

**Michael B Jordan to star in 'The Silver Bear'**  
 Actor Michael B Jordan will star in and produce Lionsgate's film adaptation of assassin story "The Silver Bear". | P13

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#فريق\_البحرين

#TeamBahrain

## Russians 'will go to heaven' in event of nuclear war: Putin

Sochi, Russia

Russians will "go to heaven" as martyrs in the event of nuclear war because Moscow will only ever use nuclear weapons in retaliation, President Vladimir Putin said Thursday.

"We have no concept of a preemptive strike," Putin told a forum of international experts in the southern city of Sochi in response to a question from the audience.

## Former Sudanese president dies



Al-Dahab

Former Sudanese president, Field Marshal Abdulrahman Siwar Al-Dahab has died in Riyadh Military Hospital in Saudi Arabia. He was 83 years-old.

Al-Dahab, a former Chief of Staff, was born in Sudan's city Al-Ubayyid in 1935, served as president of Sudan from 1985 to 1986.

# Playing the 'Trump' card

US merges Jerusalem consulate into new embassy

AFP | Washington, United States

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced yesterday that the US office in Jerusalem dealing with Palestinians is being merged into the controversial new US embassy in the city.

Pompeo said the US Consulate General, a separate office which formerly handled dealings with Palestinians, would be replaced by a new Palestinian Affairs Unit inside the embassy.

The move, which was quickly condemned by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, could effectively leave the US as the only major power without a specific representative office to the Palestinians.

Pompeo denied the decision represented a shift in relations between Washington and the Palestinians, but it came after a series of moves, including shut-



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (File photo)

tering the Palestinian mission in Washington, that have angered them.

"This decision is driven by our global efforts to improve

in a statement. He said that the United States "continues to take no position" on how any peace deal between the Israelis and Palestinians would take shape.

"The administration is strongly committed to achieving a lasting and comprehensive peace that offers a brighter future to Israel and the Palestinians," he said.

The move was the latest in a series of steps Washington has taken that have effectively downgraded its relationship with the Palestinians, who have for decades sought a separate state alongside Israel.

The embassy was officially transferred on May 14. Analysts say the US moves aim to pressure the Palestinians into peace talks with Israel. President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner has been in talks with the Israelis on a still-secret peace plan he has reportedly devised.

## Court issues verdict in defamation case against journalist



Yousif Al Binkhalil

TDT | Manama

A Bahraini court has ordered to detain the Editor in Chief of *Al Watan* Newspaper Yousif Al Binkhalil in connection with a defamation case.

The Court in its verdict said that Al Binkhalil remains free on a BD100 bail or by accepting a manual community work to replace the punishment.

The Bahraini Journalist Association, in a statement, expressed its shock at the case filed against Al Binkhalil by a member of the House of Representatives, while affirming its obedience and respect to the Bahraini law and judicial system.



03 Climate change

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## Facebook's 'war room' to combat manipulation

Menlo Park, United States

In Facebook's "War Room," a nondescript space adorned with American and Brazilian flags, a team of 20 people monitors computer screens for signs of suspicious activity.

The freshly launched unit at Facebook's Menlo Park headquarters in California is the nerve center for the fight against misinformation and manipulation of the largest social network by foreign actors trying to influence elections in the United States and elsewhere.

Inside, the walls have clocks showing the time in various regions of the US and Brazil, maps and TV screens showing

CNN, Fox News and Twitter, and other monitors showing graphs of Facebook activity in real time.

Facebook, which has been blamed for doing too little to prevent misinformation efforts by Russia and others in the 2016 US election, now wants the world to know it is taking aggressive steps with initiatives like the war room.

"Our job is to detect ... anyone trying to manipulate the public debate," said Nathaniel Gleicher, a former White House cybersecurity policy director for the National Security Council who is now heading Facebook's cybersecurity policy.

"We work to find and remove



Employees work in Facebook's "War Room"

these actors."

Facebook has been racing to

get measures in place and began operating this nerve center

-- with a hastily taped "WAR ROOM" sign on the glass door -- for the first round of the presidential vote in Brazil on October 7.

It didn't take long to find false information and rumors being spread which could have had an impact on voters in Brazil.

"On election day, we saw a spike in voter suppression (messages) saying the election was delayed due to protests. That was not a true story," said Samidh Chakrabarti, Facebook's head of civic engagement.

Chakrabarti said Facebook was able to remove these posts in a couple of hours before they went viral.



## Leaders condole with Moroccan King

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday sent a cable of condolences to King Mohammed VI of Morocco over the victims of a train derailment near Rabat.

The accident near the Moroccan capital Rabat killed at least seven people and injuring over 80 others.

Seven seriously injured people were receiving treatment in Rabat military hospital, with four in intensive care.

HM the King prayed to Almighty God to rest the victims in peace and to inspire their families comfort and fortitude.

The crash occurred some 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of Rabat between the towns of Kenitra and Sale.

A short statement from the ONCF national railway company said "an investigation has been opened to determine the causes of the accident" and pledged to provide more information when it had it.

Similar cables of condolences were sent by Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister to King Mohammed VI of Morocco.

King Mohammed VI said he would pay the burial costs of the victims and for the treatment of the injured, according to a royal cabinet statement.

## Lane closures

TDT | Manama

One of the lanes on Hidd-Dry Dock Highway Junction will remain closed for improvement works in both direction, said the Ministry of Works in a statement yesterday. One lane will remain open for traffic movement. The closure will be effective from today at 12:01 am to Sunday at 5:00 am. In another statement, the ministry said that a lane on King Hamad Highway for southbound traffic will remain closed for two months, effective Saturday.

Resurfacing works between Bridge number 4 and Durrat Al-Bahrain necessitate the closure.

## Joint Air Force Exercise

TDT | Manama

A Joint Air Force Drill (Basic Liaison 2018) will be launched by the Bahrain Defence Force next week under the patronage of BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, which marks the 30th anniversary since the beginning of this drill in 1988. The drill comes within the framework of defence cooperation between the air forces of nine friendly countries.

# Bahrainis to fare well in the job market: Minister

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's children would be more productive than their Arab peers when they will be engaged in the labour market, said Education Minister Dr Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi yesterday.

Citing the latest report issued by the World Bank, the Minister said that the Kingdom in attaining the ranking has outdone several top countries around the globe including Turkey, Ukraine, Malaysia, Argentina and Brazil.

The latest report, Minister said, issued by the World Bank showed that Bahrain is on top of Arab nations in the indicators of education and 47th internationally out of 157 countries.

The Minister said this in a



Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa

congratulatory message to HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, hailing his leadership and directives.

On behalf of the Education

Ministry's staff, the Minister extended sincere congratulations on Bahrain's achievement, thanks to HRH the Premier's leadership and directives.

**”**  
The World Bank report indicated the extent of development in the educational field, and that Bahrain is the most successful Arab country in terms of investing and developing its human resources

EDUCATION MINISTER

“The same report indicated the extent of development in the educational field, and that

Bahrain is the most successful Arab country in terms of investing and developing its human resources”, the Minister said.

The Minister said the Boston Consultant Group, in its July 2018 report on levels of well-being around the world, said that Bahrain was ranked in the fourth position among the Middle East and North African countries with regards to Education Indicators, noting it was occupying the 12th position in 2011.

The Minister pointed out the UN Development Programme (UNDP)'s report issued in September 2018, which classified the Kingdom among the countries with very high human development, ranking it 43 out of 189 countries and territories.

## ‘Fikra’ open to all public sector employees: CP

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's public sector employees were informed on the objectives of the newly introduced government innovation competition (Fikra) that represents a new milestone in promoting excellence across key sectors.

In an email message, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Su-

preme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister said that incorporating all public sector employees' suggestions and innovations is a testament to Bahrain's commitment to placing citizens at the heart of all development efforts.

The Government innovation competition is open to all public sector employees via www.fdp.gov.bh.

The closing date for entries is 25 October 2018.



Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa meeting outgoing Russian Ambassador to Bahrain, Vagif Garayev. The ambassador expressed his gratitude to the government for its cooperation, which contributed to the success of his duties, wishing Bahrain and its people further progress and prosperity.

## New Neuroscience Association named

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Medical Society (BMS) yesterday announced naming new members of the Bahrain Neurological association for the period from 2018 to 2020.

The election was held at the BMS headquarters in Juffair, under the supervision of Dr Nizar Bu Kamal,

head of Elections Committee and representative of the Board of Directors of BMS.

New members are Dr Fatima Mohammed (President), Dr. Mohammed Falah (Vice President), Dr. Bassam Al Aradi (General Secretary), Dr. Mohamed Salih (Financial Secretary) and Dr. Nabeel Hameed (board member).

## Force will continue to boost combat readiness: BDF chief



BDF Commander during a meeting held yesterday

TDT | Manama

BDF will continue carrying out the royal directives to boost the readiness of its units and weaponry, said the Commander-in-Chief of Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa.

The commander also paid tribute to the BDF personnel fighting alongside their brethren in the Arab Coalition Forces in defending the right and legitimacy in Yemen.

He was holding a discussion with Commander of the Royal Artillery Major-Gener-

al Shaikh Khalifa bin Hassan Al Khalifa, Head of the Royal Artillery Operations Division Colonel Khalifa Thamer Al Ka'abi, Commander of the Field Medical Battalion Colonel Khalid Mohammed Al Buainin, Acting Commander of the Special Battalion/83 Major Shaikh Khalid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and Lieutenant Saqr Khalid Al Khalifa.

The BDF Commander-in-Chief listened to a briefing on the combat readiness of the Bahraini forces deployed on the southern border of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He said this participation is

in line with the noble directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander, to defend the borders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Two Holy Mosques. He added this participation is also within the framework of the GCC and Arab joint defence agreements.

The meeting was attended by BDF Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dhiab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, Assistant Chief of Staff for Supply and Catering Rear Admiral Yusef Ahmed Malallah and Joint Operations Director Brigadier Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa.



Shura First Deputy Chairman, Deputy Chairman of Bahrain's parliamentary delegation, Jamal Fakhro, meeting a Philippine parliamentary delegation during which Bahrain's keenness to boost cooperation in various fields, mainly in the Parliamentary area were discussed. The meeting was held on the sidelines of Bahrain's participation in the 139th Inter-Parliamentary Union meetings being held in Geneva.

BIG STORY  
big story

# Climate change threatening freshwater supply: experts

● Freshwater resources to shrink by between 50 to 100m cubic metres of water per year

● Requested \$9.8 million from United Nations' Green Climate Fund

● GCF board meeting is being held in Manama

● GCF considering 20 new funding proposals this year

TDT | Manama

Mohammed Zafran



A desalination plant in Al-Hidd

Experts in Bahrain's water sector believes that Bahrain is 'severely threatened' by the impacts of climate change, according to a government document to a UN body.

Bahrain would remain under

significant danger from climate change if steps are not taken to combat the effects. This was revealed in a document filed by the government to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The government has also applied for nearly \$10 million from

the GCF. The 104-page document which was filed by the government contained comments from the Supreme Council of Environment (SCE) sharing its concern about Bahrain's reducing freshwater resources.

"Bahrain, a Small Island

Developing State, is severely threatened by climate change. The country's water sector is, in particular, facing threats from i) rising temperatures causing increases in water demand across all sectors; ii) sea level rise causing saline intrusion into aquifers

and iii) rising temperatures and greater intensity of rainfall causing reduced rates of aquifer recharge.

In combination, these threats are likely to reduce Bahrain's freshwater resources by at least 50 to 100 million m3 of water per year in the short-term," SCE stated.

According to the comments in the document, Innovative solutions need to be adopted by the Bahraini public, the private sector and government to manage the expected reduction in water resources from climate change and do so in a manner that is not only climate-resilient but also socially, environmentally and financially sustainable.

The document stated that Bahrain is seeking \$9.8 million of funding to implement 'critical interventions'.

The project, according to the document, will facilitate transformational change within Bahrain's water sector by building technical and institutional capacity to monitor and model climate change impacts on water resources, mainstreaming

climate resilience into sectoral water management planning, developing new policy and legislative frameworks (including water tariff reforms), and designing new financial instruments.

Kingdom will also raise public awareness on the need for water resources under climate change conditions through demand management and re-use of greywater.

The project interventions, the report says, will directly benefit 130,500 people including small-scale farmers and low-income groups who are the most vulnerable to the climate change impact of the reduced availability of water.

Explaining the current initiatives in place, the document stated, "The Kingdom of Bahrain has several current initiatives underway to improve how the country manages its water resources under climate change conditions. These include research on the dynamics of the national aquifers; the development of a national water strategy; and demand management campaigns."

## Oil minister congratulates Green Climate Fund CEO



Javier Manzanares

Shaikh Mohammed

TDT | Manama

Minister of Oil, Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, has congratulated Javier Manzanares on his appointment as a Chief Executive Officer of the Green Climate Fund.

The minister stressed that this appointment is for the efforts of Javier and for his high skills in the field of climate.

The minister expressed hope that the CEO will bring about more achievements in enhancing cooperation for the implementation of several sustainable development

projects in the field of climate change, in order to reduce the environmental risks resulting from pollution.

Shaikh Mohammed highly appreciated the role played by the GCF in financing various environmental projects aimed at encouraging Member States to shift towards low-emission development paths and being capable of adapting to climate change.

It is worth mentioning that the Kingdom of Bahrain is hosting the 21st meeting of the Green Climate Fund now during the period 15-21 October 2018.

## Depletion rate well above global average: official

TDT | Manama

Rising temperatures and increasing saline intrusion are rapidly shrinking Bahrain's freshwater resources, a spokesman for Bahrain's environment council has told *the Guardian*.

According to the official, the climate change effects are expected to reduce Bahrain's freshwater resources by between 50 to 100 million cubic metres of water per year in the short-term.

This, according to the environment council spokesman, is well above the global average and posing a unique risk to the kingdom's water security.

"Bahrain's application to the Green Climate Fund is about addressing the severe threat posed by global climate change to the kingdom's freshwater supply,"

**Bahrain's application to the Green Climate Fund is about addressing the severe threat posed by global climate change to the kingdom's freshwater supply**

BAHRAIN'S ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL SPOKESMAN



A general view of Bahrain

the spokesman told the *Guardian* referring to Bahrain's request for a \$10 million assistance from the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

"As a committed signatory to the Paris agreement, the Kingdom has already taken significant steps to counteract the impact of climate change, including the development of a new national water strategy. We now seek assistance from the GCF to help support these critical interventions," the statement adds.

Kingdom's report will be discussed during the third and final meeting of the GCF Board this year which is being hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain in Manama.

The meeting which began on 15 October and concludes on 21

October will consider 20 new funding proposals from its Accredited Entities valued at USD 1.1 billion, which are targeted at low-emission, climate-resilient development.

Alongside the consideration of new project proposals, the board will also discuss the accreditation of 16 new project partners, as well as a number of policy proposals, including those designed to strengthen and streamline project approval processes.

The Green Climate Fund is governed by a Board of 24 members representing developed and developing countries equally. The meeting will be co-chaired by Paul Oquist and Lennart Båge, Board Co-Chairs for 2018.

GCF board, in its March 2018 meeting, approved 23 projects, valued together at USD1,093.5 million of GCF funding. The approvals brought the GCF portfolio to a total of 76 projects and programmes, amounting to USD3,730.2 million in GCF funding to assist developing countries in their low emission and climate resilient development.

The meeting in Manama is being attended by more than 300 participants, including observers from civil society and private sector organisations, National Designated Authorities (NDAs), which are the national conduits to the Fund, and Accredited Entities and other partners who assist in delivering climate finance to developing countries.

## Drug peddler gets 5 years, BD3000 fine

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court sentenced a drug peddler to five-years imprisonment and slapped a fine of BD3000.

The man, an Asian by nationality, will be deported after serving his prison terms.

The court was told by the investigators that the man was caught by police officers based on a tip-off received.

Information said that the suspect was holding drugs with an intent to sell.

Therefore, an undercover agent was assigned to arrest him red-handed.

In his confession, the man

told the court that he was arrested by the police officers while trying to complete a deal.

"The police officers pounced on me when I was dealing with a customer in Budaiya," he told prosecutors adding that the officers arrested him while exchanging drugs for money.

Investigators later confiscated 100 narcotic pills and a digital scale after conducting a raid at the suspect's house.

Laboratory test later confirmed his saliva as having traces of the drug.

Prosecutors charged him with selling and consuming drugs.

## Court grants divorce to couple

TDT | Manama

A Shariat Court granted a divorce to a Bahraini woman saying that "keeping the plaintiff under this marriage will put her life at risk."

The woman, according to her lawyer Ibtisam Al Sabagh, filed for a divorce after the marriage turned abusive. They got married nine years ago.

The lawyer told the court that her husband also refused to support her financially, even though an earlier ruling asked him to do so on a monthly basis.

"Shockingly, the defendant

also abused her physically at her family's house," the lawyer Al Sabagh said.

"He threatened her that he would impugn her honour if she didn't withdraw the cases against him," she explained.

The Shariat Court also heard witnesses' statements confirming that the plaintiff was under constant humiliation and physical attacks.

"A medical report confirmed their testimonies. And the Shariat Court found that keeping the plaintiff under this marriage will put her life at risk. Therefore, we decided to divorce her by the rule of law," the court rule.

## Smartphone thief ordered to compensate shop owner

TDT | Manama

A smartphone thief has been told to pay a compensation of BD450 or face jail time after admitting stealing smartphones from a shop and selling them later to another.

The ruling by the Lower Criminal Court forms part of an "undo damage" verdicts introduced to replace jail terms and allow culprits to compensate their victims.

"He came to our shop asking for a smartphone, and selected two different versions of a model," the owner of the shop told prosecutors.

"He then fooled the salesman by saying that he wanted to show the mobiles to his wife who was sitting outside in a

car, before purchasing.

"He, however, fled and went to Jid Ali, where he sold the phones to a shop there," the owner told the court.

According to court files, the defendant was paid BD400 for both phones. He, however, will have to pay BD450 to the owner of the shop.

The Lower Criminal Court said in its ruling that it decided to issue "undo damage" verdict owing to its hope that the defendant would blend again in the society and won't violate the rules again as well as to cut the costs of sending culprits to jail.

The man, a Bahraini national, was given 30 days to compensate the shop owner or face a jail term.

## Injaz Bahrain gets CSR award

TDT | Manama

INJAZ Bahrain was honoured with the Bahrain international CSR award for its dedication in addressing fundamental and social economic challenges of youth in the Kingdom.

The award was presented during the opening ceremony of the Bahrain International CSR and Sustainability Conference 2018 held under the patronage of Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Oil Minister.

Hana Sarwani, Injaz Bahrain's Executive Director, received the award from Bahrain CSR society Chairman Khalid Al Qaoud during the two-day event which concluded yesterday in the presence of delegates from diverse industries.



During the award ceremony

Receiving the award for Injaz Bahrain, Sarwani said: "Social responsibility is everyone's responsibility and we believe that every person should be a responsible participant in our society."

"Together we create, we build, and we succeed,

"Our belief in the boundless potential of young people brings us here, we feel pride today for the miles we've crossed and today marks a new milestone in our achievement's agenda,

"At Injaz, we not only praise our own efforts, but everyone's else efforts and devotion. The team behind this accomplishment deserves to claim the award with pride and honour," Sarwani said.

## Olympic Academy winds up CPR course

TDT | Manama

Twenty-seven sports officials of different sports clubs and federations attended Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) course, organized by the Bahrain Olympic Committee's (BOC) Bahrain Olympic Academy.

This two-day event was organised in cooperation with the American base in Bahrain and was presented by a team of experts in this area.

The course was held as per the directives of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Representative to His Majesty the King for Charity Work and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, and Bahrain Olympic Committee president, in an attempt to avoid the increasing phenomena of sudden death among athletes in Bahrain.



Abduljalil Asad, second from left, at the certificates presentation ceremony

BOC sports affairs executive director Abduljalil Asad was also present on the concluding day of the course and presented the certificates of participation to all attendees.

Asad stressed the importance of the course, which aims to acknowledge sport-related authorities on how to perform CPR

procedure, which would help in saving the lives of many people in the future.

"We are proud today to set the graduation of the first batch of this programme, which is within the framework of Shaikh Nasser initiatives to develop all solutions to reduce sudden death which took the lives of

many citizens and expats alike during the past few years," said Asad.

"Now we are delighted to see a large number of federations and clubs representatives to take part as we seek to draw more attention in future events to spread awareness on CPR and first aid procedures."



The participants with course officials during a photo session

## RCSI Bahrain hosts professionalism conference

TDT | Manama

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) in Busaiteen yesterday played host to a special conference focusing on 'Professionalism in Healthcare', under the patronage of Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

The event was organised in collaboration with the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA), the Bahrain Medical Society and the Bahrain Private Hospitals Society, and featured a series of presentations and



The keynote presentation was delivered by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff

workshops.

The keynote presentation on 'Healthcare Professionalism in the 21st Century' was delivered by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff, a member of the UK's House of Lords, professor of palliative medicine and past President of the Royal Society of Medicine.

NHRA Chief Executive Officer, Dr Maryam Al-Jalahma meanwhile, presented the NHRA regulations of professional standards in Bahrain.

Among the other topics in focus by local medical experts and members of Bahrain Medical Society were the three elements of

medical professionalism; healthcare professional etiquette and the meaning of 'patient-centred'.

Further workshop sessions looking at patient safety; difficult conversations; improved communications and professional judgement, also took place.

RCSI Bahrain is a constituent university of RCSI, which was established in Dublin, Ireland in 1784. Licensed as an independent private university, RCSI Bahrain is a not-for-profit health sciences institution focused on education and research to drive positive change in all areas of human health worldwide.

# EWA launches water and power saving campaign

The campaign, in its second phase, aims Four-star hotels

- First phase resulted in saving BD529,767 a year

- Gulf Hotel came first by recording a 27pc saving

- In water consumption, Sofitel bagged the first place

TDT | Manama

The Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) has launched the second phase of a campaign to reduce electricity consumption at four-star hotels by 3 per cent a year.

The move follows its successful first phase which targeted 17 five-star hotels and resulted in saving BD529,767 in just a year.

The Gulf Hotel came first by recording a 27pc saving, followed by Downtown Rotana and the Crowne Plaza with 19pc and 14pc savings, respectively.



The move follows the EWA campaign's successful first phase which targeted 17 five-star hotels

In water consumption, Sofitel bagged the first place with a rate of 22.5pc. Four Seasons at second place recorded a rate

of 17.5pc and Al Areen Palace recorded 12pc rate to come at third place.

The aim was to achieve op-

imum consumption of electricity and water in the hospitality sector by training hotel management and employees.

It also aimed at cutting carbon dioxide emissions by reducing pressure on power and water plants.

The new campaign is being held under the patronage of Sheikh Khalid bin Hamoud Al Khalifa, the Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority.

Speaking for EWA CEO Sheikh Nawaf Bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, EWA Deputy CEO of Planning and Projects Ibrahim Al Kaabi said that EWA is implementing several programmes, campaigns and awareness activities in co-operation with various stakeholders.

## Thermal insulation project

The most important, Al Kaabi said, is the launch of programmes to apply thermal insulation on all buildings in Bahrain and improving the efficiency of air conditioning and lighting. "Other devices such as refrigerators, water heaters etc. will be added later."

EWA is also working to audit the energy consumption of a number of commercial and in-

dustrial institutions and proposing technical measures to reduce electricity consumption.

## Plugging water leakage

In the area of water conservation, he said, the EWA has launched an automated programme to monitor the high consumption sites to determine the leakage and to avoid continuous wastage of water.

## Water supply programme

EWA said it is also implementing a water supply programme and granting of plumbing licenses in accordance with ministerial resolutions on water as well as building safety from leakage hazards in the internal networks of subscribers.

The event included awareness lectures presented by Ali Al Arayedh and Durat Abdullah.

The launch campaign comes within a series of awareness campaigns carried out by the EWA's Electricity and Water Conservation Department to create a culture of rationalization about the consumption of electricity and water.

## TASTE OF AMERICA



US Ambassador Justin Siberell during a tour of American food and beverage outlets at The Avenues-Bahrain shopping complex as part of Discover America Week activities. Led by the director, James Waugh, Siberell met employees at three of the US restaurant chains, Blaze Pizza, IHOP, and Raising Cane's, noting the success of American food chains in Bahrain under the Bahrain-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

## Bahrain's history in youth empowerment stressed

TDT | Manama

The Youth and Sports Affairs Ministry's preparations for the first International Youth Festival to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) are in full swing.

The event will be held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa as part of the Kingdom's initiatives to engage the youth from Bahrain and all over the world in attaining the UN goals.

The festival is expected to draw a large number of partic-

ipants from all over the world and representatives from the United Nations and the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

The event is also one of the key programmes provided by Bahrain as part of its global role in raising awareness of SDGs.

The UN Resident Coordinator in Bahrain Amine Al-Sharqawi said the UNDP is proud of backing the Youth Festival which is organised by the Youth and Sports Affairs Ministry.

He affirmed that Bahrain has a long history in empowering the youth to achieve SDGs by

launching many initiatives like the King Hamad Youth Empowerment Award, the opening of the first scientific centre to achieve SDGs and integrating the goals for the first time in the International Youth Conference last year and in the current edition.

"Undoubtedly the International Youth Festival will help the youth to go back to the sustainable development goals as an inspirational source for them to develop their skills and work on achieving the global goals," he said.

## Inspiring entrepreneurs

Youth entrepreneurial Initiative launched in Bahrain

- Includes one-year mentorship programme

- Event part of Manama Entrepreneurship Week

TDT | Manama

A Youth Entrepreneurial Development Initiative is launched to inspire Bahraini Youth towards their entrepreneurial aspirations, as part of Manama Entrepreneurship Week (MEW) events.

The initiative includes a launch workshop whereby participants will be forming their individual development plan, followed by a series of workshops and functions.

The initiative will include a one-year mentorship programme whereby each participant will be paired with a business and community leader.

The MEW events will be held under the patronage of Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, the Governor of the Capital Governorate, from October 21 to 25.

Co-Founder of the Initiative, Mohammed Al Haddad said, "This Initiative aims at enabling and expanding capabilities of Bahraini youth to compete in the International entrepreneurial sphere, transforming young people from job seekers to job creators, who build and support sustainable and transparent enterprises, and achieving the vision of Bahrain 2030."



Mr Mohammed Al Haddad



Ms. Christiane Saba

## BMB to participate in Entrepreneurship Week

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Middle East Bank (BMB) announced its participation and sponsorship in the fourth edition of "Manama Entrepreneurship Week".

"Entrepreneurship is a tool to empower mind, money and matter, so we are proud to be a part of this symposium, as it runs parallel to our core values," BMB chief executive officer Korhan Alev said.

On her part, Noora Al Haddad, MD of Creo, the organising company, said that BMB has always been supportive of var-

ious important events in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

He added that the Initiative will be a valuable asset for those wishing to pursue development themselves and explore their entrepreneurial aspirations.

The launch workshop will be conducted by the initiative



BMB chief executive officer Korhan Alev

ious important events in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Co-Founder Christiane Saba, who is an international expert in socio-economic development and youth empowerment, consulting for international institutions, local governmental institutes and NGO's.

## world

**CO2 emissions to rise, says IEA**

Paris, France

Energy sector carbon emissions will rise in 2018 after hitting record levels the year before, dimming prospects for meeting Paris climate treaty goals, the head of the International Energy Agency (IEA) said Wednesday.

The energy sector accounts for 80 per cent of global CO2 emissions, with most of the rest caused by deforestation and agriculture, so its performance is key to efforts to rein in rising world temperatures.

"I'm sorry, I have very bad news for you," IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol told guests at a diplomatic function hosted by the Polish embassy in Paris.

"Emissions this year will increase once again, and we're going to have the COP meeting when global emissions reach a record high," he said, referring to the December UN climate summit in Katowice, Poland.

After remaining flat for three years, total global CO2 emissions in 2017 rose by 1.4 percent, dashing hopes that they had peaked.

The meeting in Katowice is tasked with finalising the "operating manual" for the 195-nation Paris Agreement, which enters into force in 2020 and calls for capping global warming at "well below" two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), and at 1.5 C if possible.

**Hardliners block temple to women**

Nilackal, India

Hindu hardliners blocked intersections, threatened drivers, threw stones at buses and ordered a 12-hour strike yesterday as they stepped up their campaign to bar women from one of India's holiest temples.

The Lord Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala in the southern state of Kerala was meant to allow women from Wednesday following an order by India's highest court last month.

But hundreds of traditionalists, throwing stones at baton-wielding police, defied the order -- surrounding and shouting at any woman attempting to make it to the hilltop site.

Overnight local Hindu groups declared a 12-hour shutdown of local businesses, telling drivers that their vehicles would be attacked if they took anyone towards the temple.

State authorities have insisted that they will ensure access, imposing restrictions on public gatherings of more than five people that came into force from midnight, and laying on buses for devotees.

**Military against immigrants**

Trump threatens to send military against immigrant 'onslaught'

● **Trump has made security on the southern border one of the signature issues of his two-year presidency**

● **Message was part of a broad strategy to crack down on illegal immigrants**

● **Whether any military deployment to the border will take place is unclear**



Donald Trump



Honduran migrants aboard vehicles head in a caravan to the United States, in Guatemala City

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump threatened yesterday to send the military to the Mexican border and to imperil a trade deal in an intensification of his anti-immigrant rhetoric ahead of congressional elections.

Trump has made security on the southern border one of the signature issues of his two-year presidency, calling for a "wall" and frequently railing against what he describes as a flood of

rapists, gangs and "bad hombres."

Even by those standards his Thursday morning tweet storm -- coming less than three weeks from midterm legislative elections where the Democrats may take the lower house from Trump's Republicans -- was especially fierce.

Referring to a so-called caravan of several thousand Hondurans that has departed in hopes of reaching the United States, Trump claimed Democrats were to blame for an "assault on our country by Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador" with

a caravan "INCLUDING MANY CRIMINALS."

Trump tweeted that he would stop aid to the Central American states and said: "I must, in the strongest of terms, ask Mexico to stop this onslaught - and if unable to do so I will call up the US Military and CLOSE OUR SOUTHERN BORDER!"

Even the recently renegotiated North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between Mexico, the United States and Canada, which is now known as USMCA, could be under threat, Trump said.

"The assault on our country at our Southern Border, including the Criminal elements and DRUGS pouring in, is far more important to me, as President, than Trade or the USMCA," he said.

**Controversial 'caravan'**

The president's message was part of a broad strategy to crack down on illegal immigrants and tighten rules for legal migrants.

Barely a week goes by without Trump warning about the danger posed by ultra-violent Central American gangs like MS-13, while chants of "build the

wall" are a staple element of his pre-midterms campaign rallies.

The latest focus is on more than 2,000 Hondurans who left last Saturday from the city of San Pedro Sula.

On Wednesday, an advance group of exhausted migrants reached Guatemala City where they took refuge in a church-sponsored shelter. Their objective now is to regroup and press on towards the border with Mexico.

The migrants say they organized for the long and difficult journey on social media, but Washington suspects the group has been organized as a deliberate provocation.

"This caravan did not appear organically," a senior Trump administration official told journalists.

"There's a political aspect and an organizational aspect which frankly seeks to sow chaos and dissent and that needs to be dealt with," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The row comes as US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo prepares to embark on a tour of the region that will see him visit Mexico ahead of its December inauguration of President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, as well as Panama.

**British platform to track aid sector sex predators**

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Britain will launch an online platform with Interpol to help prevent suspected sexual predators using the aid sector as a cover to harm vulnerable people, the government announced Thursday.

The Department for International Development (DFID) said it was teaming up with Interpol to stop suspects being able to move freely between NGOs.

The move, using existing Interpol systems, follows a series of high-profile abuse scandals.

"Our message to sexual predators using the sector as a cover for their crimes is 'your time is up'," International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said in a statement.

"We have to give the people that we are here to help the protection that they need," she added, ahead of a global safeguarding summit in London

Thursday, which her department is co-hosting.

The project, named Operation Soteria after the Greek goddess of safety, will operate from two regional hubs in Africa and Asia.

It will increase criminal record checks and information-sharing between all 192 Interpol members, including high-risk countries, to improve the police response in this area, said the DFID.

**Students given cookies baked with grandfather's ashes: media**

Los Angeles, United States

Allegedly baked her grandfather's ashes into cookies and handed them out to her school friends.

The student is said to have given her baked goods to at least nine students, the Los Angeles Times said. Some ate the cookies without knowing about the macabre extra ingredient and were horrified.

In a bizarre twist, others among the Da Vinci Charter Academy students were fully aware and ate the cookies

anyway

Student Andy Knox told local television station KCRA he was on his way into class when the unidentified young baker offered him one of her treats saying they contained a "special ingredient."

"I thought that she put drugs in it or something. So I asked her if like, 'Is this a weed cookie or something?'" he was quoted as saying.

"And she said 'No.' She said it was her grandpa's ashes. And then she kind of laughed. And I was really, I was kind of horrified."

**S. Korea's last polar bear dies ahead of retirement**

Seoul, South Korea

The last polar bear kept in South Korea has died of old age only weeks before his planned departure to better living conditions in Britain, zoo officials said yesterday.

Tongki -- a 23-year-old male named after a Japanese cartoon character of the 1980s -- lived in a 330-square-metre (3,500-square-foot) concrete enclosure at the Everland theme park outside Seoul.

The zoo had planned to move him to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park next month to allow him to enjoy his final days in



South Korea's last captive polar bear, a 23-year-old male named Tongki (Courtesy of Phys.org)



**Born in captivity at a zoo, Tongki was the only polar bear still living in S. Korea and had been alone since the last fellow resident of his species died three years ago**

more appropriate surroundings -- the facility in northern England has a 40,000 square metre polar reserve -- and had thrown him a farewell party in June.

But Tongki was found dead on Wednesday night and autopsy results suggested that he appeared to have died of old age, the zoo said in a statement, adding it plans to conduct more tests to determine the exact reason for his death.

The average life span of polar bears is around 25 years and Tongki was the equivalent of around 80 in human terms.

# Kangaroo on the menu for Harry and Meghan

AFP | Melbourne, Australia

Chargrilled kangaroo was on the royal menu yesterday as Prince Harry and his pregnant wife Meghan arrived in Australia's second-largest city Melbourne, where they were greeted by thousands of screaming fans.

Clutching flowers and waving flags, the crowds turned out to welcome the pair, who were delayed in traffic after flying in from Sydney on the third day of their tour Down Under.

The pair will only spend a few hours in Melbourne, but had a jam-packed schedule that included a meal featuring native Australian foods and a trip to a beach.

"I love everything they stand for. As a human being you have so much to look up to with them," one young fan who had been waiting since before dawn told national broadcaster ABC as the pair mingled with the crowd.

A teenage girl cried tears of joy and threw her arms around the prince as she clutched a hand-written banner with the words: "Been here since 4am. Loved you since I was eight."

"You're gonna get me in trouble," Harry joked as he embraced



Prince Harry (R) and Meghan watch thirteen-month-old Ruby Carroll during a visit to the drought-affected farm Mountain View in Dubbo in Dubbo



Britain's Prince Harry (3/R) and his wife Meghan, Duchess of Sussex (3/L) chat with farmers Scott Woodley (2/R), daughter Laura Woodley (R) and Scott's father and mother Margaret (L) and Richard Woodley (2/L) during a visit to their drought-affected farm called Mountain View



Meghan waves to students as she and her husband Prince Harry visit Albert Park Primary School in Melbourne



The couple's more-than-two-week official visit will take in multiple stops in Australia, Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand

her. Meghan was inundated by flower bouquets and baby gifts following their announcement on Monday that Meghan was expecting their first child.

The US-born royal also put on a dinosaur pasta necklace made by a five-year-old boy, who was wearing his favourite pilot uniform outfit, for the rest of her walk.

"I made it with pasta and dipped them in gold paint and threaded the string through," he told news.com.au.

The Duchess was wearing

a tan trench-coat, believed to be by Paris-based Australian designer Martin Grant, a navy dress by the breakthrough star of local fashion Dion Lee, and holding a Gucci Sylvie clutch.

The loved-up husband and wife mostly mingled with the crowd separately, but when they were together, they held hands and the Duchess periodically stroked Harry's back.

After the public meet-and-greet, the couple spent some time with the Victorian Governor Linda Dessau in an offi-

cial reception at Government House, where the Duchess of Sussex stole the hearts of local sports fans by handballing a football used in the Australian Rules game. They then headed to a restaurant that mentors in-

digenous chefs with chargrilled kangaroo and wild boar on the menu, according to broadcaster Channel Nine. They will visit a school before finishing up at South Melbourne beach.

The couple will also follow in



I made it with pasta and dipped them in gold paint and threaded the string through

A BOY ON DINOSAUR PASTA NECKLACE MADE FOR MEGHAN

the footsteps of Harry's grandmother Queen Elizabeth during her 2011 visit by taking a tram ride in Melbourne.

They are due to return to Sydney later this week for the opening of the global sports championship the Invictus Games, which was set up by Harry for wounded military personnel after his decade of service in the army.

The couple's more-than-two-week official visit will take in multiple stops in Australia, Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand -- all parts of the Commonwealth.

## Myanmar Buddhist temple now a nirvana for snakes

AFP | Yangon, Myanmar

Crossing a bridge to the middle of a lake in Myanmar's Yangon region, pilgrims arrive at a temple to pin their hopes on the pythons slinking across the temple's floors and draped across windows.

"People come here because they believe that their prayers will be fulfilled when they ask for something," said Sandar Thiri, a nun residing at the Baungdawgyoke pagoda -- dubbed the "snake temple" by locals.

"The rule is that people can only ask for one thing, not many things," she said. "Don't be greedy."

In the main room of the temple is a tree with figurines of Buddha around it. The serpents move slowly through the



A monk touching a snake resting in his room in the Baungdawgyoke pagoda, outside Yangon.

branches, their forked tongues darting in and out as they gaze down on the worshippers pro-

trating themselves.

Many locals regard the presence of the dozens of pythons,



Many locals regard the presence of the dozens of pythons

some measuring up to two or three metres in length, as a sign of the pagoda's power.

Win Myint, 45, said he has been coming to Baungdawgyoke since he was a child.

"Now I am older and I come to give offerings, which has made

some of my wishes come true."

Nearby, a monk dozes on a chair with two serpents curled at his feet, their thick bodies holding 1,000 kyat notes (worth about 60 US cents) tucked in between their coils by hopeful visitors. A woman, brave enough to venture close to a python, gently caresses it.

The mythical "naga" -- a Sanskrit word for snake -- is a common figure seen in temples throughout Southeast Asia, where Buddhist, Hindu and animist influences are intertwined. Nagas are usually carved out of stone and placed at the entrances.

But seeing a live snake slithering among Buddha statues is rare, and for some visitors, that serves as a draw to visit Baungdawgyoke -- a short drive south-

west of downtown Yangon.

With snakes curled up next to meditating monks, the image is reminiscent of a story in Buddhist mythology when the Buddha sat under a tree to meditate.

According to the legend, as it started to rain, a cobra protected Buddha by fanning its hood wide over his head to act as a shelter.

Nay Myo Thu, a 30-year-old farmer, believes he will receive good fortune by bringing the snakes he finds in his fields to the temple instead of killing them, adhering to a Buddhist belief that all animals are sentient beings that can be reincarnated as humans.

"I don't want to bring about any misfortune by killing a creature," Nay Myo Thu said. "Catching and donating the snakes brings me good fortune instead."

RHYTHMIC WORDS

# Young poet to represent Mideast in world competition

*Rabab Chamseddine, a 21-year-old Lebanese poet, is headed for Paris for the World Poetry Slam next year after winning the Beirut Poetry Slam with works that tackled notions of self and country*

Al-Monitor | Beirut

Her trophy nearby and new fans offering hugs and praise, Rabab Chamseddine, a 21-year-old Lebanese poet, was riding high after her win at the 2018 Beirut Poetry Slam.

"I am feeling more than great. I just want to smash everything. I am way too excited," she told Al-Monitor at the finals on Sept. 15 when asked about her thoughts on representing the Middle East next year at the World Poetry Slam.

Slam poetry is different from traditional spoken word performances "because it's a competitive event," organizer Maysan Nasser explained. Ten artists present two poems, each one three minutes long, and judges score their performance and content. "The contestants have nothing on stage apart from their words," Nasser added.

Held at Station Beirut, an art space in the Lebanese capital, the event featured poets ranging from published writers to novices performing for the first time, reading their poems in Arabic and English.

Beirut has hosted previous slam competitions but this year's event offered something new. The winner of the slam will travel to Paris next year to participate in the World Poetry Slam: the first ever Middle Eastern representative to compete at the event, going up against poets from Australia to Germany.

Chamseddine will be this representative, winning over the audience and judges with her performance of "Not Your Type of Woman" and "To Honey," heartfelt original poems exploring the complexities and fluctuations of identity in the Middle East.

Born into a Lebanese family in Ivory Coast, Chamseddine moved back to Lebanon at the age of 11. A native French speaker, she wrote her first poem, "Solitude," in elementary school. She described it as "a very sad poem for a nine-year-old."

However, her poetry has always been intensely personal, reserved mainly for her diary. When she turned 18, she befriended a woman named Dima who introduced her to spoken word poetry. A few years into the friendship, Dima passed away. "I had to process it [her death] and had to go through grief," Chamseddine said. "And when I was almost over it, I wrote my first [English poem], called 'The Long Drop.'"

Thereafter, Chamseddine sought to emulate her late friend. She started studying literature at the American University of Beirut and began writing in English.

During her studies at AUB, she performed her first ever spoken word poem in front of her class.

SHOW

# Saudi artists on show at German art festival for first time

Arab News | Berlin

Picture an idyllic landscape in the Uckermark region, a pristine Brandenburg lake district an hour north of the bustling metropolis of Berlin.

Adjacent to a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, created to protect an area rich in natural beauty, a group of like-minded artists, art enthusiasts and nature lovers have banded together to foster an exchange between town and country, art and nature.

Nonprofit association Friends of the Uckermark created the biennial UM Festival, which is held on the first weekend in September to showcase contemporary art, literature and music in several villages and natural sites.

Initially, the participants came from Berlin and Brandenburg but this year the sixth edition of the festival attracted an international crowd. Along with creators from Germany, Switzerland and Japan, Jeddah artists Lina Gazzaz and Bricklab were among the 22 selected contributors. Following on from the first German participation at Jeddah's 21,39 art festival this year, this Saudi presence at UM18 is another milestone in the cultural exchange between the two countries.

Bricklab, brothers Abdulrahman and Turki Gazzaz, contributed an installation titled "Tem-



Lina Gazzaz impressed visitors – adults and children



2015

US scientists from University of California find evidence life on earth may have begun 4.1 billion years ago

1987

Black Monday: Dow Jones stock index falls 508.32 points (22%), 4½ times the previous daily record

1943

Streptomycin, the first antibiotic remedy for tuberculosis, is isolated by researchers at Rutgers University



1926

Russian Politburo throws out Leon Trotsky and his followers



21-year-old Lebanese poet Rabab Chamseddine holds the trophy she received after winning the Beirut Poetry Slam 2018, Beirut

Beirut has hosted previous slam competitions, but this year's event offered something new. The winner of the slam will travel to Paris next year to participate in the World Poetry Slam: the first ever Middle Eastern representative to compete at the event, going up against poets from Australia to Germany. Chamseddine will be this representative, after winning over the audience and judges with her performance of "Not Your Type of Woman" and "To Honey," heartfelt original poems exploring the complexities and fluctuations of identity in the Middle East. The prospect of performing next year at the world slam as the Middle East's first ever representative brings the young artist both anticipation and anxiety. Despite her dedication, the 21-year-old is conscious of entering an international stage unaccustomed to performers like herself

...tive writing class. "I wasn't that confident about it," Chamseddine said, "but I performed in front of my class and got amazing feedback."

From that day forward, Chamseddine dove into poetry, writing about her identity, family, country and beliefs.

Lisa Luxx, a British-Syrian poet and one of the judges, said of Chamseddine, "She had urgency, she really meant it, she needed to say it, she was speaking with purpose, she wasn't just speaking because she feels like writing a poem."

Before performing her final poem, "Not Your Type of Woman," Chamseddine asked the audience, "Have you ever been in love with someone and no one gets it?" The question received a unanimous 'Yes!' from the young artistic Beirut crowd.

Her poem explores a deeply private love, her tone almost taboo. It opens:

Halfway through the poem she reveals, "I'm in love with a woman and her name is so safe in my

mouth ... Beirut."

"I don't see [Beirut] as a city," Chamseddine explained. "I see it as a person who is trying to be understood. Maybe that is why I have such a connection to it, because I too want to be understood."

She criticized those who complain about it, saying, "People say Beirut is so shitty, there are so many problems, there is so much garbage here. [but] Beirut is not doing a thing. You are ruining the city."

Luxx, who moved to Beirut only a few months ago, attested to the effect of Chamseddine's performance: "It had everything that made up a poem that just never left your system."

She added, "For me, she is talking to the Western world, to the people who told me, 'Don't go there, Beirut is dangerous.'"

Chamseddine's first poem, "To Honey," was a reflection on faith and family. She told Al-Monitor, "I always bring my family and religion into

my poems, because these are two things that are a part of my identity, and I am still trying to figure out who I am."

She added that despite her introverted nature, these complex and controversial subjects can be questioned and challenged through her art. "Not all truths are to be told," she said. "There are somethings that can [only] be expressed through poetry."

The prospect of performing next year at the world slam as the Middle East's first ever representative brings the young artist both anticipation and anxiety.

"It is exciting, but it is a huge responsibility," Chamseddine said, "You are coming from a place that people don't understand. People have such huge misconceptions about Beirut and about the Middle East. You need to make sure you are just perfect."

Despite her dedication, the 21-year-old is con-

scious of entering an international stage unaccustomed to performers like herself. "The veil adds an extra thing," she said, gesturing to her hijab. "With the rise of Islamophobia and all this, it is kind of hard to find your way in the world. Even in Lebanon you have this problem. So what about the West?"

However, the judges are confident that Chamseddine's voice will cut through the preconceptions that surround her homeland. "I don't think she yet sees the impact she is going to have," said Luxx. "The important socio-political work that her poems [are] going to do."

CASE



...en alike – with a presentation based around her grand installation 'Throne'

poral Growth," which recalls the artist/architect duo's acclaimed work at this year's Architecture Biennale in Venice. For the Kingdom's first participation at the renowned architecture show, Bricklab designed and created the Saudi pavilion, which highlighted the rapid urban development the country has experienced over the past half-century.

Their Uckermark work – a three-sided structure made of cornstalks – invites the spectator to enter, sit and ponder the effects of modern agricultural practices on society in the region; development has many sides to it and needs careful curating.

Lina Gazzaz impressed viewers – adults and children alike – with a presentation based around her grand installation "Throne" on the borders of the serene lake Oberuckersee. Draped inside, leading up to a magnificent old tree, Gazzaz chose a long, red carpet to adorn a dramatic setting that could have been taken from a fairy tale. The tree not only remained alive after being split open by a lightning strike years ago, but it was transformed into what appears to be a natural throne.

Alluding to iconic red drapery featured in medieval art by using it to adorn this site of natural beauty, which has its own dramatic story to tell, the artist brilliantly fulfilled this festival's Land Art objective in a most aesthetic way.

# business

## Cypriot low-cost carrier goes bust

Larnaca, Cyprus

Cypriot low-cost carrier Cobalt Air announced it was cancelling all flights from yesterday after just two years in operation, leaving passengers stranded and scrambling to get their money back.

The airline warned customers its offices would no longer be staffed and urged them to seek refunds through their travel agent or credit card company.

In a brief announcement issued on its website without prior warning late on Wednesday, the airline said it was cancelling all flights from 23:50 pm (2050 GMT) "due to indefinite suspension of Cobalt's operations".

"As a result, future flights or services provided by Cobalt will be cancelled and will no longer operate," it added without elaborating on the reasons.

The airline advised passengers who have tickets not to go to the Mediterranean holiday island's main airport at Larnaca on Thursday or attempt to contact its offices "as no Cobalt flights will operate and no Cobalt staff will be present".

## Tata Group to buy stake in Jet Airways

Reuters

Indian business conglomerate Tata Group has held preliminary discussions to buy a large stake in debt-laden Jet Airways (India) Ltd, the *Times of India* reported yesterday.

Tata has sought management control of Jet, seeking at least 26 per cent initially and another 26pc via an open offer later, the paper said.

Jet Airways has been facing a financial crunch amid rising oil prices and a depreciating rupee. In a bid to revive itself, Jet said in August it will inject funds and cut costs to turn around the business, without elaborating further.

## Reliance reports record profit

Reuters

India's Reliance Industries Ltd reported a record quarterly profit, driven by growth in its core petrochemicals business and helped by rising revenues at budding telecoms unit Jio.

Jio marked a fourth straight quarter of profit in June-September, of 6.81 billion rupees (\$93 million), compared with a loss in the same period last year.

Reliance said consolidated profit rose more than 17 per cent in June-September to 95.16 billion rupees.

# China not manipulating Yuan, lacks transparency

Washington has long argued Beijing keeps its currency low to make its exports more competitive

● The dollar this year is up 6.6 per cent against the RMB

● Trump in April 2017 dropped his campaign pledge to label Beijing a currency manipulator

Washington, United States

Washington on Wednesday again declined to call China a currency manipulator but said the yuan's fall and Beijing's exchange practices were of "particular concern."

In putting Beijing and five other US trading partners on notice, the US Treasury once more refrained from escalating a fight over China's currency as US President Donald Trump had once pledged to do on the campaign trail.

"Of particular concern are China's lack of currency transparency and the recent weakness in its currency," US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in releasing a twice-yearly report to Congress on how coun-



US Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin speaks during a press conference in Buenos Aires at the end of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting

tries manage exchange rates and trade.

"These pose major challenges to achieving fairer and more balanced trade and we will continue to monitor and review China's currency practices, including through ongoing discussions with the People's Bank of China."

In Wednesday's report, the Treasury also said Germany, India, Japan, South Korea and Switzerland remained on a "monitoring list" of countries

whose currency practices required "close attention."

Washington has long argued Beijing keeps its currency artificially low to make its exports more competitive.

In recent years, however, the yuan or renminbi (RMB) has strengthened and economists now say it is more in line with China's economic fundamentals.

Still, as US interest rates have risen, the US dollar has strengthened further, which makes American exports more

expensive. The dollar this year is up 6.6 percent against the RMB, which began to weaken substantially in June.

**PBOC 'effectively neutral' in 2018**

"Recent movements in China's currency have not been in a direction that will help reduce China's large trade surplus," the report released Wednesday said.

"Treasury staff estimate that China's direct intervention in the foreign exchange market to have been limited this year," it added, with net interventions by the People's Bank of China "effectively neutral."

During the World Bank-International Monetary Fund's annual meetings last week, Mnuchin said he had held constructive talks with PBOC Governor Yi Gang.

A growing US economy and falling unemployment have also whipped up demand among US consumers for imported goods, with 2017's record US-China trade deficit continuing to widen this year -- swelling 3.2 percent to \$390 billion in the 12 months ending in June.

Washington and Beijing are locked in battle over the yawning US-China trade deficit,

which Trump describes as a job killer.

Washington has slapped punishing tariffs on about half of all China's goods exports to the United States, with talks to resolve the matter at an apparent impasse.

Trump in April 2017 dropped his campaign pledge to label Beijing a currency manipulator, telling *The Wall Street Journal* that Beijing was not intervening to weaken its currency.

Labelling China a manipulator would be a fresh sign of confrontation from Washington but any actual repercussions would be gradual.

These include starting talks while limiting export finance for US-China trade, halting government purchases, blocking any potential trade agreement and directing the International Monetary Fund to carry out "additional rigorous surveillance."

In rewriting the North American trade pact this year, Washington, Ottawa and Mexico City agreed any member could withdraw from the new treaty if any other member moved to enter a trade agreement with a "non-market" economy, a thinly veiled reference to China.

## KFH-Bahrain names 'Libshara' winners

TDT | Manama

Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain (KFH-Bahrain) announced the 'Libshara' winners for September 2018 draw held at its headquarters in the Bahrain World Trade Centre.

The July winners included Abdulla Tareq Mubarak Mohamed who received the grand prize of USD 50,000; Mohamed Abdulhusain Al-Hubail and Sameya Fawzi Al-Banhwi who



Khalid Rafea

each won USD 10,000 in cash; while Bader Mohammed Al-Baalawy and Abdulrahman Mohamed A.Rahman both won USD 5,000 each. In addition, 80 winners also received various other cash prizes for other categories and segments.

Khalid Rafea, Executive Manager and Head of Retail Banking Group at KFH-Bahrain extended his congratulations to all the winners of the 'Libshara' draw.

## EU-Arab summit set for Feb 24-25 in Egypt

Brussels, Belgium

EU and Arab leaders will meet in Egypt in late February for their first summit as part of efforts to forge a new European-African alliance and fight migrant smuggling, EU officials said yesterday.

"The European Council welcomes the holding of the forthcoming first summit between the 28 EU Member States and the League of Arab States, hosted by Egypt on 24-25 Feb-

ruary 2019," the council of EU leaders said after a summit in Brussels.

The Cairo-based Arab League includes North African countries Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco as well as those in the Middle East and Gulf.

EU officials said the summit was part of a broader push to build closer ties with Africa outlined by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in September.

## Trump plans US exit from international postal

Washington, United States

The Trump administration announced Wednesday that it plans to withdraw from an international treaty on postal rates in another move aimed at pressuring China amid broader trade and political disputes.

The United States intends to exit the system of setting postal rates for smaller packages under the Universal Postal Union "as soon as practical" and no later than Jan. 1, 2020, said a statement released by the White



US President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting about cutting business regulations in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington

House press secretary.

The United States will also file notice formally withdrawing from the union, which dates to 1874, the statement added.

The UPU, which comprises 192 countries, sets lower prices for small packages coming from emerging and developing countries, a group that still includes China. The UPU, which is based in Berne, Switzerland, confirmed that it received official notice of the US plans.

UPU Director General Bishar Hussein "regrets" the decision

and will seek to meet with US representatives to "further discuss the matter," the UPU said in a press release.

"The UPU remains committed to attainment of the noble aims of international collaboration by working with all its 192 member countries to ensure that the treaty best serves everyone," Hussein said. The Trump administration's decision to exit the agreement was pushed by White House advisor Peter Navarro, according to *The New York Times*.

# An experiment with drug

Canada becomes first major economy to fully legalise cannabis

● Canadians at least 18 or 19 years old may buy up to 30 grams of cannabis, and grow up to four plants at home

● Sales of derivatives like edibles will be legalised next year

● Sales are forecast to boost economic growth by up to US\$847,000

AFP | Ottawa, Canada

Canada on Wednesday became the world's first major economy to fully legalize cannabis, sparking celebrations as the nation embarked on the controversial experiment in drug policy.

Throughout the country huge lines outside pot shops snaked around city blocks, cannabis flew off store shelves and government websites processed 100 pot orders per minute.

Scores of customers braved the cold for hours outside Tweed, a pot boutique in St John's, Newfoundland that opened at midnight, to buy their first grams (ounces) of legal cannabis.

Ian Power said prior to its grand opening, he was happy to "make history" by being the first to legally buy pot in Canada, adding that he would frame those few grams rather than smoke them.

"I'm elated. I'm so excited, I can't stop smiling. I'm not cold. It's freezing cold out, but I'm not cold," he said.

In Cape Breton, platinum record-selling fiddler Ashley MacIsaac was among the first buyers, while in Toronto revelers attended a "Wake and Bake" party with music, a glass pipe blower and campfire treats.

"It's fun, good for the soul, and now legal so we don't have to stress about that any more," Sebastien Bouzats from Montreal told AFP. "We don't have to hide it any more."

"I did not honestly expect to witness the legalization of cannabis in my lifetime, and I am proud to be a Canadian as we take this monumental step towards providing access to cannabis," Toronto resident Katie, 27, said.

Legalization has sent stocks in pot companies soaring over the past year on the Toronto and New York stock exchanges (before retreating five percent on



Cannabis items for sale are seen on October 16, 2018 in a Montreal cannabis store owned by the SQDC (Societe quebecoise du cannabis)



A customer shows a marijuana product that he bought after entering a cannabis store

## US says it will stop Canadian pot bizmen

AFP | Washington, United States

Canada may have legalized recreational marijuana Wednesday, but executives of the country's booming pot industry need to be aware that they are not exactly welcome south of the border in the United States.

As the world's first major economy fully legalised cannabis, officials of US Customs and Border Protection warned they won't admit anyone arriving with the intent "to aid in the

proliferation of the marijuana business."

Even if some US states and localities, including the capital Washington, permit medical or recreational pot use, the CBP warned that the drug remains illegal under US federal law, giving them the responsibility to fight its use and promotion.

"If... a Canadian is coming to the United States and it has nothing to do with the marijuana industry or the proliferation of the industry, that person

would generally be deemed admissible," CBP officer Christopher Perry said in a press conference in Detroit, Michigan, on the Canadian border.

But "if they're coming to the United States... with the express interest to facilitate or develop the marijuana industry, they would generally be deemed inadmissible."

The stance posed a new threat to the already extensive cross-border exchanges of supplies, technology and investment in the marijuana sector.

Wednesday), but has also been sharply questioned by some health professionals and opposition politicians.

### Second after Uruguay

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has defended legalisation -- the fulfilment of a 2015 campaign promise -- as intended to protect young people and to shut down drug dealers.

"I don't drink much alcohol, I don't drink coffee, I have no intention of using marijuana," Trudeau, who has admitted to smoking pot in the past, said Wednesday.

In parliament, he also lamented that prohibition had had a "disproportionate and unfair impact on marginalised and radicalised communities."

The entry into force of the Cannabis Act makes Canada only the second nation after Uruguay to legalise the drug.

How well it goes could have an impact on Canada's next election in 2019, and on whether other countries follow in its footsteps.

"When people start to see the consequences (of legalisation) they will blame Trudeau's failures for it," opposition Tory leader Andrew Scheer commented.

In the United States, recreational cannabis has been legalized in eight states, while countries such as the Netherlands and Spain have decriminalized pot possession.

"There is no question that the world is watching Canada," Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould told a press conference.

In total, Statistics Canada says 5.4 million Canadians will buy cannabis from legal dispensaries

in 2018 -- about 15 percent of the population. Around 4.9 million already smoke.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale announced a plan to pardon past convictions for simple possession, giving people "greater access to job opportunities, education and housing."

### A new industry

Under the new regulations, Canadians at least 18 or 19 years old may buy up to 30 grams of cannabis, and grow up to four plants at home.

A patchwork of private and public cannabis retail stores and online sales have been set up across the 13 provinces and territories, ramping up to 300 storefronts by year's end, the government predicts.

Sales of derivatives like edibles will be legalised next year.

To meet demand, hundreds of growers have been licensed, some taking over horticulture and floriculture greenhouses.

The new industry has attracted billions in funding, as well as interest from major alcohol and soft drink makers in developing cannabis infused drinks.

Cannabis sales are forecast to boost economic growth by up to Can\$1.1 billion (US\$847,000) and provide a Can\$400 million tax windfall for the government, according to official data.

It's still unclear if legalisation will undercut the black market. Prices for illicit pot have plunged to an average of Can\$6.79 per gram, and most legal sellers are charging more.

According to a recent Abacus Data poll published on Monday, 70 percent of Canadians accept or support legalisation.



A young man holds a bag of marijuana he bought in a cannabis store in Quebec City, Quebec

## Massive tax scam cost Europe 55 billion euros: report

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

A gigantic years-long tax scam saw banks drain 55 billion euros (\$63 billion) from national treasuries in Europe, a far larger sum than previously thought, media from across the continent reported yesterday.

The so-called "cum-ex" deals relied on complex tax trickery that allowed owners of shares to claim several times over re-

funds for tax paid only once on dividend payouts -- effectively syphoning off taxpayers' money into investors' pockets.

So far estimates of the damage had ranged from 5.3 billion euros according to the German finance ministry to 30 billion, according to press reports.

But a joint investigation by European media outlets has concluded that at least 55.2 billion euros were stolen from 11 coun-



The cum-ex scandal first exploded in Germany in 2012, with six criminal investigations opened and a trial against Berger and several stock market traders.

tries: Germany, France, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, Austria, Finland, Norway and Switzerland.

Reportedly conceived by well-known German lawyer Hanno Berger, the cum-ex method relies on several investors buying and reselling shares in a company amongst themselves around the day when the firm pays out its dividend. The stock changes hands so quickly that the tax

authorities are unable to identify who is the true owner.

In Germany, investors spirited away 31.8 billion euros, according to calculations by University of Mannheim tax specialist professor Christoph Spengel.

Meanwhile French taxpayers lost out to the tune of "at least 17 billion euros", Italians 4.5 billion, Danes 1.7 billion and Belgians 201 million.

## Oil slips below \$80

Reuters | London

Oil slipped below \$80 a barrel on Thursday as the fourth weekly increase in US crude inventories suggested ample supply, while Saudi-US tension and falling Iranian exports lent support.

US crude inventories rose 6.5 million barrels last week, the Energy Information Administration said on Wednesday, the fourth straight weekly increase and almost three times what analysts had forecast.

Brent crude, the global benchmark, was down 70 cents at \$79.35 a barrel at 1010 GMT. It has dropped over \$7 from a 2014 high of \$86.74 reached on Oct. 3. US crude was down 61 cents at \$69.14.

"Stocks are building," said Olivier Jakob, a Petromatrix analyst.

"It's a continuous trend. Week after week, it does start to add up."

Oil had been rising this week on concern about a decline in Iranian exports due to US sanctions and tension between

the United States and Saudi Arabia after the death of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Signs that Iranian oil exports have been falling more steeply than some in the market expected amid looming US sanctions have also underpinned the market.

US sanctions on Iranian oil take effect on Nov. 4 and buyers are already stopping or scaling back their Iranian crude dealings, according to tanker data and industry sources.

Exports have declined already to about 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd), up to 1 million bpd below levels seen earlier this year. Some analysts say the drop in supplies may be starting to wane as a source of price support.

"Assuming that Iranian crude exports will stabilise around 900,000 bpd, one can make a strong case that the peak bullish impact of Iran is in fact already behind us," analysts at JBC Energy said in a report.

**\$79.35**  
a barrel was the price of Brent crude at 1010 GMT

## Saudi trades in tiny range

Falling Saudi stocks outnumber gainers by nearly 2:1

● But trading volume shrinks further

● Trump says does not want to walk away from Saudi Arabia

● Banks weigh on Egypt blue-chip index

Reuters | Dubai



Traders watching stock movements on the floor of Saudi Stock market (Courtesy of The National)

Saudi Arabia's stock index traded very narrowly yesterday as US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he did not want to walk away from Saudi Arabia and that the United States needed the kingdom's cooperation.

Also, state-linked Saudi funds bought blue chips in a support operation when the market plunged earlier this week, convincing some investors that there is little further downside for now at least.

The Saudi index closed 0.1 per cent lower. Falling stocks outnumbered gainers by 109 to 60, but a further drop in trading

volume, by almost a third compared to Wednesday, showed investors were no longer keen to dump equities.

National Commercial Bank, which soared during the support operation as funds bought it, retreated 2.9pc on profit-taking. Top petrochemical producer Saudi Basic Industries dropped 0.8pc.

But Saudi Telecom added 1.8pc and Banque Saudi Fransi surged 3.0pc. Khaleej Training added 2.2pc after winning a project worth 23.1 million riyals (\$6.2 million) from the General

Authority of Zakat and Tax.

Egypt's blue-chip index slipped 1.2pc, pressured by banks. Commercial International Bank lost 2.1pc and investment bank EFG Hermes lost 4.1pc. Dice Sport and Casual Wear slid 8.3pc in very thin trade. The company said it would raise its stake in Alexandria Ready Made Clothes to 100pc via a 2 million Egyptian pound (\$111,420) deal.

Madinet Nasr, which had soared on SODIC's plan for a merger via share swap, fell back 3.8pc and SODIC shed 3.2pc.

### Closing Bell

SAUDI	▼ 0.1%	7,648
DUBAI	▲ 0.6%	2,758
ABU DHABI	▲ 0.6%	4,989
QATAR	▲ 0.4%	10,193
KUWAIT	▼ 0.2%	5,173
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.8%	1,323
OMAN	▼ 0.2%	4,444
EGYPT	▼ 1.2%	13,644

The Dubai index gained 0.6pc as DAMAC Properties added 3.6pc and National Central Cooling (Tabreed) was up 2.4pc.

The Qatar index, which earlier this week broke technical resistance on the August and September peaks, was up 0.4pc with Doha Bank rising 1.8pc. EFG Hermes raised its rating on the stock to 'neutral' from 'sell'.

Ahli Bank was up 5.1pc after reporting an increase in its third-quarter profit.

Bahrain's index advanced 0.8pc, helped by a 10pc jump in Gulf Hotel Group and a 3.4pc increase in National Bank of Bahrain after a rise in its profit for the first nine months of the

## Mega Millions jackpot hits \$900 million in US

New York, United States

Your chances of winning are slim to none, but it might be worth investing a few dollars in the Mega Millions contest in the United States before Friday's drawing.

The prize? \$900 million, after no one won on Tuesday night.

It would be the largest jackpot in global lottery history if claimed by a single winner.

In 2016, a \$1.6 billion Powerball prize was split three ways by ticket holders from California, Florida and Tennessee. Each took home \$528.8 million.

The previous largest single jackpot of \$758.7 million was won last year by Mavis Wanczyk, a 53-year-old mother of two from Massachusetts. Mega Millions is available

in 44 US states, the capital Washington and the US Virgin Islands.

The game, which was created in 2002, has seen changes over the years that have reduced the chances of winning, meaning bigger and bigger jackpots.

If someone picks the winning six numbers, they can either claim the jackpot in 30 payments over 30 years -- or take a reduced amount in a lump sum. On Friday, that would be a total of \$513 million -- before taxes, according to the Mega Millions website. The likelihood of that happening? One in 302.5 million.

And don't forget: US lottery winnings are taxable at the federal level, unlike in many other countries. Some states also impose local taxes.

## Sri Lanka reverses \$300m housing deal

Reuters | Colombo

Sri Lanka has reversed a decision to award a \$300-million housing deal to China in favour of a joint venture with an Indian company, the government said, ahead of a visit by the prime minister to its South Asian neighbour.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe will meet his counterpart Narendra Modi on Saturday in New Delhi, the Indian capital, for talks. The two countries have long-standing ties, partly because of cultural and ethnic links with Tamils, many of whom live in the island's north and east.

In April, state-run China Railway Beijing Engineering Group Co Ltd won a tender worth more than \$300 million to build 40,000 houses in Jaffna

The houses will be given to firms which are ready to build them at lower prices

RAJITHA SENARATNE



Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe (C) looks on at a news conference

na in Sri Lanka's north, with China's Exim bank to provide funding.

But the project was halted after residents demanded brick houses, saying they preferred their traditional type of dwelling instead of the concrete structures the Chinese firm had planned.

On Wednesday, government spokesman Rajitha Senaratne said the cabinet had approved a new proposal for 28,000 houses

worth 35.8 billion rupees (\$210 million) to be built by Indian firm ND Enterprises and two Sri Lankan firms in the north and east.

The planned homes are part of a total requirement of 65,000, he added.

"The rest of the houses will be given to firms which are ready to build them at lower prices," Senaratne told reporters in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, adding that China could also be considered in future for the remaining housing projects.

## World equities can't shake rate rise blues

AFP | London, United Kingdom

The world's main stock markets slipped yesterday as fears of rising US interest rates undermined any attempt at recovery following heavy recent losses, analysts said.

Global markets are "scrutinizing yesterday's release of the minutes from the US Fed's September monetary policy meeting that suggested rate hikes are likely to continue", analysts at Charles Schwab said.

What's more, rate fears are just one item on a smorgasbord of worries, including over global trade wars, high oil price, Brexit uncertainty and Italy's ongoing fiscal troubles, analysts said.

London, Frankfurt and Paris all closed the day lower, after "sipping on a Brexit/trade war/Italian budget/US interest rates

cocktail", as Spreadex analyst Connor Campbell put it.

Early on in the session, European markets made a modest attempt at recovery but fizzled out as soon as it became clear that US investors wouldn't play along. Approaching midday in New York, all three main US stock market indexes were down.

Earlier, Asian markets resumed falls as investors contemplated the outlook for more interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve, while Washington added to China-US frictions.

Shanghai dived almost three percent to a four-year low as already-strained relations between China and the US took another hit after the White House said it plans to withdraw from an international treaty on postal rates, in a decision aimed at pressuring Beijing.



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May arrives at the European Council in Brussels

### Brexit transition extension?

Meanwhile, UK Prime Minister Theresa May said Britain would consider extending the

transition period after Brexit for a few months if needed, to agree a new trade deal with the European Union.

EU negotiator Michel Barnier raised the idea as a way of break-

### Key figures around 1540 GMT -

London - FTSE 100:	▼0.4 percent at 7,026.99 points (close)
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▼1.1 percent at 11,589.21 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▼0.6 percent at 5,116.79 (close)
EURO STOXX 50:	▼1.0 percent at 3,211.59
New York - Dow Jones:	▼0.9 percent at 25,469.50
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼0.8 percent at 22,658.16 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▲ at 25,454.55 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼2.9 percent at 2,486.42 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1506 from \$1.1501 at 2100 GMT
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.3079 from \$1.3115
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 112.18 from 112.65 yen

ing the deadlock on how to keep Britain's border with Ireland open after Brexit, the key issue holding up the divorce talks.

But May emphasised she did not expect the extension beyond the current date of December 2020 to be needed, amid anger among eurosceptics at home.

"Markets appear to be viewing the Brexit negotiations with the same exhaustion as everyone else, as both sides play for time," noted IG analyst Chris Beauchamp.

"The risk of wandering into a 'no deal' scenario is still on the rise," he warned.

# SHOW

## Michael B Jordan to star in 'The Silver Bear'

IAN S | Los Angeles

Actor Michael B Jordan will star in and produce Lionsgates film adaptation of assassin story "The Silver Bear".

A director has not yet been attached to the project.

"The Silver Bear" is based on the book series by Derek Haas, the screenwriter for "Wanted" and "3:10 to Yuma".

The novel is about an assassin named Columbus -- called the Silver Bear by some -- who tracks a powerful politician with presidential aspirations. Frank Baldwin ("The Godmother") wrote the script.

"The Silver Bear" is the kind of story that needs to be experienced on the big screen



Michael B Jordan

and Michael is the perfect movie star to inhabit the skin of this dynamic character and take us into the cinematic world of Columbus," said Lionsgate Motion Picture

Group chairman Joe Drake. "We're incredibly honoured that Michael and Nickel City chose Lionsgate to partner with in bringing this exciting property to life."

## Bruce Willis film cancelled after Fan Bingbing tax case

AFP | Beijing

A Chinese World War II epic featuring Hollywood A-listers Bruce Willis and Adrien Brody has been shelved after co-star Fan Bingbing was targeted by authorities for tax evasion, local media reported.

Fan is one of China's most high-profile celebrities, and



Bruce Willis

has appeared in blockbusters "X-Men: Days of Future Past"

and the Chinese version of "Iron Man 3".

But the 36-year-old megastar disappeared from the public eye for months this year, fuelling speculation that she was being investigated in her home country.

She has since apologised and been ordered to pay nearly \$130 million in back taxes and fines, Xinhua reported.

## MISSING PETS



**MUSHU/BABY** - Male, 2 yrs, yellow eyes, recently shaved (body white w slight gray/head gray/tail tip gray-still fluffy), responds to name, door left open, not wearing collar or ID tag. Hidd (across from Almutazah Market/UCO Elderly Care), 12/10/18. 66608107



**SOOTY** - Male Dilmun, 7-8 mos, all glossy black with an extremely long tail, overweight now (older photo), neutered, microchipped, not wearing collar or ID tag, may have been taken, Riffa Views, 9/10/18. 39817433



**OREO** - Male Shih Tzu, 1 year 3 mos, responds to 'Oreo' - 'Peanut' and 'Chicken', not wearing collar or ID tag, gate left open, Wadi Al Sail, 14/10/18. 38855544



**PALLINA** - Female, 6 yrs, grey/white, spayed, microchipped, very shy, not wearing collar or ID tag, new to Bahrain - so likely lost way, Saar (near road 1725/1730), BD50 REWARD for safe return, 19/8/18. 38410323



**FLASH** - Male Yorkshire Terrier, 2 years, microchipped (done in Ukraine), very friendly, ran out gate, wearing collar w name and driver mobile number, Awali, 11/7/18. WhatsApp or SMS 39966666



**MOMMY GANDA** - Female, 2-3 yrs, tan w black/white around muzzle, spayed/microchipped, wearing red collar - no ID tag, escaped 4 Paws Clinic. Umm Al Hassam, may return to Juffair next to Fontana Towers (old home), BD100 REWARD for safe return, 24/6/18. 36750005

**FIRST MAN**  
(PG-13) (DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY) NEW  
⊕ RYAN GOSLING, CLAIRE FOY, JASON CLARKE  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 3.00 + 8.30 PM  
SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)  
SAAR DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 5.15 + (11.00 PM THURS/FRI)  
WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM

**GOOSEBUMPS 2: HAUNTED HALLOWEEN**  
(PG-13) (ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY) NEW  
⊕ CHRIS PARNELL, KEN JEONG, WENDI MCLENDON-CONVEY  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM  
SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN  
SAAR DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 3.30 + 7.30 + (11.30 PM THURS/FRI)  
WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM

**MASRYCANY (KIDBA BYDA)**  
(PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY/ROMANTIC) NEW  
⊕ SAMMY SHEIK, NAHED ELSEBAI, MOHAMED  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN  
SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM  
SAAR DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 6.00 + (11.15 PM THURS/FRI)  
WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

**NAMASTE ENGLAND**  
(PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW  
⊕ SHREYA MEHTA, ARJUN KAPOOR, PARINEETI  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM  
SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN  
SAAR DAILY AT: 3.00 + 8.15 PM  
WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 3.00 + 8.15 PM

**THE OLD MAN & THE GUN**  
(PG-13) (CRIME/COMEDY/DRAMA) NEW  
⊕ ROBERT REDFORD, CASEY AFFLECK, SISSY  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM  
SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 6.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM  
SAAR DAILY AT: 1.30 + 5.30 + 9.30 PM

**AL KOUWAYESEEN**  
(PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY) NEW  
⊕ AHMAD FAHMY, HUSSEIN FAHMY, SHEREIN  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM  
SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM

**BADHAAI HO**  
(PG-15) (HINDI/COMEDY/DRAMA/ROMANTIC)  
⊕ SANYA MALHOTRA, AYUSHMANN KHURRANA  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.30 + 9.00 PM

**LEGEND OF A RABBIT - THE MATERIAL OF**  
(PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW  
⊕ YUNWEI HE, LEI HUANG, ZISHAN YANG  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.15 + 4.15 PM

**VENOM**  
(PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)  
⊕ TOM HARDY, MICHELLE WILLIAMS  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 12.30 + 6.00

+11.30 PM  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT (ATMOS): 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT VIP (I): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM  
SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)  
SAAR DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 PM + (11.30 PM THURS/FRI)  
WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM

**JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN**  
(PG) (COMEDY/ACTION/ADVENTURE)  
⊕ ROWAN ATKINSON, OLGA KURYLENKO, EMMA  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 12.00 + 1.00 + 2.00 + 3.00 + 4.00 + 5.00 + 6.00 + 7.00 + 8.00 + 9.00 + 10.00 + 11.00 PM + 12.00 MN + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT (VIP II): 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM  
SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM  
WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM

**NIGHT SCHOOL**  
(PG-15) (COMEDY)  
⊕ KEVIN HART, TIFFANY HADDISH, ROB RIGGLE  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM  
SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 PM  
WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 6.00 + 11.15 PM  
AL HAMRA DAILY AT: 6.00 PM + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)

**SMALL FOOT**  
(PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)  
⊕ CHANNING TATUM, JAMES CORDEN, ZENDAYA  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM  
SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 PM

**A STAR IS BORN**  
(15+) (DRAMA/ROMANTIC/MUSICAL) NEW  
⊕ LADY GAGA, BRADLEY COOPER, SAM ELLIOTT  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM  
SAAR DAILY AT: 2.30 + 8.15 PM

**EL BADLAH**  
(PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY)  
⊕ TAMER HOSNY, AKRAM HOSNI, MAJED EL MASRY, AMINA  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM

**AL DIESEL**  
(PG-15) (ARABIC/ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME)  
⊕ MOHAMMED RAMADAN, YASMINE SABRI,  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 4.00 + 9.00 PM  
SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

**THE MEG**  
(PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER)  
⊕ JASON STATHAM, RUBY ROSE, BINGBING LI  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 2.45 + 7.15 + 11.45 PM

**THE EQUALIZER - 2**  
(15+) (ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)  
⊕ DENZEL WASHINGTON, PEDRO PASCAL, ASHTON SANDERS  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 1.45 + 6.30 + 11.15 PM

**THE NUN**  
(18+) (HORROR/THRILLER)

⊕ TAISSA FARMIGA, DEMIAN BICHR, BONNIE  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 2.30 + 7.00 + 11.30 PM

**THE HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN IT'S WALLS**  
(PG-13) (COMEDY/FANTASY/THRILLER)  
⊕ CATE BLANCHETT, JACK BLACK  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 4.15 + 9.00 PM

**MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE FALLOUT**  
(PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME)  
⊕ TOM CRUISE, HENRY CAVILL, VING RHAMES  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM

**PEPPERMINT**  
(PG-15) (ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA)  
⊕ JENNIFER GARNER, RICHARD CABRAL, JOHN GALLAGHER  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 5.15 + 9.45 PM

**HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: SUMMER**  
(PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/DRAMA)  
⊕ ADAM SANDLER, ANDY SAMBERG  
CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 1.45 + 3.45 PM

**ACCIDENT**  
(18+) (THRILLER) NEW  
⊕ STEPHANIE SCHILDKNECHT, ROXANE  
SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM

**HELLO GURU PREMA KOSAME**  
(PG-15) (TELUGU) NEW  
⊕ RAM POTHINENI, ANUPAMA PARA  
SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.15 + 4.00 PM

**BADHAAI HO**  
(PG-15) (HINDI/COMEDY/DRAMA/ROMANTIC)  
⊕ SANYA MALHOTRA, AYUSHMANN KHURRANA,  
SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM

**SANDAKOZHI 2**  
(PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW  
⊕ VISHAL, KEERTHY SURESH, VARALAXMI  
SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN  
AL HAMRA DAILY AT: 3.00 + 9.00 PM

**VADACHENNAI**  
(PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW  
⊕ DHANUSH, AISHWARYA RAJESH, ANDREA  
SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 2.00 + 5.15 + 8.30 + 11.45 PM

**KAYAKULAM KOCHUNNI**  
(PG-15) (MALAYALAM)  
⊕ NIVIN PAULY, MOHANLAL, PRIYA ANAND,  
SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM  
AL HAMRA DAILY AT: 12.00 NOON

**ARAVINDHA SAMETHA**  
(PG-15) (TELUGU)  
⊕ N.T.R. JR., POOJA HEDGE, SUNIL, JAGAPATHI  
SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM

**ANDHADUN**  
(PG-15) (HINDI/CRIME/COMEDY)  
⊕ TABU, AYUSHMANN KHURRANA  
SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 12.30 + 6.15 PM + 12.00 MN

**96**  
(PG-15) (TAMIL)  
⊕ VIJAY SETHUPATHI, TRISHA KRISHNANA,  
SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 3.15 + 9.00 PM

## Snow White gives wrong message to kids, feels Kristen Bell

IAN S | Los Angeles

Actress Kristen Bell says the story of Snow White sends the wrong message about consent to children because she is asleep when the prince kisses her.

In an interview to Parenting magazine, the "Frozen" star spoke about her concerns after reading "Snow White" to her daughters Lincoln, five, and Delta, three, reports dailymail.co.uk.

"Every time we close 'Snow White', I look at my girls and



Kristen Bell

ask, 'Don't you think it's weird that Snow White didn't ask the

old witch why she needed to eat the apple? Or where she got that apple?'" she said.

"I say, 'I would never take food from a stranger, would you?' And my kids are like, 'No!' And I'm like, 'Okay, I'm doing something right.'" she explained.

The actress also asks her daughters about the romance story line as she finds it offering the wrong view on consent.

"Don't you think that it's weird that the prince kisses Snow White without her permission?" she asks her girls.

SPORTS  
sports

# Halep pulls out of WTA Finals with back injury

AFP | Singapore

World number one Simona Halep withdrew from the WTA Finals in Singapore with a back injury yesterday, bringing her season to a premature end.

The French Open champion pulled out of last month's China Open after just 31 minutes, and withdrew from this week's Kremlin Cup because of the persistent problem.

Halep, 27, said she had hoped to compete at the season finale in Singapore, which starts on Sunday, but that she had taken the "tough" decision to put her health first.

"It's always difficult to withdraw from a big tournament," said the Romanian, who sus-



Simona Halep of Romania hits a return against Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia during their women's singles third round match of the WTA Wuhan Open tennis tournament (file photo)

tained the injury in Wuhan last month.

"My back is not okay. I didn't

practise for the last four weeks. I'm not ready to compete at this level and I'm still sore."

Her withdrawal means that Kiki Bertens from the Netherlands moves into the eighth and final qualifying spot in the WTA Finals.

It has been a disappointing end to a spectacular season for Halep, which saw her secure the year-end number one ranking in the WTA standings for the second year running.

She spent 40 weeks at number one in 2018, and won three titles from a tour-leading six final appearances, amassing a 46-11 win-loss record.

This year Halep has won the Shenzhen Open, the Rogers Cup and her debut Grand Slam crown at Roland Garros.

In addition, she reached the title match at the Australian Open, in Rome and Cincinnati.

## Brave TV to broadcast Brave 17 in Philippines

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation has announced that Brave TV will exclusively broadcast the 17th edition of the promotion in Philippines.

Brave Combat Federation has featured fighters from Philippines in multiple editions.

The fastest growing mixed martial arts organisation in the world has recently announced that the project is in place to host an upcoming edition of Brave Combat Federation in Philippines during 2019.

Brave 17 features Jeremy Pacatiw, competing in the co-main event against Uloomi Karim from Pakistan. The event marks the first time, Pacatiw is featured in the in the co-main event of Brave Combat Federation.

Arben Escayo and Ariel Oliveros are the other two fight-

ers featured in Brave 17. Arben Escayo will face Mehmosh Raza from Pakistan and Ariel Oliveros will face Haider Farman from Pakistan.

Pacatiw shocked the world with a split decision win over Keith Lee from Team Xtreme Couture who was also mentored by his brother and UFC superstar, Kevin Lee.

The initiative was brought forward due to the increasing demands by the fans to view the event from nations where the promotion is yet to secure broadcast partnerships.

Brave TV is the live digital broadcast platform introduced by Brave Combat Federation. The initiative which was initiated from the Kingdom of Bahrain provides live digital broadcast of events held around the world to nations which are yet to showcase the events with existing broadcast partners.

## Alonso puts Hamilton in top five of all time -- but not Vettel

AFP | Austin, United States

Fernando Alonso heaped praise on Lewis Hamilton and omitted Sebastian Vettel on Thursday when he was asked to name his five greatest Formula One drivers of all time.

Speaking at a news conference ahead of this weekend's United States Grand Prix, the two-time world champion Spaniard said that Hamilton had proved his talent by winning in cars that were not expected to be victorious.

"It is difficult to compare those different times and differ-

ent championships, but Lewis matching (Juan-Manuel) Fangio with five championships will be a great achievement," said Alonso.

"If one (driver) had to do that in our generation, I am happy it is Lewis as he has showed the talent and commitment. When the car is dominating, then he delivers -- and when it is not good enough to win a world championship, he still puts in the performance to show his talent. "That is difficult to see nowadays." Hamilton needs to outscore Vettel, a fellow-four-time champion, by eight points



Lewis Hamilton with Fernando Alonso at Austin yesterday

in Sunday's race to clinch his fifth title, but he avoided all talk of any glory that may ahead.

Alonso spoke twice in glowing terms of Hamilton's raw talent and speed, the pair having been McLaren team-mates in 2007

when the Briton entered Formula One.

"Thank you," said Hamilton, softly, after his first response.

The Spaniard went on to say his top five would include seven-time champion Michael Schumacher, five-time champion Fangio, three-time champion Ayrton Senna, four-time champion Alain Prost and Hamilton.

"This would probably be the top five for me," he said.

Asked by Australian Daniel Ricciardo of Red Bull, who was sitting close to him, if he would include himself, Alonso said: "No. Not really."

## Woods blames fatigue for flops

AFP | Los Angeles

Tiger Woods on Wednesday blamed his dismal Ryder Cup form on tiredness, citing a lack of physical preparation after a demanding comeback from injury.

Woods lost all four of his Ryder Cup matches in Paris last month as the United States were crushed 17.5 to 10.5 by a rampant Europe.

The 14-time major winner had forced his way back into the American playing ranks after a strong comeback season which included an emotional victory at the Tour Championship in Atlanta on Septem-

ber 23.

However the 42-year-old believes the physical toll of his first full season back on the PGA Tour after missing virtually all of the previous two years finally caught up with him.

"It was just a cumulative effect of the entire season," Woods said on the sidelines of the Tiger Woods Invitational in California, an amateur event that benefits his charitable foundation.

"I was tired because I hadn't trained for it. I hadn't trained this entire comeback to play this much golf, and on top of that, deal with the heat and the fatigue and the loss of weight."

## Pakistan's Kaneria admits fixing guilt at last

AFP | London

Pakistan's Danish Kaneria has finally admitted his role in a fixing scandal that led to the imprisonment of former Essex team-mate Mervyn Westfield after six years of denials.

Kaneria, who was given a life ban by English cricket chiefs that effectively applied worldwide, said in an interview for an Al Jazeera television documentary quoted by the Mail: "My name is Danish Kaneria

and I admit that I was guilty of the two charges brought against me by the England and Wales Cricket Board in 2012."

Leg-spinner Kaneria, who insisted he was repentant as he called for his life ban to be overturned, added: "I want to apologise to Mervyn Westfield, my Essex team-mates, my Essex cricket club, my Essex cricket fans. I say sorry to Pakistan."

Westfield spent two months at Belmarsh prison in south-east London after pleading

guilty to accepting £6,000 (\$7,862) from an illegal bookmaker, Anu Bhatt, to concede 12 runs in his first over of an English county 40-over game against Durham in 2009. He conceded only 10, but still took the money.

Kaneria was the "middle-man" in the scam, having introduced Westfield to Bhatt, but avoided criminal charges when English legal authorities decided they lacked the evidence for a conviction.

## NOTICE

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*With regard to Gulf Union Insurance & Risk Management Co. (E.C.)  
(Ceasing the provision of All Services Regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain)*

Pursuant to the provisions of Article (50) of the Central Bank of Bahrain and Financial Institutions Law No. (64) of 2006 as amended, Gulf Union Insurance & Risk Management Co. (E.C.) registered under CR No. 35761-I, as an exempted closed joint stock company licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain, hereby declares its intention to cease providing all services regulated by Central Bank of Bahrain.

Written representations regarding the aforementioned cessation must be submitted to the Acting Director of the Insurance Supervision Directorate at the Central Bank of Bahrain within 30 days from the date of publishing this notice to the following address:

Mr. Elham Ebrahim Taleb  
Acting Directorate of Insurance Supervision Directorate  
Central Bank of Bahrain  
P.O. Box: 27  
Manama – Kingdom of Bahrain  
Tel: 17547302/17547303  
Fax: 17535170

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# Bolt rejects Maltese club offer

AFP | Sydney

Sprint superstar Usain Bolt has turned down a contract from Maltese champions Valletta and will remain in Australia to pursue his dream of becoming a professional footballer, his agent said yesterday.

The eight-time Olympic champion has been on trial with A-League club the Central Coast Mariners since arriving Down Under in August.

He scored two goals in a pre-season friendly last Friday but is yet to be offered a deal, with cashed-up Valletta dangling a two-year trial-free contract to entice him away earlier this week.

But Bolt's agent Ricky Simms said he had opted against a move to the Maltese Premier League team, which is backed by a group of investors from the Sanban Group in the United Arab Emirates.

"There is a lot of interest in Usain playing football," he told ESPN.

"We regularly receive similar approaches. I can confirm Usain does not wish to pursue this opportunity in Malta."

Valletta chief executive Ghas-



Usain Bolt, playing for A-League football club Central Coast Mariners, shouts for the ball in his first competitive start for the club against Macarthur South West United in Sydney



**Usain Bolt, who retired from athletics last year, has previously tried out with clubs in Germany, South Africa and Norway to no avail**

ston Slimen told the broadcaster: "We wish Usain Bolt all the best with his football career. The Valletta FC offer is always on the table."

Australia's domestic A-League season starts this weekend, with the Mariners in action on Sunday away to Brisbane Roar. With no contract, Bolt is not eligible for selection.

Club chief executive Shaun Mielekamp said this week the Jamaican "will continue his indefinite training period ... until any further notice".

Reports suggest the Mariners

are waiting for governing body Football Federation Australia to decide whether it will contribute to a potential Aus\$3 million (US\$2.1 million) offer to the 100m world record holder.

Sydney's Daily Telegraph yesterday reported Bolt and Mielekamp sat down for a coffee in the wake of the Malta offer for clarity on his future.

It said the 32-year-old, who regards Australia as a second home, might consider accepting less money if it means locking in a contract.

Coach Mike Mulvey was reluctant yesterday to talk about Bolt, saying he was not involved in contract negotiations.

"I'm really not interested in it (contract speculation) to tell you the truth," he told reporters.

"He's been great among the guys and I was very happy for him last week with the two goals he scored, but we move on."

Mariners captain Matt Simon dismissed suggestions the chronicles of Bolt were distracting the squad ahead of their A-League opener.

"He's been here for a couple of months now, so everywhere we go with Usain, everyone's talking about him," Simon said.

## Vidal fined 800,000 euros for Munich nightclub fight

AFP | Berlin

Barcelona midfielder Arturo Vidal has been hit with a 800,000 euros (\$921,812) fine by a Munich court after being found guilty of assault during a nightclub fight last year.

Munich district court fined the Chile international based on 80 days worth of wages, calculated to be 10,000 euros per day for the Barcelona player, who left Bayern Munich in August after three years with the German giants.

The 31-year-old was not in court in Munich to hear the judge's verdict as he played in Chile's 1-0 win over Mexico on Wednesday, which "professionally prevented" his appearance in Bavaria, his lawyer said.

Vidal and his half-brother were both found guilty after attacking another man at Munich's Crowns Club in September 2017, which was reportedly caught on security camera.

## Pochettino happy with Spurs squad despite no signings

AFP | London

Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino has no regrets over failing to add to his squad in the close season, saying his team's impressive start to the Premier League campaign justifies the decision.

Spurs, who became the first side not to make a summer signing since the transfer window was established, have equalled their best-ever start in the Premier League, with 18 points from eight games.

Chairman Daniel Levy hinted this week in a meeting with the Tottenham fans that he was content with the club's summer activity and Pochettino agreed with him.

"It was difficult to achieve the player we needed," Pochettino said. "That was impossible. I was happy and am happy with the squad that I have, 25 players."

## Man United's Shaw agrees new five-year contract

Reuters | London

Manchester United defender Luke Shaw has agreed a new five-year contract at the Premier League club after a strong start to the season, according to British media reports.

Shaw's United career has been interrupted by poor form and injuries since he joined the club from Southampton for 27 million pounds (\$35.37 million) in 2014, but the 23-year-old has started seven league games and scored one goal this season.

The BBC reported that the left-back's new deal would see him earn 150,000 pounds a week.

## Rooney on target again as United close on playoffs



D.C. United forward Wayne Rooney (9) scores a goal on a free kick against Toronto FC

AFP | Washington

Wayne Rooney scored a stunning free-kick to keep D.C. United firmly on course for the Major League Soccer postseason on Wednesday with a 1-0 victory over Toronto FC.

Former England and Manchester United star Rooney, whose arrival in Washington has transformed the club's season, curled in a superb strike from 30 yards in the 18th minute to settle the points.

The victory leaves United four points clear of Montreal Impact, their closest rivals for a playoff spot, with 47 points from 32 games in the Eastern

Conference standings.

Montreal, who are just outside the postseason places in seventh, have 43 points from 42 games.

United are now unbeaten in eight games and are in control of their playoff destiny with two rounds of fixtures in the regular season left to play. Rooney's side face New York City FC on Sunday before closing the season against Chicago on October 28.

United's playoff charge has been traced back to Rooney's arrival in July. The 32-year-old former England captain called time on his Premier League career earlier this year after leaving Everton.

## Higuain not bitter despite Juve trading up with Ronaldo

AFP | Milan

AC Milan striker Gonzalo Higuain said yesterday he was not bitter despite being "kicked out" by Juventus after superstar Cristiano Ronaldo's arrival last summer.

Juventus signed Higuain from Napoli for 90 million euros (\$103 million) in 2016, but after the surprise arrival of Ronaldo from Real Madrid for 100 million euros (\$115m) this summer, the Italian giants could not afford to keep the Argentine.

Higuain -- loaned to AC Milan with a 36-million-euro option to buy -- said he knew something was afoot when he was left on the bench for the Italian Cup final against AC Milan in May.

"That day, I had the feeling inside me that maybe something had broken down. And then they signed Ronaldo," Higuain said in an interview with Gazzetta dello Sport.

"The decision to leave was not mine. I gave everything for Juventus, I won several titles, after which Cristiano arrived."

"The club wanted to make a leap in quality and they told me that I could not stay and

that they were trying to find a solution. The best solution was Milan."

But Higuain said that he felt no thoughts of revenge against his old club where he won two Serie A and Italian Cup trophies.

"No, not at all. I only feel affection because they treated me very well," said the 30-year-old.

"My teammates and the fans treated me really well, but I never asked to leave. Basically, as everyone says, they kicked me out."

"I immediately felt great love

from Milan and they convinced me."

Higuain -- who will take part in his first derby against city rivals Inter Milan on Sunday -- has scored four goals for Milan to bring his tally to 115 since his arrival in Serie A in 2013 from Real Madrid.

"Milan have given me something more after a World Cup which wasn't great," he said.

"I've found what I was looking for."

Higuain joined Napoli in 2013 after six years with Real Madrid where he won three La Liga titles.

But he blamed Napoli president Aurelio De Laurentiis for leaving the club on bad terms.

"(Ezequiel) Lavezzi left on bad terms, (Edinson) Cavani the same. With (coach Maurizio) Sarri on the bench he was already contacting another coach."

**My teammates and the fans treated me really well, but I never asked to leave. Basically, as everyone says, they kicked me out**

GONZALO HIGUAIN



Gonzalo Higuain

Arsene Wenger

## Wenger expects to be back in work by January

Reuters | London

Former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger expects to be back in work in the New Year and has fielded enquiries from all over the world, he told German newspaper Bild.

Wenger, who left Arsenal in May after 22 years in charge, said he did not know what his next job would be but he felt rest-

ed and am ready to work again.

"I believe (I will) start again on Jan. 1. I don't know (where) yet," the Frenchman told German newspaper Bild in an interview published on Wednesday.

"There are associations, national teams, it could be also in Japan," added the 68-year-old who coached Japanese club Nagoya Grampus Eight before joining Arsenal.

"From my 22 years at Arsenal, I have big experience on different levels. There are enquiries from all

over the world."

Wenger won three Premier League titles at Arsenal but his final years at the north London club were more turbulent.

He endured a barrage of criticism from fans and pundits in the latter part of his reign for his tactical approach and perceived failings in the transfer market as the London club went 14 seasons without lifting the Premier League trophy.



# Pakistan close on series victory

AFP | Abu Dhabi

Pakistan grabbed an early wicket after Babar Azam struck a fluent 99 to edge closer to claiming a series victory over Australia in the second Test at Abu Dhabi yesterday.

Azam narrowly missed out on a hundred after an aggressive innings, while skipper Sarfraz Ahmed followed up his first-innings 94 with 81 as Pakistan declared their second innings at 400-9, setting a daunting 538-run target for the tourists.

By the close on the third day, Pakistan had Shaun Marsh dismissed for four -- bowled by left-arm paceman Mir Hamza for his first Test wicket -- to boost their chances of victory after Australia clung on for a thrilling draw in the first Test in Dubai last week.

Aaron Finch (24) and Travis Head (17) were at the crease with Australia, who are 47-1 and need another 491 for an unlikely win or to bat out two full days on a weary and spinning Sheikh Zayed Stadium pitch.

No team has ever chased more than 418-7 to win a Test, made by the West Indies against Australia at Antigua in 2003.

Pakistan piled on the runs with Azam, Sarfraz and Azhar Ali -- who was the casualty of a bizarre run out -- all making



Pakistan cricketer Asad Shafiq (R) plays a shot as Australian wicketkeeper Tim Paine looks on

half-centuries to build on the hosts' 137-run first-innings lead.

But none of them could go on to score a ton, with Azam falling agonisingly close to his maiden hundred, trapped leg-before by medium pacer Mitchell Marsh.

Azam, who hit three sixes and six fours, improved on his previous best Test score of 90 not out he made in New Zealand two years ago.

He and Sarfraz added 135 runs for the sixth wicket to end any hopes Australia had of a fight-back after taking the second new ball at 273-5.

Sarfraz struck five fours and a six and delayed the declaration in hope of a century, but fell leg-before to leg-spinner Marcus Labuschagne who finished with 2-74.

But the pick of the bowlers

was off-spinner Nathan Lyon who followed his first-innings four wickets with 3-135 in a marathon 43-over vigil.

After a dull opening period, the embarrassing dismissal of Azhar brought the day to life. The batsman edged a Peter Siddle delivery towards the third-man boundary and, thinking the ball had crossed the rope, halted in the middle of the pitch to talk

Pakistan 1st innings 282 (Fakhar Zaman 94, Sarfraz Ahmed 94; N. Lyon 4-78; M. Labuschagne 3-45)

Australia 1st innings 145 (A. Finch 39; Mohammad Abbas 5-33, Bilal Asif 3-23)

## Pakistan 2nd innings

Fakhar Zaman c and b Lyon	66
Mohammad Hafeez c Head b Starc	6
Azhar Ali run out	64
Haris Sohail st Paine b Lyon	17
Asad Shafiq c sub (Agar) b Labuschagne	44
Babar Azam lbw b M. Marsh	99
Sarfraz Ahmed lbw b Labuschagne	81
Bilal Asif c Head b Lyon	15
Yasir Shah lbw b Lyon	4
Mohammad Abbas not out	0
Mir Hamza not out	0
Extras: (lb 2, nb 2)	4

Total: (for nine wkts dec; 120 overs) 400

Bowling: Starc 7-0-32-1 (1nb), Siddle 23-4-68-0, Lyon 43-8-135-4, Holland 16-3-46-0, Labuschagne 16-1-74-2, M. Marsh 13-3-39-1 (1nb), Head 2-0-4-0

## Australia 2nd innings

A. Finch not out	24
S. Marsh b Hamza	4
T. Head not out	17
Extras: (lb 2)	2

Total: (for one wkt; 12 overs) 47

Bowling: Abbas 4-0-15-0, Hamza 3-0-19-1, Yasir 3-0-6-0, Asif 2-1-5-0

to fellow batsman Asad Shafiq.

But Mitchell Starc picked up the ball less than a yard from the boundary and threw it back to wicketkeeper Tim Paine, who ran Azhar out, leaving the Pakistani duo -- who have combined experience of 130 Tests and over 9,000 runs -- stranded and looking bewildered.

Azhar fell for a well-played 64, including four boundaries.

Pakistan had earlier lost Haris Sohail for 17, stumped by Paine off Nathan Lyon after resuming at 144-2.

The teams will play three Twenty20 internationals after the Tests, with the first in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday.

## Chasing Schumacher's record was never the plan: Lewis Hamilton

Reuters | New York

Lewis Hamilton will edge closer to Michael Schumacher's all-time record if he wins a fifth Formula One world title this weekend in Austin, but he said on Wednesday that chasing the German great was never part of his plan.

The Mercedes driver will move to within two of Schumacher's all-time mark of seven championships if he scores eight points more than his Ferrari rival Sebastian Vettel in Austin on Sunday.

Yet Hamilton said that he realised his lifelong ambition in 2015 when he equalled the tally of his boyhood idol Ayrton Senna, the Brazilian triple champion who died in 1994, and that chasing Schumacher's mark was never his aim.

"Honestly that has never been my goal. I started out with the goal to match Ayrton Senna or to equalise with Ayrton Senna who is my ... who's the guy that I aspire to be like," Hamilton told Reuters.

"And I equalled him two years ago. So since then it's kind of been going into unknown territory.

"So I mean Michael's stats are incredible and still quite a long way away, but I'm here for some time still, so I'm just going to keep working hard and keep trying to do what I do and what I love and enjoy it and we'll see where it takes us."

Hamilton is 67 points clear of Vettel with three races and a maximum 75 points remaining after Texas, and will fancy his chances of sewing up the title having won five of the past six races at the Circuit of the Americas -- including the last four.



Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton walks in the pits after his victory in the Formula One Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka



**Michael's stats are incredible and still quite a long way away, but I'm here for some time still, so I'm just going to keep working hard and keep trying to do what I do**

LEWIS HAMILTON

Yet with so much riding on the weekend, Hamilton said now is not the time to make changes to his approach.

"The approach that I've had up until now has worked very well," said Hamilton. "So we naturally want to win this weekend. So diligence and

going through the same steps in terms of getting the car to where it needs to be through the weekend, I feel naturally relaxed and I know what I'm going to do."

Hamilton has already won nine races so far this season and looks likely to end the year in double figures, which is no mean feat considering he feels this year has been tougher than any he has experienced before.

"This year has been the most intensive, the cars the faster, the requirement on the driver's side physically and mentally is on another level," said Hamilton.

"We've been fighting another team who have had the upper hand for a long part of the season. So collectively as a team we've had to go above and beyond to deliver more than them."

## Serena coach makes plea for honest on-court coaching

Reuters | Washington

The coach whose attempts to guide Serena Williams mid-match during this year's US Open final led to her explosive row with the umpire and a code violation en route to defeat, has called for on-court coaching to be permitted.

Patrick Mouratoglou admitted gesturing to Williams from the stands during her match with Japan's Naomi Osaka -- in contravention of US Open and other grand slam tournament rules -- but the American was left incensed at the umpire's strict interpretation of the rule. She said she had not seen Mouratoglou's signal and that she had "never cheated in her life".

The incident and the ensuing row resulted in a game penalty and a \$17,000 fine for Williams,

and divided tennis by triggering a debate about sexism in the sport.

The debate was fuelled by Williams's and others' assertions that an umpire would not have dealt with a male player in the same way.

Coaching during matches is permitted in some women's events, but grand slam tournaments are among those which do not allow it. The US Open permitted players to talk to their coaches during qualifying and junior matches, but any move to allow it during main draw matches would need to be unilateral among the four slams.

This is likely to be problematic with Wimbledon so far entirely against it, although Wimbledon chief Philip Brook told reporters recently it was time for a "grown-up conversation"

about the issue.

Mouratoglou clearly thinks it is a good idea and yesterday said mid-match coaching needed to be authorised in order to "ensure tennis sustains its development".

The Frenchman said it was time coaching was both recognised and valued, because the fallout following last month's US Open final made it look as though coaching was shameful.

"Authorising coaching in competition and actually staging it so that the viewers can enjoy it as a show would ensure it remains pivotal in the sport," he posted on his Twitter feed.

Mouratoglou said he could not understand why tennis was "just about the only sport" where coaching was not allowed, citing soccer, basketball and boxing as high profile examples, and pointing out that elite cyclists are in radio contact with their advisors during races.

Touching on a theme raised by the Williams episode, Mouratoglou said legitimising in-competition coaching would end hypocrisy.

"It is a very basic truth that the vast majority of tennis coaches are actually coaching on court, despite the rule," he said.

"Of course, coaches are usually discreet... occasionally the players are punished for it, but for the most part they are not."

Representatives of the four grand slam tournaments are expected to meet before the end of the year, at which point the future of mid-match coaching will be a topic of conversation.



Serena Williams of the US walks off court with her coach Patrick Mouratoglou after finishing a training session ahead of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia