President Bashar al-Assad.

The reports came as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan prepared to meet his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Sochi in a new bid to warn the Kremlin against seeking to take rebel-held Idlib by force.

## Superbug kills 6 newborns in SA

Johannesburg, South Africa

An outbreak of the Klebsiella pneumonia superbug that killed six newborns at a government hospital in Johannesburg has forced medics to close the facility's neo-natal and maternity wards.

The Thelle Mogoerane hospital in the eastern Johannesburg township of Vosloorus has been in the grip of the antibiotic resistant bacteria since July 11.

## Philippine ex-general jailed

Manila, Philippines

A retired Philippine army general was sentenced on Monday to decades behind bars over the 2006 disappearance of two activists.

Jovito Palparan, dubbed "The Butcher" by leftist groups for his brutal anti-insurgency tactics against communist guerillas, was convicted of kidnapping and handed a minimum term of 20 years by a court in Bulacan province.

## New evidence: Russia claims Ukraine downed flight MH17

Moscow, Russia

Russia's defence ministry yesterday said it was releasing fresh information to back its claim that the missile that downed a Malaysia Airlines flight over war-torn Ukraine in 2014 was fired by Kiev's forces.

At a briefing, the ministry said it was releasing the BUK missile's serial number for the first time and said that it was produced and sent to Ukraine in the Soviet era and had not been returned to Russian territory.

Russia has denied any responsibility for the shooting-down of the plane and has presented a number of theories pointing the finger at Kiev.

The Boeing 777 flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur crashed outside the rebel stronghold of Donetsk on July 17, 2014, killing all 298 on board, most of them Dutch nationals.

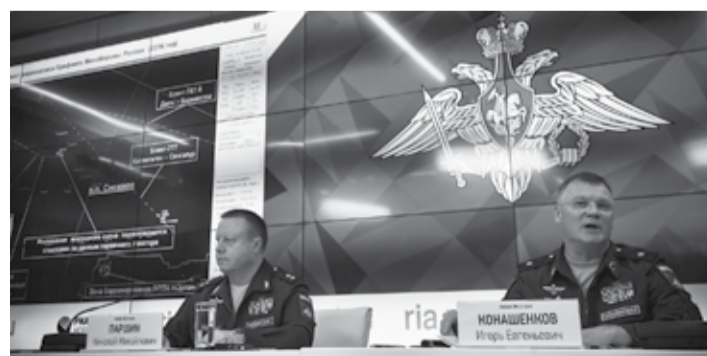
The European Union imposed damaging economic sanctions on Russia afterwards, blaming Russian-backed rebels in eastern Ukraine who shot down a number of other planes.

A top Dutch investigator said his team had concluded that the plane was shot down by a Russian-made BUK missile from a Russian military brigade in the southwestern city of Kursk.

The Netherlands and Australia in May directly blamed Russia for the attack.

“The missile with the serial number 886847379 intended for the BUK missile system on December 29, 1986 was sent by rail transport to military unit number 20152

NIKOLAI PARSHIN,  
A SENIOR MILITARY OFFICIAL



Russia's defence ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov (R) and the Chief of the Main Rocket and Artillery Department Lt. Gen. Nikolai Parshin attend a press briefing

"The missile with the serial number 886847379 intended for the BUK missile system on December 29, 1986 was sent by rail transport to military unit number 20152," said a senior military official, Nikolai Parshin, quoted by RIA Novosti state

news agency.

He said the military unit referred to was based in Ukraine, then a Soviet republic, adding that this information was classified "top secret."

"After the breakup of the Soviet Union, it (the missile) was not brought onto Russian soil and was incorporated into the Ukrainian armed forces," he said. Russia said it had sent the information on the missile to the Netherlands.

The ministry also said that video footage used by an international commission investigating the incident showing the BUK missile being transported into rebel-held eastern Ukraine was faked.



# Mangkhut leaves trail of destruction in Hong Kong

The storm, with gusts of more than 230 kilometres per hour (142 mph), sent buildings swaying and water surging into homes and shopping malls in Hong Kong

● **Landslide kills dozens in Philippines**

● **Four more were killed in China's Guangdong**

● **More than 155,000 people remain in evacuation centres in the Philippines**

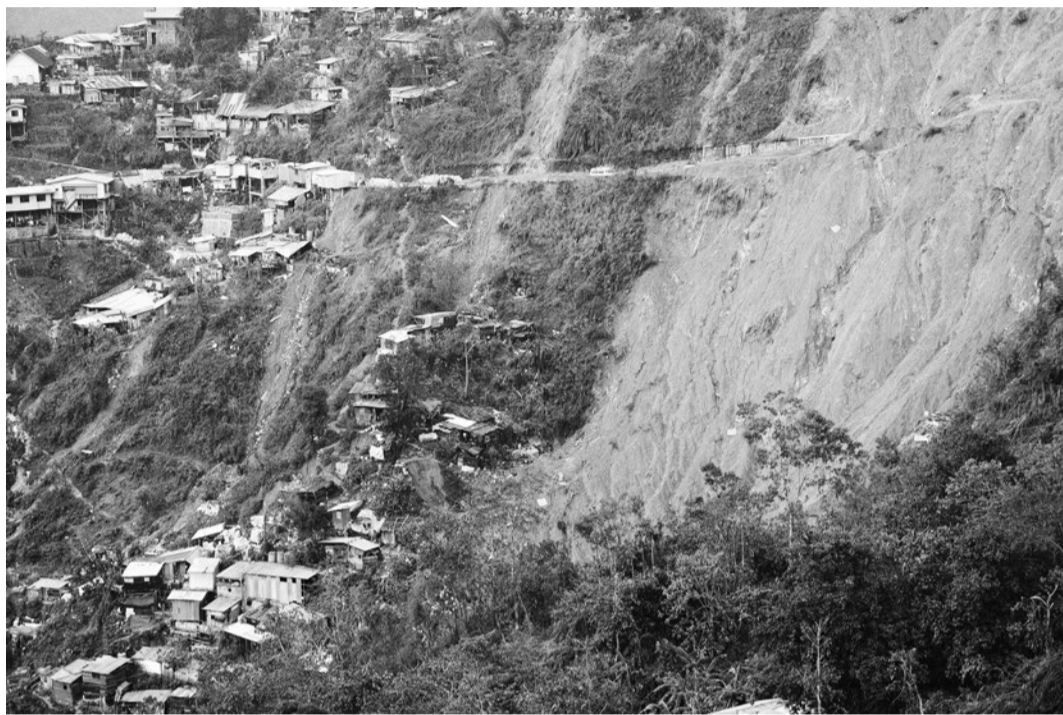
**Itoyon, Philippines**

Philippine rescuers yesterday searched desperately for dozens feared buried under a landslide unleashed by Typhoon Mangkhut, which also left a trail of destruction in Hong Kong and saw millions evacuated in southern China.

The confirmed death toll across the northern Philippines, where the main island of Luzon was mauled by fierce winds and rain, reached 65 and was expected to rise further given the number of missing.

Four more were killed in China's southern province of Guangdong.

Searchers used shovels and bare hands to dig through mounds of rocky soil in the



A general view shows the landslide site due to heavy rains brought about by Typhoon Mangkhut in Itoyon, Benguet province

northern Philippine mountain town of Itoyon, where 11 bodies have been pulled from the rubble and dozens more may still be trapped after a landslide buried an emergency shelter.

Relatives of the missing were among those taking part in the search for survivors, with little hope they are still alive.

"We believe that those people there, maybe 99 percent, are already dead," the town's mayor Victorio Palangdan told reporters.

Tearful families surrounded a whiteboard bearing names of the dead and missing as others inspected recovered bodies for signs these could be their loved

ones.

Joan Catted, 42, told AFP her missing cousin Harvey had taken shelter at the bunkhouse.

"He texted his wife not to worry. He said nothing bad will happen to him and that once the rain stops, he will go up. But he hasn't returned until now."

More than 155,000 people

remain in evacuation centres in the Philippines two days after Mangkhut -- the world's most powerful storm this year -- struck, said national police spokesman Benigno Durana.

Across northern Luzon, which produces much of the nation's rice and corn, farms were under muddy floodwater, their crops ruined just a month before harvest.

Hong Kong began a massive clean-up Monday after the typhoon raked the city, shredding trees and bringing damaging floods in a trail of destruction.

The government of the high-rise city described the damage as "severe and extensive" with more than 300 people injured.

The monumental task of cleaning up began as residents, some in suits and ties, struggled to get back to work on roads that remained blocked by felled trees, mud and debris.

Bus services were halted and commuters piled onto platforms trying to board infrequent trains after trees fell on overhead power lines. Schools will remain closed through Tuesday.

Landslides and severe flooding affected some areas, with over 1,500 residents seeking refuge in temporary shelters overnight.

## Rubicon group claims Iran embassy attack

**Athens, Greece**

An anarchist group attacked the Iranian embassy in Athens early Monday, smashing windows and throwing red paint into the courtyard in protest at Tehran's treatment of its Kurdish population, police said.

"The attack was claimed by the Rubicon group," a police official told AFP, adding that no arrests had yet been made.

The attack was carried out by about 10 members of the group at about 0300 GMT who, armed with iron bars, took the guard by surprise and then smashed windows in the waiting room.

Nobody was hurt in the incident, police said.

In a statement on the internet, the Rubicon group claimed the attack as a gesture of solidarity with the "Kurds of Iran".

The Rubicon group has carried out a series of similar attacks in recent years, targeting embassies, companies and public buildings, causing damage but no injuries.

In August, members of the group burst into the Austrian embassy, protesting against Vienna's plans to extend the working day.

## US to replace commander in S. Korea

**Seoul, South Korea**

Washington is set to replace the commander of US forces in South Korea amid a rapid diplomatic thaw on the peninsula, even as denuclearisation of the North stalls.

The US stations 28,500 troops in the South, a treaty ally, to defend it against its nuclear-armed neighbour, which invaded in 1950, triggering the Korean War.

General Robert B. Abrams, commander of the US Army Forces Command, will undergo a confirmation hearing next week to be head of US Forces Korea (USFK), the Senate Armed Services Committee's website showed.

If his nomination is approved, he will succeed General Vincent Brooks as commander of USFK, the UN Command and the South Korea-US Combined Forces Korea, who has been in the post since April 2016.

## Protests paralyse Ethiopia capital as violence kills 23

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Demonstrators flooded the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on Monday, blocking roads and shutting businesses in an explosion of anger following the killing of 23 people on the city's outskirts over the weekend.

The unrest in Ethiopia's largest city was the latest instance of ethnic violence to challenge Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who has undertaken aggressive reforms including reigning in the security forces since his April inauguration.

Police appeared spread thin as groups of mostly young men waving protest flags and tree branches jogged through

neighbourhoods across the city to denounce the weekend killings in the Burayu suburb.

Ethiopia's police chief, Zeynu Jemal, said officers had shot dead five people on Monday, describing them as "dangerous vagrants" who attempted to loot property and steal police weapons.

State-owned Ethiopia News Agency (ENA) said the violence in Burayu was carried out by an organised mob, who looted, killed and forced 886 people out of their homes, citing Alemayehu Ejigu, police commissioner for the Oromia region that surrounds Addis Ababa and includes Burayu.

Local media reported up to 200 arrests.

## Over 28pc of Japanese population officially old

**Tokyo, Japan**

More than 28 per cent of Japan's population is now officially classified as elderly according to government data, the highest rate in the world as the first wave of postwar baby boomers enter old age.

Those aged 65 or older now make up a record 35.6 million, or 28.1pc of the total population, the government said Sunday.

The proportion is the highest by far in the world, ahead of 23.3pc in Italy, 21.9pc in Portugal and 21.7pc in Germany,



Those aged 65 or older now make up a record 35.6 million

according to UN data for those countries.

The government also said those aged 70 or older accounted for 20.7pc of the population, surpassing 20pc for the first time.

The figures show the nation's postwar baby boomers are now entering old age, it said.

The demographic shift is due to a combination of a low birth-rate and long life expectancy.

Japan's rapidly greying population poses a major headache for policymakers who are faced with trying to ensure an ever-dwindling pool of workers can pay for the growing number of pensioners.

## Sri Lanka president tells diplomats: pick up phone or pack up

**Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Sri Lanka's president yesterday justified his decision to sack six diplomats -- including an ambassador -- for not answering his phone calls, saying more would follow if the foreign service did not shape up.

Maithripala Sirisena was criticised for the shock dismissal last week of his top envoy to Austria and five other Vienna-based staff after his office tried un-

successfully for hours to reach them by phone.

"I am being attacked ferociously over social media for recalling the entire embassy staff. Yes, I did that to send a powerful message to other embassies," Sirisena told a public meeting in Colombo.

He said he ordered the sacking of ambassador Priyanee Wijesekera and five other staff to set an example.

Sirisena did not say why he



Representative picture (Courtesy of Getty images)

needed to contact the embassy urgently, or why other avenues were not explored to reach the staffers.

The Sri Lankan embassy in Austria is accredited to UN bodies in Vienna, as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia.

It was the second time in days that Sirisena has raised eyebrows.

Last week, he flew into a rage

over nuts served aboard SriLankan Airlines, the island's national carrier, saying they were unfit for animals.

"Returning from Kathmandu, I was served some cashews on board a SriLankan flight, but it was so bad even a dog wouldn't eat it," he said.

An airline spokesman said it had cleared its stock of cashews -- only served in business class -- and would change its Dubai-based supplier.



# WORLD

## features

# Mozambique's gem wars

Ruby rush brings 'hell' not riches to Mozambique village

*The village of Nthoro sitting atop the ruby deposits has been targeted by gangs -- allegedly backed by police -- who have burnt homes and smashed belongings in an apparent attempt to force residents to move.*



Illegal miners stand on top of a ditch where they search for precious stones

AFP | Montepuez, Mozambique

Nearly a decade after rubies were first found in northern Mozambique, the discovery has proven a poisoned chalice, says traditional local ruler Cristina Joaquim.

Instead of riches and reward, what could have been a windfall has brought harassment, violence and even a local ban on farming.

The village of Nthoro sitting atop the ruby deposits has been targeted by gangs -- allegedly backed by police -- who have burnt homes and smashed belongings in an apparent attempt to force residents to move.

On the road to the village of around 12,000, dozens of signs warn villagers: "You're in the mining concession area of MRM. It is forbidden to farm, cultivate, build homes or do any mining." Montepuez Ruby Mining

(MRM), a subsidiary of London-based Gemfields, won the mining rights to 36,000 hectares (89,000 acres) of ruby-rich land in the former Portuguese colony in 2011.

Discovery of the precious red gemstone by a local woodcutter just nine years ago sparked a "ruby rush" in Mozambique, which now accounts for 80 percent of the world's production.

From 2014 to June 2017, MRM held eight auctions of rubies from Mozambique, raising more than \$280 million (240 million euros), according to government data.

"In this village we had a good life, but when our land became a mining concession area, everything changed," Queen Cristina, dressed in a traditional "capulana" skirt and headwrap, told AFP.

"Because they say they are going to resettle us, they don't allow us to do farming, build new houses.



"Many people have fled because of police torture, famine, burning houses. Only few people remained -- those who resist."

### Fenced off

Conditions in Nthoro are a far cry from the lifestyle enjoyed by those able to pay more than

\$21,000 for a ruby engagement ring by fabled luxury jeweller Faberge, which has been acquired by Gemfields.

Located in the Montepuez district of Cabo Delgado province, Nthoro has no piped water or electricity and its houses are built of wooden stakes and dried grass.

A security fence surrounds the village, with only one gate overseen by guards.

Nthoro, a clearing cut from thick forest, is planted with mango, coconut and papaya trees, and chickens scratch in the dirt.

The only sign of public services is a police station, which is staffed by a special military police unit rather than civilian officers.

Cristina accuses the authorities of wanting to drive villagers off the land to avoid having to resettle them elsewhere.

"I urge the company to resettle us so we can move away from this hell. We always refer these

issues to the government, but the government never answers," she said.

### Legal action

MRM is 75-percent owned by Gemfields and the rest by Mwiriti Limitada, a Mozambican company co-owned by army General Raimundo Pachinupapa -- a senior member of the ruling Frelimo party.

Just 10 minutes away from Nthoro, the mining company's main camp has power, running water, restaurants and even a health clinic.

Nthoro's residents are among thousands of people living within MRM's vast concession area who are facing relocation under Mozambican law.

"We no longer have any place for farming. The mining company forbids us. We can't move freely because in certain areas the company forbids it," Joao Carimo, another community leader, told AFP as other locals cheered him on.

"Those who burned our houses are police officers and security guards at the mine," he alleged.

Police deny any wrongdoing. Determined to fight back, about 100 Mozambicans have joined a lawsuit in Britain alleging serious human rights abuses.

London-based law firm Leigh Day issued proceedings at the High Court against Gemfields in April.

The claimants allege that they have been shot at, beaten and unlawfully detained, with four families saying their sons were shot dead by security forces at the mine.

### New settlement delays

Gemfields told AFP it could not comment on the claims because of the court proceedings but said it took "allegations of this nature extremely seriously and denounce(d) any form of violence or abuse."

It added that 105 families would be resettled from Nthoro under a \$10-million project to establish a new settlement nearby with water, power, a school, market, mosque and church.

"Defining which village families are to be relocated... was carried out by a third-party consultant in a lengthy and thorough process," Gemfields said in an email.

Gemfields said the new settlement's foundation stone was laid in April and the relocation was scheduled to take two years.

The local government said it was applying pressure over apparent delays to the construction. "They should have started homes this year so we are worried," district government official Fabiao Namiva told AFP. "But we also value things the company is doing -- paying taxes and organising mobile clinics and employment training. The communities are benefiting from it. The only issue is the resettlement."

For one villager, Jeronimo Amade, 45, the rubies have brought only a desire to leave the area and start a new life.

"I just want to be compensated and get out of here," he said. "I have seen people killed, many houses burned down. All because of the resources discovered in our land."



An illegal miner digs between rocks

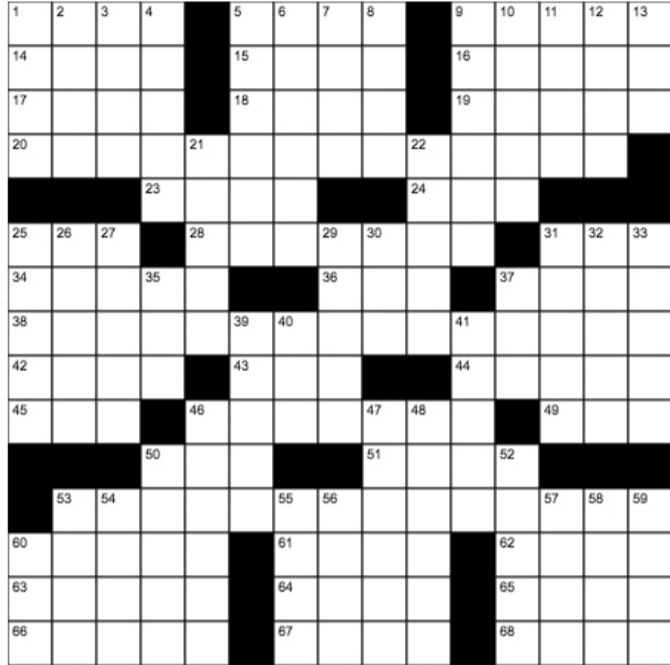
**"In this village we had a good life, but when our land became a mining concession area, everything changed. Because they say they are going to resettle us, they don't allow us to do farming, build new houses.**

QUEEN CRISTINA



# entertainment

## CROSSWORD



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



53- Cluster; 60- Compass point; 61- Roster used to assign duties; 62- Isolated; 63- Stand used by painters; 64- Arabian gulf; 65- Sometimes you feel like \_\_\_\_; 66- Renown; 67- Social misfit; 68- Flat sound;

### Down

1- Not acid; 2- "Roots" author Haley; 3- Ooze; 4- Male voice; 5- Capital of Lesotho; 6- Small upright piano; 7- Present; 8- French actor Jacques; 9- Child's toy; 10- Let me repeat...; 11- Other, in Oaxaca; 12- Small gull; 13- Bond, for one; 21- Wynonna's mom; 22- Big name in insurance; 25- Choreographer de Mille; 26- Sphere; 27- Chopper topper; 29- Flat circular plates; 30- Hill dweller; 31- Cream of the crop; 32- Office solution; 33- Encourage; 35- Have; 37- Commercials; 39- Bring up the rear; 40- That guy; 41- Bellini opera; 46- Extremely; 47- Wobble; 48- Run chore; 50- Lay to rest; 52- Collection of maps, Titan of Greek mythology; 53- Lumpy fuel; 54- Roughly; 55- Port of Algeria; 56- Method; 57- Electrically charged particles; 58- Blame; 59- Takes home; 60- Not pos.;

### Across

1- Strong woody fiber; 5- High-ranking NCO; 9- Mob scenes; 14- Toward the sheltered side; 15- Capital of Western Samoa; 16- \_\_\_ in the right direction; 17- Spotted; 18- Separate by a sieve; 19- Loiter; 20- Raising of a number to a power; 23- Steak order; 24- Antiquity, in antiquity; 25- Cabinet dept.; 28- Make obsolete; 31- Somme summer; 34- Dimness; 36- Roadhouse; 37- Sleep like \_\_\_; 38- In spite of; 42- Black, to Blake; 43- Rock's Ocasek; 44- Bony prefix; 45- Sun. talk; 46- Short-tailed, burrowing rodent; 49- East ender?; 50- "Rocky \_\_\_" (1982); 51- Humorist Bombeck;

## BEETLE BAILEY



## WORD OF THE DAY

### Chiliad

#### Definition:

1 : a group of 1000  
2 : a period of 1000 years; especially : one reckoned from the beginning of the Christian era

#### Did You Know?

What's the difference between a chiliad and a millennium? Not much: both are a period of 1000 years. While millennium is more widely used, chiliad is actually older. Chiliad first appeared in the late 1500s and was originally used to mean "a group of

1000," as in "a chiliad of arrows"; millennium didn't make its way into written English until some decades later, in the early 1600s. Not surprisingly, both words trace back to roots that mean "thousand." Millennium comes from Latin mille, and chiliad is a descendant of Greek chilioi.

## SUDOKU



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



#### How to play

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

## YOUR STAR TODAY



### Aries

Romance continues to soar today. You should feel especially sexy. You're likely to attract admiring glances from those around you, including strangers. If you're single, you might even attract an exciting new love partner. If you're already involved, your beloved could fall in love with you all over again.



### Taurus

You could feel like a millionaire today. Money matters seem to surpass your expectations. You might want to spend time fixing up your home or perhaps shopping for yourself. Do you have a hot date tonight? A sexy new item might make your friend's eyes pop! Increased self-confidence adds even more juice.



### Gemini

Someone you've never met before who you find exceedingly attractive could pass you today. You might decide to go say hello and discover not only a physical attraction but an intellectual compatibility as well. Your feelings are probably reciprocated! If you're single, this attraction might be worth pursuing.



### Cancer

Career and money matters continue to go well for you, and probably romance, too. Your life may be the envy of others, but you probably feel there's still something missing. This is a good day to explore metaphysical and spiritual studies. It's a time of transition, and this sort of interest can make things easier for you.



### Leo

Romance and creativity are the driving forces in your life today. You might find that feelings for a special person provide lots of inspiration for creative projects. Your creative energy makes you that much more attractive to the one you love most. This could prove to be an emotionally and aesthetically satisfying day.



### Virgo

You tend to be down to Earth and practical, but now you feel like indulging in some flights of fancy. Romance or fantasy novels could be appealing right now. You might even toy with the idea of writing one of your own. If you're romantically involved, your sweetheart might want to take you out for a special dinner.



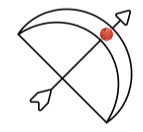
### Libra

An affectionate letter, phone call, or email could come to you from an old friend, expressing gratitude for past favours. This is going to make you feel warm and loving toward this person, and you'll want to reciprocate in kind. Invite him or her for coffee and have a long conversation. The bond between you is strong.



### Scorpio

Have you been thinking about changing careers? You might hear of some opportunities today, possibly through a colleague. This could be the right time to make a change. Positive professional developments are indicated for you. List your options and then do some research on each one.



### Sagittarius

You may feel especially warm and loving, and romance could be on your mind. Time spent with a love partner from another state or country might seem appealing. This is a great day to schedule an intimate evening alone with your friend and see where it takes you. All signs indicate that your friend returns your feelings.



### Capricorn

Erotic dreams could wake you up in a strange mood. You could long for a romantic encounter, but the impact is likely to be stronger than that. These intense dreams might stimulate your creative juices. If you aren't currently working on a project, ideas could flood your imagination. Let them stew for a while.



### Aquarius

You might find yourself reeling from shock when an old friend suddenly seems to show romantic interest in you. Conflicting emotions could come up, but don't write it off if you're available. There could be potential for a good relationship. Don't feel that you have to either jump right in or forget the whole thing.



### Pisces

Today you may be asked to speak to a gathering or lead a discussion group. You tend to be shy, but today you'll be all for it and enjoy being in the limelight, albeit temporarily. You'll certainly shine, and others may pay you sincere compliments. After the event, go to an intimate cafe with friends or love partner.



# SHOW

**THE PREDATOR (15+)**  
(ACTION/HORROR/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION) NEW  
⊛ BOYD HOLBROOK, TREVANTE RHODES, JACOB TREMBLAY  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM  
DAILY AT: (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)  
DAILY AT (ATMOS): 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN  
DAILY AT (VIP I): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: (1.00 AM, THURS./FRI.)  
**SAAR** DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM  
**SEEF (I)** DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM  
**SAAR** DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + (11.30 PM, THURS./FRI.)  
**WADI AL SAIL** DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

**A SIMPLE FAVOR (I)**  
(THRILLER/CRIME/DRAMA) NEW  
⊛ ANNA KENDRICK, BLAKE LIVELY, HENRY GOLDING  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN  
**SAAR** DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + (11.15 PM, THURS./FRI.)  
**WADI AL SAIL** DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

**MANMARZIYAAN**  
(15+) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW  
⊛ ABHISHEK BACHCHAN, TAPSEE PANNU, VICKY KAUSHAL  
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM  
**SEEF (I)** DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN  
**SAAR** DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + (11.00 PM, THURS./FRI.)  
**WADI AL SAIL** DAILY AT: 3.15 + 8.45 PM

**FINAL SCORE**  
(15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME) NEW  
⊛ DAVE BAUTISTA, PIERCE BROSNAN, RAY STEVENSON  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM  
**WADI AL SAIL** DAILY AT: 2.30 + 7.00 + 11.30 PM

**JULIET, NAKED**  
(15+) (COMEDY/DRAMA/ROMANTIC) NEW  
⊛ ROSE BYRNE, ETHAN HAWKE, JIMMY O. YANG  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 10.30 AM, + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM

**PETTER PAN: THE QUEST FOR NEVER BOOK**  
(PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE)  
⊛ SARAH NATCHENNY  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 PM

**THE NUN**  
(18+) (HORROR/THRILLER) NEW  
⊛ TAISSA FARMIGA, DEMIAN BICHIR, BONNIE AARONS  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 10.30 AM, + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN. + (12.30 MN THURS./FRI.)

**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS./FRI.)  
**SAAR** DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 PM. + (11.15 PM, THURS./FRI.)  
**WADI AL SAIL** DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM

**THE MEG**  
(PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER)  
⊛ JASON STATHAM, RUBY ROSE, BINGBING LI  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 11.00 AM, + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM. + (12.30 MN THURS./FRI.)  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN  
**WADI AL SAIL** DAILY AT: 12.45 + 6.15 + 11.45 PM

**EL BADLASH**  
(PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY)  
⊛ TAMER HOSNY, AKRAM HOSNI, MAJED EL MASRY, AMINA KHALIL  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM  
DAILY AT (VIP II): 11.00 AM + 1.15 + 3.30 + 5.45 + 8.00 + 10.15 PM + (12.30 MN, THURS./FRI.)  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN  
**WADI AL SAIL** DAILY AT: 12.15 + 4.45 + 9.15 PM

**PEPPERMINT**  
(PG-15) (ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA) NEW  
⊛ JENNIFER GARNER, RICHARD CABRAL, JOHN GALLAGHER JR.  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 2.45 + 7.00 + 11.15 PM  
**WADI AL SAIL** DAILY AT: 2.30 + 6.45 + 11.00 PM

**ALPHA**  
(PG-13) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA) NEW  
⊛ KODI SMIT-MCPHEE, JOHANNES HAUKEUR JOHANNESSEN  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 PM  
**WADI AL SAIL** DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 4.45 + 9.00 PM

**12-REPRISAL**  
(PG-15) (ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)  
⊛ BRUCE WILLIS, FRANK GRILLO, JOHNATHON SCHAECH  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM

**THE EQUALIZER- 2**  
(15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME)  
⊛ DENZEL WASHINGTON, PEDRO PASCAL, ASHTON SANDERS  
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

**MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE FALLOUT**  
(PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME)  
⊛ TOM CRUISE, HENRY CAVILL, VING RHAMES  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 2.00 + 5.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + 12.00 MN

**15-HOTELTRANSYLVANIA 3: SUMMER**  
(PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/DRAMA)  
⊛ ADAM SANDLER, ANDY SAMBERG, FRAN DRESCHER

**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 PM

**MILE 22**  
(15+) (ACTION/THRILLER)  
⊛ MARK WAHLBERG, LAUREN COHAN, IKO UWAIS  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.15 + 10.30 PM

**SKYSCRAPER**  
(PG-13) (ACTION/THRILLER/DRAMA)  
⊛ DWAYNE JOHNSON, NEVE CAMPBELL, PABLO SCHREIBER  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.00 + 8.15 PM

**CHRISTOPHER ROBIN**  
(PG) (FAMILY/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)  
⊛ EWAN MCGREGOR, HAYLEY ATWELL, BRONTE CARMICHAEL  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 PM

**DESTINATION WEDDING**  
(18+) (DRAMA/COMEDY/ROMANTIC) NEW  
⊛ KEANU REEVES, WINONA RYDER, DJ DALLENBACH  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM

**THE HOWS OF US**  
(PG-15) (FILIPINO/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW  
⊛ KATHRYN BERNARDO, DANIEL PADILLA, DARREN ESPANTO  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

**LUIS AND THE ALIENS**  
(PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW  
⊛ CALLUM MALONEY, DERMOT MAGENNIS, IAN COPPINGER  
**SEEF (I)** DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 PM

**RANAM**  
(MALAYALAM) NEW  
⊛ PRITHVIRAJ SUKUMARAN, ISHA TALWAR, CELINE JOSEPH, RAHMAN  
**SEEF (I)** DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM  
**AL HAMRA** DAILY AT: 3.00 + 9.00 PM

**SEEMA RAJA**  
(TAMIL) NEW  
⊛ SIVAKARTHIKEYAN, SAMANNTHA, SIMRAN, SOORI  
**SEEF (I)** DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM  
**AL HAMRA** DAILY AT: 6.00 PM + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)

**U TURN**  
(TELUGU) NEW  
⊛ SAMANTHA RUTH PRABHU, AADHI, RAHUL RAVINDRAN  
**SEEF (I)** DAILY AT: 2.15 + 8.15 PM  
7-4U TURN (TAMIL) NEW  
**SEEF (I)** DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 5.15 + 11.15 PM

**STREE**  
(15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/HORROR)  
⊛ RAJKUMMAR RAO, SHRADDHA KAPOOR, PANKAJ TRIPATHI  
**SEEF (I)** DAILY AT: 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

**SHAILAJA REDDY**  
(TELUGU) NEW  
⊛ NAGA CHAITANYA, ANU EMMANUEL, RAMYA KRISHNAN  
**AL HAMRA** DAILY AT: 12.00 NOON



Boyzone band members

## Boyzone would like to team up with Spice Girls

FIANS | Los Angeles

All-men band Boyzone have said they would like to join forces with the Spice Girls to form a super group in the same way as Busta and McFly did when they created McBusted. Boyzone features Ronan Keating, Shane Lynch, Mikey Graham and Keith Duffy, who are planning to call time on their 25-year career after a final tour in 2019. Duffy quipped: "We've spoken to the girls - and this is an exclusive - we are going to do a SpiceZone, like the McBusted thing. All of them (will do it)!" The Spice Girls reunion has been shrouded in mys-

tery, with no definite plans in place but Keating believes Geri Horner, Emma Bunton, Mel C and Mel B will be reuniting without Victoria Beckham, and even with a reduced lineup, he thinks it will be "great" to have them back, reports femalefirst.co.uk. He said: "I believe they are getting back without Posh and I think it's great to have the girls back in whatever shape, the music was brilliant, it was a very important time for pop music, Take That, Boyzone and the Spice Girls, and they were a phenomenon, they were huge globally, the movement, girl power, was a brilliant thing so it will be great to have them back."

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JAVAMOTORSBH

### Joaquin Phoenix's first look as Joker revealed

PTI | Los Angeles

Joker' director, Todd Phillips, has released the first look of Joaquin Phoenix as the titular character. Phillips captioned the Instagram image with just "Arthur", the iteration of the Joker's name before he took on his mononym. The film is described as an "exploration of a man disre-



Joaquin Phoenix in his joker look

garded by society that is not only a gritty character study, but also a broader cautionary tale." The origin story will be set in 1980s Gotham City, with the Wayne family represented by its patriarch, Thomas. Scott Silver co-wrote the script with Phillips. The film is scheduled to hit theatres on October 4, 2019.

### Paul McCartney scores US No. 1 after nearly four decades



Paul McCartney

Paul McCartney is back on the top of the charts, on Sunday earning his first solo number-one album in the United States in 36 years. "Egypt Station" -- a confident 16-track album in which McCartney experiments with a younger rock feel in addition to his classic Beatles sound -- marked the first time that he has ever debuted as a solo artist on top of the benchmark US Billboard chart. The English legend -- who at 76 retains a hectic touring schedule -- spared no promotional effort for the album, appearing on US late-night shows and livestreaming an

invite-only concert inside New York's Grand Central Station. Surprisingly, McCartney did not replicate the feat in his native Britain, where "Egypt Station" debuted at number three, with veteran US rapper Eminem's surprise album "Kamikaze" reigning for a second week. "Egypt Station" sold the equivalent of 153,000 copies in the United States in the week since its release on September 7, tracking service Nielsen Music said. Unusually for a chart-topping album in recent years, virtually all of the sales were traditional purchases rather than through streaming or individually downloaded tracks.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I, PURATHUTTU ABRAHAM RAJU S/O K ABRAHAM**, holding Indian Passport No. H 0711071, dated 02.11.2008 issued at **BAHRAIN**, having permanent residence at (full address in India) **PURATHUTTU HOUSE, PAZHAVANGADI, P.O., RANNY, PATHANAMTHITTA, KERALA**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) **FLAT 22, BUILDING 1182, ROAD 831, BLOCK 708, SALMABAD, KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN** will henceforth be known as (Given name) **PURATHUTTU ABRAHAM** (Surname) **RAJU**. Objection(s) if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O Box 26106, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

**I, MUKESH RANI D/O SUNIL KUMAR**, holding Indian Passport No. H 3005566, dated 03.02.2009 issued at **CHANDIGARH**, having permanent residence at (full address in India) **977/ 2ND FLOOR, SECTOR -28, PANCHKULA, 134112**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) **FLAT 11, BUILDING- 312, ROAD-1910, BLOCK- 319, HOORA, KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN** will henceforth be known as (Given name) **MUKESH** (Surname) **RANI**. Objection(s) if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O Box 26106, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

**I, RAMAN KUMAR S/O MUKHITAR RAM**, holding Indian Passport No. H 3454728, dated 21.01.2009 issued at **JALANDHAR**, having permanent residence at (full address in India) **VPO GARCHA, DISTT NAWANSHAHR, PUNJAB**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Building. 914, Road. 31, Block. 623, Kingdom of Bahrain will henceforth be known as (Given name) **RAMAN** (Surname) **KUMAR**. Objection(s) if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O Box 26106, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

### Ruby Rose flaunts martial arts skills

AFF | Los Angeles

Actress Ruby Rose, who is getting ready to play lesbian Batwoman in a new series, showed off her martial arts skills on Instagram. On Saturday, Rose gave a sneak-peak at her martial arts training, which is likely to be part of her preparations for the iconic role. The model-turned-actress looked to be in serious Zen mode as she followed her instructor's every move and instruction. She is dressed in full martial arts garb that included a robe, matching pants and a black cloth tied around her lean waist.



SPORTS  
sports

# Yates steps out of Sky shadows to reign in Spain

AFP | Madrid

Simon Yates stepped out of the shadows of British cycling giants Sky yesterday to secure his maiden Grand Tour triumph at the Tour of Spain for his Mitchelton team.

Yates, a former track racer whose road racing talents took him to the brink of victory in this year's Giro d'Italia, all but wrapped up overall victory on Saturday after yet another strong finish on the final mountain stage.

After a largely processional final stage to Madrid on Sunday claimed by Elia Viviani in a bunch sprint, the 26-year-old Englishman triumphed with a winning time of 82hr 5min 58sec, Enric Mas finishing second overall at 1:46 and Miguel Angel Lopez completing the podium.

"It's a really unbelievable experience. You know I was even nervous today coming into the circuit. Anything could happen, but now I finally pull it off, it's unbelievable," said Yates.

It was Yates' first victory in a three-week race and comes months after the stinging disappointment of losing the Giro d'Italia, having controlled the race for much of the opening two weeks last May.



Simon Yates

On that occasion, Sky leader Chris Froome capitalised on Yates' collapse in the mountains to secure the race's pink jersey and seal his third consecutive Grand Tour after winning the Tour de France and Tour of

Spain in 2017.

"I was very disappointed after the Giro. It took a long time to really get over that but I came here with renewed motivation, and I finally pulled it off."

Froome's Grand Tour-win-

**”**  
I was very disappointed after the Giro. It took a long time to really get over that but I came here with renewed motivation, and I finally pulled it off

SIMON YATES

ning streak came to an end in July, when teammate Geraint Thomas, who also honed his skills on the track, upset the Kenyan-born Briton to triumph at the Tour de France.

Yates' win on Sunday meant British riders have dominated all three Grand Tours in 2018.

He also took Britain's impressive streak of consecutive Grand Tour victories to five; although it won't be lost on British cycling aficionados that it was the first British win outside of Team Sky.

Thanks to their multi-million pound budget and ability to attract the best cyclists for specific roles and races, Sky are considered the 'Real Madrid' of the professional peloton.

## Brave CF announces open workouts in UAE



Jarrah Al Selawe the first welterweight contender from the Middle East along with his coach

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation will host the open workouts in Abu Dhabi at 06:00 PM on 19th September at the Primal Gym at Reem Island, Abu Dhabi.

The open workouts will be held ahead of Brave 16 marking the return of the event to Abu Dhabi, UAE. Brave 16 is held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The open workouts features the top fighters who are being represented in the fight card at Abu Dhabi. The open workouts will be followed by fan interaction and contests for the fans to take part.

The main event features Jarrah Al Selawe from Jordan facing the welterweight cham-

pion, Carlston Harris for the championship. In the co-main event, Elias Boudegzame from Algeria, will defend the featherweight championship against Bubba Jenkins from the USA.

The event also features major superstars including 10 times IBJJF legend, Bruno Malfacine, Team Lakay Fight Team from Philippines, Mohammad Fakhreddine from Lebanon and the undefeated Mounir Lazzez.

The open workouts is aimed to promote martial arts and the message of adopting a healthy and disciplined lifestyle among the youth. A total of 16 nations will be represented in the 16th edition of the promotion soon to be hosted on 21st September at the Mubadala Arena in UAE.

## Nibali, Aru make provisional Italy team for cycling worlds

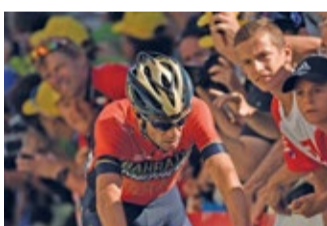
AFP | Milan

Veteran Italian cycling stars Vincenzo Nibali and Fabio Aru have been selected for a provisional 12-man Italy team for the road race world championships in Austria this month.

The two all-rounders struggled during the Tour of Spain, which ended on Sunday.

Former 'Vuelta' winner, Aru, 28, crashed on the Spanish stage race while 33-year-old Nibali, who has won all the Grand Tours including the Tour de France in 2014, has struggled for form.

The pair were selected alongside Domenico Poz-



Vincenzo Nibali

zovivo, Gianluca Brambilla, Damiano Caruso and Gianni Moscon, winner of the Italian one-day race the Coppa Agostoni at the weekend, who has returned in form from his five-week suspension for violent conduct during the Tour de France. The world championships are held in Innsbruck from September 22 to 30.

## Finch faces dilemma for Test debut

AFP | Sydney

Hard-hitting Australian Aaron Finch has been a dominant opener in shorter forms of the game but admits he may have to curb his natural aggression if he makes his Test debut against Pakistan.

The 31-year-old master-blasters has played 135 times for his country in the one-day and Twenty20 formats, earning a reputation as one of the world's fastest-scoring batsmen.

But the burly right-hander has never played a Test.

This is likely to change next month after he was a surprise call-up for Australia's two-Test series against Pakistan in the

United Arab Emirates, raising the dilemma of whether to stay true to his natural style or tone it down.

He said yesterday it will depend where they want him to play.

"Being aggressive has made me reasonably successful in international cricket in the two shorter formats so I suppose it depends where in the order they see me fitting in if there is a spot for me in the XI," he said.

"If it's at the top, I think it's about playing your natural game, if it's in the middle there'll obviously be times you come in against a lot of spin and the ball's reversing.

"So I'll sit down with the



Aaron Finch

coach and captain over the next week or so and start nutting out some plans."

But after plying his trade suc-

cessfully for more than a decade, Australia's T20 skipper and one-day international deputy is inclined to simply do what he does best -- score runs however he can.

"After 10 or 12 years you build up a game plan that works well for you and it's not about going right away from that because it's Test cricket or playing in the sub-continent," he said.

"I think it's about just changing your mindset slightly."

As well as his batting prowess, Finch brings vast experience to a squad missing Steve Smith and David Warner due to suspension over the South Africa ball-tampering scandal, and including four other debutants.

## Cibulkova to get first shot at US Open champ

AFP | Tokyo

Big-hitting Dominika Cibulkova will get her first crack at newly crowned US Open champion Naomi Osaka after squeaking into the last 16 of the Pan Pacific Open yesterday.

The beefy Slovak overcame the effects of jet-leg and pesky local qualifier Nao Hibino 6-1, 5-7, 6-3 to set up a potential slug-fest with Osaka in her first match since becoming Japan's first-ever grand slam singles champion.

"I'm still fighting with jet-leg but it's going to be a tough match (against



Naomi Osaka

Osaka)," said Cibulkova after a surprisingly tough first match in Tokyo. "She has just won a major so I hope

it's going to be packed and I hope for a good match."

Earlier, Spain's former world number one Garbine Muguruza breezed into second round, the sixth seed beating Switzerland's Belinda Bencic 6-2, 6-4. In other first-round matches, Italian Camila Giorgi overpowered Japan's Misaki Doi 6-2, 6-1 while Estonia's Anett Kontaveit floored Frenchwoman Kristina Mladenovic 6-3, 7-6.

Australia's Daria Gavrilova will need a lengthy ice bath after a marathon 7-6, 3-6, 7-6 victory over Czech Kristyna Pliskova that went to 10-8 in the third-set breaker.

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## Australia line up Kuwait for new coach's first game

AFP | Sydney

Australia yesterday lined up a friendly against Kuwait in what will be the first game in charge for new Socceroos coach Graham Arnold.

They will meet Romeo Jozak's side in Kuwait City on October 15 after a short training camp in the United Arab Emirates.

Arnold took over after Bert van Marwijk's temporary role in charge during the World Cup in Russia, where they failed to make it past the group stage for a third consecutive time.

## Bulls held by Rooney's DC despite Wright-Phillips hat-trick

AFP | Washington

English striker Bradley Wright-Phillips scored a hat-trick on Sunday for the New York Red Bulls, netting the last goal in the 90th minute to snatch a 3-3 draw at DC United.

It was the fifth Major League Soccer treble for Wright-Phillips, but wasn't enough to push the Red Bulls back above Atlanta United at the top of the Eastern Conference.

Former England and Manchester United star Wayne Rooney scored his fifth goal of the season for the US capital team.

## Former Ipswich and England defender Kevin Beattie dies aged 64

AFP | London

Former Ipswich Town and England central defender Kevin Beattie has died aged 64, the player's family announced Sunday.

Beattie, born in Carlisle, northern England, became a key member of the successful Ipswich side under future England manager Bobby Robson that won the FA Cup in 1978.

Beattie also won nine caps for England, scoring one goal, in a career cut short by injury.

## Frank Lampard hit with FA charge after sending off

Reuters | London

Derby County manager Frank Lampard was charged with improper conduct by the English Football Association yesterday after being sent to the stands during his team's 1-0 defeat by Rotherham United in the Championship at the weekend.

The former England and Chelsea midfielder was sent off for leaving his technical area to argue with a match official over the failure to award Derby a penalty after the ball appeared to strike the arm of Rotherham's



Frank Lampard

Derby County manager Frank Lampard has been charged following the game against Rotherham United on Saturday

Jon Taylor in the area.

Lampard could receive a one-match suspension if he is deemed to have used insulting language or behaviour towards

# Neymar smart to protect himself from injury - Klopp

AFP | Liverpool, United Kingdom

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp defended Neymar's play-acting at the World Cup and believes it will be impossible to completely snuff out the Brazilian's threat when Paris Saint-Germain visit Anfield in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Klopp insisted Neymar wasn't fully fit in Russia after breaking a bone in his foot in February that forced him to miss the rest of the club season with the French giants before the World Cup.

However, the world's most expensive player earned few plaudits for his performances and became a figure of fun for his constant feigning of injury as Brazil crashed out at the quarter-finals to Belgium.

"When I saw a few games at the World Cup and I know people are talking about that and it looked like he made a bit more of situations. But it's a normal reaction because players are going for him, that's the truth, and he wants to protect himself. I understand that," said Klopp yesterday.

"I'm not sure it's possible to avoid his quality 100 percent. He's a fantastic footballer, outstanding."



Neymar

"He was not fit at the World Cup and he tried to take the responsibility for his country. Belgium played an outstanding game against Brazil, but if Neymar is fit, Brazil wins it. That's how it is.

"He was injured and so he had to save himself a bit. He's not a person who wants to act because if you are like that you cannot play football.

"He got rested at the weekend so he will be 100 percent fresh, he's not injured any more. We

will see the full package Neymar."

### Tuchel 'one of the best'

Despite splashing over 400 million euros on Neymar and Kylian Mbappe, PSG failed to progress beyond the last 16 in their quest to win a first ever Champions League.

But Klopp, who led Liverpool to the final in May, believes marrying a richly talented squad with new coach Thomas Tuchel makes the French giants an even

bigger threat to win the competition this season.

"The players they have, the manager they have, they all brought it together to go as far as possible in the Champions League," he added.

"He is an outstanding coach. I really thought it was a smart decision of PSG to sign Tuchel," said Klopp.

"For this kind of team with unbelievable individual quality, you still need a manager who can teach or educate them in playing



Neymar, who remains the most fouled player in the tournament, was the victim of some tough tackling at the World Cup but his playacting and diving made him a figure of mockery

together and they brought in one of the best I know. That makes them quite a big challenge for us."

Liverpool have build on the momentum of reaching last season's final and a summer of shrewd investment in the transfer market by winning all five of their opening Premier League games.

However, as they prepare to face one of the world's most daunting attacking tridents in Neymar, Mbappe and Edison Cavani, Klopp could be without one of his prolific front three.

## Red Bull expect Verstappen to start from the back in Russia

Reuters | London

Max Verstappen finished second for Red Bull in Singapore on Sunday but he can expect Formula One's next race in Russia to be a hard slog from the rear of the field due to engine penalties.

Team principal Christian Horner said the Dutchman would likely switch to an older engine specification after a series of problems at the weekend.

"Sochi will be one to forget for us," Horner told Sky Sports television. "I think we are probably going to be starting at the back. But then we've got some good ones coming up."

He singled out Mexico, where Verstappen won last year, as a probable highlight among the six races remaining for a team who are switching to Honda



Max Verstappen

power next season and look sure to finish third overall in 2018.

Verstappen complained of engine problems throughout the Singapore weekend but managed to keep Ferrari's Se-

bastian Vettel behind him after coming out almost alongside the German after his pitstop.

That was only after his car almost stalled in the pitlane, however.

"I think we maximised the result with the problems we had with the engine," the Dutchman, who had started on the front row alongside race winner Lewis Hamilton, told reporters.

"I was very happy the safety car was gone because I was almost stalling on the track, even my pit stop was not great.

"I don't know which track will come up maybe as good again. Maybe Mexico a little bit, but we lose a lot on the straight, so I'm not expecting it to be like last year but you never know."

Verstappen was fifth in Sochi last year but that race was held in April rather than late September.

## Perez under fire after crashing into team mate



Force India's Esteban Ocon car after crashing out of the race

Reuters | Singapore

Force India team principal Otmar Szafnauer has read the riot act to Sergio Perez, describing his erratic performance at the Singapore Grand Prix as "unacceptable" after the Mexican pushed his team mate Estaban Ocon into the wall on the opening lap.

Perez ended the Frenchman's race after just three corners, held up Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel and had another collision with Sergey Soroikin's Williams before he eventually crossed the line in 16th place after an eventful grand prix.

"You say to them that's unacceptable, there's enough room on the left hand side as I could see. You've got to give your team mate enough room," an angry Szafnauer told reporters.

"If it's somebody else and it's not your team mate, it's a racing incident. But if it's your team mate then you've got to give him room.

"So we're back to the old rules, we allowed them to race on lap one whereas in the past we didn't allow them to race on lap one and now we can remove that.

"If they continue to do this even on lap one then there's other ways to separate them which we hope we don't ever have to employ."

Perez apologised to his team over the radio soon after the safety car was deployed when Ocon crashed out, the Mexican saying he was unaware who he had made contact with during the chaotic start to a race won by Lewis Hamilton.

"It was a very unfortunate incident, one of those it is very hard to avoid," said the Mexican, who had started seventh on the grid after a strong qualifying session.

"As I am picking up the power I just get a clip from one car — I had not even realised that was Esteban — and then as I get a message from the team I was very sorry for that. A very hard day for us.



# Ballon d'Or 'on my mind': Griezmann

AFP | Madrid

Atletico Madrid star Antoine Griezmann says he still can't fathom why he was not voted one of the world's top three players by FIFA -- but hopes winning the "more prestigious" Ballon d'Or will make amends.

"It's a prize from FIFA and it seems a pity that no World Cup winners were nominated," Griezmann, who helped France to World Cup glory in Russia this summer, told Spanish sports daily AS.

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, World Cup finalist Luka Modric of Croatia and Egyptian Mohamed Salah, who enjoyed a stunning campaign with Liverpool last season, were the three players nominated by FIFA for the world ruling body's top prize.

Now grouped within the FIFA Best awards, it will be presented on September 24.

For Griezmann, who helped Atletico to Europa League glory as well as playing a pivotal role in France's World Cup win, FIFA's choice was unwarranted.

"We had a really good World

Cup campaign, the whole team deserve to be awarded: (Kylian) Mbappe, (Raphael) Varane, (N'Golo) Kante, who had an amazing World Cup even though no-one talks about it, or even myself.

"But that's the way it is."

The snub has galvanised Griezmann's ambition to land the Ballon d'Or, the prize awarded by France Football magazine to the world's top player as voted on by journalists around the globe.

"I think the Ballon d'Or has more prestige, a richer history," said Griezmann.

Conceived in 1956, it has been won by Ronaldo and Lionel Messi a record five times apiece. By contrast, the FIFA Best award has been a stand-alone award only since 2016, having spent the 2010-2015 period merged with the Ballon d'Or.

He added: "It's on my mind and I've got three months to give it everything (to win it). We'll see what happens."

Asked if he felt comfortable "sitting at the same football table" as five-time Ballon d'Or winners Messi and Ronaldo,

**"I think the Ballon d'Or has more prestige, a richer history. It's on my mind and I've got three months to give it everything (to win it). We'll see what happens"**

ANTOINE GRIEZMANN

Griezmann said: "Yes, I think so, although other players would be there as well.

"I'm enjoying being at this table, although I know I can do better.

"I'm at the summit but I know I can improve, I want to be the most complete player possible."



## Firmino better but still doubt for PSG clash

Reuters | London

Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp says striker Roberto Firmino's eye injury is not as serious as feared but said it was too soon to know if he would be clear to play in Tuesday's Champions League clash with Paris St Germain.

The Brazilian had to be substituted in the second half of his side's 2-1 Premier League win at Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday after clashing with the hand of opposition defender Jan Vertonghen.

"We all saw the picture

and we were massively worried. But all these worries are away so he will be fine. (But) if he will be fine for tomorrow, I don't know in the moment," Klopp said yesterday.

"We are obviously in close contact with him and it improved already -- but in this moment I can't say if he will be available for (Tuesday)."

Should Firmino be unable to take his place at centre forward, then Daniel Sturridge is the most likely to take his spot.

Klopp said that forwards Dominic Solanke and Divock Origi were both ruled out for the visit of PSG due to injuries picked up on Sunday playing for the club's Under-23 team.



Roberto Firmino was down after a clash with Jan Vertonghen

## Costa apologises for spitting incident

AFP | Milan

Juventus forward Douglas Costa has apologised after being sent off for spitting in the face of Sassuolo's Federico Di Francesco in a 2-1 Serie A win in Turin on Sunday.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his first goals for Juventus but the champions' fourth win in as many games this season was overshadowed by Brazilian Costa's late red card for spitting at Di Francesco -- the 24-year-old son of Roma coach Eusebio Di Francesco.

"I would like to apologise to all the Juventus fans for my wrong reaction during today's game," wrote Costa on Instagram.

"I also apologise to my teammates, who are always by my side, in good and bad times. It was ugly, I am aware of that and I apologise to everyone for that.

"I want to make clear that this isolated conduct has nothing to do with what I've shown throughout my career."



Douglas Costa of Juventus (R) spits to Federico Di Francesco of Sassuolo

Costa now faces an extended ban with coach Massimiliano Allegri annoyed with the forward for "rising to provocation".

"Maybe he was irritated at a foul before, but it doesn't matter, because these things should absolutely not happen. The one thing we must avoid is rising to provocation," said Allegri.

Ronaldo flicked in the first goal from close range in the 50th minute amid a scramble in front

of goal, to euphoria at the Allianz Stadium, and grabbed a second 15 minutes later following a counter-attack involving Costa and Germany midfielder Emre Can.

Senegalese striker Kouma Babacar headed in a late goal for Sassuolo who fell to their first defeat of the season.

Just after Costa was given a yellow card for locking horns with Di Francesco, the two bick-

ering players came together again and Costa elbowed his rival and than spat at Di Francesco's face.

The incident was referred to VAR and Costa was sent off by the referee.

"We could have scored a third goal, but instead we started to play as individuals, we tried to dribble past everyone, this wound up the opposition, who then reacted badly and then you get situations like Douglas Costa," said Allegri.

Allegri congratulated Ronaldo for breaking his duck before their trip to Spain to play Valencia in the Champions League next Wednesday.

"You just had to see the first three games and how close Ronaldo went to scoring," he said.

"I think he rushed a couple of chances today -- it looked like he was absolutely desperate to score.

## Kane danger, but Spalletti sure Champions League buzz will spur Inter

AFP | Milan

Inter Milan coach Luciano Spalletti believes Harry Kane will be the man to watch but hopes the enthusiasm of returning to "the Disneyland of football" will spur on his Italian side in Tuesday's Champions League opener against Tottenham.

Against the backdrop of a disastrous start to their domestic campaign, Inter host the English club at a sold-out San Siro in what is their first Champions League match since the 2011-2012 season.

Both teams are coming off weekend league defeats -- Inter losing 1-0 to Parma in Milan and Tottenham falling 2-1 at home to Liverpool.

"Harry Kane tired? I don't agree, we have seen Tottenham matches and we have seen him working in any situation. Tottenham rely a lot on this player," Spalletti told a pre-match press conference.

The Inter coach believes the game could be a "turning

point" for his side, who have just four points from four games in Serie A.

"The Champions League is the amusement park of football, the Disneyland of football. It's a beautiful and fun world.

"These games are worth so much in terms of enthusiasm and conviction.

"I think that with the period we're going through this is the game we needed.

"It's one of those matches and one of those competitions you wouldn't swap for anything," added Spalletti, who spent two separate spells at Roma either side of a five-year spell at Zenit Saint Petersburg.

"I've been lucky enough to experience them several times, there are incredible emotions and if you've been there you can't do without it.

"The previous times I entered a world that's particularly beautiful and entertaining, you can hear the music from inside the dressing room."

Inter Milan snatched Italy's final Champions League berth at the wire last season by finishing fourth in Serie A.

"The effort we put in last year to play in this competition is a motivation that can overcome any lack of experience or fear," continued Spalletti.

"We cannot feel any pressure or be intimidated by the English players' greater experience. Rather, I believe that this match is the chance to kick into gear."

## Lucas Perez denies refusing to play at Everton

Reuters | London

West Ham United striker Lucas Perez has defended himself in the wake of media reports that he refused to warm up and come on as a substitute during his side's 3-1 win over Everton in the Premier League on Sunday.

The Spaniard was on the bench and looked like he was about to replace the injured Marko Arnautovic in the second half, but manager Manuel Pellegrini brought on midfielder Michail Antonio instead.

Perez was then captured by TV cameras in conversation



Lucas Perez

with West Ham's goalkeeping coach Xavi Valero on the bench and some sections of the British media reported that he had refused to play.

"Given the false information

spread by the media that has affected my image, I am obliged to explain the only truth: I have never ever refused to warm up in my whole career, let alone play a match," Perez said on Twitter yesterday.

"In the moment that Marko got injured, I was on the bench after warming up. The coach called me to go out to play, however having realized that it was faster to substitute Antonio in, who at that moment was warming up, he changed his decision.

"The images that have been misinterpreted correspond to a talk with the goalkeep-

er's coach, in which I never refused to warm up and explained what happened."



Harry Kane



# Mercedes cautious despite Hamilton's 'stardust'

AFP | Singapore

Mercedes boss Toto Wolff said it was special to conquer "bogey track" Singapore but cautioned the F1 title race wasn't over yet after Lewis Hamilton's "stardust" propelled him to a potentially decisive 40-point lead over Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel.

Hamilton raced to a stunning pole position which he converted into a dominant victory -- his fourth in five races -- to leave Ferrari, who seem to have the faster car, again scratching their heads with just six grands prix to go.

Team principal Wolff said there was no mystery to Mercedes' form, it was all down to sheer hard work back at the factory and the track.

"Singapore has been our bogey track for several years, so it is a special feeling to come here and win this race on pace," Wolff told reporters after Hamilton's pole-to-flag win and team-mate Valtteri Bottas's fourth place gave them a 25-point lead over Ferrari in the constructors' championship.

"The entire team has worked so hard to understand the car



Lewis Hamilton

and take steps forward, especially since our defeat in Spa, and this result is an indication that our work is paying off."

"It was a weekend of many parts: a stardust lap from Lewis in qualifying, a chess game of tyre management this evening, and some nervous moments with traffic and backmarkers

during the race," Wolff added. Hamilton also paid tribute to "the guys back at the factory" when he spoke to reporters.

"We're hitting the nail on the head with the balance of the car and really just eking out each little bit and each weekend we've got incredible communications," said Englishman who is gunning

for his fifth Formula One drivers' world championship.

"I give quite long debriefs nowadays and we work to the point that we leave no stone unturned -- there's not a single stone unturned each weekend that we arrive and so it's a real collective.

"It's just the strongest the

team has ever been."

Wolff warned they had to keep up the intensity to win both drivers' and constructors' championships this season, starting with the Russian Grand Prix in two weeks.

"From our side, we can be pleased with a very solid weekend," he added. "We have leads

in both championships, but they change nothing in the mindset of this team.

"We have six weekends to go and we know how quickly the situation can swing back against us. We will take it weekend by weekend, feet on the ground and determined to maximise our potential every time."



Singapore has been our bogey track for several years, so it is a special feeling to come here and win this race on pace. The entire team has worked so hard to understand the car and take steps forward, especially since our defeat in Spa, and this result is an indication that our work is paying off

TOTO WOLFF

## Real Madrid more of a team without Ronaldo, says Bale

AFP | London

Gareth Bale has won four Champions Leagues in five years at Real Madrid, but believes the Spanish giants can be even better in their quest for a 14th European crown despite the loss of Cristiano Ronaldo.

Bale has shone in the spotlight since Ronaldo's departure for Juventus, scoring in all of Real's opening three La Liga wins and providing the equaliser for Isco in a 1-1 draw at Athletic Bilbao on Saturday.

"Obviously it's going to be a little different from having

such a big player there," Bale told British newspaper the Daily Mail.

"It's maybe a bit more relaxed, yes. I suppose there is more of a team, more working as one unit rather than one player."

Fired by his anger at being left out of the starting line-up in Zinedine Zidane's last match in charge of Madrid, Bale came off the bench to score twice in last season's Champions League final to beat Liverpool 3-1.

However, it is Ronaldo's goals that have led Real to so much success on the continent in recent times.

The Portuguese has been the competition's top scorer for the past six seasons.

But ahead of their Champions League opener against last season's semi-finalists Roma on Wednesday, Bale insists Real can be even better this season.

"We can be even better again," he added. "Another start and another challenge. We're ready for it."

The strained relationship between Bale and Zidane may have led to the Welshman looking for an exit this summer had the French coach not decided to bow out after winning a third straight Champions League in just two and a half years in charge.

Bale avoided the question of whether new boss Julen Lopetegui is a better manager than the French great, but accepts Lopetegui's command of English has made it easier to communicate.

"Obviously it helps," said Bale. "In Spanish I can talk but maybe not go into that amount of detail with them that I would need to."

## Hazard can be top-scorer: Sarri

AFP | London

Eden Hazard can score 40 goals this season and win the Premier League Golden Boot, according to Chelsea boss Maurizio Sarri after the Belgium forward scored a hat-trick to maintain the club's perfect start to the season.

Sarri believes Hazard can become the best player in Europe and outstrip even arch poachers Harry Kane and Mohamed Salah following his three goals in a 4-1 victory against Cardiff on Saturday.

"We have spoken and I told him he can score 40 goals," said the former Napoli manager. "He has to improve some things, but he can do it."

Hazard himself has hailed Olivier Giroud as the world's best target man after the World Cup-winning striker laid on two goals for him.

Giroud is yet to find the net for Chelsea this season but already has three assists in five Premier League games while Hazard has found the net five times.

And the 27-year-old paid tribute to the Frenchman for creating his first two goals at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

"Olivier's a target man, maybe the best in the world, I think so," said Hazard.

"When he gets the ball he can hold the ball and we can go in deep with him, so for us it's a pleasure to play with him." Despite Chelsea's fluency

in attack, Sarri is aware the Stamford Bridge team must improve their defending.

The Italian boss wants to turn Chelsea into the best team in England but says Liverpool and defending champions Manchester City will be the league's pacesetters.

"Eight players joined us this summer," he said. "So I think it's normal that in this period we have some defensive problems. We can cope with the problems with the quality in the offensive phase, but not in the defensive phase."

"So I have to organise better the defensive phase and the players have to understand that. I think my opinion in this moment, two teams, Liverpool and Manchester City, are better than us."



Gareth Bale (L) and Cristiano Ronaldo (file photo)



Eden Hazard