

**Pakistan sack Sarfaraz as Twenty20, Test skipper**

Pakistan sacked Sarfaraz Ahmed from his post as Twenty20 and Test skipper yesterday, a week after he led the side to a shocking 3-0 home defeat against an inexperienced Sri Lanka. **P12**

G7 says Libra should not launch until risks 'adequately addressed'

THE DAILY **tribune**



Lady Gaga and fan fall off stage in Las Vegas

Historic first all-female spacewalk

ARABIAN HOMES  
 WITH THIS ISSUE  
 Exclusive to THE DAILY tribune Subscribers

**Clashes hit Barcelona Madrid**

Fresh clashes between riot police and protesters have broken out in Barcelona amid continuing anger over the jailing of Catalan separatist leaders.

A general strike was announced and five marches, all peaceful, converged on the city centre, bringing the streets to a standstill.

Police estimated that more than 500,000 people had joined Friday's rallies.

Protesters also blocked a motorway on the Spain-France border, causing huge tailbacks.

**62 killed in mosque blast Kabul**

At least 62 people were killed by a blast inside an Afghan mosque during Friday prayers, according to officials, a day after the United Nations said violence in the country had reached "unacceptable" levels. **See page 2**



**02 Envoy attends DGAP meeting**

Kingdom's keenness on developing human resources stressed at forum

**04 Qatar 'playing a negative role' to obstruct solution in Yemen**

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**Strong US ties**



The Minister of Finance and National Economy, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, yesterday met with the US Treasury Secretary, Steven Mnuchin, on the sidelines of the minister's participation in the Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The minister highlighted the long-standing bilateral ties between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United States of America. He stressed the importance of furthering the close economic and strategic co-operation between the two nations. They also reviewed Bahrain-US economic co-operation and means to further advance them across all levels.

**Beirut**

Thousands of protesters outraged by corruption and proposed tax hikes burned tyres and blocked major highways in Lebanon on Friday, prompting the premier to give his government partners three days to support a reform drive.

Demonstrations flared Thursday, partly sparked by a proposed tax on calls via messaging apps such as WhatsApp, and grew into the largest in recent years, threatening to topple Prime Minister Saad Hariri's fragile coalition government.

After his speech, clashes flared in central Beirut's Riyadh al Solh Square between demonstrators and security personnel, who fired volleys of tear gas to clear the plaza.

Thousands of people of all ages, sects and political affilia-

**'Only 72 hours to back reforms'**

**"I understand the people's anger and I am trying to push through change."**

SAAD HARIRI

tions had brought the capital to a standstill Friday, with demonstrations reported across the country.

The protesters are demanding a sweeping overhaul of Lebanon's political system, citing grievances ranging from aus-

terity measures to poor infrastructure.

In a televised address Friday evening, Hariri said he understood their anger and was trying to push through change.

He called on his coalition partners to give a "clear, decisive and final response to convince me, the Lebanese people and the international community... that everyone has decided on reforms, or I will have something else to say."

He gave them a 72-hour deadline to do so, without directly threatening to resign.

**See page 4**

**Push for 'safe zone'**

Erdogan announces plans for Turkish military presence across north-east Syria

● A US official said most of the fighting had stopped, although it would "take time for things to completely quiet down".

● The deal was aimed at easing a crisis that saw Mr Trump order a hasty and unexpected US retreat.

**Istanbul**

Turkey will set up a dozen observation posts across north-east Syria, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday, insisting that a planned "safe zone" will extend much further than US officials said was covered under a fragile ceasefire deal.

Less than 24 hours after he agreed the five-day truce to allow Kurdish forces time to pull back from Turkey's military incursion, Mr Erdogan underlined Ankara's continued ambition to establish a presence along 300 miles of territory inside Syria.

On the border itself shelling could be heard near the Syrian



Turkish military vehicles near the Turkish-Syrian border.

town of Ras Al Ain on Friday morning despite Thursday's deal, and a spokesman for the Kurdish-led forces said Turkey was violating the truce, hitting civilian targets in the town.

A US official said most of the fighting had stopped, although it would "take time for things to completely quiet down".

Donald Trump said on Friday he had spoken with Mr Erdo-

**200,000** civilians have fled the area creating a new humanitarian crisis.

gan who told him there had been some "minor" sniper and mortar fire in north-east Syria despite the truce, but that it had been quickly eliminated.

"He very much wants the ceasefire, or pause, to work," Mr Trump said in a post on Twitter. "Likewise, the Kurds want it, and the ultimate solution, to happen."

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitari-

an Affairs described the situation as "reportedly calm in most areas, with the exception of Ras Al Ain, where shelling and gunfire continued to be reported earlier today," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters in New York.

The truce, announced by US Vice President Mike Pence after talks in Ankara with Mr Erdogan, sets out a five-day pause to let the Kurdish-led SDF militia pull out of the Turkish "safe zone".

The deal was aimed at easing a crisis that saw Mr Trump order a hasty and unexpected US retreat, which his critics say amounted to abandoning loyal Kurdish allies that fought for years alongside US troops against ISIS.

Turkey's offensive created a new humanitarian crisis in Syria with 200,000 civilians taking flight, according to Red Cross estimates. It also prompted a security alert over thousands of ISIS fighters held in Kurdish jails.

Mr Trump has praised Thursday's deal, saying it would save "millions of lives". Turkey cast it as a victory in its campaign to control territory more than 30 km (around 20 miles) deep into Syria and drive out Kurdish fighters from the YPG, the SDF's main Kurdish component.

**COSTLY TUNES**

**World's most expensive guitar to be displayed at Abu Dhabi jewellery show**

**Abu Dhabi**

A US\$ 2 million guitar decorated with over 11,441 diamonds will be on display at the Jewellery and Watch Show, which will run from October 26-30 at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.

The masterpiece is acknowledged by

the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's most expensive guitar.

Visitors to the event, which is being held under the patronage of Shaikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance, will be able to take a glimpse at the extravagant guitar, which is decorated with over 11,441 diamonds amounting to over 400 carats set in 1.6



The guitar is named 'Eden of Coronet'.

kilograms of white gold.

The guitar which is named the "Eden of Coronet" was designed by Mark Lui (also a renowned song writer), created by 68 artisans and took 700 man days to complete.

The brothers of Michael Jackson are just some of the music artists who have performed concerts using this distinctive instrument.

# Bahrain condemns terror attack at Afghan mosque

At least 62 worshippers killed in the attack

● Kingdom reiterates firm position in rejection of violence, extremism and terrorism.

● The UN said the number of civilian deaths in the war-torn country had reached unprecedented levels.

## Manama

The Kingdom yesterday strongly condemned the terrorist bombing of a mosque in Nangarhar province of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, which resulted in several deaths and injuries.

The Foreign Ministry expressed the Kingdom's deep condolences and sincere sympathy to the families and relatives of the victims and wishes speedy recovery to all those injured in this terrorist act, which



Men carry an injured person to a hospital after the blast.

is incompatible with all religious principles and moral and human values.

It also affirmed the Kingdom of Bahrain's solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

in its efforts to combat terrorism of all forms.

It reiterates the Kingdom's firm position in rejection of violence, extremism and terrorism, calling for joint efforts to eliminate this dangerous phenomenon of terrorism.

At least 62 people have been killed and dozens injured by a bomb during Friday prayers at a mosque in Afghanistan, according to a provincial spokesman.

**1,174**  
civilians were killed between July and September of this year in terror attacks in Afghanistan.

The force of the blast, in eastern Nangarhar province, destroyed the building's roof, eyewitnesses said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

The blast came the day after the UN said the number of civilian deaths in the war-torn country had reached unprecedented levels over the summer.

According to the UN, 1,174 civilians were killed between July and September, the deadliest quarter since UN records began a decade ago.

Meanwhile, a BBC study which attempted to document every killing during the month of August found a fifth of all those who lost their lives were civilians.

Attallah Khogyani, the provincial governor's spokesman, told the BBC that the 62 people killed and 36 more injured in Friday's attack were worshippers.

The mosque sits in the district of Haska Mina, about 50km (30 miles) from the provincial capital Jalalabad.

## Envoy attends DGAP meeting

Berlin

Ambassador of the Kingdom to the Federal Republic of Germany, Abdullah Abdullatif Abdullah, participated, along with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland Pekka Haavisto, in the meeting organised by the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), in the presence of a number of German officials, diplomats and ambassadors.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland gave a lecture at the council's headquarters entitled "Enhancing the EU Global Footprint", in which he referred to the role of the Republic of Finland as current president of the European Union and its contribution to further strategic actions at the European level.

The DGAP was founded in 1955 in Bonn, Germany, as an independent, non-profit organisation whose main activities revolve around politics, decision-making, and understanding of German foreign policy and international relations.

It also aims at being a link between foreign politicians and the German people.



Mr Abdullah Abdullah

## Region's largest gaming event set Riyadh

Thousands of gamers and fans from around the globe are expected to descend on Saudi Arabia when the Kingdom hosts the prestigious PUBG MOBILE Star Challenge (PMS) World Cup for the first time later this year.

Taking place in the capital during the Riyadh Season festival of activities, the region's most popular mobile game will test the skills of a top international field of players.

The PMS World Cup, set to be staged at Riyadh Front from Dec 12 to 14, will see 16 teams from the Middle East and North Africa region compete with 16 teams from the rest of the world.

Event organisers are due to officially announce the total prize money up for grabs, but the pot is expected to top more than SR1 million (\$267,000).

PUBG MOBILE has taken the world by storm since its release in 2018 with in excess of 400 million downloads. Its involvement in Riyadh Season is being hailed by gaming influencers as further indication of PUBG MOBILE's commitment to bringing innovative technologies to the region.

## GCC HR and labour challenges in focus Sharjah

The first dialogue session of the Sixth Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) HR and Labour Market Conference involved interesting discussions on the digital economy and stressed the need to develop a comprehensive transformation strategy that serves the entire community of the GCC states.

Shaikh Fahim bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Executive Chairman of Sharjah's Department of Government Relations, and Chairman of the Higher Committee of Digital Transformation of Sharjah, attended the session, UAE News Agency (WAM) reported.

Entitled "Challenges and Opportunities of Gulf Job Localisation in the Digital Economy Environment", the session was also attended by Mansour Al Shathri, Deputy Chairman of the Riyadh Chamber and Chairman of the Human Resources and Labour Market Committee; Dr Abdulla Bader Al Sada, Deputy CEO of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Hamad Jarrah AlOmar, Deputy Director-General of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

**-XLR8<sup>20</sup><sub>19</sub>**

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# Kingdom's keenness on developing human resources stressed at forum

Kingdom's leading status in the education sector highlighted at World Bank meeting

● **Shaikh Salman stressed that Bahrain has placed human capital at the heart of national development efforts for decades.**

● **He also pointed out that the results achieved in the health sector were the result of a series of innovative and ground-breaking projects to improve public health.**



The World Bank Human Capital Project meeting in progress.



Shaikh Salman at the meeting.

Washington

Minister of Finance and National Economy, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa stressed the importance accorded by Bahrain to investing in citizens in all its development projects.

He underlined absolute belief that national competencies are the real assets of the kingdom, pointing out the outstanding status of Bahrain in international indices.

He also underscored the Kingdom's keenness to boost investments in all vital sectors to promote growth as well as economic and social sustainability in the development march spearhead-

ed by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The Minister of Finance and National Economy was speaking during his participation in the annual meeting of the World Bank Human Capital Project, on the sidelines of the Bahraini delegation's participation in the meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group in Washington.

The minister affirmed the Kingdom's qualitative strides in the health and education sectors, being two pillars in the development and sustainability of active human resources.

He pointed out the initiatives adopted by Bahrain to stimulate investments in the health and

educational sectors to boost economic growth and create jobs.

He also stressed the Kingdom's leading status in education, pointing out celebration of the centenary of regular education in Bahrain this year and the kingdom's ongoing efforts to develop the sector.

The Minister of Finance and National Economy pointed out the Kingdom's health achievements and inauguration of many modern projects to optimise services and maintain Bahrain's outstanding status in human development indices.

He also asserted the care given by the Kingdom to women empowerment, pointing out the efforts of the Supreme Council

for Women (SCW) in this respect. Separately, the minister participated in the World Bank Human Capital Project meeting in

Washington DC, as part of the Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

During the session, Shaikh Salman highlighted Bahrain's unique value proposition within the region, based on human capital, robust and dynamic regulation, and regional connectivity.

Shaikh Salman stressed that Bahrain has placed human capital at the heart of national development efforts for decades, emphasising Bahrain's high rankings in this respect, in addition to its commitment to accelerating sustainable socio-economic development.

He noted that Bahrain was the

first country in the Gulf region to establish formal schooling a hundred years ago and how Bahrain provides a health service system that supports social and economic development.

In this regard, he added that these are key pillars to grow and sustain effective human capital and drive economic growth.

The Minister of Finance and National Economy explained that the Kingdom is one of the leading countries in education and continues to develop the education sector to contribute to achieving outcomes based on creativity, innovation and the development of national cadres.

He also pointed out that the results achieved in the health sector were the result of a series of innovative and ground-breaking projects to improve public health, which contributed to maintaining the Kingdom of Bahrain's distinguished position in global human development indicators.

The minister underscored Bahrain's commitment to women's advancement, underlining the central role the Supreme Council for Women plays in furthering women's advancement alongside other inter-governmental authorities and reinforcing the contribution of women to the Kingdom's national development.



**Bahrain was the first country in the Gulf region to establish formal schooling a hundred years ago.**

## Bahraini loses plea in hospital bill case

TDI | Manama

The High Civil Court has rejected the appeal of a Bahraini man, ordering him to pay BD9,000 to a private hospital to settle the bill for his wife's treatment.

The defendant told the hospital that his company would pay for the treatment provided to his wife.

However, that didn't happen, prompting the hospital to file a case against the defendant.

The Court of First Instance ruled in the hospital's favour, but the defendant challenged its verdict, insisting that his employers promised him that they would settle the fee.

The High Civil Court rejected his appeal, stating that the defendant didn't file a case against the company to force it to live up to its pledge, which serves a proof that there wasn't any arrangement between them to pay the bill.



**The defendant didn't file a case against the company, which serves a proof that there wasn't any arrangement between them to pay the bill.**

COURT

The High Civil Court said that the hospital presented a copy of the bill issued to the defendant, whose signature was at the bottom of the document.

And the latter didn't deny having his wife treated at the hospital for which he has to pay BD9,000.

"Therefore, the defendant has to cover the cost of the treatment as his appeal was rejected," the High Civil Court pointed out in its ruling.

## Alleged rioter faces trial

TDI | Manama

The High Criminal Court has begun hearing the case of a 24-year-old man accused of throwing a tear gas canister at a group of people.

The defendant wasn't initially arrested after fingerprints were extracted from the device, according to Prosecutors.

But his DNA cells were found on it during further tests, which proved his involvement in the crime, the Prosecutors added.



**We couldn't see his car's number plate due to the heavy smoke after the attack.**

VICTIM

"We were sitting in Aker. We are a group of friends who always gather in one place, but were stunned when a man passed by his car and pelted the canister at us without any reason.

"We couldn't see his car's number plate due to the heavy smoke after the attack," one of the victims told Prosecutors.

The defendant was charged with possessing a weapon without a licence.

## New AmCham board



The American Chamber of Commerce - Bahrain (AmCham Bahrain) has announced the successful election of its new Board of Directors at its Annual General Meeting (AGM), which was held at the Wyndham Grand Bahrain Bay. Presided over by Qays H Zu'bi, President of AmCham Bahrain, in the presence of its outgoing Board of Directors, esteemed members, US Ambassador Justin Siberell, and guests, the AGM focused on highlights and successes from the past year and look at the strategy for continuing to enhance AmCham's presence and value proposition for members. The new 15 member board will serve for the 2019-2021 period and comprises a diverse group of business leaders representing Bahraini and American businesses.

# Qatar 'playing a negative role' to obstruct solution in Yemen

Qatar rapped for playing destructive game in Yemen, Libya, Tunisia and Iraq

● **Shaikh Khalid explained that Iran should send a message of peace and good neighbourliness.**

● **The minister said he considers the recent visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin to Saudi Arabia and the UAE as very important.**

TDT | Manama

Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa has said that the signing of a final agreement between the Yemeni government and the Southern Transitional Council (STC) under the auspices of Saudi Arabia would be a "major leap forward concerning the future stability of Yemen, particularly following the important meetings held in this regard

in Jeddah".

In an interview with Asharq Al Awsat, Al Khalifa said, "Qatar is trying to prevent a solution in Yemen. We can see it through Doha's positions announced in the media, broadcast by Al Jazeera channel."

He explained that Qatar has always failed to enforce this role in Yemen facing the people's will to stop all foreign interference, including Iran's attempt to incite strife.

The Bahrain FM said that Qatar is not only playing a negative role in Yemen, but also in Libya, Tunisia, Gulf States and Iraq.

"Everyone knows what we mean," he said.

Commenting on weapons and explosive materials shipments from Tehran to Manama, Shaikh Khalid said, "The quantity of arms that Bahrain confiscated was sufficient to destroy half of the capital."

He explained that Iran should send a message of peace and good neighbourliness or else, Tehran should be held responsible for its



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**The quantity of arms that Bahrain confiscated was sufficient to destroy half of the capital.**

SHAIKH KHALID

actions in the region.

Shaikh Khalid said he considers the recent visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin to Saudi Arabia and the UAE as very important.

"The visit shows that Riyadh and Abu Dhabi do not build relations with other countries governed by circumstances and that both states extend continuous bridges of friendship worldwide," he said.

Shaikh Khalid condemned the Turkish cross-border infiltration in north Syria, and he asked Ankara to respect the Syrian sovereignty and territories.

"The comeback of Syria to the arms of the Arab League is left to Syria and AL states," he said, adding that the Bahraini diplomatic presence in Damascus had not stopped during the past years.

Separately, Shaikh Khalid attended a reception ceremony held by the Bahraini-British Parliamentary Friendship Group in co-operation with the Embassy of Bahrain to the United Kingdom.

The reception ceremony took place in the House of Commons to mark the minister's visit and the 12th Meeting of Bahrain-UK Joint Working Group in the presence of ministers, diplomats,

MPs and media professionals, led by Secretary of State for the Middle East and North Africa at the UK Foreign Office, Dr Andrew Morrison, UK Minister of State for International Trade Connor Burns and UK Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief Rehman Chishti.

In his welcoming statement, the minister expressed his delight to attend the ceremony and meet with a large group Bahrain's friends and took pride in the good ties that date back over 200 years, affirming the depth of relations between the two Kingdoms, based on joint work in all political, cultural and economic areas and on common interests to promote security and development in the region and the world at large.

For his part, the Chair of the Bahrain-UK Parliamentary Group Bob Stewart expressed appreciation to the Minister of Foreign Affairs for his presence, stressing the importance of the strategic relationship between the two countries.

## Kuwaiti envoy praises Bahrain ties

● **The envoy recalled with pride Bahrain's honourable supportive stances towards Kuwait under various circumstances.**

Manama

Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain, Shaikh Thamer Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, has lauded the deep-rooted solid relations, common destiny, fraternity, love and fruitful cooperation across various fields between Bahrain and Kuwait.

"I was graced by meeting His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa while submitting my credentials as ambassador of my country to the Kingdom of Bahrain. I was honoured by conveyed greetings and good wishes to HM King Hamad from his brother, the Amir of Kuwait, HH Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah," the envoy said.

The ambassador added that he had listened to HM the King's valuable directives, highlighting HM King Hamad's love for Kuwait and keenness on ensuring the interests of the two countries and their brotherly peoples.

In a statement to the Bahrain News Agency (BNA), Ambassador Shaikh Thamer Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah said that he had been instructed by the Kuwaiti Amir to spare no effort in order to enhance bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The envoy recalled with pride Bahrain's honourable supportive stances towards Kuwait under various circumstances.

He also valued highly the care enjoyed by Kuwaiti students, private sector representatives and tourists in the Kingdom of Bahrain, prayed to Allah the Almighty to protect the two brotherly countries, and to bless them with ever-lasting security, stability and prosperity.

## GCC ministers discuss security co-operation

Muscat

At the end of their 36th meeting, GCC countries' Interior Ministers yesterday took some decisions aiming to bolster security co-operation.

GCC Secretary-General Dr Abdulatif Al Zayani said in a press statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the resolutions seek to unify the Gulf efforts to combat crimes and terrorist acts.

He stressed that the ministers lauded strenuous and sincere efforts made by GCC security apparatuses.

He also extolled the Gulf security centres like the Criminal Information Centre to Combat



GCC ministers at the meeting.

Drugs in Doha, the GCC Emergency Management Centre in Kuwait and the Gulf police in Abu Dhabi.

The one-day meeting discussed GCC security cooperation to counter terrorism, cybercrimes, common training of security apparatuses and the Gulf security network project.

The gathering focused on establishing the Gulf Academy for Security and Strategic Studies, the recommendations on meetings of border and coast guards, airport security and others.

The ministers dealt with recommendations of secretaries general of GCC security training institutions, anti-drug bodies, traffic committees and others.

## GCC countries warn citizens after protests erupt in Lebanon

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's embassy in Beirut yesterday warned its citizens not to travel to Lebanon, and called on Saudi nationals already in the country to avoid protest areas.

The Kingdom's embassy in Beirut advised its nationals to be extremely cautious and to "stay away from places of protest," Al Ekhbariya news channel reported.

It also announced that the Lancaster Plaza Beirut hotel in the capital's Raouche neighbourhood is a gathering point from which Saudi nationals can be transported to Beirut airport.

Egypt's embassy in the Lebanese capital Beirut also called on its nationals in the country to avoid protest areas, Egyptian state news agency MENA said.

"The embassy calls on all

Egyptian citizens in Lebanon to avoid the areas of gatherings and protests, to be careful in their movements and to abide by the instructions of the Lebanese authorities in this regard," MENA said.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's embassy in Lebanon asked citizens wishing to travel to Lebanon to wait because of the current protests and unrest.

"The embassy also calls on citizens currently in Lebanon to take utmost care and stay away from crowds and demonstrations," the embassy said in its tweet.

Bahrain warned against travel to Lebanon and called on its citizens in the country to leave immediately.

Protesters across Lebanon blocked roads with burning tires on Friday and thousands marched in Beirut, calling on



A group of Lebanese protesters hold a rally in Beirut.

the government to resign over an economic crisis.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's prime minister gave his partners in government a 72-hour ultimatum to come up with "convincing" solutions for a rapidly worsening economic crisis, as nationwide protests against the country's entire ruling political class continued to escalate.

In an address to the nation and with hundreds of rowdy protesters camped outside his office, Saad Hariri blamed politicians in his national unity government, which includes the Iran-backed Hizbollah group and rival political parties, for blocking his reform agenda at every turn.

Following his speech, groups of rioters broke away from the protesters, clashing with police, setting cars ablaze and smashing store windows in the streets of Beirut.

## world

# Historic first all-female spacewalk

● The spacewalk comes as NASA plans to return to the Moon by 2024

● Koch, an electrical engineer, was leading Meir, who holds a doctorate in marine biology

Washington

US astronauts Christina Koch and Jessica Meir became the first all-female pairing to carry out a spacewalk Friday, following a spacesuit flub earlier this year that caused the historic mission to be aborted.

“Christina, you may egress the airlock,” spacecraft communicator Stephanie Wilson told the pair shortly after they set out to replace a power controller on the International Space Station at 1138 GMT.

They began their mission making standard safety checks on their suits and tethers, before making their way to the repair site.

In a call to reporters a few minutes earlier, NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine emphasized its symbolic importance.

“We want to make sure that space is available to all people, and this is another milestone in that evolution.

“I have an 11 year old daughter,



Spacewalkers Christina Koch (foreground, suit with no stripes) and Andrew Morgan (suit with red stripes) of NASA work to replace older hydrogen-nickel batteries with newer, more powerful lithium-ion batteries during the six-hour and 45-minute spacewalk. (Courtesy of NASA)

ter, I want her to see herself as having all the same opportunities that I found myself as having when I was growing up.”

The first such mission was supposed to take place in March but was canceled because the space agency had only one medium-sized suit, with a male-female combination performing the required task at a later date.

Traditionally male-dominated NASA’s failure to be adequately prepared was denounced in some quarters as evidence of

implicit sexism.

Koch, an electrical engineer, was leading Meir, who holds a doctorate in marine biology and is making her first ever spacewalk.

The two were working to replace a faulty battery charge/discharge unit, known as a BCDU. The station relies on solar power but is out of direct sunlight for much of its orbit and therefore needs batteries, and the BCDUs regulate the amount of charge that goes into them.



Christina Koch (left) is leading Jessica Meir, who is making her first ever spacewalk

The current task was announced Monday and is part of a wider mission of replacing aging nickel-hydrogen batteries with higher capacity lithium-ion units.

The US sent its first female astronaut into space in 1983, when Sally Ride took part in the seventh Space Shuttle mission, and has now had more women astronauts than any other country.

But the first woman in space was Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova in 1963, followed by compatriot Svetlana Savitskaya in 1982, who was also the first woman spacewalker two years later.

The spacewalk comes as NASA plans to return to the Moon by 2024 under the Artemis mission, named for the twin sister of Apollo in Greek mythology.

The mission will see the first woman to set foot on the lunar surface, possibly as part of an all-woman team.

## General strike grips Catalonia



Barcelona

Spain’s protest-hit northeast was gripped by a general strike yesterday as thousands of “freedom marchers” converged on Barcelona for a mass show of dissent over the jailing of nine Catalan separatist leaders.

With the angry demonstrations entering their fifth day, activists blocked a string of roads in the wealthy northeastern region, cutting off the main cross-border highway with France.

Workers were also downing tools against Monday’s Supreme Court verdict in which the separatist leaders were handed long jail terms over a banned referendum and an abortive independence declaration two years ago.

As well as the strike, tens of thousands of people streamed into Barcelona after a three-day march from five Catalan towns in a bid to cause chaos on the roads in a region that accounts for about a fifth of Spain’s economic output.

## Murderer who triggered Hong Kong protests will go to Taiwan

Hong Kong

A man who inadvertently triggered Hong Kong’s huge protests after he murdered his girlfriend in Taiwan has agreed to return to the island to face justice, a clergyman who has visited him in prison said on Friday.

Chan Tong-kai, 20, is wanted in Taiwan for the murder of his pregnant girlfriend during a holiday the two Hong Kongers took there in February last year.

He fled back to the southern Chinese city where Taiwanese police were unable to

apprehend him because there is no extradition agreement between the two territories.

The case sparked an ill-fated proposal by Hong Kong’s pro-Beijing government to ram through a sweeping extradition bill which would have allowed the city to extradite suspects to any territory, including the authoritarian mainland.

The proposal sparked a massive public backlash with record-breaking crowds hitting the streets. The protests have since snow-balled as the movement seeks greater democracy and police accountability.

## Cartel gunmen chase away forces, free El Chapo’s son

Reuters | Mexico City

Heavily armed cartel fighters surrounded security forces and made them free one of drug lord Joaquin ‘El Chapo’ Guzman’s sons, whose brief apprehension triggered intense gunbattles across the city of Culiacan.

Security Minister Alfonso Durazo said a patrol by National Guard militarised police first came under attack from within a house in the city, 600 km (370 miles) northwest of Mexico City.

After entering the house, they found four men including Ovidio Guzman, who is accused of



Cartel gunmen are seen outside during clashes with federal forces following the detention of Ovidio Guzman, son of drug kingpin Joaquin ‘El Chapo’ Guzman, in Culiacan, Sinaloa state, Mexico

drug trafficking in the United States.

The patrol was quickly overpowered by cartel gunmen, however, and the decision was taken to withdraw to protect the lives of the National Guard and restore calm in the city, where gangsters had set up roadblocks and were unleashing heavy automatic gunfire, Durazo said.

“The decision was taken to retreat from the house, without Guzman to try to avoid more violence in the area and preserve the lives of our personnel and recover calm in the city,” Durazo said.

## Prince William, Kate land in Islamabad after aborted flight

Agencies | Islamabad

Britain’s Prince William and his wife Kate landed in Pakistan’s capital Islamabad on Friday, after turbulence forced the couple to stay overnight in Lahore in a change to their tightly-choreographed itinerary.

On Thursday an RAF Voyager carrying the royals, who are on a four-day official visit to Pakistan, aborted landings in Islamabad and nearby Rawalpindi due to severe turbulence.

The couple stayed at Lahore’s



Britain’s Prince William and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, depart from Lahore airport, Pakistan

Pearl Continental Hotel on Thursday evening, along with journalists, Kensington Palace staff and foreign ministry officials.

Thursday’s aborted flight was described by a photographer on board as one of the most turbulent he had experienced in 25 years of regular flying, although the couple told reporters after returning to Lahore they were “fine”. Friday’s flight passed off without incident.

A planned visit to a Pakistan military post in the west of the country on Friday morning was

cancelled, but the couple will visit an army canine training school in Islamabad before departing from the country later in the day.

Kensington Palace had called the trip, the Cambridges’ first official visit to Pakistan, their “most complex” tour to date as the royals seek to boost ties between Britain and the second largest country in the Commonwealth.

They have spent their five-day tour promoting causes such as girls’ education, conservation and climate change awareness.

## ‘Most overrated general’

New York

Former US defense secretary James Mattis said he was honored to be the “world’s most overrated general” in a swipe at his former boss Donald Trump.

“I’m not just an overrated general. I am the greatest, the world’s most overrated,” he said.

“I’m honored to be considered that by Donald Trump because he also called Meryl Streep an overrated actress,” he said.

# SOCIETY



The Community Police Directorate has marked the International Day for Older Persons by visiting three homes for the elderly as part of a series of visits to promote community partnership. The visits included welcoming speeches, awareness lectures and participating in various events throughout the year.



In connection with the 'Think Pink Month' the Royal Hospital for Women and Children, Riffa, organised a lecture on breast cancer awareness for Indian Ladies Association (ILA) members followed by free mammograms. The lecture was conducted by Dr Mari



The New Millennium School, DPS Bahrain hosted a one day workshop for its kindergarten teachers, based on 'Effective Teaching Techniques'. The resource person Anupma Bakshi conducted the workshop. The workshop focused on the new emerging trends in preprimary education that are part of current pedagogy.

The Indian Club Ponnona Pulari 2019 came to a successful conclusion with the Indian Club Onasadhya Feast. More than 2,600 taste lovers, including members, guests, sponsors and Indian expatriates at labour camps from Almoayyed Contracting Group company, sat down together to enjoy a sumptuous banquet of 27 items. The feast was prepared by two invited chefs Jayan Sreebhadra and Satheesh Mavelikkara, specially flown in from India to make this grand gala lunch.



To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the students of New Millennium School, DPS Bahrain participated in an ecological activity towards this cause.

Society



competitions. Director of the Community Police, Col Abdullah Al Enazi highlighted that the operations of the community police focus on the social roles that could promote community partnership. He said that the community partnership is dedicated to



am Al Junaidi.



The induction of the Students Council of Al Noor International School and the swearing in of newly-elected members for the academic year 2019-20 was held at a solemn ceremony. The ceremony was attended by the School Director Dr Muhammad Mashood, Principal Amin Mohamed Ahmed Heliwa, Members of the Quality department, Head teachers of all sections of the school and students of A Level classes. The ceremony started with the entry of the 50 newly-elected members on the stage led by the School head boy Farooq Mohamed Ahmed and School head girl Reham Ali Mohamed.



The thrilling KCA - Zayani Motors International Volleyball Tournament 2019 is progressing at KCA Grounds, Segaya and on the 5th day KCA Indian Delights won the match against KCA Blue Sea by winning all 3 sets with score 25-23, 25-15 & 25-22. Five International players were part of the above two teams and the gallery was full with spectators. Every day, the match will start at 8pm and all are cordially invited to witness the thrilling matches.



Millennium School-DPS participated in the 'Beach Cleanup Campaign' at Karbabad Beach, on 2nd October, 2019. The main highlight of this activity was to encourage and promote community work in students, making them aware of the environmental issues. The school's environmental ambassadors dedicated almost two hours of hard work to clean the beach, instilling in children the need to promote the sustainability of resources and the three R's of the environment: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.



# business

## Longest non-stop flight to take off from New York to Sydney

- Passenger numbers have been restricted to minimise the weight

- No other airline has ever achieved the feat

- Scientists from two Australian universities will be on board

- Impact of jetlag will be closely watched

- Airbus and Boeing have pitched aircraft for the Qantas ultra long-haul routes

- Qantas will test a service from London to Sydney in the coming months

AFP | Sydney

A plane and its passengers are set to test the mental and physical limits of long-haul aviation when Qantas operates the first direct flight by a commercial airline from New York to Sydney.



Air travel often involves a lot of sitting around, but a test flight between New York and Sydney will top out at a whopping 19 hours on a plane

In the first of three “ultra long-haul” test flights planned by Australia’s national flag carrier this year, researchers will monitor the effects on passengers of the 19-hour non-stop journey.

Up to 40 passengers and crew -- most of them Qantas employees -- will be on board the Boeing 787-9 when it departs New York on Friday. The plane is scheduled to arrive Down Under Sunday morning.

Passenger numbers have been restricted to minimise the weight on board and give the plane sufficient fuel range

to travel approximately 16,000 kilometres (about 9,500 miles) without re-fuelling, heading west over the Pacific.

No other airline has ever achieved the feat, which Qantas CEO Alan Joyce has called the “final frontier in aviation”.

Scientists from two Australian universities will be on board to monitor passengers’ sleep patterns, melatonin levels, and food consumption.

Pilots will also wear a device that tracks their brain waves and alertness.

With a 15-hour time difference between New York and



**Pilots are concerned about being able to get enough quality rest during ultra long-range flights to maintain peak performance and we believe significant caution should be exercised in the initial operations to make sure there are no unintended consequences**

AIPA SAFETY DIRECTOR SHANE LONEY

Sydney, the impact of jetlag will be closely watched.

“We know from the basic science of circadian rhythms that a bigger time difference between departure and arrival locations, and travelling east rather than west, tends to mean people feel

more jetlag,” University of Sydney professor Stephen Simpson said.

“But people seem to be wildly different when it comes to the experience of jetlag -- and we need more research on what contributes to jetlag and travel fatigue, so we can try and reduce the impact of long-haul flights.”

Qantas last year introduced the first direct service from the western Australian city of Perth to London, with the 17-hour journey one of the longest passenger flights in the world.

As well as the New York-Sydney route, Qantas will test a service from London to Sydney in

“ultimately a business decision”.

### Pilots concerned

Another hurdle could come from within the organisation.

Qantas pilots have raised concerns about the impact of ultra long-range flying on safety standards.

The Australian and International Pilots Association (AIPA), which represents Qantas pilots, said the exploratory flights “will produce a limited set of data that will not adequately replicate real-world flying conditions”.

AIPA safety director Shane Loney has called for a “scientific long-term study” into the impacts on crew.

“Pilots are concerned about being able to get enough quality rest during ultra long-range flights to maintain peak performance and we believe significant caution should be exercised in the initial operations to make sure there are no unintended consequences,” he said.

A Qantas spokesperson said the test flights are “just one part of the work we are doing to assess how to the operate these flights safely”.

Both Airbus and Boeing have pitched aircraft for the Qantas ultra long-haul routes. Joyce has said it is not a “foregone conclusion” which company will be chosen.

## EU leaders split over \$1.2 trillion post-Brexit budget

Reuters | Brussels

European Union leaders discussed a new budget plan on Friday that could allow the EU to spend up to 1.1 trillion euros in the 2021-2027 period, but deep divisions among governments may block a deal for months.

Under a proposal prepared by Finland, which holds the EU’s rotating presidency, the next long-term budget should have a financial capacity between 1.03 per cent and 1.08pc of the EU gross national income (GNI), a measure of output.

That would allow the EU to spend 1 trillion to 1.1 trillion euros for seven years in its first budget after the departure of Britain, one of the top contrib-



European Union leaders attend a round table meeting at the European Union leaders summit, in Brussels

utors to EU coffers.

After the meeting, some EU leaders and officials described the talks as difficult.

The Finnish document, seen by Reuters, is less ambitious than proposals put forward by the European Commission, the

EU executive, which is seeking a budget worth 1.1% of GNI. The EU parliament called for an even bigger budget, 1.3% of GNI.

But the Finnish proposal moves beyond a 1% cap set by Germany, the largest EU economy. And it has displeased most of the 27 EU states, EU officials said, suggesting long negotiations before a compromise can be reached.

Talks on budgets are usually among the most divisive in an EU increasingly prone to quarrels.

Under the proposal, subsidies to poor regions would drop to less than 30pc of the budget from 34pc now. Aid to farmers would fall to slightly more than 30pc from over 35pc of the total.

## Apple’s Cook meets China regulator

Reuters | Beijing

Apple Inc Chief Executive Tim Cook met the chief of China’s market regulator in Beijing on Thursday, the Chinese agency said, a week after the US firm was thrust into political tensions between the mainland and protesters in Hong Kong.

Apple last week removed from its app store an app that helped Hong Kong protesters track police movements after a Chinese state newspaper sharply criticised it for allowing the software. The company said the app, HKmap.live, was used to target the police.

Cook had defended the removal in the face of criticism for appeasing mainland China, telling Apple workers that



Tim Cook, CEO of Apple

“this decision best protects our users”.

China’s State Administration for Market Regulation said in a statement on its website that its chief, Xiao Yaqing, and Cook discussed topics including Apple expanding investment in China, consumer rights protection and fulfilling corporate social responsibility. It did not give more details.

## Samsung admits Galaxy S10 fingerprint access flaw

Seoul

Tech giant Samsung Electronics yesterday acknowledged a major flaw with its fingerprint system that allows other people to open its top-end smartphones, advising users to delete all registered prints.

Samsung is the flagship subsidiary of the giant Samsung Group and crucial to South Korea’s economic health. The conglomerate is by far the biggest of the family-controlled empires that dominate business in the world’s 11th-largest economy.

But it has a history of humiliating setbacks with major products, most notably a worldwide recall of its Galaxy Note 7



The world’s biggest smartphone maker has touted the Galaxy S10’s in-display fingerprint sensor as ‘revolutionary’

devices in 2016 over exploding batteries, which hammered its

reputation.

Earlier this year it had to delay

the launch of its first foldable smartphone, the Galaxy Fold, after pre-release users found faulty screens.

Samsung’s latest problem emerged after a user in the UK told the Sun newspaper earlier this week her Galaxy S10 smartphone could be unlocked by someone else simply by putting on a screen protector and applying an unregistered fingerprint.

The flaw meant anyone who got hold of her phone could transfer funds using her financial apps, the user told the British paper.

In a statement released Friday, Samsung said the issue involved “fingerprint sensors un-

locking devices after recognising three-dimensional patterns appearing on certain silicone screen protecting cases as users’ fingerprints.”

The firm advised users of the Galaxy Note10, 10+ and Galaxy S10, S10+, and S10 5G to “delete all previous fingerprints” and register their data anew.

“Please refrain from applying a silicone screen protecting case to your device until a software update, which is planned to be released beginning next week,” it added.

The statement was released a day after Samsung said it would soon roll out a fix, but did not

specify what the problem was.

The world’s biggest smartphone maker has touted the Galaxy S10’s in-display fingerprint sensor as “revolutionary”.

“When you place your thumb on the screen, it sends ultrasonic pulses to detect the 3D ridges and valleys of your unique fingerprint to quickly and accurately recognise you,” the firm has said about the technology involved.

Kakaobank, South Korea’s internet-only bank, has told its customers not to use fingerprints to access its mobile banking services and employ passwords and pattern locks instead until the problem is fixed.

# Pound steadies as Johnson prepares Brexit battle

London

**S**terling steadied around \$1.29 yesterday as dealers took a breather at the end of a dizzying week and on the eve of a vital vote on UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Brexit deal.

The stage was set for the House of Commons, which is to meet for the first time on a Saturday in 37 years for a knife-edge vote.

The spotlight in Europe then turns towards Sunday evening, when markets in Asia will deliver their initial verdict on the outcome -- and the potential for a chaotic Brexit on October 31.

Johnson has vowed Britain will exit the bloc that day come what may.

IMF head Kristalina Georgieva urged caution while welcoming signs that Britain can reach a deal to exit the European Union.

"When there is a will, there is a deal... and my hope is that the will holds in all quarters," Georgieva told reporters at the start of the International Monetary Fund annual meeting.

"The market (is) really gambling on tomorrow's vote and has not priced in fully all scenarios -- so expect big moves," warned ETX Capital analyst Michael Baker.

"On Sunday night, the markets will start opening from the Far East ... and it could be a hugely



British prime minister Boris Johnson faces an uphill task in getting his Brexit deal past lawmakers

volatile open, regardless of the outcome," he warned.

Dave Ramsden, the Bank of England's policymaker overseeing markets and banking, told Bloomberg that its foreign exchange desk would be manned overnight Sunday/Monday to ensure smooth trading.

However, sterling then dipped under \$1.29 as it became evident that Johnson faced an uphill task in getting the deal past lawmakers, with opposition MPs and some in his own Conservative party saying they were against it.

### Rollercoaster trade

In rollercoaster deals, the pound had rallied Thursday to almost \$1.30 on news that

negotiators had hammered out an agreement that would avoid Britain leaving the EU without a divorce deal -- a move many commentators warn could be economically catastrophic.

Most importantly, Northern

Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which props up Johnson's government, said it was "unable" to back him.

Britain voted in June 2016 to leave the European Union but it has delayed its departure date twice so far this year after lawmakers rejected previous Brexit deals.

"Based on everything that has happened over the last three years, it is hard to think that it will pass and then Brexit is on

### Key figures around 1400 GMT

Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.2884 from \$1.2891 at 2100 GMT
Euro/pound:	▲ at 86.46 pence from 86.29 pence
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1133 from \$1.1125
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 108.57 yen from 108.66 yen
London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.2 pc at 7,169.78 points
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.6 pc at 5,638.23
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▼ 0.1 pc at 12,643.40
New York - Dow:	▼ 0.1 pc at 26,994.32
EURO STOXX 50:	▼ 0.2 pc at 3,579
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 0.2 pc at 22,492.68 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▼ 0.5 pc at 26,719.58 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 1.3 pc at 2,938.14 (close)
Brent North Sea crude:	▲ 0.2 pc at \$60.02 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	UP 0.5 pc at \$54.31

the road to completion," Baker remarked.

### Renault sounds alarm

In non-Brexit news, Europe's car sector hit the skids after French auto giant Renault released a gloomy sales outlook.

Renault shares crashed 12 percent to 48.38 euros in Paris after warning that 2019 revenues would be three to four pc lower than last year -- and blamed "less favourable than anticipated" conditions.

"Renault shares slumped today after the company lowered its full-year revenue plus profit guidance," said CMC Markets

analyst David Madden.

### Sharp Chinese slowdown

Wall Street stocks dipped in early trading as solid earnings from Coca-Cola and American Express were offset by a weak Chinese economic report and uncertainty over Brexit.

China reported growth of just 6.0 pc in the third quarter, its slowest rate in nearly three decades, due in part to a lengthy trade war with the United States.

The Shanghai market closed off 1.3 pc while Hong Kong dipped 0.5 pc amid concern over the possibility of more violent protests over the weekend.

# US widens EU trade war with new tariffs

**In the line of fire are civilian aircraft from Britain, France, Germany and Spain -- the countries that formed Airbus**

**The United States imposed tariffs on a record \$7.5-billion worth of European Union goods**

Brussels

**T**he United States imposed tariffs on a record \$7.5-billion worth of European Union goods yesterday, earning a swift threat of retaliation by the EU.

The tariffs, which took effect just after midnight in Washington (0401 GMT), came after talks between European officials and US trade representatives failed to win a last-minute reprieve.

Airbus, French wine and Scottish whiskeys are among the high-profile targets with Europe ready to hit back against its own list of iconic or politically sensitive US products next year.

The WTO-endorsed transatlantic onslaught from US President Donald Trump also comes as Washington is mired in a trade war with China and could risk destabilising the global economy further.

In the line of fire are civilian aircraft from Britain, France,

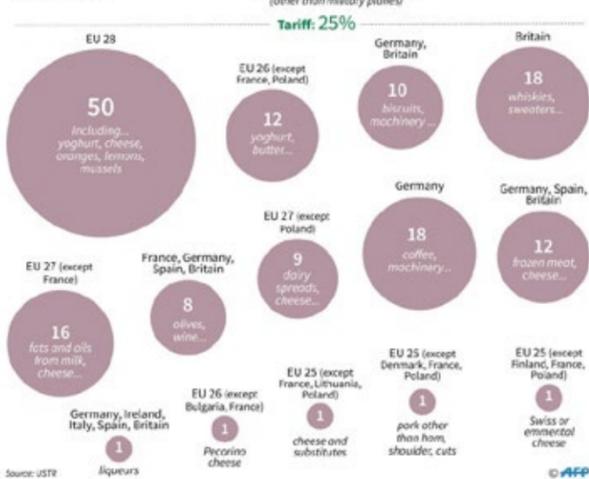


**Europe is ready to retaliate, in the framework of course of the WTO. These decisions would have very negative consequences**

BRUNO LE MAIRE  
FRENCH ECONOMY MINISTER

### US tariffs on European goods

The World Trade Organization has approved US tariffs worth \$7.5 billion (6.8 billion euros) in retaliation for EU's support of Airbus



Germany and Spain -- the countries that formed Airbus -- which will now cost 10 per cent more when imported to the US.

But the tariffs also target consumer products such as French

wine, which Trump had vowed to attack in recent months. Wine from France, Spain and Germany will now face 25pc tariffs.

"We regret the choice of the US to move ahead with tariffs,"

European Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom said in a statement after attempts to negotiate a truce went nowhere.

"This step leaves us no alternative but to follow through in due course with our own tariffs in the Boeing case, where the US has been found in breach of WTO rules," she added.

Speaking in Washington hours before the tariffs came into effect, France's Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire warned the move would have serious repercussions.

The tariffs kick in just days after the United States was given the formal go-ahead by the World Trade Organization, an official approval previous Trump trade tactics have lacked.

As recently as Wednesday, Trump singled out the Europeans for being unfair with the US on trade, but said his door was open to negotiate a settlement.

### 'Very hard'

The Europeans fear above all that Trump will impose heavy duties on imports of European cars around mid-November.

This would be a serious blow for the German automotive sector in particular, even if giants such as Volkswagen or BMW also manufacture in the United States.

"Our products are very hard to bring in (to Europe)" when Europeans easily import their cars into the United States, Trump said.

# G7 says Libra should not launch until risks 'adequately addressed'

Washington

**F**acebook should not launch its global digital currency Libra until proper regulations are in place to handle the potential risks, the Group of Seven said Thursday.

And France's Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire warned that a currency like Libra could undermine sovereign nations' control over their exchange rates.

"It's a matter of democracy, not just a simple economic question," Le Maire told reporters, saying Facebook's currency could have an "immediate global reach" through the social network's huge membership.

Le Maire presented the Group of Seven nation's statement on Libra, saying "no global stablecoin project should begin operation until the legal, regulatory and oversight challenges and risks are adequately addressed," including the potential for money laundering and terror financing.

But, he told reporters, "The key question is the question of sovereignty."

"Do we want a private company to have... the same power, and the same sovereignty, as democratic states" over currencies. Libra, which



Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg was in Washington as G7 ministers prepare to release a report about the social network's plan to release a digital currency

stern warnings from central bankers and financial regulators.

European Central Bank board member Benoit Coeure presented a report on digital currencies to the G7 finance ministers, who are gathering on the margins of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

The report said a framework for oversight of Libra "is an absolute prerequisite," and urged regulators to coordinate their work to prevent issuers from seeking out the most favorable country from which to operate. Facebook's digital currency chief David Marcus told reporters in Washington that the issues raised by Le Maire are "legitimate concerns."

"We're determined to answer these concerns with real solutions that will meet or exceed the standards of the current system," he told a small group of reporters at an event in Washington.

would be backed by reserve assets unlike cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, has faced a steady drumbeat of



The Airbus-Boeing row is just one of several issues stoking transatlantic tensions that quickly descended into acrimony when Trump took office in 2017.

The epic legal battle between Airbus and Boeing at the World Trade Organization began in 2004 when Washington accused Britain, France, Germany and Spain of providing illegal subsidies and grants to support the production of a range of Airbus products.

A year later, the EU alleged that Boeing had received \$19.1 billion worth of prohibited subsidies from 1989 to 2006 from various branches of the US government.

# celebs



Demi Lovato

## Lady Gaga and fan fall off stage in Las Vegas

Las Vegas

Lady Gaga suffered a nasty fall during a concert here after a fan with whom she was dancing with slipped off the stage – taking the singer along. It all happened when the “Born this way” singer invited a fan up on stage at Enigma Las Vegas residency on Thursday.

In a video captured by a fan, which has gone viral on the net, Gaga can be seen messing around with the man who lifts her up. They are seen dancing until they lose balance and fall off the stage.



stage. They are helped to their feet by security.

“I can’t believe I got that on camera,” the fan wrote while sharing the video of the incident on Instagram. “Wait for her to fall!”

While it is not clear if Gaga was injured in the accident, she immediately made her way back to the stage alongside the fan, insisting that it was not his fault.

“Everything’s okay. We need some stairs by the damn stage so I can get back up,” Gaga said.

After asking the fan if he was okay, Gaga said: “It’s not your fault. That was a fall. Can you promise yourself, can you just forgive yourself right now for that happening?”

Sitting by a piano for her next song, Gaga asked the fan, named Jack, to accompany her.

## Margaret Qualley, Pete Davidson split after ‘whirlwind romance’

Los Angeles

“Once Upon a Time in Hollywood” star Margaret Qualley and actor-comedian Pete Davidson are no longer dating.

According to Us Weekly, the couple have called it quits after a “whirlwind romance” that started in August this year. “They remain friends,” a source close to them told the outlet.

The news of their relationship was first reported in August when Qualley was accompanied by the “SNL” star at the Venice Film Festival red carpet.



Pete Davidson

Qualley, 24, most recently featured in Kristen Stewart-starrer “Seberg”. Earlier this year, she received critical acclaim for her performance in Quentin Tarantino’s “Once Upon a Time in Hollywood”, opposite Brad Pitt and Leonardo DiCaprio.

Davidson, 25, is currently working on James Gunn’s “The Suicide Squad”.

## Demi Lovato’s Snapchat account hacked

Los Angeles

Seems like singer Demi Lovato has become the latest victim of cyber-hacking as her Snapchat has reportedly been hacked.

The same became evident with alleged nude pictures being posted from her account on social media on Thursday, reported Daily Beats, as cited by Page Six.

“Join this discord server for my nudes,” read the message on the ‘Echame La Culpa’ singer’s Snapchat. And an additional link took followers to a collection of some more pictures.

As of now, those offensive images have been taken off the profile.

Lovato’s fans even took to Twitter to voice their concerns about the singer and her mental

health.

“Respect demi lovato respect demi lovato respect demi lovato respect demi lovato respect demi lovato no one deserves to have their private pictures leaked and i don’t care if you don’t like her, this behavior is DISGUSTING so do NOT tweet and share. thank you,” the official account for her New York fans tweeted.

Recently, the singer hogged headlines after she apologised fans for offending their sentiments.

Almost a fortnight earlier, the 27-year-old singer took to Instagram to share pictures from her “absolutely magical” trip to Israel. But her spiritual experience turned sour when critics accused her of taking a political stance amid the country’s ongoing conflict with Palestine.

## Conflicting reports continue on Big B’s health

Mumbai

While the latest position on Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan’s health continues to be unclear, sources at “Kaun Banega Crorepati” have said the megastar is expected to resume shooting for the popular quiz show on Tuesday.

Although unconfirmed reports state Big B is yet to be discharged from hospital, fresh information shared by our source reveals the veteran actor is fine and his hospital visit was meant for regular check-up.

“He has been admitted to a hospital and he is doing fine now. We don’t know when he will be discharged from the hospital but he is expected to start shooting for KBC from Tuesday,” a source told IANS.

Speculations over Big B’s health were triggered off when earlier reports in sections of the media claimed, the Bollywood megastar has been in a Mumbai hospital since Tuesday.

A timesofindia.com report on Thursday had stated the 77-year-old actor has been in hospital since October 15 after he was rushed to Nanavati at 2 am on that day.

The report added that the veteran actor is receiving medical attention for his liver problem, and that at the hospital, Big B has been put up in a special cabin over the past three days, with only close relatives being allowed to visit.



Amitabh Bachchan

## Is Selena Gomez hinting at new music?

Los Angeles

Singer Selena Gomez, who has been away from music for a while now, likely teased her comeback on social media on Thursday.

For the past few days, the ‘Wolves’ crooner has been active in posting cryptic content on Instagram and piquing fans’ curiosity.

Starting Wednesday, the 27-year-old shared an adorable throwback picture of her on social media, and alongside the image, she wrote, “We always go

into it blindly.”

The next day, Gomez returned to social media to post a rather new photo of her. “Rose-colored glasses all distorted,” she captioned.

And most recently, the singer put out a clip on the picture and video sharing platform, which could possibly be from an upcoming music video.

The clip features a car driving by a theater that has a message written on the marquee reading, “I saw the signs and I ignored it.”



Selena Gomez

## Alia Bhatt shares “priceless moments” with sister Pooja

Mysuru

Actress Alia Bhatt has shared some “priceless moments” with her “big sister” Pooja sister from the sets of “Sadak 2”.

Alia on Friday took to Instagram and Twitter, where she shared a photograph of herself along with Pooja sitting on a log. Alia is seen in a white tunic paired with light blue denims, while Pooja is sporting an all-black look.

“priceless moments with the big sister... #sadak2 #sadak2diaries... @Mysore, Karnataka,” she captioned it.

“Sadak 2”, which marks the return of Mahesh Bhatt as director. The film is a sequel of the 1991 hit “Sadak”.

“Sadak”, a romantic thriller, featured Pooja and Sanjay Dutt and was one of the highest-grossing Hindi movies of 1991. The film also had a popular musical score.

The late Sadashiv Amrapurkar’s award-winning performance as Maharani won him fans, and his character is still considered one of the best screen villains in Bollywood. The film bore shades of the 1976 American movie, “Taxi Driver”.



Alia Bhatt

## Angelina Jolie felt ‘broken’ before filming ‘Maleficent: Mistress of Evil’

Los Angeles

Actor Angelina Jolie who is about to take over theatres with her wicked look in upcoming ‘Maleficent’.

In an interview with People magazine published on Wednesday, the 44-year-old actor admitted that “it was a tough time.”

“I’d been coming off a few years of difficulty, and I was not feeling very strong,” she confessed. “In fact, I was feeling pretty broken. It took me a moment to feel the strength of [Maleficent] again.”

The Disney film ‘Maleficent: Mistress of Evil’ marks Jolie’s first appear-

ance in a full-length feature in four years, reported Fox News.

The star also opened up about how her six kids, whom she shares with ex Brad Pitt, did not want to appear in the movie. (The former couple’s 11-year-old daughter Vivienne played a young Aurora in the 2014 original.)

Last month, Jolie stepped out for the film’s red carpet premiere in Tokyo with her 14-year-old daughter Zahara and 18-year-old son Maddox – with whom she reunited with after sending him off to college earlier this year at Yonsei University in South Korea.



Angelina Jolie

## Nick Jonas: Priyanka is incredible in every way

Los Angeles

Singer Nick Jonas, who celebrated Karva Chauth for the very first time with Priyanka Chopra Jonas, says his wife is incredible in every way and that she has taught him so much about Indian culture and her religion.

Nick on Friday took to Twitter, where he shared two photographs of himself along with Priyanka. In the image, the two are seen in Indian wear.

“My wife is Indian. She is Hindu, and she is incredible in every way. She has taught me so much about her culture and religion. I love and admire her so much, and as you can see we have fun together. Happy Karva Chauth to everyone!” Nick captioned the image.



Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Nick Jonas

## Salman Khan announces ‘Radhe’ as Eid 2020 release

Mumbai

Superstar Salman Khan on Friday announced that “Radhe”, to be directed by Prabhudeva, will be his Eid 2020 release.

The speculations about Salman’s big screen outing on Eid next year started after Sanjay Leela Bhansali shelved “Inshaa-Allah”, which was set to feature the superstar and Alia Bhatt.

The 53-year-old actor, who is currently looking forward to the release of “Dabangg 3”, took to social media to share the news.

“Aap he ne poocha tha “Dabangg 3” ke baad kya? What and when? Yeh lo answer #EidRadheKi (You had asked what after “Dabangg 3”? What and When? Here is the answer #EidRadheKi),” Salman posted on Twitter.



Salman Khan

SPORTS  
sports

# Murray sweeps into Antwerp quarters

● Andy Murray takes out Pablo Cuevas to moves into quarterfinals

● Murray wins seventh ATP Tour singles win of the season

AFP | Antwerp, Belgium

Former world number one Andy Murray cruised into the quarter-finals at Antwerp on Thursday with a 6-4, 6-3 defeat of Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas.

Murray, a three-time Grand Slam champion, is attempting to work his way back to form almost 10 months after career-saving hip surgery.

The Scot, currently ranked 243rd in the world, held serve throughout against eighth seed Cuevas before sealing victory in 84 minutes.

He will take on Romania's Marius Copil -- who hit 13 aces past third seed Diego Schwartzman in a 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (9/7) win -- for a place in the last four.

"I felt a bit better today. I



Britain's Andy Murray returns a shot during a tennis match against Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas

thought I served quite well for most of the match and when I was able to get into the baseline rallies, I felt I was hitting the ball quite clean, which is good," Murray said.

"He served very well, which made it difficult for me to get the breaks, but I thought for me it was a good match."

Italian teenager Jannik Sinner dumped out top seed and 2018 runner-up Gael Monfils 6-3, 6-2 to reach his first ATP quarter-final.

Next up for the 18-year-old

**"I felt a bit better today. I thought I served quite well for most of the match and when I was able to get into the baseline rallies, I felt I was hitting the ball quite clean, which is good"**

ANDY MURRAY

Sinner is American Frances Tiafoe, a straight-sets winner over seventh-seeded German Jan-Lennard Struff.

"I played a very solid game. He didn't play his best tennis for sure. It's not easy if you make the final the year before and then to come here to play a young player and wild card," world number 119 Sinner told aptour.com

"I think I played solid today. I served good on the important points and I think that was the key today."

## Klopp keen to make Man Utd wait for turnaround

AFP | London

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp believes Manchester United will turn their floundering fortunes around, but wants to make sure they have to wait at least another week to do so.

Klopp's men travel to Old Trafford on Sunday already 15 points ahead of their rivals just eight games into the campaign.

United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has called on his side

to rise to the challenge of facing the European champions, citing it as the "perfect game" to motivate his struggling side.

Klopp has sympathy for Solskjaer's view, but he is confident of winning for the first time at Old Trafford as Liverpool boss.

"I don't think there are a lot of teams who would love to play against us at the moment. It looks like Man Utd is the only team that wants to play us, and

we have to make sure that is a misunderstanding," said Klopp yesterday.

"I would do the same if the situation was the other way around. This is the game we can change the world, that is the way I would prepare it.

"They are in a situation that they don't like and they want to change it. We just have to make sure that if they want to change it, they start a week later and that's all."

United will be without the injured Paul Pogba and David de Gea, while Anthony Martial and Aaron Wan-Bissaka remain doubts.

And Klopp expects the Red Devils to improve once they get a number of key players back.

"They had a lot of injuries," he added. "A number of really decisive players for them. No one can play the same football when five or six first-team players are out. That will change."



Real Madrid's Croatian midfielder Luka Modric (R) jumps for the ball with Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (file photo)

## Barca, Real eye Dec 18 date for postponed Clasico

AFP | Madrid

Barcelona and Real Madrid appear set to agree December 18 as the date for a rearranged Clasico after Spain's biggest football match was postponed yesterday due to protests in Catalonia.

The Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) announced that Barca and Madrid have until 10:00am (0800 GMT) on Monday to find a new date, which will be decided by the RFEF if they cannot reach an agreement.

But according to the RFEF, Real Madrid have already approved December 18, meaning the fixture looks set to move to that date, pending official confirmation.

In a statement yesterday, Barcelona proposed the new date but also stressed their desire for the original fixture, scheduled for October 26 at Camp Nou, to go ahead.

"The club's desire was to play the Clasico at Camp Nou on the 26th, the date and time previously agreed and the Committee was informed of this in writing," read yesterday's statement.

"The club has the utmost confidence in the peaceful behaviour of its members and fans who always express themselves in exemplary fashion at Camp Nou.

"Nevertheless, having received the decision of the RFEF Competition Committee to postpone the game citing 'ex-



**After the Catalan independence referendum in 2017, Barcelona played a league match against Las Palmas behind closed doors in protest, after their request for a postponement was rejected**

ceptional circumstances' and given that it falls to the clubs to agree a new date for the game before Monday, the club will propose December 18."

Barcelona added the club "regrets the inconvenience" caused to fans and will refund those that had bought tickets for the original fixture.

In a press conference yesterday, Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said: "We will do as we are told. I know there is a lot of debate but that's our position. I have my own preferences but I'm not going to tell you them."

Barca play away at Eibar in La Liga on Saturday and planned to make the 589-kilometre journey by bus to avoid demonstrations at El Prat airport. Real Madrid also play on Saturday, away at Real Mallorca.

## Modric and Bale to miss Madrid trip to Mallorca

AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid will be without both Gareth Bale and Luka Modric for this weekend's Liga match against Real Mallorca, Zinedine Zidane confirmed yesterday.

Modric and Bale both picked up injuries during the Euro 2020 qualifier between Croatia and Wales on Sunday, which finished 1-1.

Wales coach Ryan Giggs suggested after the match that Bale was suffering with cramp in his calf but the forward has not trained with the rest of the Madrid squad this week.

## Liverpool match can spark Man Utd revival: Solskjaer

AFP | London

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer believes the visit of rivals Liverpool to Old Trafford could help galvanize his struggling side to pull themselves out of their alarming slump.

The difference in current fortunes between English football's two most successful clubs could not be greater, with Liverpool top of the table after eight wins out of eight.

The European champions are also on a run of 17 consecutive league victories, while United have made their worst start to a season for 30 years.

If results go against them on Saturday, United could even be



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer waves to fans during a match

teetering just above the relegation zone by the time they kick off on Sunday, but Solskjaer is

looking forward to this game," said the Norwegian yesterday.

"This is a perfect game for the players and the fans. We've had a tough time and a difficult time lately but I am sure we will give them a good game."

United have just nine points from their first eight league matches of this season and are currently 12th in the table.

Stretching back to Solskjaer's permanent appointment in March, they have won only five games out of 21 in all competitions.

It is far below expectations, which the manager knows, but he believes that the work going on behind the scenes will pay dividends eventually.

"We have come a long way on

what you call the culture and environment that we are working in. That is positive," added Solskjaer, who said the mood around the club had changed from the final days under Jose Mourinho last season.

"At times last season I didn't feel the players had the robustness or the mentality. But from the culture I am seeing every day and the attitude in training, the players want to give everything."

"The staff and players know when it's Liverpool coming up. When you sign for Manchester United, this is the first game you look for against one of the main rivals."

"And it's a chance as I did, a couple of times, to get in the history books."

## UEFA bans Ajax fans for Champions League trip to Chelsea

Reuters | London

Ajax Amsterdam have been banned from selling tickets to their fans for next month's Champions League game at Chelsea following crowd trouble in their match at Valencia, European soccer's governing body UEFA has said.

UEFA fined Ajax 50,000 euros (\$55,615) due to the behaviour of their fans during a 3-0 win at Valencia earlier this month and an additional 18,000 euros for "improper conduct of the team".

"The Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body has decided ... to ban AFC Ajax from selling tickets to its away supporters for its next (1) UEFA competition match," UEFA said in a statement on Thursday.

The Dutch champions, who were given 30 days to contact Valencia and settle damages caused by their supporters at the Mestalla Stadium, said in a statement that they would ask UEFA for more information.

Group H leaders Ajax travel to Stamford Bridge on Nov. 5. UEFA have also banned Eintracht Frankfurt from selling tickets to their fans for their Europa League trips to Standard Liege on Nov. 7 and Arsenal on Nov. 28.

# City fume over festive fixtures

Manchester City lead criticism of Premier League Christmas schedule as club face prospect of playing twice in less than 48 hours

● The club have criticised the scheduling and called for a rethink over the fixtures

AFP | London

Manchester City believe the sporting integrity of the Premier League has been compromised by the scheduling of a hectic festive period that will see the English champions play twice in less than 48 hours.

City's game at Wolves has been pushed back from Boxing Day to December 27, kicking off at 7:45pm (18:45 GMT).

That gives them less than two days to prepare for their game at home to Sheffield United, now set for 6pm on December 29.

The change to the Wolves fixture also means Nuno Espirito Santo's men will have 24 hours less to rest ahead of their trip to City's title rivals Liverpool on December 29.

Liverpool already hold an eight-point lead over City at the top of the table.

"Premier League games are a huge physical demand, and it's not ideal to be made to play



Manchester City's Fernandinho (L) clears the ball as Wolverhampton Wanderers' Raul Jimenez lands on the back of Manchester City's goalkeeper Ederson after he made a run at goal

twice in less than 48 hours because it doesn't give the players time to properly recover," City's chief operating officer Omar Berrada told the Manchester Evening News.

"We also need to make sure that we protect the players' wellbeing, the sporting integrity of the league, and the quality of the product.

"We've had an open dialogue with the league to consider other options, but ultimately, we will have to comply with the kick off times and dates as they have been presented to us."

Liverpool fans are also unhappy at the fixture announcement made on Thursday as they face the trip to Leicester for an 8pm kick-off on Boxing Day, a nation-

al holiday with limited public transport available.

"The latest round of televised Premier League games has been announced and once again there is scant, if any, consideration given to match-going supporters and those employed at the stadiums," Liverpool fans group the Spirit of Shankly said in a statement.



Premier League games are a huge physical demand, and it's not ideal to be made to play twice in less than 48 hours because it doesn't give the players time to properly recover

OMAR BERRADA

CITY'S CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

"The Premier League and TV companies repeatedly ignore the welfare of supporters. But they do have a chance to redeem themselves.

"Spirit of Shankly call on the authorities to do the right thing and revert all Boxing Day fixtures to a sensible kick-off time."

Supporters groups had already been angered by the delay in releasing the fixtures, which were originally scheduled to be announced on October 11.

"These fixtures are five days late. This impacts on family arrangements, the price of train tickets, the ability to book leave and much more," said the Chelsea Supporters' Trust.

## Lampard joins calls to abandon UCL reforms

AFP | London

Chelsea manager Frank Lampard believes the Champions League format should not be changed if the quality of the competition is to be maintained.

Proposals that could have seen promotion and relegation from the Champions League and the group stage of the 32-team competition extended to guarantee more games for those involved have been scrapped due to a lack of support from

clubs across the continent.

Lampard, who won the Champions League with Chelsea in 2011/12 and is managing the Blues in this season's competition, thinks putting extra demands on players will water down the quality of the tournament.

"If you ask me can you play more European games, I personally don't know where you fit them in amongst our busy schedule," said the former England international.

"I would find it hard with

the players to keep the quality level and the freshness within them.

"I liked the format, personally, as a player and as a manager now."

In response to the rejection of promotion and relegation, where most Champions League clubs would no longer have to qualify each year via their domestic leagues, Giorgio Marchetti, director of competitions for UEFA, said the Champions League must remain an "open competition".

## Liverpool have nothing to lose in title race, says Van Dijk

AFP | London

Liverpool have nothing to lose in the Premier League title race despite amassing an eight-point lead after just eight games, according to defender Virgil van Dijk.

The European champions are in pole position to end a 30-year wait to win a league title, but Van Dijk believes the pressure is still on Manchester City to win the league for a third straight year.

"I don't think we have anything to lose," Van Dijk told Sky Sports ahead of Sunday's trip to Manchester United.

"Man City are the champions, they're defending their title and we want to get it. In my point of

view, we just have to go for it.

"We definitely need to enjoy it and be full of confidence, especially with the way we've got these points, having not had the best games but still getting the wins."

City's shock defeats to Norwich and Wolves have allowed Liverpool to surge ahead thanks to their perfect start to the season.

However, Van Dijk remains wary of Pep Guardiola's men, who overturned a seven-point deficit to pip Liverpool to the title by a point last season.

"There are so many games left, you can't really think about it (winning the title) -- it's not realistic," added the Dutch captain.

"I don't watch Man City's games but I have family and friends who text me or say something, especially after the Wolves game.

"That's just part of life but we've learnt from last year that we don't have to look to the others until the end of the campaign. So far, we have been doing well but Man City are definitely not going away."



Virgil van Dijk

## Pakistan sack Sarfaraz as Twenty20, Test skipper

AFP | Lahore, Pakistan

Pakistan sacked Sarfaraz Ahmed from his post as Twenty20 and Test skipper yesterday, a week after he led the side to a shocking 3-0 home defeat against an inexperienced Sri Lanka.

The showdown in Lahore gave the visitors their first Twenty20 series win against Pakistan in seven attempts while missing 10 of their top players -- including regular T20 skipper Lasith Malinga, who refused to tour Pakistan over security fears.

Senior batsman Azhar Ali will replace Sarfaraz as Test skipper, while Babar Azam will lead the Twenty20 side, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said.

"Sarfaraz has been replaced... on poor performance," said a board press release.

Azam has been appointed skipper until next year's Twenty20 World Cup in Australia, while Azhar will remain in charge for the 2019-2020 season.

Squads for the tour will be announced on October 21.

The change is seen as surprising despite the Sri Lanka whitewash. Pakistan had reached number one in the Twenty20 rankings under Sarfaraz,



Pakistan's Sarfaraz Ahmed looks on during a match



Pakistan had reached number one in the Twenty20 rankings under Sarfaraz, winning 11 series along the way

winning 11 series along the way.

Sarfaraz also topped the batting chart with 67 runs across the series.

Sarfaraz congratulated both new captains on the honour.

"I wish Azhar and Azam the best of luck and thank all the coaches, selectors and officials for helping me in the journey," he is quoted as saying in the release.

Azhar previously skippered Pakistan in one Test and 31 one-day internationals between 2015 and 2017, losing 18 and winning 21 with one no result.

"It's an honour to lead my country," said Azhar, who was himself sacked after losing 4-1 against Australia in a one-day series in 2017.

Pakistan will next play three Twenty20 internationals in Australia in November ahead of two Test matches.