

## Karunaratne's ton leads Sri Lanka to victory

Captain Dimuth Karunaratne scored 122 as Sri Lanka chased down 268 for the loss of just four wickets to win the first Test against New Zealand at Galle yesterday and take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. **P16**

G7 pretence of acting as the guardian of global rules

# THE DAILY tribune

Not directing 'The Bell Jar' adaptation anymore: Kirsten Dunst

14 CELEBS

Joy turns to horror at Kabul wedding

## Bahrain will join efforts to protect maritime routes

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander, received at Al Safriya Palace yesterday, in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, General Kenneth F McKenzie, Commander of the US Central Command, currently on a visit to the Kingdom.

HM the King welcomed General McKenzie, hailing strong strategic



His Majesty receives General McKenzie in the presence of HRH the Crown Prince.

relations and decades-long partnership binding the two friendly countries, based on mutual confidence, respect and joint co-ordination.

HM the King commended steadily-growing military and defence cooperation to achieve mutual goals and aspirations, hailed the pivotal role of the US Adminis-

tration, in cooperation with allied and friendly countries, to maintain regional stability and consolidate international security and peace.

His Majesty hailed the efforts

exerted by General McKenzie to expand joint military and defence co-operation between the two friendly countries.

HM the King confirmed the Kingdom of Bahrain's participation in the joint effort to preserve the safety of international maritime navigation and secure international corridors for trade and energy in the region.

HM the King and General McKenzie exchanged views regarding regional and international developments, particularly latest developments in the region.

## Jordan criticises Israel

Amman

Jordan has stepped up its diplomatic pressure on Israel, demanding that they do not change the status quo at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque.

Zaid Lozi, director-general of Jordan's Foreign Ministry, summoned Israeli Ambassador to Jordan Amir Weissbrod to protest Israel's actions in Jerusalem.

According to Petra News, Lozi told the envoy that recent remarks by Israeli Public Security Minister Gilad Ardan over changing the status quo at Al Aqsa Mosque are unacceptable.

Lozi added that the mosque is a place of worship for Muslims only.

## Boris to visit European capitals

London

UK's Boris Johnson will visit European capitals this week on his first overseas trip as prime minister, as his government said yesterday it had ordered the scrapping of the decades-old law enforcing its EU membership.

Johnson will travel to Berlin on Wednesday for talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and on to Paris Thursday for discussions with French President Emmanuel Macron, Downing Street confirmed on Sunday, amid growing fears of a no-deal Brexit in two and a half months.



## 02 'Fast-track welfare schemes'

## 03 Gulf Air promotes five Bahrainis to cabin service managers

## 04 Two-month ban on fishing of kingfish

210 fils (includes VAT)



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# NaMo wave blows in

Kingdom all set to welcome Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

● Mr Modi, who is the First Indian Prime Minister to visit the Kingdom, will address a public gathering in Manama.

● India enjoys close and friendly relations with Bahrain, rooted in ancient trade and cultural links.

TDI | Manama

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit the Kingdom on August 24-25, the Indian External Affairs Ministry announced yesterday.

Mr Modi will arrive in the UAE on August 23, from where he will travel to the Kingdom, it is learned.

The Indian Prime Minister will hold talks with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

His Majesty will also host a banquet dinner in honour of Prime Minister Modi.

The Indian Prime Minister will also launch the renovation project at Shri Krishna Temple in Manama.

Mr Modi, who is the First Indian Prime Minister to visit the Kingdom, will address a public gathering in Manama.

In the meanwhile, thousands registered their names to participate in the public gathering, where Mr Modi will address the members of Indian community.

The registration process is ongoing and those who are interested to attend the event can log on to indianpminbahrain.com.

The venue for the event has not been finalised.

India enjoys close and friendly relations with Bahrain, rooted in ancient trade and cultural links and people to people contacts and underpinned by regular exchange of high level visits.

India-Bahrain bilateral trade has been on the rise for the last few years, reaching about \$1.3 billion in 2018-19.

Further about 350,000 Indian nationals, the largest expatriate community in Bahrain has been contributing to the development of Bahrain.

The presence of over 3,000 Indian-owned/joint ventures in Bahrain indicates the intense economic engagement between the two countries.

The visit will provide an opportunity to further cement our mutually beneficial bilateral ties with Bahrain.

## Gibraltar rejects US warrant to seize tanker

● The US warrant said the tanker, its oil cargo and \$995,000 were subject to forfeiture based on violations.

London

Gibraltar on Sunday rejected a US request to block the release of the Iranian oil tanker it seized last month, saying it could not comply because it was bound by European Union law.

ion law.

A federal court in Washington issued a warrant for the seizure of the tanker on Friday, one day after Gibraltar authorities said the vessel was free to leave.

It was detained for six weeks over suspicions it was transporting oil to Syria, in violation of EU sanctions. In the warrant, the US warrant said the tanker, its oil cargo and \$995,000 were subject to forfeiture based on violations of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, and bank fraud, money laundering and terrorism forfeiture statutes.

But Gibraltar said on Sunday that European laws did not provide grounds for complying with the warrant.



The Iranian flag flies aboard the oil tanker Grace 1, which has been renamed Adrian Darya 1.

European laws did not provide grounds for complying with the warrant.

"The Central Authority's inability to seek the Orders requested is a result of the operation of European Union law and the differences in the sanctions regimes applicable to Iran in the EU and the US," the Gibraltar government said in a statement.

"The EU sanctions regime against Iran - which is applicable in Gibraltar - is much narrower than that applicable in the US."

Hamid Baeidinejad, Iran's ambassador to the UK, said the ship was expected to set sail on Sunday night after two engineering teams were sent to Gibraltar.





His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday received Royal Family members and senior state officials at Gudaibiya Palace. HRH the Premier lauded the tremendous efforts exerted by sisterly Saudi Arabia to serve Hajj pilgrims and enable them to perform Hajj rituals easily and comfortably. HRH the Premier stressed that Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, will remain entrusted with taking care of the Islamic sacred places, being the only country that is capable of assuming that responsibility, affirming that its love and distinguished status in the hearts of Muslims are deepening in recognition of its services to Islam and honourable supportive stances in defending the Arab and Islamic nations.

# ‘Fast-track welfare schemes’

HRH the Premier affirms the government’s open-door policy to tackle national issues

- HRH the Premier underlined the ongoing efforts to fast-track development and maintain the Kingdom’s security and stability and boost citizens’ welfare.
- He underscored the importance of constructive co-operation between the executive and legislative branches to meet citizens’ aspirations.



HRH the Premier receives members of the House of Representatives.

**Manama**  
His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa received at Gudaibiya Palace yesterday members of the Representatives Council and discussed with them local issues. He stressed that co-operation between the executive and legis-

lative branches reflects a strong will to achieve the aspirations of the Bahraini people. He affirmed the government’s open-door policy to tackle national issues, asserting the need for all to share responsibility to serve the nation and citizens. HRH the Premier underlined the ongoing efforts to fast-track development and maintain the Kingdom’s security and stability and boost citizens’ welfare. He praised the efforts of members of the Representatives Council to promote national work and upgrade the legislative system to keep abreast of contemporary changes and the Kingdom’s growth in all fields. He underscored the importance of constructive co-opera-

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**The co-operation between the executive and legislative branches reflects a strong will to achieve the aspirations of the Bahraini people.**  
HRH THE PREMIER

tion between the executive and legislative branches to meet citizens’ aspirations. He urged to preserve hard-won gains and build on them for a more prosperous present and future. HRH the Prime Minister praised the role of members of the Representatives Council in reaching out to citizens and ca-

tering to their needs, stressing keenness on such meetings to assess citizens’ needs and facilitate the government’s work in serving them. He underscored the importance of dealing with regional and global challenges and fast-track national work to ensure sustainability of development. The MPs expressed heartfelt thanks and respect to HRH the Premier for his continuous support, commending his open-door policy and encouragement to handle all issues of concern to citizens. They conveyed to him the citizens’ gratitude for his valuable directives to carry out projects nationwide. They also congratulated him on the Norwegian “Guest of Honour 2019” award and the United Nations’ proclamation of April 5th as an International Conscience Day in response to his initiative, describing the achievements as a reflection of the high international status and respect enjoyed by HRH the Premier.

## Military ties discussed



Defence Minister Lieutenant-General Abdulla bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, yesterday received General Kenneth F McKenzie, Commander of the US Central Command and his accompanying delegation. The minister praised the strong relations between Bahrain and the US in the military field and defence co-operation.

## 28 cows killed over ‘disagreement with MP’

TDT | Manama

In a strange incident, 28 cows were allegedly poisoned to death at a farm located in the Northern Governorate yesterday. According to sources, the crime took place at MP Ahmed Al Damestani’s farm in Hamala, where one cow was initially found dead and “by the time a veterinarian reached the farm other cows would also die one after the other”. The MP stated that the incident was premeditated as the cows kept inside a barn on the other side of the farm weren’t

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**The incident was premeditated as the cows kept inside a barn on the other side of the farm weren’t harmed.**  
MR AL DAMESTANI

harmed, suggesting that “someone was behind the crime”. However, he refused to accuse anyone at the moment, confirming that the matter was reported to the police, which has launched a probe. According to Mr Al Damestani, the cows were worth more than BD30,000. The sources suggested that the MP was targeted because he’s leading a campaign to rectify the violations at farms, barns, stables and cowsheds in the area. They said initial information show that the poison was mixed with the water, drunk by the cows. Footage showing the cows falling to the ground one after another at the farm went viral online. The incident created a wave of anger among social media users, who criticised escalating a personal disagreement to the killing of innocent animals. They called for the quick arrest and trial of the culprits. MP Ahmed Al Damestani is the parliamentary representative of the seventh constituency in the Northern Governorate, which covers the villages of Qurraya, Hamala, parts of Janabiya and Buri.

## Tamkeen backs BDFEX 2019

Manama

Tamkeen will be the strategic partner of a key business development forum to be held in the Kingdom. Pro Act International Consultancy, Bahrain and United Gulf Industrial Consortia, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are organising the First Business Development Forum and Expo (BDFEX-2019) “Trends and opportunities in Healthcare Industry”, in strategic partnership with Tamkeen Labour Fund. The event, being held on 23rd-24th October, under the patronage of Lieutenant General Dr Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health, deals with attracting international and regional corporations, SME’s investors and entrepreneurs to explore new business opportunities and investments to maximise the local content of manufacturing and services in GCC region. Tamkeen’s Chief Executive Dr Ebrahim Mohammed Jan-



Dr Janahi

ahi said “with Tamkeen’s main purpose to promote and sustain diversity in key sectors of the economy and promote opportunities for growth and productivity, we’re pleased to be the strategic partner for this forum.” Dr Janahi confirmed that this agreement is part of Tamkeen’s objectives towards supporting the private sector’s institutions and offering promising opportunities for promising opportunities for diversification of our key economic sectors as well as increasing productivity in line with Bahrain’s Economic Vision 2030.



# Prominent Indian community members welcome Modi visit

India's outstanding bilateral ties with Bahrain set for further growth

*India and Bahrain enjoys high-level bilateral relations, which could be dated back to hundreds of years.*



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit Shri Krishna Hindu Temple in Manama.



**TDI | Manama**

Prominent members of the Indian community in the Kingdom have welcomed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Kingdom.

They opined that the visit would further enhance strong bilateral ties between the both nations.

India and Bahrain enjoys high-level bilateral relations, which could be dated back to hundreds of years.

Speaking to Tribune, Dr Varghese Kurian, Chairman of VKL Holdings and Al Namal

Group of Companies, said the visit by Narendra Modi is nothing but a great honour for every Indian residing in the Kingdom.

"Modi's economic policies, social commitment, hard work, dedication and right strategies have made him the tallest of all world leaders.

"I am greatly impressed by his vision to develop India and his courage to take decisive actions.

"Demonetisation was a master stroke to root out black money. The launching of many schemes including Jan Dhan Yojana, Swachh Bharath and initiatives like Make in India,



**I am greatly impressed by his vision to develop India and his courage to take decisive actions. Demonetisation was a master stroke to root out black money.**

**DR KURIAN**

Digital India and Skill India will take India to greater heights.

"India under the vision of Modi is targeting \$1.44 trillion of capital investment in infrastructure by 2024, which will make India on par with any Western or advanced country."

Dr Kurian said that Modi's visit will open a new chapter in the trade relations between India and Bahrain. "I am sure he will enjoy the hospitality and warmth of this beautiful island and its people."

Echoing a similar view, Mohammed Dadabhai, Chairman of Dadabhai Group, said the visit by Modi will certainly have a

positive impact on the economies of Bahrain and India.

"We, the members of Indian community is overwhelmed to receive the Indian Prime Minister. This is his first visit to the Gulf countries after inaugurating his second term as premier.

"I am expecting that the visit will further bolster trade ties between the Kingdom and India, especially in light of recent oil discovery at Khaleej Al Bahrain basin.

"Indian institutions, of late, have emerged big players in the oil and gas sector and this is one field where India and Bahrain can further collaborate.

"We are thankful to the Kingdom's leadership - His Majesty the King, HRH the Premier and HRH the Crown Prince for inviting Modi to the Kingdom. We should also acknowledge the remarkable efforts of Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha in this regard."

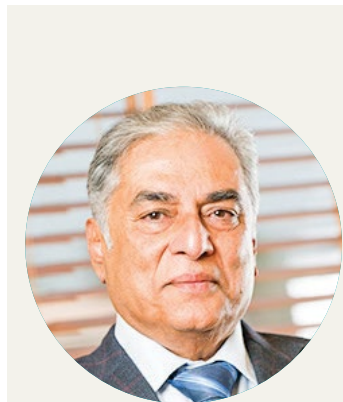
Bhagwan Asarpota, Owner of P Haridas Sons Company and Honorary Vice-Chairman of Thattai Bhatia Community, which manages Shri Krishna Hindu Temple in Manama, said Modi visit is a real honour for Indians residing in the Kingdom.

"We are very much excited about the visit. We are also quite fortunate as the visit coincides with the 200th year celebration of Manama Temple.

"It's a long-awaited visit, which has finally come true. Modiji's visit is going to leave a remarkable memory in the history of the Kingdom.

"We are fortunate to have Indian leaders including Sushma Swaraj and Atal Bihari Vajpayee making visits to the temple.

"But it is for the first time that an Indian Prime Minister is set to visit the temple. We are very much thankful to him."



**I am expecting the visit to further boost bilateral trade relations, especially in the oil and gas sector in light of recent oil discovery at Khaleej Al Bahrain basin.**

**MR DADABHAI**



**We are quite fortunate as Modiji's visit coincides with 200th year celebration of Manama Temple. It's a moment of pride for every Indian residing in the Kingdom.**

**MR ASARPOTA**

## Gulf Air promotes five Bahrainis to cabin service managers

**Manama**

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, recently promoted five long service Bahraini staff to become Cabin Service Managers – a position that is ranked the highest amongst hospitality services in the air.

The five employees have progressed throughout their career from Flight Attendants to Cabin Senior and lately to Cabin Service Managers, marking their 25-year

service for the national carrier.

The new position will entitle the group to be in charge of all hospitality operations of the flight, managing the entire team of flight attendants with the ultimate goal of total customer satisfaction for the passengers.

A celebratory event took place at the airline's headquarters where Gulf Air's Deputy Chief Executive Officer Captain Waleed Al Alawi said: "Gulf Air takes pride in being a corporate leader in Bahrainisation in the

Kingdom of Bahrain. With 100 per cent of our male flight attendants being Bahrainis, we definitely lead the way amongst the regional carriers."

He also added: "We are proud of our local, specialised and professional resources who are serving our international customer base with pure Bahraini hospitality, a quality that is associated with the Kingdom of Bahrain since the ancient times when we were a central trading point between the East and West".

On this occasion, the newly appointed Cabin Service Manager Abdulmajeed Mohamed said: "This is an important day in my career in Gulf Air. I spent 25 years flying with Gulf Air and today I am proud to manage the hospitality operations of my flights and share my experience with the new joining crew."

Also commenting during the event Mr. Sami Al Qayed said: "This feels great to be amongst this group of Bahraini Cabin Service Managers being promoted on

the same day. We thank the airline and its management for giving us this opportunity to show customers true and genuine hospitality from the heart."

The airline is unique comparing to all its neighbouring airlines as it employs young Bahraini males as flight attendants and have reached total Bahrainisation in this big area of the business, Gulf Air said in a statement issued.

Gulf Air is committed to invest in its Bahraini workforce and their

career development and as such, it continues to provide opportunities for Bahraini nationals to take over senior positions in the company, the statement added.

With 90pc of employees that are based at the headquarters in Muharraq being Bahraini along with nearly 70pc of its pilots, Gulf Air is a leader in the Bahrainisation programme in the Kingdom as it provides the opportunity for local talents and experienced personnel to work in its various areas of the airline's business.



# Two-month ban on fishing of kingfish

The ban aims to increase the Kingdom’s kingfish stocks

● The Agriculture and Marine Resources Affairs has called on fishermen to co-operate with the competent directorate to implement the ban and preserve marine wealth.

● Last year, legal proceedings were taken against many fishermen for illegal shrimping.

Manama

A seasonal two-month ban on fishing kingfish has been announced by the Agriculture and Marine Resources Affairs at the Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry.

During the ban period, extending between August 15 and October 15, fishermen are not allowed to catch or sell kingfish, locally known as chan’ad.

The ban aims to increase the Kingdom’s kingfish stocks, regulate fishing and avoid exhausting and depleting fisheries to achieve balance within marine life, Agriculture and Marine Resources Affairs said, stressing that all necessary measures will be taken to implement the ban.



Kingfish is known as chan’ad in Bahraini markets.

It emphasised that violators of Decree-Law 20/2002 on the regulation of fishing, exploitation and protection of marine wealth will be held accountable, calling on fishermen to co-operate with the competent directorate to implement the ban and preserve marine wealth.

The ban is also in line with the resolution taken by the Agricultural Co-operation at the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) during its 23rd meeting held in Riyadh.

Last year, legal proceedings were taken against many fisher-

men for illegal shrimping.

The ban is one of the measures taken by the government to protect marine resources of the Kingdom.

In a report published last year, many accused told Tribune that they were engaging in illegal shrimping due to unemployment and poverty. A youth, who doesn’t want to be identified, had said, “Many fishermen are giving their boats to expat workers, encouraging them to violate the shrimping ban.

“Coast Guard personnel generally don’t turn suspicious on

seeing expat fishermen and hence they get away, bringing large quantities of shrimp and flooding the market.”

The ministerial resolution mentioned that possessing tools and equipment used to catch shrimp is illegal during the six-month ban period, while warning violators of strict legal actions.

Bahrain annually bans shrimping to protect marine resources and allow the creatures to reproduce.

Similar decisions are applied in other countries in the region such as Kuwait.

# Terror attack on Aramco plant condemned

● The Saudi energy minister Khalid Al Falih yesterday confirmed that a drone strike hit the Shaybah natural gas liquefaction facility causing a small fire on Saturday.

● The Houthis have carried out a number of attacks on Saudi Arabia in recent weeks and months, targeting residential areas and airports.

Manama

Bahrain yesterday condemned the terrorist attack on Shayba natural gas plant and oil refinery in Saudi Arabia by the Iranian-backed Houthi militias in Yemen.

The Foreign Ministry denounced the cowardly terrorist act which aims at destabilising security and posing a grave danger to the world energy supply.

It affirmed Bahrain’s unwavering support to Saudi Arabia to maintain its security and protect its interests, vowing full solidarity and backing its efforts to eradicate terrorist acts of all forms.

It called for serious and strict measures to put an end to these terrorist acts and attacks and confront those who support and finance them.

The Saudi energy minister

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**Bahrain denounces the cowardly terrorist act, which aims at destabilising security and posing a grave danger to the world energy supply.**

FOREIGN MINISTRY

Khalid Al Falih yesterday confirmed that a drone strike hit the Shaybah natural gas liquefaction facility causing a small fire on Saturday.

In a statement condemning the attack, Falih said there had been “no injuries” and that the fire had been put out after the several drones were fired at the plant.

“This cowardly attack once again highlights the importance of the international community’s response to all terrorist agents who carry out such acts of sabotage, including the Iran backed Houthi militias,” Falih said in the statement.

The Houthis later claimed responsibility for the attack.

“Saudi Aramco’s response team controlled a limited fire this morning at the Shaybah NGL facility,” a statement released on the oil giant’s website read.

“There were no injuries and no interruptions to Saudi Aramco’s oil operations. We will provide further details as they become available.”

The Houthis have carried out a number of attacks on Saudi Arabia in recent weeks and months, targeting residential areas and airports.

## NOTICE

### Alhilal Life B.S.C (c)

This is to notify the public that effective 22nd September 2019 Alhilal Life B.S.C (c) office located on 5th Floor, Office 52, Building 680, Road 2811, Seef District 428, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain will be moved to Fakhro Tower offices 1701 & 1702 on the 17th floor of Building 470, Road 1010, Block 410, Sanabis, Kingdom of Bahrain. For further enquiries, please call the customer service center on 17589800 or visit the website on [www.alhilal.life](http://www.alhilal.life)

## Saudi to issue 10 million Umrah e-visas this year



The target number of pilgrims in 2021 will be 15 million, according to officials. **Makkah**

The chief planning and strategy officer at the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, Dr Amr Al Maddah, said that as of Saturday, the ministry is seeking to issue 10 million visas for this year’s Umrah season.

The visas will be issued electronically without the need to visit embassies and consulates for the stamp, he said.

Al Maddah said that the ministry is seeking to issue Umrah visas for 30 million pilgrims by 2030. Saudi Arabia had the capacity for these numbers, he said, and the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah aims to remove obstacles for businesses offering services to pilgrims.

Al Maddah said: “The target number of pilgrims in 2021 will be 15 million. The ministry is well-prepared for these cumu-

lative numbers, and pilgrims now have several e-booking platforms that continue to increase and are no longer limited to external agents.”

“The central reservation platform is a reservation engine that serves as a link connecting all Umrah service providers, including housing, Umrah, reception, transport, experience enrichment, and cultural trips associated with online booking platforms like Agoda, Booking, Musafir and others.”

He added: “This way, the ministry ensures that all services are available to pilgrims inside and outside the Kingdom through the internet and reliable websites, which pilgrims are accustomed to using when making their bookings. The ministry will ensure that all offers adhere to the set standards and regulatory requirements.”

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world

# Joy turns to horror at Kabul wedding

IS bomber kills at least 63

The wedding was largely a gathering of Shia Muslims

Islamic State group claimed responsibility for a suicide attack

Kabul, Afghanistan

Joy and celebration turned into horror and carnage when an Islamic State suicide bomber targeted a packed Afghan wedding hall, killing at least 63 people in the deadliest attack to rock Kabul in months, officials and witnesses said yesterday.

The massive blast, which took place late Saturday in west Kabul, underscores both the inequacy of Afghanistan's security forces and the scale of the problem they face as Washington and the Taliban finalise a deal to reduce the US military presence in Afghanistan and hopefully build a roadmap to a ceasefire.

The groom recalled greeting smiling guests in the afternoon, before seeing their bodies being carried out hours later.

The attack "changed my happiness to sorrow", the young man, who gave his name as Mirwais, told local TV station Tolo News.

"My family, my bride are in shock, they cannot even speak.



Afghan men investigate in a wedding hall after a deadly bomb blast in Kabul

My bride keeps fainting," he said.

"I lost my brother, I lost my friends, I lost my relatives. I will never see happiness in my life again."

Interior ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said a suicide bomber carried out the attack, with at least 63 people killed and 182 injured.

"Among the wounded are women and children," Rahimi said.

Afghan weddings are epic and vibrant affairs, with hundreds or often thousands of guests celebrating for hours inside industrial-scale wedding halls where men are usually segregated from women and children.

"The wedding guests were dancing and celebrating the party when the blast happened," recounted Munir Ahmad, 23, who was seriously injured and whose cousin was among the dead.



Afghan security personnel stand next to a pile of shoes and sandals of victims outside a wedding hall

"Following the explosion, there was total chaos. Everyone was screaming and crying for their loved ones," he told AFP from his bed in a local hospital, where he was being treated for shrapnel wounds.

Images from inside the hall showed blood-stained bodies on the ground along with pieces of flesh and torn clothes, hats, sandals and bottles of mineral water. The huge blast ripped parts of the ceiling off.

The wedding was largely a gathering of Shia Muslims, who frequently are targeted in Sunni-majority Afghanistan, par-

ticularly by IS.

The Sunni extremist group's Afghan affiliate claimed responsibility for the blast, saying the bomber targeted the wedding because it was Shia.

President Ashraf Ghani called it "barbaric", while Afghanistan's chief executive Abdullah Abdullah described it as a "crime against humanity".

As a sign of mourning, Ghani postponed celebrations which were scheduled for Monday to mark 100 years of Afghan independence from Britain.

## Withdrawal deal expected

While the police and army claim they prevent most bombings from ever happening, insurgents pull off horrific attacks with chilling regularity.

On July 28, at least 20 people were killed when attackers targeted Ghani's running mate Amrullah Saleh during presidential election campaigning.

The issue also goes to the heart of a prospective deal between the US and the Islamist extremist Taliban that would see Washington begin to withdraw its approximately 14,000 soldiers from Afghanistan.

Several US sources suggested in recent days that an agreement could be imminent, but some points remain to be resolved.

US peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, who condemned the "heinous attack" on the wedding

party, could return to the region in the coming days to continue or even finalise the negotiations.

"We must accelerate the Afghan Peace Process including intra-Afghan negotiations. Success here will put Afghans in a much stronger position to defeat ISIS," he tweeted.

The deal relies on Taliban guarantees they will stop jihadist groups such as Al-Qaeda and IS from using Afghanistan as a safe haven.

Saturday's attack suggests any such promise would be tough to keep.

The "Taliban cannot absolve themselves of blame, for they provide platform for terrorists," Ghani said.

Few believe such a deal will bring quick peace and Afghans fear the Taliban could return.

ARABIA INSURANCE COMPANY S.A.L. (BAHRAIN BRANCH) CONDENSED INTERIM COMBINED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT JUNE 30, 2019		
	(Unaudited) June 30, 2019 BD	(Audited) Dec 31, 2018 BD
<b>ASSETS:</b>		
Cash and bank balances	3,136,552	3,217,648
Financial assets at amortised cost	232,014	232,448
Insurance receivables	774,611	182,293
Due from related parties, net	40,111	167,666
Reinsurance contract assets	856,516	639,290
Deferred acquisition cost	99,882	71,046
Other assets	95,336	54,854
Furniture and equipment	15,525	13,056
Total assets – general insurance division	5,250,547	4,578,301
Total assets of the life division – Appendix I	1,010,892	958,659
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>6,261,439</b>	<b>5,536,960</b>
<b>HEAD OFFICE EQUITY AND LIABILITIES:</b>		
<b>Head Office equity:</b>		
Head Office equity – general insurance division	1,228,892	793,671
Head Office equity – life division	504,405	417,193
<b>Total Head Office equity</b>	<b>1,733,297</b>	<b>1,210,864</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Insurance payables and accruals	629,239	619,654
Insurance contract liabilities	3,312,333	3,050,610
Provision for employees' end-of-service benefits	56,282	94,504
Unearned commission from reinsurers	23,801	19,862
Total liabilities – general insurance division	4,021,655	3,784,630
Total liabilities of the life division - Appendix I	506,487	541,466
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>4,528,142</b>	<b>4,326,096</b>
<b>Total Head Office equity and liabilities</b>	<b>6,261,439</b>	<b>5,536,960</b>

ARABIA INSURANCE COMPANY S.A.L. (BAHRAIN BRANCH) CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME - GENERAL INSURANCE DIVISION (UNAUDITED) - PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2019		
	June 30, 2019 BD	June 30, 2018 BD
Gross written premium	1,868,497	1,624,171
Premium ceded to reinsurers	(1,027,026)	(936,444)
<b>Net written premium</b>	<b>841,471</b>	<b>687,727</b>
Net change in unearned premium	(73,175)	109,030
Reinsurance commission	26,673	24,867
<b>Net earned premium</b>	<b>794,969</b>	<b>821,624</b>
Claims incurred	(925,457)	(527,038)
Share of reinsurance companies	594,775	369,107
Net claims incurred	(330,682)	(157,931)
Policy acquisition cost	(43,822)	(36,987)
<b>Total insurance expense</b>	<b>(374,504)</b>	<b>(194,918)</b>
<b>Underwriting profit</b>	<b>420,465</b>	<b>626,706</b>
Other income	58,157	44,305
General and administrative expenses	(327,876)	(236,887)
<b>Profit for the period</b>	<b>150,746</b>	<b>434,124</b>
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the period</b>	<b>150,746</b>	<b>434,124</b>
ARABIA INSURANCE COMPANY S.A.L. (BAHRAIN BRANCH) - APPENDIX I CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - LIFE DIVISION AS AT JUNE 30, 2019		
	(Unaudited) June 30, 2019 BD	(Audited) Dec 31, 2018 BD
<b>ASSETS:</b>		
Cash and bank balances	771,654	722,700
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	215,452	183,294
Insurance and other receivables	11,576	35,085
Reinsurance contract assets	8,619	13,990
Prepaid expenses and other assets	815	325
Furniture and equipment	2,776	3,265
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,010,892</b>	<b>958,659</b>
<b>HEAD OFFICE EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Head Office equity:</b>		
Head Office equity	493,857	408,920
Profit for the period / year	10,548	8,273
<b>Total Head Office equity</b>	<b>504,405</b>	<b>417,193</b>

<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Due to bank	59	59
Insurance and other payables	19,729	52,217
Life insurance contract liabilities	443,482	432,379
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	37,250	49,518
Provision for employees' end-of-service benefits	5,967	7,293
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>506,487</b>	<b>541,466</b>
<b>Total Head Office equity and liabilities</b>	<b>1,010,892</b>	<b>958,659</b>
ARABIA INSURANCE COMPANY S.A.L. (BAHRAIN BRANCH) CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME - LIFE DIVISION (UNAUDITED) PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2019		
	June 30, 2019 BD	June 30, 2018 BD
<b>Income:</b>		
Written premiums	60,314	50,457
Allocation to saving components	(13,167)	(18,182)
Insurance premiums	47,147	32,275
Reinsurers' share of insurance premiums	(11,677)	(15,114)
Net written premiums	35,470	17,161
Fee and commission income	69	412
Net insurance income	35,539	17,573
Interest received from deposits with banks	10,303	7,490
Change in fair value of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	12,286	(3,640)
<b>Total income</b>	<b>58,128</b>	<b>21,423</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Change in insurance contract liabilities	(12,752)	8,204
Change in reinsurers' share of insurance contract liabilities	(5,371)	(3,463)
Fees, commissions and other acquisition expenses	(672)	(6,142)
Other operating and administrative expenses	(23,755)	(47,431)
Contribution to Head Office's overheads	(3,630)	(4,059)
Provision for expected credit losses	(1,056)	-
Net foreign exchange loss	(344)	(1,980)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>(47,580)</b>	<b>(54,871)</b>
<b>Profit / (loss) for the period</b>	<b>10,548</b>	<b>(33,448)</b>
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income / (loss) for the period</b>	<b>10,548</b>	<b>(33,448)</b>



# Hong Kong protesters flood city streets

● Ten weeks of demonstrations have plunged the financial hub into crisis

● Thousands of protesters carrying umbrellas poured across the heart of Hong Kong

Hong Kong, China

A sea of democracy activists flooded the streets of Hong Kong yesterday in a defiant show to the city's leaders that their movement still pulls wide public support, despite mounting violence and increasingly stark warnings from Beijing.

Tens of thousands of protesters carrying umbrellas poured across the heart of Hong Kong island defying torrential rain and a police order not to march from a park where they had gathered earlier for a rally.

Ten weeks of demonstrations have plunged the financial hub into crisis, with images of masked black-clad protesters engulfed by tear gas during street battles against riot police stunning a city once renowned for its stability.

Yesterday's action, which continued into the night with lines of protesters trudging through sodden streets, was billed by organisers as a return to the "peaceful" origins of the leaderless protest movement.

"It's been a long day and we're very tired, but to see so many people out in the rain marching for Hong Kong gives strength to everyone," said Danny Tam, a 28-year-old graphic designer.

The unprecedented political crisis was sparked by opposition to a plan to allow extraditions to the Chinese mainland.

But protests have since morphed into a wider call for democratic rights in the semi-autonomous city.



A car drives down a road packed with marching protesters in a rally from Victoria Park in Hong Kong

Anger has been sharpened among protesters by the perceived heavy-handedness of the police who have used tear gas, baton charges and rubber bullets in incidents that have pinballed across social media.

"The police are doing things that are totally unacceptable," said Yim, who like many of the protesters gave only one name. "They are hurting citizens, they aren't protecting us."

Communist-ruled mainland China has taken an increasingly hardline tone towards the protesters, decrying the "terrorist-like" actions of a violent hardcore minority among the demonstrators.

Despite the near-nightly clashes with police, the movement has won few concessions from Beijing or the city's unelected leadership.

The spiralling violence, which last week saw protesters paralyse the city's airport, has tarnished a campaign that had taken pride in its peaceful intent

## China military in Shenzhen



and unpredictability -- which demonstrators have tagged with the slogan 'Be Water'.

Sunday's rally was convened as a "non-violent" demonstration, according to organisers the Civil Human Rights Front.

### Peace or violence?

Yet many among Sunday's rally-goers carried rucksacks stuffed with protest parapher-

nal -- laser pens, gas masks, goggles and helmets.

"We have our gear with us, but we hope not to use it," said a 30-year-old identifying himself only as Man.

China's state media ran images of military personnel and armoured personnel carriers across the border in Shenzhen, prompting the United States to warn Beijing against sending in

troops.

Analysts say any intervention by Chinese security forces would be a reputational and economic disaster for China.

But Hong Kong's police are under intense pressure, stretched by flashmob protests.

A Hong Kong government spokesperson praised the police for handling "illegal acts with tolerance" and appealed to the protesters to "express their views in a peaceful and rational manner".

Opinions among the protesters have diverged over the billowing violence, which has seen hardcore protesters using rocks, Molotov cocktails and slingshots against the police.

Some say the violence has driven the pro-democracy movement in an uncomfortable direction.

"There are some expressing extreme views," rally-goer Ray Cheng, 30, said.

"But we have tried many times with peaceful approaches... I really hope the government can listen to us."

### Unprecedented crisis

Under a deal signed with Britain, China agreed to allow Hong Kong to keep its unique freedoms when it was handed back in 1997.

But many Hong Kongers feel those freedoms are being chipped away, especially since China's hardline president Xi Jinping came to power.

Beyond suspending the extradition bill, Beijing and city leader Carrie Lam have shown no desire to meet key demands such as an inquiry into police violence, the complete withdrawal of the bill and an amnesty.

Beijing has turned the screws on Hong Kong's businesses, pressuring them to toe the line and condemn the protesters.

On Friday, Cathay Pacific announced the shock resignation of CEO Rupert Hogg after the carrier was excoriated by Beijing because some staff supported the pro-democracy protests.

## Gun found in FedEx package sent from US to China



Representative picture (Courtesy of nnnews)

Beijing, China

Chinese authorities have found at least one firearm in a FedEx package sent from the US, local police said Sunday, in the latest incident to befall the logistics firm in China.

Police in Fuzhou, eastern Fujian province, said "in recent days" they had received a tip about a package sent to a Fujian-based sporting goods company.

The parcel was sent by a US client and contained at least one firearm, said Jin'an district police through their official Twitter-like Weibo account.

The firearm has been seized and officers are investigating, they added, without specifying the number of weapons in the package. FedEx is facing multiple investigations in China, where it has come under fire for delivery mishaps related to Chinese telecoms giant Huawei.

In May, FedEx apologised for "misrouting" what it said was a "small number" of Huawei packages.

Huawei said at the time it would review its ties with the courier service over the incident. A Chinese government probe launched in June accused FedEx of holding up more than 100 packages from Huawei.

"During the investigation, other leads of FedEx violating regulations were also discovered," reported China's official news agency Xinhua in July.

## Indonesia police shoot suspected militant after station attack

Jakarta, Indonesia

Indonesian authorities said yesterday they shot and arrested a suspected militant who attacked police officers at a station in the country's second-biggest city.

The incident in Surabaya on Saturday -- Indonesia's independence day -- came as the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation is on high alert for attacks by local groups sympathetic to the Islamic State.

A 30-year-old man walked into the station and said that he wanted to make a report, according to police.

"Then he suddenly took out a sickle and started slashing the officer on duty," East Java police spokesman Frans Barung Mangera told AFP on Sunday.

The officer, who sustained wounds to his head, face and hand, was recovering in hospital while another who intervened was lightly injured, police said.

## Airport bombed by Libya's Haftar not military: United Nation

Tripoli, Libya

The United Nations mission in Libya (UNSMIL) has dismissed claims by strongman Khalifa Haftar that a government-controlled airport bombed by his forces in recent days housed military infrastructure.

On Thursday and Friday Haftar's self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA) launched air strikes on Zuwara airport in western Libya, targeting what it said was a hangar "which houses Turkish drones and their ammunition".

The Tripoli-based Government of National Accord -- recognised by the UN -- said a member of civil protection was wounded in Friday's attack.

UNSMIL said it dispatched a delegation to Zuwara to investigate the LNA allegations.

"After reviewing the airport's facilities and all the adjacent buildings, the assessment mission was able to confirm that neither military assets nor military infrastructure were ob-



Libyans gather at the site of a car bomb attack in Libya's eastern city of Benghazi



Since April, the fighting has killed at least 1,093 people and wounded 5,752, while some 120,000 others have been displaced

served at Zuwara Airport," a statement said.

It declared Zuwara airport "a civilian facility".

UNSMIL denounced the strike, which "caused serious damage to the airport's infrastructure, including to the runway".

"Attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructures constitute a grave violation of international humanitarian and human rights law," it said.

Haftar launched an offensive in April to seize Tripoli from the GNA.

## Libyan navy says more than 300 migrants rescued

Tripoli, Libya

The Libyan navy said yesterday 335 migrants had been rescued and one body recovered in separate operations off the coast, as they tried to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe.

Nine children were among 57 migrants in a wooden boat rescued Saturday about 40 nautical miles from the town of Zuwara, west of Tripoli, navy spokesman General Ayoub Kacem told AFP.

He said they were from Ethiopia and Egypt.

It came days after

Libyan navy patrols on Tuesday "rescued 278 migrants on board four inflatable boats northwest and northeast of Tripoli", Kacem added.

The operations took place off the coasts of the cities of Khoms, 120 kilometres (75 miles) east of Tripoli, and Sabratha, located 70 kilometres west of the capital.

According to the statement, 128 Sudanese were in the boats, in addition to migrants from Chad, Egypt, Niger, Benin and Eritrea, including 35 women and 11 children.

One body was also recovered by the coastguard.



An inflatable boat with 47 migrants on board is pictured while being rescued by the Dutch-flagged Sea Watch 3 off Libya's coasts



# Man charged after NY scare over rice cookers

- All of the suspicious objects were ultimately determined to be empty rice cookers
- Griffin is reportedly a former resident of Bruno, West Virginia

New York, United States

A young homeless man has been charged with placing false bombs, police said Saturday, after three empty rice cookers caused major commuter disruption in New York.

Larry K. Griffin II, 26, was arrested by the New York Police Department and charged with three counts of placing a false bomb, according to a statement released Saturday.

Parts of the city were alerted for two hours Friday morning as three suspicious objects were found: two near the World Trade Centre in the Fulton Street subway station, and one in the Chelsea district further north.



This undated surveillance video screen grab handout released by the New York City Police Department shows suspect Larry K. Griffin leaving rice cookers in New York

The station was quickly evacuated, service on two subway lines was suspended and trains on other lines serving Fulton Street bypassed the station.

All of the suspicious objects were ultimately determined to be empty rice cookers, each the same model, according to police.

Griffin is reportedly a former resident of Bruno, West Virginia, US media said.

West Virginia's Logan County Sheriff's office said he had a history of criminal activity.

Griffin had been arrested at least three times in the last eight years on charges such as possession of a controlled substance involving weapons, and use of obscene material to seduce a minor, the office said. He was indicted on the latter two charges.

There was also an active arrest warrant for failure to report, and

that, "Little Larry's a good person. He's got issues but he don't ever mean no harm or anything."

In September 2016 a pressure cooker containing a homemade explosive device detonated in the Chelsea neighborhood, injuring 31 people and triggering panic in a city that had not endured an attack since 9/11.

Since then, the US financial capital has been hit by two other incidents.

”

Little Larry's a good person. He's got issues but he don't ever mean no harm or anything

COUSIN, TARA BRUMFIELD

## Spain offers to take Open Arms migrant vessel

Madrid, Spain

Spain yesterday offered to take in the charity vessel Proactiva Open Arms with more than 100 migrants on board, slamming Italy's "inconceivable" refusal to allow it to dock.

Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez "today ordered the port of Algeciras to be ready to receive the boat Open Arms," which is currently in limbo off the Italian island of Lampedusa, his office said in a statement.

It cited the "urgent situation" on the vessel and



The Spanish migrant rescue NGO ship Open Arms is seen off the coast of the Italian island of Lampedusa

the "inconceivable decision by the Italian authorities... to close all its ports" to the migrants.

## Filipino, not Chinese, sailors kidnapped off Cameroon

Douala, Cameroon

Most of the sailors kidnapped off the Cameroon coast last week were Filipinos, not Chinese as first reported, according to an official document seen by AFP yesterday.

On Friday, an official in the port of Douala said that 17 crew had been abducted, including "nine Chinese civilian sailors" from one of the two ships attacked, along with Ukrainians.

The attacks took place on Thursday in Cameroonian

The attacks took place on Thursday in Cameroonian waters off Douala

waters off Douala, located at the apex of a gulf that has become a hot-spot of seaborne crime.

The port document said instead that "nine hostages, all Filipinos," were seized from a Greek-owned ship while "eight (three Russians, four Filipinos and a Ukrainian)" were taken from a German-owned vessel.

Noel Choong, head of the information service of the International Maritime Bureau based in Kuala Lumpur, confirmed the figures but said he could not be sure of the nationalities on the second ship.

## UK strips citizenship from 'Jihadi Jack' dual national

London, United Kingdom

Britain has revoked the citizenship of a dual national Muslim convert to the Islamic State group dubbed "Jihadi Jack" being held in northern Syria, according to reports yesterday.

The move targeting Jack Letts, 24, who was a dual UK-Canadian national, has prompted a diplomatic row with Ottawa, Britain's Mail on Sunday reported.

Former prime minister Theresa May approved the decision -- which had been made by then-interior minister Sajid Javid -- in one of her last ac-



Letts fled to Syria in 2014 (Courtesy of the Sun)

tions before leaving office in early July, the newspaper said.

A spokesperson for Britain's interior ministry declined to confirm the report, noting it does not routinely comment on individual cases.

# Vintage car rally marks Baltics human chain anniversary

Vilnius, Lithuania

Hundreds of vintage cars set out across the Baltic states Sunday to mark the 30th anniversary of a human chain of more than a million people demanding independence from the Soviet Union.

Decorated with Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian national flags, some 200 cars began their journey

from the central square in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius to the cheers of onlookers.

A number of concerts are scheduled en route before the convoy reaches the Estonian capital Tallinn on Tuesday.

The 675-kilometre (420-mile) human chain, known as the Baltic Way, linked Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn on August 23, 1989 to mark the 50th anniversary of the infamous Nazi-Soviet

pact that carved up eastern Europe and led to the Baltic states' occupation by the Soviet Union.

The vintage cars taking part represent both eras, from Mercedes-Benz and Lincolns of the 1930s to Soviet-era Volgas and Ladas of the 1980s.

One of the largest demonstrations in the Soviet Union, the Baltic Way was a "life changer" for many of the six million people living in the three countries, said parade participant Raimundas

Skridulas.

"We were at the Baltic Way near Panevezys in northern Lithuania. It means everything, it changed our life for the better," the 60-year-old told AFP, sitting in a 1972 Mercedes.

Six months after the protest, Lithuania became the first Soviet republic to declare independence.

The three countries won international recognition in 1991 before joining the EU and NATO in 2004.

Organiser Egidijus Einoris said it was the first joint event of this scale for vintage car enthusiasts in the three states.

"All Baltic people were united 30 years ago and we have managed to repeat that," he told AFP.

"It is hard to describe the feelings in 1989. It was a huge feeling of national pride. I feel nostalgic when I look

back at the pictures," he added.



Participants of the "Baltic Way 30" depart the antique cars' event at the Cathedral Square in Vilnius, Lithuania



# G7 pretence of acting as the guardian of global rules

*A significant number  
of world leaders gathering in  
Biarritz next weekend have  
risen to the top by promoting a  
nationalist agenda*

DAMIEN MCELROY

The Group of Seven summit starts next Saturday and is always a good barometer of the global balance of power. One yardstick is the number following the “G”, which denotes the number of countries in the group. Membership has fluctuated over time in response to shifting political considerations.

Another measure lies in the mix of leaders around the table. This year the telling difference is not the size but the sympathies of those who will gather in Biarritz on the French Atlantic seaboard.

A significant caucus in the room have risen to the top on the basis of nationalist political agendas.

At a time when world stock markets are wobbling like blanc-mange, that is bound to detract from the effective partnership on managing the global economy that gives the summit its edge.

The G7 was the G6 when the first meeting took place in France in 1975. It was the apex of the western club of nations. The idea was that like-minded leaders could use the opportunity of being at close quarters for a prolonged period of time to address pressing issues together.

The post-Cold War expansion to a G8 format was last seen at an Irish golf course resort and hosted by then British prime minister David Cameron in Enniskillen in 2012. The group has since shrunk back again to mostly western liberal democracies but new divi-



Anti-G7 activists hold banners reading: ‘This is not your playground’ outside the Palace Hotel in Biarritz, southwestern France.

sions are likely to dominate next weekend.

Since the inaugural meeting, the three main topics have been about boosting inflation-free growth, stopping protectionism in global trade and tackling energy and climate issues.

While the body represents a narrow band at the top of the global order, the discussions have been strongly rooted in the idea of shared interdependence.

The outlook of the meetings has been that making international rules stronger promotes a common good.

Within that framework, there have been many successes, including the World Trade Organisation and successive rounds of trade liberalisation. Effective actions such as addressing the Latin American debt crisis in the 1980s and co-ordinating the immediate response to the 2008 financial

crisis have been the result of previous summits.

There been immense thematic changes as well. Development aid has expanded and moved to the heart of global relationships since 1975. And without the G7 or G8, it is unlikely we would have the global climate change agreements that, whatever disputes still rage, provide some fight back against global warming.

It is unlikely that most, or any,

## Europe’s carrot-and-no-stick approach has

BEN WHITE

When Israeli authorities last week approved plans for more than 2,000 settlement housing units in the occupied West Bank, the European Union was quick to condemn the move.

“All settlement activity is illegal under international law and it erodes the viability of the two-state solution and the prospects for a lasting peace,” read the statement issued by the European External Action Service, the EU’s diplomatic service.

It went on: “The EU expects the Israeli authorities to fully meet their obligations as an occupying power under international humanitarian law and to cease the policy of settlement construction and expansion, of designating land for exclusive Israeli use, and of denying Palestinian development.”

This might read as strongly-worded criticism but in fact, it is similar to dozens of expressions of concern issued by the EU over the years in response to events like Israeli settlement expansion or the demolition of Palestinian homes.

These pro forma press releases are perhaps symbolic of the EU’s approach to Israel and the Palestinians; while paying lip service to international law, Brussels’ policy is stuck in a rut – so much so that the EU has come to play a key role in maintaining the apartheid status quo.

In more recent times, the EU’s foreign policy in general – and

its engagement with Israel and the Palestinians in particular – has been hobbled by significant internal developments, including Brexit, as well as growing divisions among member states that Israel has been keen to cultivate.

As a report earlier this year in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz put it: “Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been trying to exploit the growing ideological divide within the European Union to dismantle the union’s consensus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”

In forging ties with central and eastern European countries, Mr Netanyahu has exacerbated a long-standing problem for EU foreign policy, namely the need to secure sign-on from all member states.

But the flaws in the EU’s approach to Israel and the Palestinians predate these trajectories.

Brussels has invested deeply in the so-called Israeli-Palestinian peace process, whether in the form of diplomatic initiatives, donor support and training for the Palestinian Authority – and in particular its police force – as well as forging economic and research partnerships with Israel.

While on paper, all forms of engagement are intended to serve the goal of a two-state solution and respect for international law, in practice the EU has consistently ruled out practical measures to hold Israel to account for its routine and grave human rights violations – even those policies designed to thwart the very two-state framework the EU says it



An Israeli border policeman grabs a Palestinian demonstrator during a protest against the Israeli demolitions of Palestinian homes.

supports.

For a long time, even as Israel concentrated on creating its “facts on the ground” in occupied Palestinian territory, the EU insisted that its most valuable contribution was to help maintain “stability” and to “incentivise” the Israeli government and PA to

pursue good faith negotiations.

As a senior EU official told me in 2016, the priority was to “re-establish some trust and confidence in the parties”, with the goal being “improving the situation on the ground, recreating a better environment for talks and then moving to meaningful talks on the

final status issues”.

Three years on, nothing has changed. Last month, the EU reaffirmed to the UN Security Council the importance of direct negotiations, adding that it was “ready to work with the United States” and other partners “in carrying out economic projects, which

*Riven with  
internal  
conflicts, the  
union has  
been reduced  
to the role  
of mediator  
between  
Israeli  
authorities  
and the  
Palestinian  
Authority*



1981

Gulf of Sidra Incident: United States fighters intercept and shoot down two Libyan **Sukhoi Su-22** fighter jets over the Gulf of Sidra.

1987

Hungerford massacre: In the United Kingdom, **Michael Ryan** kills sixteen people with a semi-automatic rifle and then commits suicide.

1989

Polish president **Wojciech Jaruzelski** nominates Solidarity activist Tadeusz Mazowiecki to be the first non-communist prime minister in 42 years.



1989

Several hundred East Germans cross the frontier between Hungary and Austria during the Pan-European Picnic, part of the events that began the process of the Fall of the **Berlin Wall**.



Within Ireland, both north and south of the border, a new debate is kicking off on what unification of the island free of British rule would look like.

That “beautiful era” was eclipsed by the rise of nationalist and imperial antagonism from the next generation of that small group of leaders.

Mr Trump has from the outset of his presidency spurned the climate change consensus. A series of trade disputes and escalating tariff war with China has shredded progress towards liberalisation. The US president has said trade wars are easy for the US to win. He also holds the opinion that tariff revenues represent a fiscal bonanza for the US. The G7 meetings represents a second phase for the Trump administration’s foreign policy. Reports suggest Mr Trump plans to meet Boris Johnson, the new British prime minister, before other Europeans.

That would be a pointed endorsement of London’s push to leave the EU without an agreed exit plan – a disruptive breach

that would set Britain firmly on a course away from Europe. Next to America First, a no-deal Brexit would be the greatest nationalist assertion seen among the G7 members in its history.

Meanwhile, also around the table will be Giuseppe Conte, the Italian prime minister, who could lose his job this week after the nationalist Lega party demanded a general election and pushed for a no-confidence vote.

The White House has a Brexit project. It is offering fast trade deals to offset the UK loss of access to European markets. It claims these can be piecemeal, something that is against WTO rules. At the very least, the G7 pretence of acting as the guardian of global rules rings hollow.

At this level, every action has a reaction or a cascade of consequences. Britain leaving the EU is igniting nationalist passions within its own borders. The case for a Scottish referendum on independence is growing.

Within Ireland, both north and south of the border, a new debate is kicking off on what unification of the island free of British rule would look like.

Meanwhile the markets place no store in a communicate from Biarritz. Officials fear there will be no communicate issued at all – another first. Nor has there been any serious momentum behind diplomatic peace-brokering initiatives proposed for this year’s G7.

Economic problems are hostage to a rapidly entrenching new political landscape.

## only emboldened Israel



In forging ties with central and eastern European countries, Mr Netanyahu has exacerbated a long-standing problem for EU foreign policy.

and arguably never will – at least not in the same format.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration has been openly and unashamedly taking steps to help formalise the de facto single state that has long existed on the ground, in concert with an Israeli government which – regardless of next month’s election results – opposes Palestinian statehood.

With the collapse of the peace process and two-state framework itself, EU policy looks ever more outdated, leaving Brussels complicit in the colonial horror show taking place on a daily basis.

In recent times, the EU has been reduced to the role of mediator between Israeli and PA officials simply to “keep the PA from financial collapse”. As experts have noted: “It appears that, for the White House, Europe’s only acceptable role in Israel-Palestine is that of a funder.”

Will this be a role that the EU

meekly accepts? Even taking into account the union’s internal dynamics and member-states’ woes, Brussels has plenty of significant, timely options to make a difference. At a bare minimum, that must include a refusal to go along with the Trump administration’s plan, and ideally should involve open opposition.

Earlier this year, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini was able to release a statement on behalf of all 28 union states in response to US recognition of Israel’s illegal annexation of the occupied Golan Heights. It is possible that were the US and Israel to act to advance annexation of West Bank territory, the EU would be galvanised into a similarly united stand.

But what is urgently needed, above all, is action not words – and the paramount question is whether policymakers and bureaucrats will break the habit of years of what passes for engagement and in particular, impose a price for Israel’s violations of international law.

Naivety, domestic political pressure and in some cases, an overtly anti-Palestinian agenda, have all shaped the EU’s carrot-and-no-stick approach.

Israel – and many European governments and private actors – have greatly benefited from economic, academic and military co-operation agreements with the EU, while experiencing little to nothing in the way of concrete pressure in response to occupation. It can no longer be business as usual.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



There is a third world in each part of first world. There is a first world in each part of third world. There are first, second and third world in all continents-- Asia, Africa, Europe, America, Australia.

@taslimanasreen

02



Addressed @BJP4Telangana state office bearers and election clusters meeting at Hyderabad. Our cadre in Telangana is going to expose the failures and anti-people policies of the TRS government and popularise the good governance of the Modi government.

@JPNadda

03



The endlessly interesting thing about living in the vicinity of people impelled by Narcissistic Personality Disorder is that years after you think you know every evil thing they’re capable of, you can still be surprised by some new evil thing

@davidfrum

04



Thank you Bhutan! It was a memorable visit. The affection I have received from the people of this wonderful nation can never be forgotten. There were many programmes which I had the honour of taking part in. The outcomes of the visit will enhance bilateral ties.

@narendramodi

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

## Kingdom as a hub for Artificial Intelligence



JASSIM HAJI

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a transformative technology that holds promise for tremendous societal and economic benefit. AI has the potential to revolutionise how we live, work, learn, discover, and communicate. AI research can further our national priorities, including increased economic prosperity, improved educational opportunities and quality of life, and enhanced national security.

The Kingdom of Bahrain graduates hundreds of technology and computer science students every year with much world class ‘Graduation projects’ which can be bases for mega projects in the region. These students are potential entrepreneurs and inventors of future Artificial Intelligence initiatives, not only for Bahrain but for the region. Therefore, it is imperative to establish Bahrain as a regional centre for Artificial Intelligence Research and Development, and instead of multinational companies developing AI programs in South Asia, Latin America or Eastern Europe to export them to GCC, they would enhance such technologies in Bahrain with many benefits to GCC and the kingdom.

The Innovation Centres for Artificial Intelligence should be a national initiative focused on joint technology development between academia, industry and government in the area of artificial intelligence. Bahrain has the talent, the world-class research and the long-standing tradition in AI education to be one of the world’s top ranked countries in terms of innovation power. AI R and D brings these positive forces together in a unique national initiative.

*The Innovation Centres for Artificial Intelligence should be a national initiative focused on joint technology development between academia, industry and government.*



tain a connection with other world-level science centres. It will also facilitate commercialisation by enhancing start-up and spin-outs.

We can already see the potential for artificial intelligence (AI) in international development: the seemingly endless possibilities to enhance productivity and innovation across healthcare, agriculture, education, transportation, and governance.

Given the opportunities and potential consequences of new automation and mechanisation techniques and advanced analysis through machine learning and neural networks, many American and European innovations centres are investing in applied research across a number of domains to advance the public good with the use of artificial intelligence for development.

These centres can also be found in Canada, Netherlands, India, Thailand plus a great potential for Bahrain in the Middle-East.

Such a strategic initiative would complement great efforts by the Economic Development Board (EDB) and Bahrain Polytechnic in supporting Artificial Intelligence initiatives and investments in the kingdom.

(Jassim Haji is a technological expert and the President of Artificial Intelligence Society Bahrain.)



business

Ahli United Bank gets Commerzbank STP excellence award



Promoted Gulf Air employees with top officials during a group photo opportunity

TDT | Manama

Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced receiving the prestigious Straight Through

Processing (STP) Award 2018 by Commerzbank AG, in recognition of its outstanding performance in the delivery of commercial payments and financial institution transfers in Euros.

Adding to its previous victories, Ahli United Bank has now won the award for its STP processing for the 15 th consecutive year demonstrating the bank's on-going commitment

in delivering quality services, and its valuable investments in breakthrough technologies. At a ceremony held at the bank's headquarters in Seef District, Mehtap Ak-Sisman, Director

& Relationship Manager, Commerzbank AG, formally presented the award to Shafqat Anwar, Deputy Group CEO for Operations and Technology, AUB. Anwar said, "We are confi-

dent that with our continuous customer-focused efforts and dedication at providing exceptional service, we will continue to maintain a strong relationship with our valued clients."

Carrefour Barbar store will be free from single-use plastic

Hypermarket joins hands with Northern Municipal Council on Sustainability Goals



Officials of Carrefour, operated in Bahrain by Majid Al Futtaim, with representatives from the Northern Municipal Council

TDT | Manama

Carrefour's hypermarket in Barbar's iconic Jawad Dome is set to be the retailer's most eco-friendly in the Kingdom. The store will be free from single-use plastic bags and offer biodegradable alternatives made from cassava instead, in addition to offering a range of reusable bags. When complete, Carrefour's

hypermarket in Barbar will mark its 13th store in Bahrain overall. This came during a discussion by Carrefour, operated in Bahrain by Majid Al Futtaim, with representatives from the Northern Municipal Council, led by President Ahmed Al-Kooheji to discuss various opportunities for greater collaboration around sustainability. During the meeting, Al-Kooheji praised Majid Al Futtaim for its role within the communi-

ty and made note of Carrefour's store in Barbar in particular. "We are looking forward to working together with Majid Al Futtaim and hope to have a strategic and strong partnership that can raise awareness on various sustainable and environmental projects that the Northern Municipal Council is striving to be active in," said Ahmed Al-Kooheji, Chairman of the Northern Municipal Council. Jerome Akel, Country Man-

ager of Carrefour in Bahrain at Majid Al Futtaim Retail said: "Sustainability is a core element of our business, and we are keen on aligning our efforts with those of the Northern Municipal Council. We are grateful for their visit, as together we can continue to be a driving force behind our shared goals of educating the public on the harmful effects of single-use plastics while encouraging them to opt for greener alternatives."

A.M. Best affirms credit rating of gig-Bahrain

TDT | Manama

A.M. Best International yesterday affirmed the financial strength rating A- (Excellent) and the long-term issuer credit rating of "a-" of Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company (gig-Bahrain), and the outlook for both ratings is stable. The rating reflects gig-Bahrain's balance sheet strength which categorizes as very strong, strong operating performance, neutral business profile as well as an appropriate enterprise risk management. Ebrahim Alrayes, CEO of gig-Bahrain, said this Credit Rating reflects the financial strength of the company and its ability to meet its obligations. He added that the company has an excellent record of profitability reflecting good underwriting performance for all types of insurance. It is worth mentioning that Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company (gig-Bahrain) is a subsidiary of Gulf Insurance Group (GIG) which is the largest insurance Group in Kuwait in terms of written and retained premiums, with operations in the life and non-life as well as Takaful insurance.



The management is pleased with this Credit Rating and it reflects the financial strength of the company and its ability to meet its obligations  
EBRAHIM ALRAYES  
CEO OF GIG-BAHRAIN

Argentine economy minister resigns

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Argentina's Economy Minister Nicolas Dujovne resigned Saturday after a week of economic tumult caused by President Mauricio Macri's defeat in a primary poll ahead of a general election. Dujovne will be replaced by Hernan Lacunza, economy minister for Buenos Aires

province, Argentine media reported. Dujovne said, in a letter posted on the website of La Nacion newspaper, he was "convinced that, under the circumstances, the (government's) management needs significant renewal in the economic arena." In Argentina 32 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line.



# Credit boom worries Russia

Easy credit poses tough challenge for Russian economy

*Russians, who have seen their purchasing power decline in recent years, are borrowing more and more to buy goods or simply to make ends meet. The level of loans has grown so much in the last 18 months that the economy minister warned it could contribute to another recession*

**AFP** | Moscow, Russia

New machines popping up in Russian shopping centres seem innocuous enough -- users insert their passport and receive a small loan in a matter of minutes.

But the devices, which dispense credit in Saint Petersburg malls at a sky-high annual rate of 365 per cent, are another sign of a credit boom that has authorities worried.



A woman walks out of a building housing an office of VashiDengi payday lender in Moscow

Russians, who have seen their purchasing power decline in recent years, are borrowing more and more to buy goods or simply to make ends meet.

The level of loans has grown so much in the last 18 months that the economy minister warned it could contribute to another recession.

But it's a sensitive topic. Limiting credit would deprive households of financing that is sometimes vital, and could hobble already stagnant growth.

The Russian economy was badly hit in 2014 by falling oil prices and Western sanctions over Moscow's role in Ukraine,

and it has yet to fully recover.

"Tightening lending conditions could immediately damage growth," Natalia Orlova, chief economist at Alfa Bank, said.

"Continuing retail loan growth is currently the main supporting factor," she noted.

But "the situation could blow up in 2021," Economy Minister Maxim Oreshkin warned in a recent interview with the Ekho Moskvy radio station.

He said measures were being prepared to help indebted Russians.

According to Oreshkin, consumer credit's share of household debt increased by 25pc

last year and now represents 1.8 trillion rubles, around \$27.5 billion.

For a third of indebted households, he said, credit reimbursement eats up 60pc of their monthly income, pushing many to take out new loans to repay old ones.

Alfa Bank's Orlova said other countries in the region, for example in Eastern Europe, had even higher levels of overall consumer debt as apcage of national output or GDP.

But Russian debt is "not spread equally, it is mainly held by lower income classes," which are less likely to repay, she said.

## 'People don't have money'

The situation has led to friction between the government and the central bank, with ministers like Oreshkin criticising it for not doing enough to restrict loans.

Meanwhile, economic growth slowed sharply early this year following recoveries in 2017 and 2018, with an increase of just 0.7pc in the first half of 2019 from the same period a year earlier.

That was far from the 4.0pc annual target set by President Vladimir Putin -- a difficult objective while the country is subject to Western sanctions.

With 19 million people living below the poverty line, Russia is in dire need of development.

"The problem is that people don't have money," Andrei Kolesnikov of the Carnegie Centre in Moscow wrote recently.

"This is why we can physically feel the trepidation of the financial and economic authorities," he added.

Kolesnikov described the government's economic policy as something that "essentially boils down to collecting additional cash from the population and

spending it on goals indicated by the state."

At the beginning of his fourth presidential term in 2018, Putin unveiled ambitious "national projects."

The cost of those projects -- which fall into 12 categories that range from health to infrastructure -- is estimated at \$400 billion by 2024, of which \$115 billion is to come from private investment.

A rise in value-added tax on January 1 that was presented as crucial for the projects contributed to Putin's fall in popularity over the last year.

"If the debt bubble suddenly bursts, how will people behave?" Kolesnikov asked.

"They will be left without money" while authorities continue to spend on grand but ultimately unprofitable projects, the analyst warned.

He cited grandiose "patriotic" undertakings such as a bridge connecting Sakhalin island to the mainland in far eastern Russia, and the creation of a "Russian Vatican" in the ancient monastery town of Sergiev Posad outside Moscow.

That will come at a "diabolical cost", he quipped.



A woman passes a notice advertising loans in downtown Moscow

## Kuwait sovereign fund in portfolio shift: report

- KIA, which the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute estimates manage \$592 billion of assets
- KIA has achieved a 10% return on its investments in U.S. stock markets since the beginning of this year

**Reuters** | Kuwait

The Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) began increasing its exposure to bonds and cash two years ago to boost liquidity in its portfolio as the

global economy showed signs of weakness, Kuwaiti newspaper Alqabas reported on Sunday, citing sources.

The report provided rare insight on the strategy of one of the world's biggest sovereign wealth funds, though it did not give a breakdown of KIA's investments in various asset classes.

KIA, which the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute estimates manage \$592 billion of assets, does not publicly disclose its investments or detailed strategy.

The newspaper report said KIA made "calculated exits" from investments it felt were vulnerable to a downturn in global financial markets as the world economy began to show signs of faltering two years ago.

### The fund's investments are spread across more than 120 economies globally

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in July cut its forecast for global growth this year and next, warning that further tariffs in the U.S.-China trade dispute or a disorderly British exit from the European Union could slow growth further, weaken investment and disrupt supply chains.

The IMF said that downside risks had intensified

and it expected global economic growth of 3.2% in 2019 and 3.5% in 2020, both down by 0.1 percentage points from its April forecasts and its fourth downgrade since October.

Despite recent volatility in equity markets, KIA has achieved a 10% return on its investments in U.S. stock markets since the beginning of this year, the report said.

KIA officials were not immediately available to comment.

Kuwaiti news agency KUNA reported in late 2017 that KIA had more than \$300 billion of investments in the United States, diversified among stocks, bonds, real estate and technology.



Representative picture (Courtesy of Radisson)

## US and China seeking to revive trade talks: Trump advisor



China's President Xi Jinping (R) shakes hands with US President Donald Trump before a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Osaka.

### Washington, United States

Washington and Beijing are working actively to revive negotiations aimed at ending the trade war that has rattled world markets, Donald Trump's chief economic adviser said Sunday.

If teleconferences between both sides' deputies pan out in the next 10 days "and we can have a substantive renewal of negotiations," Larry Kudlow said on "Fox News Sunday," "then we are planning to have China come to the USA and meet with our principals to continue the negotiations."

That left it uncertain, how-

ever, whether a Chinese delegation would be coming to Washington next month, as a White House spokesperson predicted after US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin left a round of trade talks in Shanghai in July.

But Kudlow emphasized that phone conversations held last week to follow up on the Shanghai talks -- involving Lighthizer, Mnuchin and two senior Chinese negotiators, Vice Premier Liu He and Commerce Secretary Zhong Shan -- were "a lot more positive than has been reported in the media."



# Brexit: Johnson to visit European capitals

London, United Kingdom

**B**oris Johnson will visit European capitals this week on his first overseas trip as British leader, as his government said yesterday it had ordered the repeal of the decades-old law enforcing EU membership.

Johnson's Downing Street office confirmed he will travel to Berlin on Wednesday for talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and on to Paris Thursday for discussions with French President Emmanuel Macron, amid growing fears of a no-deal Brexit in two-and-a-half months.

The meetings, ahead of a two-day G7 summit starting Saturday in the southern French resort of Biarritz, will be his first diplomatic forays abroad since replacing Theresa May last month.

He is expected to push for fresh negotiations over the terms of Brexit or warn that the EU faces Britain crashing out of the bloc on October 31 -- the latest delayed date for its departure.

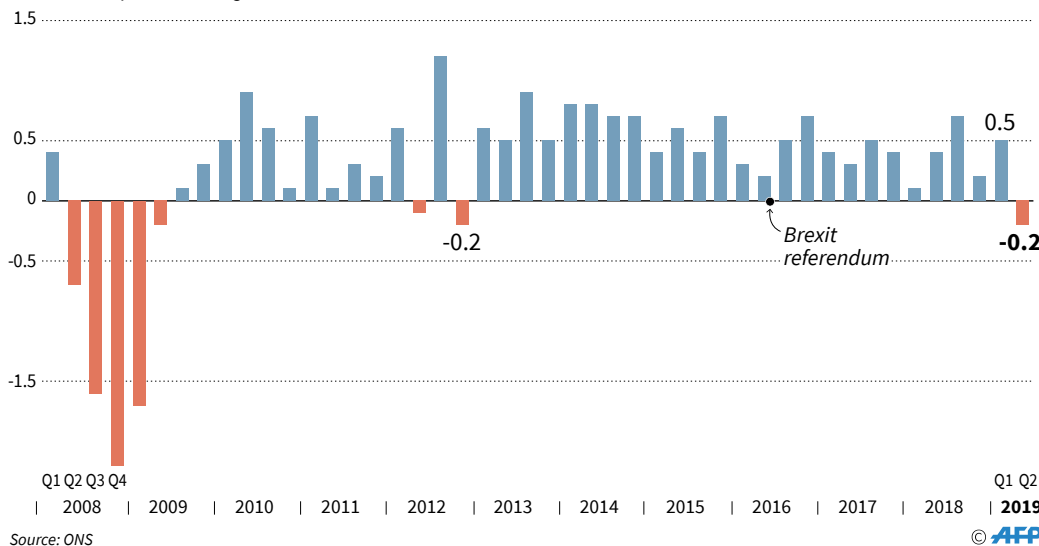
European leaders have repeatedly rejected reopening an accord struck with May last year but then rejected by British lawmakers on three occasions, despite Johnson's threats that the country will leave then without an agreement.

## 'Political move'

In an apparent show of intent, London announced yesterday that it had ordered the scrapping of the European Communities Act, which took Britain into the

## British GDP

Quarter-on-quarter change in %



forerunner to the EU 46 years ago and gives Brussels law supremacy.

The order, signed by Brexit Secretary Steve Barclay on Friday, is set to take effect on October 31.

"This is a landmark moment in taking back control of our laws from Brussels," Barclay said in a statement.

"This is a clear signal to the people of this country that there is no turning back -- we are leaving the EU as promised on October 31, whatever the circumstances."

However, analysts said the move was largely symbolic and could be undone.

"If parliament was to force the government to pass an ex-

tension, it can easily change the date again," said Maddy Thimont-Jack, a senior researcher at Institute for Government.

"You don't need to do it now... it's just a political move."

## 'National emergency'

The moves come as Johnson faces increasing pressure to recall MPs from their summer holidays so parliament can debate Brexit.

More than 100 lawmakers, who are not due to return until September 3, have demanded in a letter that he reconvene the 650-seat House of Commons and let them sit permanently until October 31.

"Our country is on the brink of an economic crisis, as we career

towards a no-deal Brexit," said the letter, signed by MPs and opposition party leaders opposed to such a scenario.

"We face a national emergency, and parliament must be recalled now."

Parliament is set to break up again shortly after it returns, with the main parties holding their annual conferences during the September break.

Main opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn wants to call a vote of no confidence in Johnson's government after it returns and, if successful, take over as a temporary prime minister.

He has vowed to seek an extension to Britain's EU departure date to stop a no-deal Brexit, and then call a general election.

But Corbyn has so far failed to win the backing of other opposition parties for him to lead any new unity government.

## Brexit shortages: report

Meanwhile, *the Sunday Times* reported that Britain could face food, fuel and medicine shortages and chaos at its ports in a no-deal Brexit, citing a leaked government planning document.

There would likely be some form of hard border imposed on the island of Ireland, the document implied.

The leaked document, compiled this month by the Cabinet Office ministry and dubbed "Yellowhammer", spells out the likely ramifications of a disruptive EU departure, the newspaper claimed.

But Michael Gove, the minister responsible for no-deal Brexit planning, said it envisaged a "worst case" scenario.

"We don't normally comment on leaks -- but a few facts -- Yellowhammer is a worst case scenario -- v significant steps have been taken in the last 3 weeks to accelerate Brexit planning," he said on Twitter.



Boris Johnson

## Ferrari will expand its lineup of road cars

Reuters | Pebble Beach, Calif.

**I**talian premium sports car maker Ferrari NV will expand sales of easier-driving grand touring cars, but will not try to chase rival Porsche's annual sales volume, Ferrari Chairman John Elkann told an audience of classic car enthusiasts gathered at this storied golf resort on the Pacific coast.

Elkann also reiterated that Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV, of which he is chairman, re-

mains open to opportunities to combine with other automakers, but is positioned to remain independent. Fiat Chrysler in May proposed a merger with French automaker Renault SA, but the deal fell apart after the French government intervened and Elkann withdrew the proposed merger.

Fiat Chrysler Chief Executive Mike Manley sent the same message to Renault and other would-be partners earlier this month.

## White House says 'no recession in sight' despite market turmoil

Reuters | Washington

**W**hite House officials pushed back yesterday against concerns that economic growth may be faltering, saying they saw little risk of recession despite a volatile week on global bond markets, and insisting their trade war with China was doing no damage to the United States.

"There is no recession in sight," White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said on *"Fox News Sunday."* "Consumers are working. Their wages are rising. They are spending and they are saving...I think we are in pretty good shape."

Trade adviser Peter Navarro dismissed last week's warning signs, saying "good" economic dynamics were encouraging investors to move money to the United States. "We have the strongest economy in the world and money is coming



White House chief economic adviser Larry Kudlow

here for our stock market. It's also coming here to chase yield in our bond markets," Navarro told ABC's "This Week."

That sort "flight to safety" is typically driven by concerns of global economic trouble - in this case the possibility that the Trump administration's tariff battle with China may dampen business investment and growth worldwide.

The tariffs on Chinese goods, Navarro said, "are not hurting anybody here."

## Saudi stocks pressured by banks



Traders on the floor of Saudi Stock exchange (file)

## ● Saudi index eased by 0.3 per cent

Reuters | Dubai

**S**audi shares ended lower yesterday, hit by weakness in banking stocks, while the Qatari index snapped a three-day losing streak as Industries Qatar's rebounded after steep declines on its first-half results.

The Saudi index eased by 0.3 per cent, with Saudi British Bank dropping about 1.3pc and Samba Financial Group falling 1.3pc. The Riyadh market had resumed trade after closing last week for the Eidul Adha religious festival.

Banking stocks have come under pressure in recent weeks

from the Saudi central bank's decision to follow the U.S. Federal Reserve in cutting interest rates, which analysts expect to squeeze lenders' profit margins.

Qatar shares ended their losing run thanks to market heavyweight Industries Qatar's 4.3pc jump after six sessions of declines.

"IQ went down so much last week that it became a compelling valuation despite the poor results," said Talal Samhour, head of asset management at Amwal, adding that the index was also buoyed by gains on international markets.

US and European stocks surged on Friday on expectations that the European Central Bank will cut interest rates, but the dollar pared gains against the euro after a newspaper report said the German govern-

## Closing Bell

<b>SAUDI</b>	▼ 0.3 pc to 8,527 pts
<b>ABU DHABI</b>	▼ 0.3pc to 5,039 pts
<b>DUBAI</b>	■ to 2,797 pts
<b>QATAR</b>	▲ 1.7pc to 9,782 pts
<b>EGYPT</b>	▲ 0.7pc to 1,4400 pts
<b>BAHRAIN</b>	▼ 0.3pc 1,530 pts
<b>OMAN</b>	■ at 3,862 pts
<b>KUWAIT</b>	▼ 1.7 at 6,572 pts

ment was prepared to take on new debt to provide economic stimulus.

The Abu Dhabi market slipped 0.3pc, with First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB) dipping 0.8pc.

Kuwaiti stocks fell 1.7pc, hurt by a 2.2pc drop in Kuwait Finance House.

## About 3,000 homeless as fire consumes Bangladesh slum

Reuters | Dhaka

**A**bout 3,000 people in Bangladesh were left homeless after a massive fire consumed several hundred shanties in a slum on the northern outskirts of the capital city of Dhaka, government officials said yesterday.

Three people were injured in the blaze that struck a congested slum in Mirpur town on Friday night.

Video footage showed heavy plumes of smoke billowing all around the slum area, just a few kilometres from the country's main cricket stadium.

Fire officials scrambled to get access to enough water and struggled for three hours to douse the flames, said Anwar Hossain, senior station manager of Mirpur fire station.

"According to our investigation committee 1,200 shanties were damaged and out of this 750 shanties burnt totally," said Enamur Rahman, junior minister for Disaster Management and Relief. There were no fatalities as most residents were away celebrating the festival of Eid al-Adha, officials said.

Rahman said the government will initially provide a total of 500 tonnes of rice and 1.3 million taka (\$15,476) for everyone affected and authorities were looking into the reason for the fire.



show



**ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD (18+)(DRAMA/COMEDY)**  
OASIS JUFFAIR : 12.30 + 6.00 + 11.30 PM  
OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 12.00 + 5.30 + 11.00 PM.  
CITY CENTRE : 10.45 AM + 2.00 + 5.15 + 8.30 + 11.45 PM.  
CITY CENTRE (IMAX2D): 12.45 + 6.45 + (12.45 MN. THURS./FRI.)  
CITY CENTRE VIP (I): 10.30 AM. + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM.  
SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM  
WADI AL SAIL: 10.30 AM + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM  
SAAR:11.00 AM + 1.15 + 4.30 + 7.45 + 11.00 PM  
LEONARDO DICAPRIO, BRAD PITT, MARGOT ROBBIE

**DORA AND THE LOST CITY OF GOLD (PG)(ADVENTURE/**  
OASIS JUFFAIR 10.30 AM + 3.45 + 9.15 PM  
OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP):3.15 + 8.45 PM  
CITY CENTRE:10.30 AM. + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN  
SEEF (II): 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM  
WADI AL SAIL: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM  
SAAR: 11.00 AM + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM  
ISABELA MONER, Q'ORIANKA KILCHER, BENICIO DEL TORO

**MISSION MANGAL (PG-13)(HINDI/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY)**  
OASIS JUFFAIR : 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN  
CITY CENTRE:12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM  
SEEF (I): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM  
WADI AL SAIL: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM  
SAAR: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM  
AKSHAY KUMAR, VIDYA BALAN, ANIRBAN BHATTACHARYYA

**BATLA HOUSE (15+)(HINDI/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY)**  
OASIS JUFFAIR : 12.15 + 5.45 + 11.15 PM  
SEEF (II): 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM  
JOHN ABRAHAM, MRUNAL THAKUR, NORA FATEHI

**MASTER Z: IP MAN LEGACY (PG-15)(ACTION/CRIME)**  
SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 3.00 + 7.30 + 12.00 MN  
WADI AL SAIL: 2.45 + 7.15 + 11.45 PM  
JIN ZHANG, DAVE BAUTISTA, MICHELLE YEOH

**THE CURRENT WAR (PG-15)(DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY)**  
SEEF (II): 12.45 + 5.15 + 9.45 PM  
WADI AL SAIL: 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM  
BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH, TOM HOLLAND, NICHOLAS HOULT

**T-34 (PG-15)(ACTION/WAR/DRAMA)**  
SEEF (II): 11.15 AM + 3.30 + 7.45 + 12.00 MN  
ALEXANDER PETROV, VINZENZ KIEFER, VICTOR DOBRONRAVOV

**MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM NARRATIVE (PG-13)(ANIMATION/**  
Japanese (Arabic & English subtitle)  
SEEF (II): 1.30 + 5.45 + 10.00 PM  
J. DAVID BRIMMER, DANIEL J. EDWARDS, ERIKA ISHII

**FAST & FURIOUS: HOBBS & SHAW (PG-15)(ACTION**  
OASIS JUFFAIR :12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM  
CITY CENTRE: 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM + (12.45 MN THUS/FRI)  
CITY CENTRE (ATMOS): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN  
CITY CENTRE (IMAX2D):4.00 + 10.00 PM  
CITY CENTRE VIP (II): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM.  
SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN  
WADI AL SAIL: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM  
SAAR:1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 PM  
DWAYNE JOHNSON, JASON STATHAM, IDRIS ELBA

**THE LION KING (PG)(ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)**  
OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM  
OASIS JUFFAIR : 1.00 + 8.30 PM  
CITY CENTRE:11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS./FRI.)  
SEEF (II):11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN  
WADI AL SAIL: 1.30 + 6.15 + 11.00 PM  
SAAR: 10.30 AM + 3.45 + 9.00 PM  
DONALD GLOVER, SETH ROGEN, CHIWETEL EJIOFOR

**THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2 (PG)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE**  
OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA):11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 PM  
CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 1.15 + 3.30 + 5.45 + 8.00 + 10.15 PM

SEEF (II):11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM  
WADI AL SAIL: 11.15 AM + 4.00 + 8.45 PM  
SUDEKIS, JOSH GAD, AWKWAFINA

**ALADDIN (PG)(ADVENTURE)**  
CITY CENTRE: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM  
WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD

**WELAD RIZK 2 (15+)(ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)**  
CITY CENTRE: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN  
SEEF (II): 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM  
AHMAD EIZZ, AMR YOUSIF,

**HELLO, LOVE, GOODBYE (PG-15)(FILIPINO/DRAMA**  
OASIS JUFFAIR : 10.30 AM + 3.30 + 6.00 + 11.00 PM  
SEEF (II): 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM  
KATHRYN BERNARDO, ALDEN RICHARDS, MAYMAY ENTRATA

**TOY STORY 4 (G)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)**  
CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM  
TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK

**SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK (15+)(HORROR**  
CITY CENTRE:2.45 + 7.15 + 11.45 PM  
ZOE MARGARET COLLETTI, MICHAEL GARZA, GABRIEL RUSH

**SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15)(ACTION**  
CITY CENTRE: 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM  
TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA

**CRAWL (18+)(THRILLER/HORROR)**  
CITY CENTRE: 12.00 + 4.45 + 9.30 PM  
KAYA SCODELARIO, BARRY PEPPER, ROSS ANDERSON

**MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15)(ARABIC/COMEDY)**  
CITY CENTRE: 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM  
MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHHAMED THARWAT



**CHAL MERA PUTT (PG-15) (PUNJABI)**  
SEEF (II): 11.00 AM. + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM.  
HAQI ALI, SIMI CHAHAL, AMRINDER GILL

**THANNEER MATHAN DINANGAL (PG-13)(MALAYALAM)**  
OASIS JUFFAIR :12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM  
SEEF (I):12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM  
VINEETH SREENIVASAN, IRSHAD, MATHEW THOMAS

**AMBILI (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)**  
OASIS JUFFAIR :11.30 AM + 5.15 + 11.00 PM  
SEEF (I):12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM  
AL HAMRA : 6.00 + (12.00 MN. THURS./FRI.)  
SOUBIN SAHIR, NAVEEN NAZIM , TANVI RAM

**COMALI (PG-13) (TAMIL)**  
OASIS JUFFAIR :12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM  
SEEF (I):12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM  
AL HAMRA : 9.00 PM  
JAYAM RAVI, KAJAL AGGARWAL, SAMYUKTHA HEGDE

**RAKSHASUDU (PG-15) (TELUGU)**  
AL HAMRA :12.00 NOON  
SAI SRINIVAS BALLAMKONDA , ANUPAMA PAREMESHWARAN

**KOLAIYUTHIR KAALAM (PG-15) (TAMIL)**  
AL HAMRA: 3.00 PM  
NAYANTHARA, LEE NICHOLAS HARRIS, RO ASHIKA  
NERKONDA PAARVAI (PG-15)

**OASIS JUFFAIR : 2.15 + 8.00 PM**  
VIDYA BALAN, AJITH KUMAR, SHRADDHA SRINATH

**JABARIYA JODI (PG-15)(HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC**  
OASIS JUFFAIR : 3.00 + 8.30 PM  
SIDHARTH MALHOTRA, PARINEETI CHOPRA, APARSHAKTI KHURANA

MOVIE REVIEW

Master Z: Ip Man Legacy - a martial arts master roams free

Max Zhang holds his own opposite Michelle Yeoh and Dave Bautista in the martial arts spin-off

The cinematic odyssey of Ip Man — the real-life master of Wing Chun and, famously, instructor of Bruce Lee — continues with “Master Z: Ip Man Legacy.” But don’t expect Donnie Yen to show up in this installment and don’t expect much in the way of historical fealty, narrative plausibility or serious examinations about human dignity or the ethics of kung fu. Expect, instead, a spin-off about Ip Man’s rival from “Ip Man 3,” Cheung Tin Chi (Zhang Jin, “Pacific Rim: Uprising”). After his secret defeat at the hands of Ip Man, Cheung Tin Chi became a mercenary — so briefly that it barely impacts the story. After retiring, he sets up a tiny grocery and tries to raise his son in peace, but a chance encounter with opium dealers leads to one giant fight sequence after another. The story of “Master Z” is frustratingly muddled, and Cheung Tin Chi has very little to do with it. He runs afoul of a criminal named Tso Sai Kit (Kevin Cheng, “Badges of Fury”), who exacts his revenge by burning his



Max Zhang, left, and Xing Yu in ‘Master Z: Ip Man Legacy’

grocery store down. But then our hero takes up with the owners of a local tavern, which happens to have be patronized by Tso Sai Kit’s sister, Tso Ngan Kwan (Michelle Yeoh), who is also a major crime boss who’s trying to go straight.Brother betrays sister, opium addicts die, police corruption runs rampant and

Dave Bautista just hangs out for most of the film, looking like he’s waiting to do something badass. Bautista plays Owen Davidson, an American entrepreneur in Hong Kong, who’s so incredibly polite to our heroes and their kids — and humblebrags so much about his philanthropic

endeavors — that he might as well have “I’m the bad guy” tattooed on his forehead. It’s not like they’re going to get Dave Bautista in this movie and not let him fight the hero. (At least he’s a better actor than Mike Tyson was in “Ip Man 3.” “Master Z” comes from director Yuen Woo Ping, and it’s noth-

ing short of an action-movie-lover’s delight to see him working with Michelle Yeoh again, in a movie about Wing Chun no less. Yeoh only gets one proper fight in “Master Z” (unless you count beating someone to death with an abacus), but it’s a good one, and it ends beautifully.In many respects “Master Z” is a beautiful production. The art direction by Raymond Chan (“The Mermaid”) brings the neon streets of Hong Kong to attractive life, with cascading rows of giant signage that are quickly utilized for high-flying stunts and imaginative choreography. The whole film looks just a little fake, but in that Technicolor MGM-musical way that feels like a warm blanket. But following the three “Ip Man” movies with “Master Z” is a bit like following the first three “Rocky” movies with “The Fast and the Furious.” If you squint you can see a few thematic connections, but it’s a broad departure from the tone of the rest of the series. W ilson Yip’s films were (at best) loose historical fiction and had

their fair share of over-the-top fight sequences, and yet their earnestness was unmistakable. They were broad dramatizations of key cultural moments, in which caretakers of Chinese martial arts found their livelihoods, their art and their dignity challenged by oppressors of all kinds. Overcoming those adversities was rousing and pure. “Master Z” is pretty much just a pulpy crime movie, and although it’s not a bad one, it can’t help but comes across as rather adolescent compared to those other entries. It’s got characters so arch they cook steaks for everyone they kill, and then get bummed out when they die before they can eat them. It’s got a little kid practically praying over a knockoff Batman music box (sorry, “Black Bat”) for his father to beat up the bad guys. And just when you think the movie will address some of the broad systemic issues it brings into the mix, like a wildly corrupt police force that shirks the law in front of crowds, the film cops out with, essentially, a mega-happy ending.



celebs

# Not directing 'The Bell Jar' adaptation anymore: Kirsten Dunst

Los Angeles

**K**irsten Dunst is no longer attached to direct the big-screen adaptation of Sylvia Plath's "The Bell Jar".

The 37-year-old actor, who was set to make her feature film directorial debut with the project, said the film had now changed hands.

"I never owned (the rights), so it went away for me. It went to other hands. That's not in my hands anymore," Dunst told Entertainment Weekly.

However, a source close to the project has confirmed that Dakota Fanning is still involved in a version of the 1963 novel, currently in development as a Showtime limited series without Dunst.

Dunst was announced to direct the film in July 2016 from a screenplay she co-wrote with Nellie Kim. Fanning was attached to lead the cast.

Dunst previously helmed two shorts: "Welcome" (2007) and "Bastard" (2010).

"The Bell Jar" is Plath's only novel written just before she committed suicide in 1963.

The story, written by Plath under pseudonym Victoria Lucas, revolves around a young woman called Esther Greenwood, who used to work as a magazine intern in New York City before having a mental breakdown upon travelling home to Boston.

Kirsten Dunst

# Jessica Biel remembers working on her first film with late Peter Fonda

Los Angeles

**J**essica Biel on Saturday honoured late actor and two-time Oscar-nominee Peter Fonda in a heartfelt post on Instagram.

Biel said in the post how honoured she felt to have worked with him in the first film she made.

"I had the honour working with Peter Fonda on the first movie I ever made (as an angsty teenager with a nose ring)," she wrote.

The 37-year-old shared that Fonda believed in her while they were working on the 1997 film "Ulee's Gold".

"Ulee's Gold" was a huge opportunity and he believed in me. I'm forever grateful for him and the impact he had on me and my career," she added.

"I'm sure countless others can say the same. Rest in paradise," Biel concluded.

Fonda died of respiratory failure due to lung cancer on August 16, his family confirmed the news to People via a statement.

The late actor is a recipient of the Golden Globe Award for best actor in a motion picture drama for his role as a widowed beekeeper and Vietnam veteran Ulysses, Ulee Jackson, who raises his granddaughters because his son was in prison.

# Olivia Newton-John is 'doing great' amid third battle with breast cancer

Los Angeles

**A**ustralian singer Olivia Newton-John who is suffering from breast cancer is keeping her fans updated about her health.

Amid treatment, check-ups and her third battle with breast cancer, Newton-John shared that she is "doing great."

"I just want everyone to know I'm here, I'm doing great!" Page Six quoted her as saying in an interview with Entertainment Tonight at the Industry Dance Awards and Cancer Benefit Concert.

"I'm doing really well, I'm really healthy," she added.

The 70-year-old singer was diagnosed with breast cancer for the third time last year in September and broke her sacrum last year, shared positive insights into her recovery.



Olivia Newton-John

# Khloe Kardashian's ex-Boyfriend French Montana reveals their love was 'real'

Los Angeles

**A**merican reality star Khloe Kardashian's ex-boyfriend rapper French Montana said that the love between them was "real".

The 34-year-old rapper spilled the beans in an interview with Haute Living magazine.

"I feel like we had a real dope relationship - there was no bad blood, nobody did something to somebody that we couldn't come back from," he revealed to the magazine, cited People.

He went on to say "love" he shared with Khloe "was real."

"When the love was like that, it's always going to be like that. Friendship after a relationship is something that's really hard to do, and I'm glad we've been able to do it," he said.

He recently appeared for Khloe's older sister Kourtney Kardashian's 40th birthday party. This sparked rumours that the pair may have rekindled their romance, but a source previously told People "they are not dating."

"She is friendly with French, but they are not dating," the source said.



French Montana

# Hrithik Roshan: 'Most Handsome Man' title not an achievement

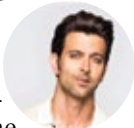
Los Angeles

**A**ctor Hrithik Roshan probably scores 10 on 10 in the looks department, and it seems like a US-based agency has also noticed it.

The 'Kaabil' actor, popular as Greek God among his admirers, has been reportedly named the Most Handsome Man in the World by the agency. He is thankful for the title, though it's not really an achievement for him. The secret behind his good looks?

"Well, it's broccoli. Just kidding," Hrithik said in an interview.

"I'm thankful for this title although on the face of it, it's not really an achievement. According to me, if there's anything one should aspire for and value the most in this world, it's their character. A good character will always make you look more attractive," he said.



Hrithik Roshan

# Margot Robbie, Quentin Tarantino discuss uncertainty in Hollywood

Los Angeles

**B**asking in the success of her latest release 'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood', Margot Robbie graced the cover of Vogue Australia and gave a candid interview to filmmaker Quentin Tarantino for the issue.

Tarantino in the feature asked Robbie to elaborate on her early roles in Hollywood when she kept jumping from project to project.

"Everything was so crazy. Before I knew it we'd done the pilot for Pan Amand there was a poster up in Times Square. I'd barely been there six months," Robbie answered.

The film-



Quentin Tarantino

maker went on to describe Hollywood as "magic" and along with Robbie, he discussed that some people do get lucky in this business.

"That's how this town is. With some people, it can take 12 years to have any sort of movement; other people it takes six months. Or sometimes people have six months then it takes them 12 years to get to the next place," said the 'Pulp Fiction' director.

To which Robbie added, "There's no specific timeline, I guess, and you're right, that's the magic of Hollywood. Everything can change so quickly."

She continued, "People often ask me what's been the best part. I couldn't say Wolf of Wall Street was better than my time on Neighbours and I couldn't say that Z for Zachariah wasn't as important to me as Tarzan. It's all been so exciting."

# Sarah Chalke joins Katherine Heigl's 'Firefly Lane'

Los Angeles

**"H**ow I Met Your Mother" alum Sarah Chalke will star alongside Katherine Heigl in Netflix series "Firefly Lane".

Based on the bestseller of the same name from author Kristin Hannah, the series will see Heigl play a magnetic, ambitious and loyal woman named Tully Hart.

According to The Wrap, Chalke will portray the role of Kate Mularkey, Tully's best friend and soulmate.

The story follows Kate and Tully, who meet as young girls and become inseparable best friends throughout 30 years of ups and downs, successes and failures, depression and disappointments.

When an unthinkable betrayal breaks them apart, the two women go their separate ways, and it is unclear whether they will ever be able to reconcile.



Sarah Chalke



Khloe Kardashian



Margot Robbie



## sports

# Djokovic toppled in Cincy

Top seed Novak Djokovic stunned by Daniil Medvedev in Cincinnati semi-final

● **Daniil Medvedev faces David Goffin for title**

**AFP** | Cincinnati

World number one Novak Djokovic wilted under pressure from Daniil Medvedev Saturday, falling 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 to the ninth-seeded Russian in the Cincinnati Masters semi-finals. Medvedev's upset win sent him into a title showdown with another unexpected finalist, 16th-seeded Belgian David Goffin, who defeated France's Richard Gasquet 6-3, 6-4 to reach his first ATP Masters 1000 final.

A fuming Djokovic, who looked to have control of the contest in the early going, was caught out when Medvedev stepped things up in the second set.

"I don't know how I turned it around, I was so tired after the first set and I thought I might not be able to keep up the intensity," said Medvedev, who has competed in 15 hardcourt matches since July 30.

"But I had a momentum change in the second set and the crowd gave me energy," added the Russian, who will be playing his second Masters series final in eight days, after falling to Rafael Nadal in Montreal last Sunday.

"Novak had been destroying me on second serve, so I just



Novak Djokovic (R) of Serbia congratulates Daniil Medvedev of Russia

went for it," Medvedev said. "It's a great feeling to win and beat the number one."

Djokovic, the defending champion who was playing his first tournament since his Wimbledon triumph in July, need some time to cool down before pondering his loss.

"He deserves to be in the mix, certainly, with all his results," Djokovic said. "He's working his way to top 5. "He's definitely one of the best players in the world at this moment."

Djokovic said there was little he could do in the face of Medvedev's go-for-broke style.

"When I had my racquet on the ball I was returning also his serves, but you can't really pre-



**Daniil Medvedev has reached his third successive final of the season**

dict someone or prepare yourself for someone serving that big second serve consistently from 4-3 to the end of the match with making maybe two double faults

out of God knows how many serves," he said.

With the US Open starting on August 26, Djokovic said he took "mostly positives" from the week.

"Today I did lose a tennis match, but I didn't do too much wrong," he said. "So I'll take that and I'll move forward to New York and have a good practice week."

"I'm going to go to fight for a title as everyone else does -- and I like my chances."

Medvedev won 12 of the last 14 points in the second set to square the match against Djokovic, then ran up a 3-1 lead in the third on the way to victory on his first match point.

## Kuznetsova stuns Barty to set up finals clash with Keys



Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia returns a shot to Ashleigh Barty of Australia

**Reuters** | Cincinnati

Ashleigh Barty lost her chance to regain the number one world ranking after she was unexpectedly beaten in straight sets by Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova in the semi-finals of the Cincinnati Masters on Saturday.

Top seed Barty, who would have replaced the injured Naomi Osaka as the world number one with a victory, struggled with the rhythm off her serve as she lost 6-2 6-4, losing eight consecutive games to the Russian at one point.

"I think it probably started with the serve for me," Barty said courtside. "I mean, giving Svetlana that many looks at second serves I know I'm not going to get free points off my first serve off Sveta. She's an incredible returner and retrieves a long way so is able to make a lot of returns."

"Just to be on the back foot of a lot of rallies from the start wasn't ideal. I felt like we have done well to fight all week and then to put ourselves in this position, but Sveta was unreal today."

Kuznetsova, ranked world number 153, will play American Madison Keys for the title.

Keys, the 16th seed, turned back compatriot Sofia Kenin 7-5 6-4 in their semi-final.

Winner of US Open in 2004 and the French Open in 2009, the 34-year-old Kuznetsova has struggled with injuries throughout her career but has now defeated eighth seeded Sloane Stephens, Czech third seed Karolina Pliskova and Barty in successive matches.

"It's amazing to play again on centre court," Kuznetsova said.

She entered the Cincinnati tournament as a wild card after winning two matches in Toronto. Issues in obtaining a U.S. visa kept her from defending her Washington DC title.

"Maybe one week or two weeks helped me back home," she said. "Something important happened in my life and now I feel better."

Barty won the first two games, then lost the set as Kuznetsova, handling the Australian's slices effectively and serving well, won the next six.

## Klopp impressed as Liverpool hold firm to see off Saints

**AFP** | Southampton

Jurgen Klopp denied that exhaustion was behind Liverpool's inconsistent display in their hard-fought 2-1 win at Southampton on Saturday.

Klopp's team struggled in the first half and it was completely against the run of play when Sadio Mane put Liverpool ahead in first half stoppage-time at St Mary's.

Clinical finishing from Roberto Firmino after 71 minutes seemed to have secured the three points.

But a dreadful error by Liverpool goalkeeper Adrian gifted a goal to Danny Ings, who later miskicked from six yards

when an equaliser seemed inevitable.

Reds boss Klopp had argued for a later start to the domestic season after his players' busy international schedule during the summer.

And his team, who played extra-time in Istanbul before beating Chelsea in the European Super Cup on Wednesday, looked fatigued for long periods.

But after the final whistle at St Mary's, Klopp insisted tiredness had not been a major factor in the uneven performance.

"Southampton are a good team, they defend well with good counter-attacks, good organisation," he said.



Liverpool's Sadio Mane (L) vies with Southampton's Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg

## 'Better every day' - Dortmund launch title charge with Augsburg rout

**AFP** | Berlin

Borussia Dortmund coach Lucien Favre said his team could get even better after they made a perfect start to the new Bundesliga season on Saturday, thrashing Augsburg 5-1 to take an early lead in the title race.

England international Jadon Sancho, who claimed his first goal of the term in Dortmund's Supercup victory over Bayern Munich two weeks ago, was among the scorers again as Dortmund ran riot to go top of the table.

"We did well and had a lot of possession today, and we deserved to win," said Favre, but said his side could still improve in some areas.

"The important thing is that we get better every day," he said.

Having thrown away a nine-point lead and narrowly missed the title last season, Dortmund had promised another attack on Bayern's hegemony in 2019/20.

Dortmund received a boost on Friday when the champions dropped two points against Hertha Berlin in the season opener. They then romped to victory in front of their own



Dortmund's English midfielder Jadon Sancho jumps for a ball

fans on Saturday.

Florian Niederlechner's first-minute opener for Augsburg left Dortmund stunned, but it took the hosts two minutes to draw level. Paco Alcacer gratefully pounced on a mistake from Augsburg keeper Tomas Koubek.

Koubek was at fault again when Sancho put Dortmund ahead after the break, flapping at a low cross before the Englishman smashed the ball in at the far post.

The Czech keeper then crowned a miserable Bundesliga debut by dropping the ball at the feet of Marco Reus to gift

Dortmund a third goal.

A curling long-range strike from Alcacer and a debut goal for new signing Julian Brandt completed the rout for Dortmund.

Elsewhere, former Huddersfield manager David Wagner made a gritty start to his new job at Schalke, as his side were held to a 0-0 draw by Borussia Moenchengladbach.

"I've had worse days in my career. The boys gave everything in defence. We still need time on the training pitch, but today it was about showing commitment and passion," Wagner told broadcaster Sky.

## BOC organises coaching course

**TDI** | Manama

A Level 3 course of the National Coaching Programme, organized by the Bahrain Olympic Committee's (BOC) Bahrain Olympic Academy, got underway with 25 coaches from Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, in the fray.

The two-week course is being organized in cooperation with the Coaching Association of Canada, and will continue until August 29 with the practical exams that determines the coaches moving up to Level 4, the highest in the programme.

Level 4 graduates Abdulla Al Dakheel, Adel Al Asfoor and Mohsin Ali conducted sessions on effective leadership, mental skills development and recovery, on the opening day of the course.

All participants will undergo theoretical exams on August 22 in order to pass this level 3 course, at the end of which the practical exams are due to take place.

Level 3 of the programme is part of the Bahrain Olympic Academy annual plans to qualify and develop national competencies in the field of sports in Bahrain.



## ‘Groggy’ Smith out of second Ashes Test final day with concussion



Steven Smith fell to the ground after being hit by the ball on his head

AFP | London

Australia’s Steve Smith has been ruled out of the last day of the second Ashes Test with concussion against England at Lord’s, saying he felt “groggy” yesterday morning.

Smith was felled when a Jofra Archer bouncer struck his neck on Saturday.

“I started to feel a little bit of a headache coming on last night as the adrenaline got out of my system but I was able to get a good night’s sleep in, but I woke up feeling a bit groggy and with a headache again,” Smith said.

“I had some tests done and then some further assessments deemed to be a mild concussion, so I’ve been ruled out of this Test match unfortunately.”

The series is the first being played under the International Cricket Council’s new concussion substitute regulations, part of the inaugural World Test Championship.

These allow players who have suffered head or neck injuries to be replaced fully by a substitute, who was previously restricted to fielding alone.

Marnus Labuschagne, on the field as 12th man when play resumed yesterday, became the first concussion substitute in Test history after Australia’s request was approved by match referee Ranjan Madugalle.

There are doubts whether star batsman Smith will feature in the third Test at Headingley starting on Thursday, with an Australia team spokesman saying “the short turnaround is not in his favour”.

Smith was hit by an Archer bouncer when on 80 on Satur-

**“I started to feel a little bit of a headache coming on last night as the adrenaline got out of my system but I was able to get a good night’s sleep in, but I woke up feeling a bit groggy and with a headache again**

STEVE SMITH

day and retired hurt.

He resumed his innings at the fall of the next wicket after 46 minutes off the field, and was eventually out for 92 -- the first time this series he had been dismissed for fewer than 100 runs.

Cricket Australia statistics show that 30 percent of concussions in Australian cricket are delayed.

### ‘Right decision’

But the Australia spokesman defended the decision to let Smith resume batting by saying: “It is not uncommon for players to pass their tests and feel well on the day of an injury and then display symptoms 24-48 hours later.”

Smith had no qualms about being withdrawn from the match, saying: “I think the right decision has been made.”

Significantly, Smith was wearing a helmet without the additional stem guard neck protection introduced following the death of Phillip Hughes after his former Australia team-mate was hit by a bouncer in a 2014 domestic Sheffield Shield match in Sydney.

# Karunaratne’s ton leads Sri Lanka to victory

Captain Dimuth Karunaratne hits 122 as Sri Lanka wrap up record chase against New Zealand in Galle

AFP | Galle, Sri Lanka

Captain Dimuth Karunaratne scored 122 as Sri Lanka chased down 268 for the loss of just four wickets to win the first Test against New Zealand at Galle yesterday and take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

Karunaratne posted his ninth Test hundred along with enjoying a record-equalling opening partnership of 161 with Lahiru Thirimanne, who made 64, as Sri Lanka collected their first points of the World Test Championship.

Former captain Angelo Mathews chipped in with an unbeaten 28 as Sri Lanka finished off the game before lunch after the morning session was extended because only 22 runs were needed at the scheduled time for the interval.

Karunaratne enjoyed some luck on the way to his century, dropped on 58 at forward short leg by Tom Latham while wicketkeeper BJ Watling missed a stumping chance on the same score. He batted for over five hours, facing 245 deliveries, and hit six fours and a six.

Karunaratne and Thirimanne’s stand equalled the record for the highest opening partnership in Tests between the two countries. In 1991, John Wright and Trevor Franklin had



Dimuth Karunaratne plays a shot

also put on 161 for the first wicket in Hamilton.

The opening stand was pivotal in Sri Lanka achieving the highest successful run chase in Galle, easily surpassing the previous best of 99. Resuming play on 133 for no loss, Sri Lanka required 135 from the remaining three sessions.

New Zealand finally got their breakthrough when Thirimanne was trapped leg before by William Somerville. Given not out

by umpire Richard Illingworth, New Zealand overturned the decision on review.

Kusal Mendis soon fell after taking on Somerville, hitting him for a four and a six from the second and fourth balls he faced.

But when he attempted to slog sweep Ajaz Patel in the next over he ended up hitting straight to midwicket where Jeet Raval completed the catch.

Angelo Mathews joined Karu-

naratne and the pair put on 44 runs for the third wicket to steady the ship.

Sri Lanka lost Kusal Perera after Karunaratne’s dismissal but Dhananajaya de Silva (14) joined Mathews and helped Sri Lanka knock off the remaining runs with two sessions to spare.

Mathews brought up the winning runs with a single to fine leg off Boult.

The second and final Test begins in Colombo on Thursday.

## Sheffield earn first win back in the Premier League

AFP | London

Sheffield United made a winning return to the Premier League at Bramall Lane as John Lundstram scored the only goal for a deserved 1-0 win over Crystal Palace yesterday.

Lundstram, who has spent the majority of his career on loan spells in England’s lower leagues, blasted into an unguarded net after Palace goalkeeper Vicente Guaita could only parry a cross into the box two minutes into second-half.

Despite slender margin of victory, Chris Wilder’s men were well worthy of the three points as they built on a promising 1-1 draw at Bournemouth on the opening weekend of the season.

Palace were blunt in attack with Wilfried Zaha often outnumbered and they have yet to find the net this season.

David McGoldrick missed a glorious chance to put the hosts in front before half-time, but his prodded finish from point-blank range was too close to Spaniard Guaita.



John Lundstram celebrates after scoring the only goal of the game

## Frank Lampard denied first win as Leicester draw at Chelsea

AFP | London

Frank Lampard is still waiting for his first win as Chelsea manager after Wilfred Ndidi gave Leicester a 1-1 draw to spoil the Blues legend’s homecoming.

Thrashed 4-0 at Manchester United last weekend and beaten on penalties by Liverpool in the European Super Cup on Wednesday, Lampard’s side took an early lead through Mason Mount’s first goal for Chelsea.

But Ndidi atoned for the costly mistake that led to Mount’s opener as the Nigeria midfielder headed Leicester’s well deserved second half equaliser.

Lampard had been given a thunderous reception in his first game as Chelsea manager

at Stamford Bridge.

Yet the mood was far gloomier by the final whistle after a spluttering display raised the spectre of a potentially difficult season for the returning hero.

Lampard, Chelsea’s all-time record goalscorer, managed to avoid being the first Blues boss to lose his first two Premier League games in charge since Gianluca Vialli 21 years ago.

But on this evidence there is a lot of work for the 41-year-old to do if he is to emulate his 13-year playing spell at Chelsea, which included three Premier League titles and the club’s first Champions League crown.

Greeted by a huge flag with the message ‘Frank Lampard’s blue and white army’ and an-



Leicester City’s Nigerian midfielder Wilfred Ndidi (2L) jumps to scores the equalising goal

other reading ‘Welcome home Super Frank’, the former England midfielder emerged from the tunnel to cheers and turned to applaud the crowd as they chanted ‘Super Frankie Lampard’.

With his former Chelsea teammate John Terry in the stands to support his old friend, the Blues nearly gave Lampard a dream start in the first minute when Olivier Giroud chested Cesar Azpilicueta’s pass to Pedro and the Spaniard volleyed into the side-netting.

Moments later, Mount threatened when he burst through, but the youngster shot too close to Kasper Schmeichel, who did well to block Christian Pulisic’s attempt from the rebound.