

Jeff to receive lifetime achievement honour at Golden Globes

Jeff Bridges will receive a lifetime achievement award at January's Golden Globes ceremony for his wide range of work, from Western "True Grit" to comedy "The Big Lebowski," the HFPA said on Monday. **P13**

The cost of telling a #MeToo story in Australia

THE DAILY **tribune**



Messi claims record fifth Golden Shoe

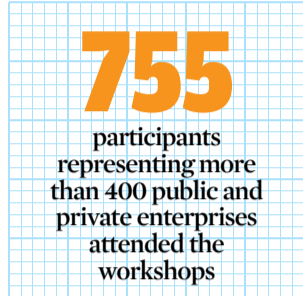
No one can 'dictate' to China: Xi

Fin Ministry held 10 VAT workshops last week

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Finance and National Economy held 10 workshops last week highlighting the technical and procedural aspects of the newly introduced Value Added Tax (VAT), effective as of January 1, 2019, at a standard rate of 5 per cent.

The extensive series of workshops aim to increase large businesses' awareness, knowledge and understanding of the newly introduced VAT across a range of sectors including financial, retail and wholesale, manufacturing,



construction, real estate, health, education, among other key sectors. As many as 755 participants representing more than 400 public and private enterprises attended the workshops during which VAT related questions were answered.

A comprehensive briefing on the newly introduced VAT procedures, exemptions, and legal framework, was underpinned by a unified VAT Agreement approved by the Gulf Cooperation Council Summit and in line with best global practices.

Bahrain is set to become the third Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to implement the unified agreement on Value Added Tax (VAT) on goods and services.

Two months ago, the kingdom's bicameral parliament, holding an extraordinary session upon a royal order, approved VAT as part of latest financial reforms.

Jingle Bells ring



An aerial view shows a climber, dressed as Santa Claus, who decorates a 57-metre-high Christmas tree in a park on Tatyshev Island, located in the middle of the Yenisei River in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, Russia.

Committee plan to draw up new Syria Constitution

Geneva

Russia's foreign minister Sergey Lavrov said yesterday the foreign ministers of Russia, Iran and Turkey have agreed to facilitate convening the first session of a committee to draft a new Syrian constitution early next year.

Lavrov spoke in Geneva following consultations with the foreign ministers of Iran and Turkey.

He says the three leaders hope the steps will lead to the launch of a "viable and lasting Syrian-led, Syrian-owned and UN-facilitated political process."

The 150-member committee is intended to represent the government, the opposition and civil society and is seen by the UN as key to holding free elections and ending the seven-year civil war.

The Syria envoy was authorised to put together such a committee at a Russian-hosted peace conference in Sochi on Jan 30.

Peace sets in

Yemen's Hodeidah calm after ceasefire takes effect

● The two warring sides have welcomed the truce in the strategic Red Sea province.

● UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is expected to propose a surveillance team of up to 40 observers, diplomats said.

Hodeida

Yemen's flashpoint city of Hodeida was calm on Tuesday after the UN-brokered cease-fire started at midnight, pro-government sources and residents said.

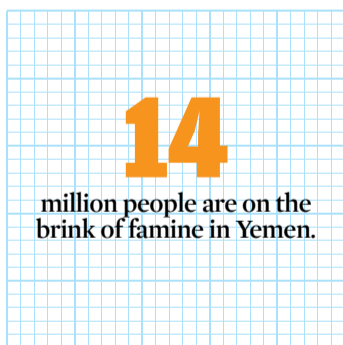
"There has been complete calm since 03:00 am Yemen time (1200 GMT) in the city of Hodeida," a military source loyal to the government told AFP on Tuesday.

The cease-fire agreement struck at the UN-sponsored peace talks in Sweden came into effect at midnight Monday.

Residents said that daily fighting



Yemeni pro-government forces gather in the port city of Hodeida.



would usually be fierce in the evening and at night, before coming to a standstill at dawn. The two warring sides have

however welcomed the truce in the strategic Red Sea province.

The Saudi-led coalition supporting Yemen's government against Iran-backed Houthi militias "has no intention of violating the agreement ... unless the Houthis violate and dishonor it," a coalition official said.

An agreement reached after talks in Sweden last week calls for the withdrawal of both sides' forces from Hodeidah within 21 days and the deployment of international monitors. The Houthis are due to surrender control of the port by midnight

”
Moving forward, all must continue to engage, de-escalate tensions, and cease ongoing hostilities.

THE US

on Dec. 31.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is expected to propose a surveillance team of up to 40 observers, diplomats said.

Hodeidah residents reported sporadic fighting to the east and south of the city on Monday before the cease-fire took hold, and a government military official said a fire had broken out in a factory in the east of the city after airstrikes on Sunday night.

Meanwhile, the United States commended the two sides that took part in the Sweden negotiations for "making progress on key initiatives," calling for a de-escalation of tensions.

"Moving forward, all must continue to engage, de-escalate tensions, and cease ongoing hostilities," the US embassy in Riyadh tweeted.

'No-deal' Brexit preparations on London

The British government said yesterday it would implement plans for a no-deal Brexit in full and begin telling businesses and citizens to prepare for the risk of leaving the European Union without an agreement.

Those plans include setting aside space on ferries to ensure a regular flow of medical supplies and keeping 3,500 armed forces personnel ready to support the government with its contingency plans.

With just over 100 days until Britain is due to leave the EU, Prime Minister Theresa May is yet to win the support of a deeply divided parliament for the deal she struck last month with Brussels to maintain close ties with the bloc.

She has said a delayed vote on her deal will take place in mid-January, prompting some lawmakers to accuse her of trying to force parliament into backing her by running down the clock as the March 29 exit day approaches.

No deal means there would be no transition so the exit would be abrupt, the nightmare scenario for international businesses and the dream of hard Brexiters who want a decisive split.

RARE FEAT

Saudi women among UK list of top innovators

Jeddah

Two Saudi women have landed in a prominent top 100 list at the prestigious British Fashion Council.

Marriam Mossalli, founder and senior consultant of Saudi's luxury communications firm, Niche Arabia, and Taleedah Tamer, the first Saudi international runway model, joined the ranks of the esteemed key players in the fashion industry.

They were two of only three women from the GCC to make it into the



Marriam

Taleedah

most innovative and inspiring youth category.

The announcement was made by the British Fashion Council during the Fashion Awards 2018, which was held at London's Royal Albert Hall last week.

The list includes trailblazers, from image-makers, hair and makeup artists, set designers and creative directors, to models, digital influencers and stylists.

This year marks the first time the Fashion Awards 2018, in partnership with Swarovski, celebrates the young global creative community by introducing this category.

Niche Arabia has played a significant role in shaping the fashion industry in

the GCC.

Mossalli has recently published "Under The Abaya", the first street style book created in Saudi Arabia, which showcases the dimensions of progressive Saudi women who have always existed behind the scenes.

"I'm honoured to be part of the Fashion Awards '100 New Wave Creatives' list," said Mossalli.

"Having 2,000 judges nominate me is truly a benchmark in my decade-long career. What's more, our inclusion signifies the world's increasing interest in Saudi Arabia."



03 Animal lovers offer BD800 reward to find kitten killer

04 Anti-Saudi stances rapped

05 Residents of Amwaj shocked over back-to-back burglaries



Big salute to martyrs of duty

HH Shaikh Nasser pays homage to fallen servicemen in recognition to the sacrifices they made for the nation

Manama

Under the patronage of the Royal Guard Commander, Major-General HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, a ceremony was held at the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Headquarters marking the Commemoration Day, in the presence of the Royal Guard Special Force Commander, Lieutenant-Colonel HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The Royal Guard Commander paid homage to the late servicemen in recognition of the sacrifices they had made while assuming their sacred patriotic duties and defending the Right,



HH Shaikh Nasser pays homage to martyrs of duty.

stressing that the security, stability, progress and prosperity currently enjoyed by the kingdom is the fruitful outcome of the noble sacrifices.

HH Shaikh Nasser pointed out that the success of the Operation Restoring Hope carried out by the Saudi-led Arab Coalition is one of the positive impacts of the noble sacrifices of the late servicemen and the courage and bravery they had shown while carrying out their patriotic duties.

The Royal Guard Commander stressed that the nation pays respect for the late servicemen, noting that their sacrifices, courage and bravery will remain engraved in the national

memory.

HH Shaikh Nasser pledged unwavering allegiance and loyalty to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander.

Then, the Royal Guard Commander deputised the Royal Guard Special Force Commander to make an inspection tour in the "Martyr's Farm", along with the relatives of the late servicemen.

The proceeds of the Martyr's Farm project will be allocated to the families of the martyrs, in recognition of their courage and bravery, and as a token of gratitude for the sacrifices they had made while performing their noble patriotic duties.



The British School of Bahrain (BSB) held National Day celebrations, which included traditional activities and foods, as well as special performances by the talented students who sang, danced, played music and performed many different performances to express their love to Bahrain in their own way. The school also hosted two singers: Hala Al Turk and Mohammed Abdul Rahim who both added a great touch to the event with their national songs.



The Bahrain Development Bank (BDB) held a special function to mark the National Day. It was attended by BDB Group Chief Executive Sanjeev Paul, senior executives and staff.

National Day marked

Manama

The Oil and Gas Holding Company (Nogaholding) held a celebration to mark Bahrain's celebrations of the anniversary of the establishment of the modern state of Bahrain as an Arab and Muslim country in 1783 by its founder Ahmed Al Fateh, the 47th Anniversary of its accession to the UN as a full member and the 19th Anniversary of HM the King's Accession to the Throne.

Minister of Oil also Chair-

man of the Nogaholding, Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and Nogaholding's Acting CEO Dr Dhafer Al Jalahma attended the celebration.

The Oil Minister extended utmost congratulations to HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, wishing the kingdom of Bahrain many happy returns of the national occasion.



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Animal lovers offer BD800 reward to find kitten killer

UoB student accused of brutally killing kitten; displaying bloodied remains

The UoB issued a statement saying that it is probing into the inhuman act and will use all its resources to find the culprits behind the shameful incident.



The pictures of a decapitated kitten on UoB campus went viral on social media.



In another cruel act, many dogs were poisoned to death a few months ago.

● **Mahmoud Faraj of Bahrain Society for Prevention of Cruelty on Animals (BSPCA) has taken up the issue with UoB officials, it is learnt.**

● **Animal rights activists allege that most of the culprits easily escape due to lenience from the part of authorities to take tough action against them.**

TDT | Manama Harpreet Kaur

An inhuman act by a student at the University of Bahrain (UoB) has sparked online fury. He allegedly beheaded a kitten and kept its bloody remains on display at one of the campus aisles.

The 'display of cruelty' went on for nearly two weeks with many posting pictures online.

Angered by the act, animal rights activists have announced

“The student is mentally ill. He needs professional help, he can be a danger to society, fellow students and innocent animals.”

BAHRAIN ADOPTION SPOKESPERSON

BD800 reward for leads on the culprit.

Speaking to Tribune, an official spokesperson for Bahrain Adoption, an animal rights organisation, said a few days ago he was alerted over a UoB student torturing a cat by burning it with cigarettes.

“A few individuals contacted me on Instagram and informed me about this cruelty. They knew the person behind the act, but did not want to reveal as it would affect his future.”

“I reported the incident on all social media networks to obtain enough information to pursue a legal action against the culprit.”

“Initially, I announced BD50 reward for leads. But many an-

gered animal lovers joined my call taking the reward to BD800.

“The student is mentally ill. He needs professional help, he can be a danger to society, fellow students and innocent animals.”

Mahmoud Faraj of Bahrain Society for Prevention of Cruelty on Animals (BSPCA) has taken up the issue with UoB officials, it is learnt.

“What is disheartening is that UoB did not take any steps until the cruelty was discussed on social media,” the spokesperson said.

“More than cruelty on animals, it is an issue of violence on campus. What if the student had used the same sharp object to attack another student on the campus?”

The spokesperson said that hurting animals is against the values of Islam as well as that of any civilised society.

“Recently, a lot of dogs were poisoned to death in some of the neighbourhoods across the Kingdom. They too are God’s creatures. Parents should teach children to be compassionate towards animals.”

Meanwhile, the UoB issued a statement saying that it is

probing into the inhuman act and will use all its resources to find the culprits behind the shameful incident.

“These acts are against the values and principles of the uni-

versity. We will pursue a zero tolerance approach and those responsible will face the harshest punishment as per university bylaws.

Tribune earlier reported

many acts of cruelty against animals. Animal rights activists allege that most of these culprits easily escape due to the lenience from the part of authorities to take tough action against them.

49 traffic violators set to face legal action

TDT | Manama Mohammed Zafran

Authorities have taken legal action against 49 motorists for recent 'dis-

ruptive' traffic violations, it was announced.

The directorate had issued several reminders in the past few days to comply with traffic laws as the Kingdom celebrat-

ed its National Day.

However, the ministry did not confirm whether these violations were related to National Day celebrations.

During previous National Day celebrations, many motorists were accused of breaking traffic laws by engaging in unsafe practices on road.

Ten vehicles were seized in Riffa after the drivers committed several traffic violations that hindered the traffic flow and disturbed the residents, the ministry stated previously.



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Friday 21st December 2018, Time : 6.00 pm to 11.00 pm

Govt to continue efforts to ensure citizens' welfare

Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa affirmed that Bahrain's urban and cultural developments are the result of the relentless efforts exerted by the government that has placed citizens at the core of its focus and has embraced development as a means to achieve their goals.

"Bahrain has been and will remain a generous country, and our people the embodiment of community awareness and civism.

"We have full confidence in our people to keep moving forward with dedicated action in the service of the nation and its progress," HRH Prince Khalifa said as he received Royal Family members and officials, and



HRH the Premier receives Royal Family members and officials.

discussed with them issues of national interest.

The sons and daughters of Bahrain, a country that God has blessed with a conscientious people, are the main pillar of its

progress, he added.

Thanks to all people who have contributed and exerted efforts for their homeland, HRH the Premier said as he highlighted the citizens' feelings of love and

loyalty to the country and their determination to exert more efforts to preserve the security and stability of the Kingdom and to optimise its achievements in various areas.

HRH Prince Khalifa discussed with the audience Bahrain's deep-rooted rich heritage and archaeological sites, and stressed the need to protect and highlight their features.

HRH Premier called for continuing to pay attention to the old areas and to preserve their splendour and names that reflect the numerous and rich contributions of the people of Bahrain.

Anti-Saudi stances rapped

House of Representatives slams US Congress' allegations against Saudi Arabia

Manama

The Representatives Council asserted in a statement yesterday full support to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against the recent untrue allegations by the US Congress.

It slammed them as an unacceptable interference in the kingdom's internal affairs which is categorically rejected as it hampers the international efforts to boost regional security and stability.

The statement pointed out the international efforts and the efforts of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Minister of Defence HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to promote development, peace and security.

The Representatives Council expressed regret over the allegations by the US Congress, stressing that those allegations will never discourage the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's leadership to continue its programmes to bol-



The session in progress yesterday.

ster regional and international security and stability.

It also praised the historic and leading role of the kingdom at all levels since its establishment by its founder late King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al Saud.

It affirmed that those efforts

underscore the advanced regional and international status of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the support given to it by brotherly and friendly countries.

The Representatives Council underscored the importance of the regional and international

efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in fighting all forms of terrorism, reiterating support to it in all procedures taken to foster regional security and stability.

In related development yesterday, Saudi Arabia hit back at the

US after Congress issued baseless allegations.

The Saudi Ministry for Foreign Affairs issued a statement, saying the move was a 'blatant interference' that 'undermined the Kingdom's regional and international role'.

Poetry night set

TDI | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

Sir Syed Educational and Cultural Society Bahrain is organising an International Mushaira and Kavi Sammelan, a highly popular literary event.

The event, which is to be held on Thursday, January 3, 2019, at the Cultural Hall of National Museum Complex, will witness renowned poets from India offering a special treat for poetry enthusiasts.

Speaking to Tribune, Sharique Ahmed, society member said, "The event is hugely popular among the expatriate community here.

"Eminent poets from India like Dr Kumar Vishwas, Dr Rahat Indori, shall grace the event, along with Ms Saba Balrampuri, Mr Iqbal Ashar and Dr Na-deem Shad.

"The intent behind such literary events is to foster close and strong relationships between different languages and culture."

'Supporting Saudi is Arab, Muslim duty'

Riyadh

Information Affairs Minister Ali Al Romaihi has affirmed that supporting Saudi Arabia against the offensive media campaign, is an Arab and Islamic duty.

This came on the sidelines of the meeting hosted by Saudi Information Minister Dr Awad bin Saleh Al Awad with Arab counterparts, marking the selection of Riyadh as the Capital of Arab Media for 2018-2019.

The minister stressed that there are media outlets supported by regional countries that seek to undermine the capabilities of the Arab countries and are working restlessly to destabilise the region.

The minister praised the leading role played by Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al

Saud, and HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Saudi Arabia, to preserve the security and stability of the region and to deter the foreign media meddling in our communities.

The minister expressed sincere congratulations to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Saudi Arabia, on the selection of Riyadh as the Capital of Arab Media.

He pointed out that this selection coincides with Saudi Arabia's presidency of the Standing Committee of the Arab Media, and the Kingdom's presidency of the Executive Office of the



Mr Al Romaihi speaks at the meeting.

Arab Information Ministerial Council, adding that this reflects the Kingdom's strategy role in coordination of joint Arab media work, and its revitalization

in all fields, wishing the Saudi Information Minister Dr Awad bin Saleh Al Awad success in boosting the pan-Arab media progress.

The minister hailed the Saudi media's balanced policies aimed to preserve the Arab countries identity and capabilities, con-



Saudi Arabia is the home and robust castle of the Arabs to tackle the challenges and dangers threatening the region.

MR AL ROMAIHI

front the dangers and challenges facing the media in the region.

This makes Saudi Arabia the worthy leader of the Arab media, especially in view of the present challenges facing the region that necessitate mustering the Arab joint efforts, and a comprehensive vision to upgrade the Arab collective media setup.

He pointed out that Saudi Arabia is the home and robust castle of the Arabs to tackle the challenges and dangers threatening the region.

Bahrain-UAE strong fraternal bonds praised



A book titled 'Zayed and Bahrain' was released at the event.



Shaikh Khalid, Shaikh Abdullah Al Nahyan with senior officials and dignitaries at the event.

● A number of ministers, ambassadors, senior officials, journalists, diplomats, businesspersons and Bahraini citizens residing in the UAE attended the event.

Abu Dhabi

Bahrain's Embassy to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) hosted an event marking the Kingdom's Na-

tional Day yesterday.

A number of ministers, ambassadors, senior officials, journalists, diplomats, businesspersons and Bahraini citizens residing in the UAE attended the event.

During the event, Ambassador of Bahrain to the UAE, Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah bin Ali Al Khalifa, extended his congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa the Prime Minister, and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister on the Kingdom's achievements in many areas.

The Ambassador pointed out in his speech that the Kingdom's national celebrations coincide with the Commemoration Day, in recognition of the sacrifices made by the fallen soldiers of the Kingdom of Bahrain to their homeland and the Arab world.

He also reviewed the Kingdom's achievements under the reform approach at all levels, as well as the historic transformation in the Kingdom since His Majesty's accession to the throne.

The ambassador stressed that the fraternal ties and distinguished relations between the two countries and the two brotherly

peoples enhanced the deep-rooted Emirati-Bahraini relations.

He also expressed his appreciation for the United Arab Emirates and the attendees for being part of the Kingdom of Bahrain's National Day celebrations, wishing both the Kingdom of Bahrain and the UAE further peace, stability and prosperity.

A documentary on the brotherly relations between the Kingdom and the UAE was as well screened at the event.

The event also saw the release of a book titled "Zayed and Bahrain" written by Yusuf Mohammed who presented a copy to Shaikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

US Congress interference in Saudi affairs slammed

● The council lauded the tremendous and tireless efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to back global economy and its continuous contribution to provide assistance to war-stricken countries.

Manama

The Shura Council denounced the recent politicised and unacceptable allegations of the US Congress against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) which clearly shows failure to obtain information from credible sources and adopting stances which have nothing to do with reality.

The council described that as a blatant interference in the kingdom's internal affairs and an undermining of strong and strategic relations between the US and the countries in the region.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Shura Council affirmed rejection of all attempts to encroach on sovereignty of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and exploit a number of issues to undermine its security and stability without consideration to the kingdom's advanced level in the judicial and legal field.

The council lauded the tremendous and tireless efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to back global economy and its continuous contribution to provide assistance to war-stricken countries.

It also underlined Saudi Arabia's great importance in achieving regional and international stability and fighting all forms of terrorism.

Residents of Amwaj shocked over back-to-back burglaries

Caution urged over increasing number of burglaries across the Kingdom

● In the latest incident, a burglar made off with BD300 from the house of an expatriate on the wee hours of Sunday.

● Ms Bentham was alone at home when the burglary took place around 2.00 am.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Two back-to-back burglaries in a space of a few weeks in Amwaj Islands

“I have been living in this country for 12 years now and never felt unsafe. However, times are changing and I urge everyone to be cautious.”

MS BENTHAM

have left the residents there in a shock.

In the latest incident, a burglar made off with BD300 from the house of an expatriate on the wee hours of Sunday.

Speaking to Tribune, burglary victim Gaye Bentham said she woke up after hearing loud noises only to see a man running out of her house.

“I woke up after hearing some loud noises. The panicked burglar ran out after taking BD300 from my wallet. “He threw my wallet in the garden and I was lucky to get back important documents including the CPR.”

Ms Bentham was alone at home when the burglary took place around 2.00 am.

“He must have got in through the back door. Unfortunately, I had left it open that night, so he had an easy way in.

“I have been living in this country for 12 years now and never felt unsafe. However, times are changing and I urge everyone to be cautious.”

Sources said another burglary took place in the same area two weeks ago.

“It happened during the day. The woman who was living in that house had gone out when the burglar got inside and made off with BD600.”

In a related incident, the Ministry of Interior yesterday announced that four were arrested for burgling shops in the Muharraq Governorate.

“Four individuals were arrested for breaking into shops and stealing various items. The suspects were arrested within 24 hours of reporting the crime,” the director-general of Muharraq Govern-

rate Police said.

“The car used by the suspects as well as burgled items were seized.”

He added that legal proceedings were being taken to refer the case to the Public Prosecution.



A CCTV footage shows a suspect entering a building in one of the earlier reported burglaries.

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WORLD

Leopard kills 3-year-old



A leopard rests at the Dachigam National Park outside Srinagar.

New Delhi, India

The headless body of a three-year-old boy snatched from his home by a leopard in India was handed over to his parents yesterday, wildlife officials said.

Wasim Akram was in the kitchen with his mother when the animal snuck inside, pounced on the child and took him deep into the woods, officials said.

Local officials in the northern state of Jammu

and Kashmir have sought "elimination orders" from the state government.

It was the third such killing blamed on the leopard in the last two months, including an eight-year-old boy mauled to death in the area on December 7.

In the meantime a team of wildlife officials equipped with tranquiliser guns have been scouring the area to spot the animal.

"The leopard was spotted this morning but we could not trap it," Jammu

regional wildlife warden Tahir Ahmad Shawl said.

Wildlife authorities have also issued advice for people in the area to stay safe from animal attacks.

"This is a forested area and humans have entered into their (animals') habitat and not the other way round. Therefore these incidents happen," Shawl said.

Official estimates suggest there are between 12,000 and 14,000 leopards in India.

No one can 'dictate' to China: Xi

Beijing, China

President Xi Jinping vowed yesterday to push ahead with China's "reform and opening up" but warned that no one can "dictate" what it does, as the Communist Party celebrated the policy's 40th anniversary.

While he pledged to press forward with the economic reforms initiated under late paramount leader Deng Xiaoping in December 1978, Xi indicated that there would be no change to the one-party system.

"The great banner of socialism has always been flying high over the Chinese land," Xi said in a speech at Beijing's imposing Great Hall of the People. "The leadership of the Communist Party of China is the most essential feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the greatest advantage of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics," he said.

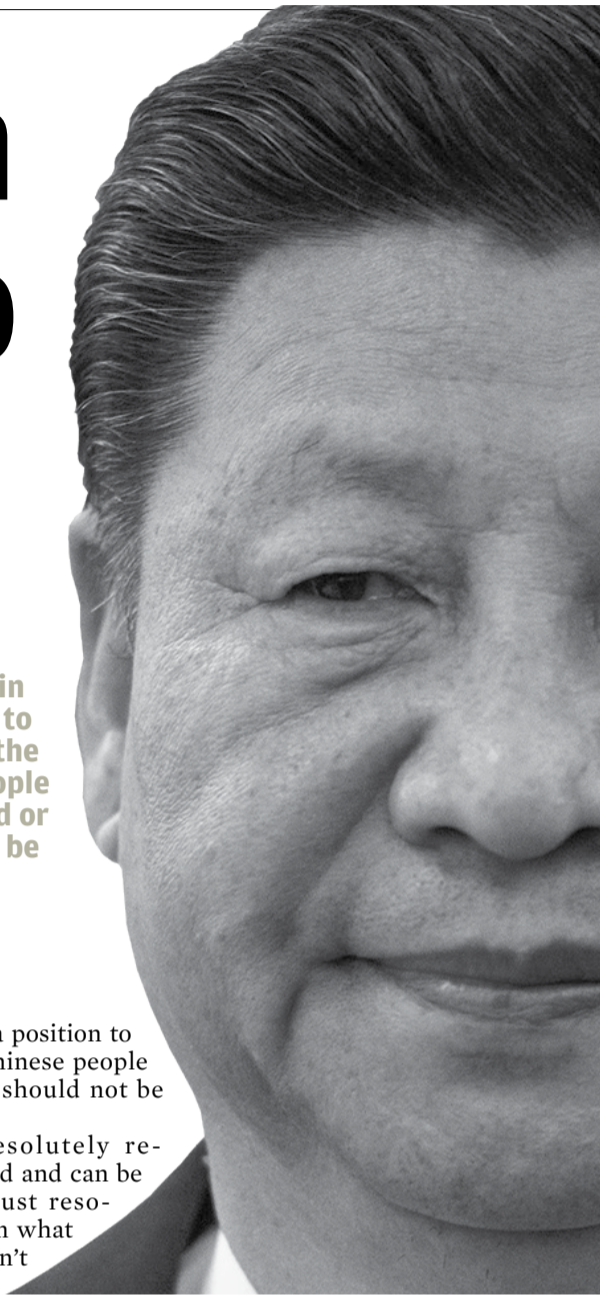


No one is in a position to dictate to the Chinese people what should or should not be done

XI JINPING

"No one is in a position to dictate to the Chinese people what should or should not be done," Xi said.

"We must resolutely reform what should and can be changed, we must resolutely not reform what shouldn't and can't be changed."



European union to cut new car emissions by 37.5 per cent

Brussels, Belgium

The European Union forged ahead yesterday with plans to slash carbon dioxide emissions from new cars and vans by 2030 despite industry concerns the targets are for now "totally unrealistic."

EU member countries and the European Parliament struck the ambitious deal late Monday that Brussels said would

help the bloc meet its commitments under the Paris climate accord.

The targets will require new cars sold in 2030 to emit 37.5 percent less carbon dioxide

on average compared to 2021 levels. Emissions from new vans will have to be 31 percent lower.

Ambassadors from EU countries are expected to

endorse the deal in Brussels as soon as Wednesday, just days after the COP24 summit in Poland aimed at breathing new life into the 2015 Paris climate deal.

The auto emissions deal is a compromise between the demands of states like Germany which wanted a more modest cut of 30 per cent and the European Parliament which had wanted a reduction of 40pc.

Siding with Germany, the bloc's biggest auto producer, were several eastern EU countries. France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Ireland backed the parliament's more ambitious goal.



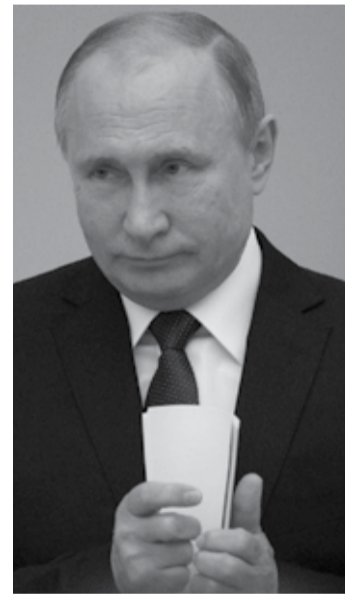
Putin to develop missiles if US leaves Cold war treaty

Moscow, Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday laid out plans for Moscow to develop mid-range missiles banned under a Cold War treaty with the United States if Washington abandons the deal.

Washington this month said it would withdraw from the INF within 60 days if Russia did not dismantle missiles that the US claims breach the deal.

Speaking at a defence ministry meeting, Putin said Russia's seaborne Kalibr and air-launched Kh-101 cruise missiles -- as well as cutting-edge hypersonic Kinzhal (Dagger) missiles -- would be converted



for ground launch if Washington ditches the INF treaty.

"It probably won't be very difficult to conduct appropriate research and development and put them on the ground if need be," he said.

Putin also suggested he was open to the idea of other countries joining the INF treaty. Signed in 1987 by then US president Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the treaty bans ground-launched missiles with a range of between 500 and 5,500 kilometres. Putin has said about a dozen countries were producing missiles of the type banned by the INF treaty.

Drone delivers vaccines in key Vanuatu trial

Sydney, Australia

A one-month-old on a remote island in the Pacific archipelago of Vanuatu became the first child to be immunised in a commercial trial of drone-delivered vaccines, the UN children's fund UNICEF said Tuesday.

Aid agencies hope the successful run in the country, where one in five children is not fully immunised, could eventually help governments and organisations reach others in far-flung places around the world.

"Today's small flight by drone is a big leap for global health," UNICEF executive di-

rector Henrietta Fore said in a statement.

"With the world still struggling to immunise the hardest to reach children, drone technologies can be a game changer for bridging that last mile to reach every child."

While this is not the first time that drones have been used to deliver vaccines, it is the first time such a method has been deployed in Vanuatu, which has 83 islands, most only accessible by boat.

It is also the first time a commercial contract is being used for routine immunisations,



As the journey is often long and difficult, I can only go there once a month to vaccinate children. But now, with these drones, we can hope to reach many more children in the remotest areas of the island

MIRIAM NAMPI

UNICEF said.

A key requirement for the deliveries is maintaining the temperatures at which the vaccines are carried.

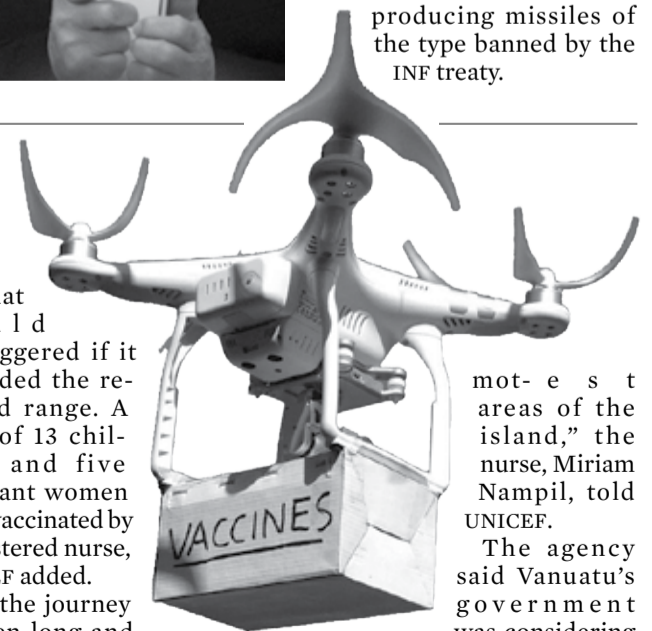
In warmer places such as Vanuatu, transportation across limited roads has its challenges.

In the trial, the drone travelled across almost 40 kilometres (25 miles) of rough and mountainous terrain from the west of the southern island of Erromango to its east, arriving at the remote Cook's Bay.

The vaccines were kept in styrofoam boxes that carried ice-packs and a temperature sen-

sor that would be triggered if it exceeded the required range. A total of 13 children and five pregnant women were vaccinated by a registered nurse, UNICEF added.

"As the journey is often long and difficult, I can only go there once a month to vaccinate children. But now, with these drones, we can hope to reach many more children in the re-



motest areas of the island," the nurse, Miriam Nampi, told UNICEF. The agency said Vanuatu's government was considering incorporating drone deliveries of vaccines into their national immunisation programme, and with the supply of other health aids.

Huge fire ravages 600 homes in Brazil's Amazon



Residents of Educandos neighbourhood salvage their belongings

Manaus, Brazil

A huge fire blazed through 600 wooden homes built on stilts next to a river in Brazil's Amazon region overnight, decimating a poor area of the city of Manaus but causing no deaths, authorities said Tuesday.

"It's perhaps the biggest city fire in the history of Manaus," said the deputy chief of the local emergency service, Hermogenes Rabelo.

The inferno started late Monday and was only brought under control shortly after midnight after a three-hour struggle by more than 100 firefighters, the security secretariat for Amazonas state said.

Four people were taken to hospital for smoke inhalation.

The fire happened in Educandos, an impoverished and densely populated district near the center of Manaus that sits on the Rio Negro, a river that joins up with the Amazon River to flow out to the Atlantic Ocean.

Access for fire services was hampered by the narrow alleyways in the district, and tow-trucks had to be used to haul vehicles out of the way.

An initial investigation suggests a pressure cooker on a stove started the fire, which rapidly spread, fanned by strong gusts of wind at the time, authorities said.



Residents help firefighters combat a massive fire

The Da Vinci threads

Da Vinci design jewel still key for Tuscan silk weavers



A woman at work in the laboratory of Antico setificio Fiorentino ancient silk factory in Florence.

AFP | Florence, Italy

Five hundred years after the death of Leonardo da Vinci, a silk mill incorporating one of his designs is still shuttling some of the finest threads in the world across its looms.

Tucked away in the historic San Frediano neighbourhood in Florence, L'Antico Setificio Fiorentino was founded in 1786 and is one of the oldest silk workshops in Europe.

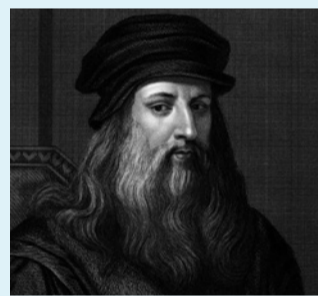
Its looms date back to the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, but the jewel at its heart is a machine to unwind the reels of threads, designed by Renaissance genius Da Vinci, who died in 1519.

"It is a warping machine made in the late 17th century according to the maestro's original design, and we still make *passementerie* (tassels, cords, trimmings) today" using it, silk worker Beatrice Fazzini said.

The polymath's device is used to prepare the threads before they are placed on the loom, following a technique that has been closely guarded down the centuries.

Golden chenille, damask and taffeta with floral or geometric motifs are among the fabrics made here and sold for between 200 euros (\$226) and 1,500 euros (\$1,700) per metre.

The workshop, which since 2010 has belonged to the family of Italian fashion designer Stefano Ricci, manufactures fabrics, lace and ribbons in styles and



Tucked away in the historic San Frediano neighbourhood in Florence, L'Antico Setificio Fiorentino was founded in 1786 and is one of the oldest silk workshops in Europe

colours favoured by the historic House of Medici, an Italian banking family and political dynasty. It was during the Medici's rise to power that silk manufacturing enjoyed a boom along the banks of the Arno River.

Mustard yellow, petrol blue

Fabrics produced by L'Antico Setificio Fiorentino can be



A close-up view of reels of thread in the laboratory of Antico setificio Fiorentino ancient silk factory in Florence



A woman at work in the laboratory of Antico setificio Fiorentino

found in places of grandeur both home and abroad, from Italy's palaces and the famous Uffizi Galleries in Florence, to the royal residence in Denmark and the Kremlin in Russia.

Pope Francis and opera singers Maria Callas and Andrea

Bocelli have also worn garments created on its aged looms.

"It's a museum that is also a factory," said Briza Datti, interior designer and head of the commercial sector.

The hand looms move to the weaver's rhythm and bear "the imprint of the family to which

they belonged in the past," she says.

The designs and fabrics produced down the ages are preserved in the workshop's historical archives, which can be visited by school children or tourists.

The 15 or so artisans that spend their days teasing threads say it is a privilege to produce precious fabrics in silk, linen and cotton once used by kings and emperors.

"I'm lucky to work here, surrounded by centuries-old looms, but it doesn't feel like a museum, just a special environment," says Simona Polimeni, who trained at the school of weaving and restoration in the Tuscan capital.

"Each fabric must be woven by the same person. The rhythm must always be the same, or you risk imperfections," the 26-year-old says, as she crosses the warp and weft threads in an echo of age-old gestures.

No fewer than eight hours of work are needed to produce two metres of this fabric, worthy of the court of 15th century Italian statesman Lorenzo the Magnificent himself.

On one of the looms, 50-year-old Silvana expertly shuttles shimmering colours, from mustard yellow to fuchsia and petrol blue.

The Brazilian, who came to Italy 30 years ago to work in the world-renowned textile industry in Tuscany, said she is proud to have such "a very creative job, in such an area of excellence".

Russia says will build up Arctic military presence

Moscow, Russia

Russia will build up its military presence in the Arctic over the next year, the defence minister said Tuesday, as Moscow seeks to assert its influence in the strategic region.

The announcement comes after years of increased activity in the Arctic, which Moscow has declared a top

priority due to its mineral riches and military importance.

"We'll finish building infrastructure in 2019 to accommodate air defence radar units and aviation guidance points on the Sredny and Wrangel Islands, and on Cape Schmidt" in the Russian Arctic, Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said.

He said accommodation for mili-

tary personnel and further aviation infrastructure had been completed elsewhere in the Arctic, at a defence ministry meeting also attended by President Vladimir Putin.

Russia has opened a string of military and scientific bases in the Arctic in recent years, with interest in the region

growing as rising temperatures open up shipping routes and make hitherto inaccessible mineral resources easier to exploit.

Putin has made several trips to the Arctic and last year said further exploration and extraction of raw materials from the area was "extremely important".



Russian Tor-M2DT anti-aircraft missile systems ride through Red Square during the Victory Day (Courtesy of Newsweek)

The cost of telling a #MeToo story

Why Yael Stone is terrified to talk about Geoffrey Rush



BARI WEISS

Yael Stone is scared. We are in New York City, at a ramen place near her apartment in Astoria, Queens, and Stone, who stars in "Orange Is the New Black," has barely touched her soup. She tells me she hasn't been sleeping for the better part of a year.

It's not just her six-month-old baby who's keeping her up, but her decision to come forward for the first time and speak to me about her experiences with Geoffrey Rush, one of the most powerful actors in her native Australia.

Most women who go public with #MeToo stories are fearful for obvious reasons. There is the pain of reliving traumatic experiences. There is the rage of not being believed. And there is sometimes the discomfort of admitting, as Stone readily does, that she didn't say "no" and at times even encouraged some of his behaviour. She did so, she says, out of fear of offending a mentor and friend.

But Stone isn't just afraid of the emotional consequences of talking about her allegations against Rush, her onetime hero, including that he danced naked in front of her in their dressing room, used a mirror to watch her while she showered and sent her occasionally erotic text messages while she was 25 years old and starring

opposite Rush, then 59, on stage in "The Diary of a Madman" in 2010 and 2011.

She is worried that Australia's defamation laws will drag her into a legal and financial quagmire.

In the United States, the legal burden is on the person who claims to have been defamed: He or she must prove that the allegations are false. In Australia, in the area of libel law, it's the opposite. The burden is on the publisher to prove that the allegations against the plaintiff are true. In addition, public figures who sue for libel in the United States must prove that the publisher acted with reckless disregard of the truth, even if the statements prove false.

Rush said in a statement that Stone's allegations "are incorrect and in some instances have been taken completely out of context." But, he added, "clearly Yael has been upset on occasion by the spirited enthusiasm I generally bring to my work. I sincerely and deeply regret if I have caused her any distress. This, most certainly, has never been my intention."

"I know I have truth on my side," Stone told me during a phone call last week. And yet, "you can see in all of my communications with you that there's an element of terror."

The same power dynamics present in #MeToo stories, she said, "are reflected in a legal system that favours the person with a good deal more money and a good deal more influence and power."

Australia's defamation laws help explain why the #MeToo movement, while managing to

take down some of the most powerful men in the entertainment and media industry in the United States, has not taken off there.

"Australia is the only Western democracy without an explicit constitutional protection for freedom of speech," Matt Collins, a defamation lawyer and the president of the Victorian Bar, told me. "People say that Sydney is the libel capital of the world," he added.

The upshot: Not only is it easier for a plaintiff to win a defamation suit in Australia, but people are far less likely to blow the whistle on misconduct, knowing what the legal (and therefore financial) consequences might be. Indeed, if a law firm had not volunteered to represent Stone pro bono, she said, there is no way she would have been able to come forward.

But that financial support goes only so far. Crucially, if the actress is sued and loses, she will be personally responsible for the damages. That Stone is willing to take such a risk indicates how strongly she feels about the matter.

"I think the fact that she's speaking about this now is incredibly courageous," said Brenna Hobson, who was the general manager of the company that produced "Diary of a Madman" and has known Rush for more than two decades.

"The use of defamation cases against women with sexual harassment complaints is having a huge chilling effect," said Kate Jenkins, the Australian government's sex discrimination commissioner. "Women I speak to all over the country are absolutely

adamant that they cannot complain because it risks absolutely everything for them."

An Australian filmmaker named Sophie Mathisen put it more bluntly: "The question in our current context is not, Do you want to come forward and speak on behalf of other women? The question is, Do you want to come forward and set yourself on fire publicly?"

Woman on fire

For the past year in Australia, the particular woman on fire has been an actress named Eryn Jean Norvill — someone who never wanted to come forward at all.

In late 2017, two front-page articles in The Daily Telegraph reported on Rush's "inappropriate behaviour" during a 2015-16 production of "King Lear" by the Sydney Theatre Company. The paper, which memorably dubbed Rush "King Leer," didn't name the young actress who claimed he had harassed her.

Rush adamantly denied the allegation and accused the paper of making "false, pejorative and demeaning claims." He sued the publisher, Rupert Murdoch's Nationwide News, and the articles were removed from the paper's website.

When Nationwide News submitted its defense, it identified the actress as Norvill, who played Cordelia opposite Rush, and her name became a matter of public record. And so for the past several months, Norvill has been in the headlines as a leading witness in the case, despite the fact that she



Yael Stone at one of the movie premieres in New York.

had complained to the theater company about Rush's behavior informally and confidentially.

"What mattered to The Daily Telegraph here was their front page. She didn't matter," David Marr, a journalist for The Guardian, told me.

Still, we have learned much from Norvill's testimony. She said that she felt variously "trapped," "frightened," "shocked" and "confused" during the play's run. She claimed Rush "deliberately" touched her breast onstage,

sent her suggestive text messages, called her "yummy" and more. "I was at the bottom of the rung in terms of hierarchy and Geoffrey was definitely at the top," she told the court. "I wanted to be a part of his world and we were also playing father and daughter. I felt as though if I was to speak or reprimand his behaviour, I would jeopardise the relationship, that tenderness, the closeness that is needed in those two roles."

"I had the least power," she said. "What was I supposed to do?"

Youth entrepreneurship by facilitating



DR YOUSSEF BEN-MEIR

The inadequate and unacceptable levels of rural education compel young families to move to cities

Moroccan youth today—whether urban or rural-based—face enormous obstacles towards achieving their own self-development, and creating change that they seek for their families, communities, country, and even world. They are confronted with the statistical reality that the more education they complete, the more likely they will be unemployed. So often they are directed toward mainstay disciplines, not out of the pull they feel toward them, but out of the fact that there are too few alternatives, especially in public sector university settings. On the one hand, they have the important freedom to create the associations, be part of the cooperatives, and form the businesses that they aspire to build. On the

other hand, however, their faith in their own social system, society's sense of fair play, and real freedom to complete what they set out to, is more often than not heavily diminished.

Youth unemployment is more severe in rural places than in the cities. The cash economies that are now the established condition forces them to perform as day-labourers, and that is provided they are fortunate enough to have those chances. Urban migration is the only alternative for so many, even when their real dream is to remain in their communities and build there, where their heart is. The inadequate and unacceptable levels of rural education compel young families to move to cities. Considering the strong will among youth to alter their reality, there are successes, but, way too few, and those that are fortunate enough to secure funding for new projects appear to be the exception.

With all this said, there is brightness, and the light of change is also rooted in the Mo-

roccan condition. People's participation in their own development is the law of the land and pervades the social structure by way of policies, programs, and legal obligation. Part of these national frameworks for human development further identifies youth as primary and potentially a most effective vehicle toward catalysing and facilitating the local participatory development movements sought by the nation. This is to say that youth's direct engagement in bringing communities together to plan and manage the projects to enhance and fulfil their lives is a key causeway to Morocco's best future. Said simply: Moroccan sustainable development and how and whether it becomes real for all people will be determined by the role played by the youth of the nation.

But how do we move forward and how does this embody true entrepreneurship? Whenever we are acquiring and forging new skills, we learn best simply by doing it. We co-ordinate inclusive, local, dialogue by assisting that



Planning local projects in the Rhamna province of Morocco, with youths' facilitation.

dialogue. We help others define the projects of their heart and future by doing just that: asking the questions, asking others to respond, aggregating with that more responses, helping others talk it through, until a sense of consensus and direction become defined.

We write and submit successful project proposals by writing, submitting, and following-up. We learn how to create budgets by creating them. We build capacities around evaluating past actions in order to build future courses, by engaging in it. We learn from experience, and so

1920

King Constantine I is restored as King of the Hellenes after the death of his son Alexander of Greece and a plebiscite.



1924

The last Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost is sold in London, England.

1924

German serial killer Fritz Haarmann is sentenced to death for a series of murders.

1927

Three Indian revolutionaries, Ram Prasad Bismil, Roshan Singh and Ashfaqulla Khan, are executed by the British Raj for participation in the Kakori conspiracy.

...ry in Australia

Losing friends

Last month, nearly a year since Rush filed suit against Nationwide News, the court finished hearing arguments in the defamation case. The judge is supposed to deliver his decision in the new year.

Back when the case began, Stone said she “swore I would never come forward. My intention was to keep it private.”

Instead of going public, Stone wrote the actor an email on December 11, 2017. Subject line: “Challenging times.”

The email is self-aware and generous. “I’m sure that this moment is extremely challenging and my thoughts these last few weeks have come to you many times. I hope you are OK. I worry about you, about Jane and the kids,” it begins, and then goes on to tell him that she was made uncomfortable by him during the play.

“In the name of years of friendship I wanted to share with you what I have always been afraid to say,” she wrote. “I hope it’s possible for you to receive this in the spirit that it is meant. With a view towards healing.”

She never heard back

Now, she said, “I feel a responsibility to speak, but I know it will cost me friendships.” She hates the idea of hurting a mentor, someone who even helped her get a visa to work in the United States by writing a letter on her

Last month, nearly a year since Rush filed suit against Nationwide News, the court finished hearing arguments in the defamation case.

behalf.

“If Geoffrey had written back and said I’m sorry and offered to work with me to inspire positive change in our industry, it may have transformed both of our lives for the better,” she said. “I despair that I am now in this situation.” And yet, Stone adds, “I do believe it’s a matter of significance to the public.”

“I also understand it might be confusing and look strange that I maintained a friendship with someone for so long who treated me in a way that made me feel uncomfortable. But there is the reality of professional influence and the reality of a complicated friendship, which ultimately was corroded by a sexual dynamic. But it was still a friendship.”

Stone remains sympathetic to Rush, in a way. “The current system is built around the very famous and talented such that there is a lot of yes. There is not a lot of no. And that can encourage

certain behaviours and that can happen incrementally over time to the point where a person may have not heard the word no in a long time. And it might not be their fault,” she said. “We need compassion for that confusion.”

Again and again, she returned in our conversations to the themes of compassion and change.

“The possibility of redemption must always be on the table,” she said. “Not all #MeToo stories are the same. Each dynamic is different. For some, a criminal process is essential. In my case, I’m not interested in punishment. I am looking to change my industry and to work towards healing and growth.”

That healing, however, is only possible when the truth is recognised – when inappropriate behaviour is not waved away because the rehearsal room is somehow unique as a “place of play and experiment,” as the director, Armfield, said on Australia’s “Q and A” television programme in October.

Some things are straightforward

“I’ve been in that particular dressing room in Sydney on many occasions with many wonderfully talented actors and many wonderfully talented clowns,” Stone told me. “And people have made me belly laugh till I couldn’t breathe.”

(Bari Weiss is a staff editor and writer for the New York Times’ Opinion section.)

...people’s development

must our youth. Thankfully, there are no preconditions to begin. There is no degree that we must have. There is no status or background that first must be ours. We begin by beginning. And time and life are short, so we must begin now.

We are often taught to think that entrepreneurship comes from our own innovation. We are often encouraged to believe that to be most creative, strategic, and successful, is doing what develops from our own ingenuity, that our own entrepreneurial selves is about ourselves, and rests in our own mind’s ability to invent and decide.

I write this to say that this outlook is categorically false, misleading, and even antithetical to sustainable development and progression toward a satisfied society. Entrepreneurship rests on what we give toward drawing out and realising the ideas of the people. Innovation is the embodiment of a thousand voices intersecting and made into one agreed upon surge for community devel-

We are often encouraged to believe that to be most creative, strategic, and successful, is doing what develops from our own ingenuity.

opment. Our creativity is a reflection of how we assist others in understanding and pursuing their own hopes for the future. Youth entrepreneurship is not an endeavour of individual youths, but is a matter of all youth, building themselves by building their communities’ development course, driven by the public.

I hear and imagine the heavy burden that Moroccan youth experience and the trepidation

about the future that they must feel in their hearts. To fulfil the promise of the people’s participation in development, is a truly painstaking and difficult road, without certainty, and with non-linear progress. However, there is reason for gratefulness when the nation sees youth’s role in creating sustainable change, and sees people’s participation as vital to that change. The question before us is: will we give ourselves over to the cause of others and, therefore, the vast multiplicity of what becomes entrepreneurship, and all the resources that are entailed, in order that we can effectively walk this course?

Even though time brings us understanding, today, it is not our friend. There is urgency to this call, to completing the Moroccan model, and to bring, finally, the satisfaction in our and others’ lives that we very seriously need.

(Dr Yossef Ben-Meir is a sociologist and is president of the High Atlas Foundation, a Moroccan-us organisation dedicated to sustainable development.)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Pakistan has helped in the dialogue between Taliban and the US in Abu Dhabi. Let us pray that this leads to peace and ends almost three decades of suffering of the brave Afghan people. Pakistan will be doing everything within its power to further the peace process.

@ImranKhanPTI

02



Good luck today in court to General Michael Flynn. Will be interesting to see what he has to say, despite tremendous pressure being put on him, about Russian Collusion in our great and, obviously, highly successful political campaign. There was no Collusion!

@realDonaldTrump

03



Last week, President Trump said he would be “proud” to shut the government down over his wasteful border wall and would take the blame for it—but I’m hoping that Republicans decide to work with us to fund our government and avoid a completely unnecessary #TrumpShutdown.

@PattyMurray

04



It’s understandable that opposition parties disrupt Govt Bills & Business’ in Parliament to spoil the good works of the Govt. But I fail to understand why the question hour is being disrupted? Question hour is MP’s privilege to question the Ministers. It’s very interesting too!

@KirenRijju

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

Wide Angle

Songs of the season: Memories of music



JOEL INDRUPATI

“Last Christmas, I gave you my heart. But the very next day, you gave it away...” Listening to this song, playing softly in a shopping mall, I thought once again about how inappropriate it is, for this season.

Except for the word ‘Christmas’ there is really nothing about Christmas, in this song by ‘Wham’.

But the song is often found tucked into Christmas compilations of music albums and found blaring at Christmas parties. And I somehow get annoyed at its association with the season.

Not even the word ‘Christmas’ figures in the song ‘Jingle Bells’. In fact, there is really nothing about Christmas, in this one too.

But the song is found virtually everywhere - from kindergarten classrooms to television commercials.

And yet, somehow, I do not get annoyed at this song’s association with the season.

Why Not?

I don’t know. It’s irrational. Maybe I’ll never know the reason for these inconsistent feelings.

Perhaps, it’s got something to do with the way we are all wired. And how we associate our feelings from the past, with the events we are experiencing now.

“The 12 Psychology Studies of Christmas” is a set of articles of serious scientific research into this season, compiled by one Dr Jeremy Dean.

As a psychologist and the author of PsyBlog and HealthiestBlog.com he’s put together some interesting observations. The articles he’s chosen ranged from surveying people on their ‘generous giving to the less privileged’ in this season, to ‘choosing the right gift for loved ones’; and from ‘Christmas decorations that reveal one’s personality’ to ‘problems respondents face when Christmas-gift choices go wrong’.

The sound of Christmas carols forms a key element of festive spirit, and can enhance shopping experience, according to a 2007 article by Peter Clarke, “A Measure for Christmas Spirit”, published in the Journal of Consumer Marketing, (An Emerald publication, Vol. 24 Issue: 1, pp.8 – 17).

People seem to get happier during this time of the year. It is the music that does the magic. Evoking in all of us a strange sense of happiness often based on our past pleasant experiences.

At Christmas time, during my school days, among others, I used to specifically enjoy the music of Jim Reeves, Carpenters and Boney M.

Folks older than me might remember music by Perry Como, Charlie Pride, Connie Francis, Nat King Cole or Neil Diamond.

Perhaps, Bing Crosby’s “White Christmas” or Ella Fitzgerald’s “Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas” Or Brenda Lee’s “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree” would be on top of their minds.

But my teenage daughters today love Christmas songs by Pentatonix, Mariah Carey, Kelly Clarkson and Cold Play.

When I pick up, and drop, my daughters, just when I am enjoying my memories of ‘The Twelve Songs of Christmas’ of Jim Reeves, they get into the car, connect their mobile phones and change it to their music; of Pentatonix, or of some similar ones.

I must grudgingly accept that they are making their own memories of music.

Thanks to Internet and Satellite television, the season’s spirit has become all-pervasive, as we see people from all over the world, and from all religions, enjoying this music.

“Joy to the World”, “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”, “O Come all Ye faithful” and “Silent Night” are hymns sung in church. But, most people, irrespective of their religion, are well-aware of these carols. They effuse solemnity.

However, a host of current Christmas music in the pop-genre can never be sung in a church. It would be blasphemous.

But then, different strokes for different folks. And different music for different places.

We have to just agree with Andy Williams’ song as he calls this “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year”!

business

4,700 bags per hour

New Baggage Handling system installed at BIA, training ongoing for new recruits

● The service currently handled by a team of specialists

● 18 young Bahraini recruits are being trained

● Per hour capacity of the system will be 4,700 bags

TDT | Manama

The new state-of-the-art baggage handling system at the new passer terminal of Bahrain International Airport (BIA) will have a capacity to handle a massive 4,700 bags per peak hour, it was revealed.

The facility forms part of the recently established Baggage Handling Services (BHS) Department which houses specialists with extensive backgrounds in aviation baggage handling.

In addition, 18 young Bahraini recruits are being trained to oversee the BHS operations in the near future.

The comprehensive training programme includes site visits, case studies, and practical experience as the BHS System in the New Terminal Building is being installed, tested and commissioned.

"This new department brings us another step closer towards one of the Airport Modernisation Programme's main objec-



Officials with trainees at the newly established Baggage Handling Services (BHS) Department during a group photo session



The new terminal scheduled to open in 2019 will have the capacity to accommodate 14 million passengers per year

tives, which is to ensure that BIA's passenger services are at par with the best in the world," said BAC Chief Executive Officer, Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah during a visit to the department to meet the team and review the progress.

The move is in line with the efforts of the Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) to enhance the operational efficiency and improve the overall passenger experience at BIA.

"BAC is committed to developing the Kingdom's talent pool and training young Bahrainis to assume leadership roles in



This new department brings us another step closer towards one of the Airport Modernisation Programme's main objectives

MOHAMED YOUSIF AL BINFALAH
BAC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

specialised aviation fields. We are pleased with the progress the department has made in such a short period of time and looks forward to seeing the entire team achieve even greater success in the years to come," Al Binfalah said.

Working 24/7 on a shift basis, the team will be responsible for the management of BIA's baggage handling system and communication with the relevant stakeholders to ensure baggage is handled safely and securely and delivered on time.

Trump accuses Facebook, Twitter, Google of Democrat bias

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump took a swipe yesterday at America's tech giants, accusing them of having a liberal bias, and claiming *Twitter* was making it more difficult to follow his account.

"Facebook, Twitter and Google are so biased toward the Dems it is ridiculous!" Trump tweeted.

"Twitter, in fact, has made it much more difficult for people to join @realDonaldTrump. They have removed many names & greatly slowed the level and speed of increase. They have acknowledged-done NOTHING!"

Trump is a regular critic of social media and his criticism echoed another attack on *Twitter* as recently as October, when he again accused the platform of stifling the growth of his account.

The internet firms have consistently denied charges of political bias and many analysts have pointed to large social media followings of conservatives including Trump.

Twitter said in a statement it has been working to weed out accounts that hide a user's true identity or seek to manipulate the platform.

"Our focus is on the health of the service, and that includes work to remove fake accounts to prevent malicious behavior," *Twitter* said in an emailed statement.



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr Abdulhussain Mirza receiving Ibrahim Khalil Al Mutawa, in the presence of Adnan Mohammed Fakhroo, Deputy CEO of Distribution and Customer Services at the Electricity and Water Authority. During the meeting, a visual presentation was made on solar panels, maintaining their quality as long as possible in order to benefit from clean energy and to contribute to supporting renewable energy projects. The meeting was attended by a number of specialists in the Sustainable Energy Unit.

Iraq okays three new ministers, deadlocked over interior, defence

Baghdad, Iraq

Iraq's parliament approved three new ministers yesterday but broke up before voting on the five remaining posts, leaving the deadlock over several key ministries unresolved.

The brief session brings to 17 the number of filled posts in Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi's 22-ministry cabinet. The other 14 were approved by parliament in late October.

New Higher Education Minister Qusay al-Suheil, 53, is a member of former premier

Nuri al-Maliki's State of Law bloc.

Planning Minister Nuri al-Dulaimi, 51, is an Iraqi Islamic Party member while Minister of Culture Abdulmir Al-Hamdani, a 51-year-old archaeologist, is backed by pro-Iran force Asaib Ahl al-Haq.

After the speedy vote, legislators adjourned their session to Thursday afternoon.

The five empty posts include the powerful ministers of defence and interior, seen as the primary stumbling blocks to a full cabinet.

Washington careens toward shutdown with no deal in sight

Washington, United States

An intensifying spending standoff sent US lawmakers scrambling Monday to avert a partial government shutdown, with Republican and Democratic leaders deadlocked over President Donald Trump's demands for border wall funding.

As Washington barreled to-

ward a shuttering of key federal agencies in just four days, the White House appeared dug in on Trump's call for Congress to budget \$5 billion in 2019 to fund a wall on the US-Mexico border that he insists will check illegal immigration.

If no breakthrough is reached, the shutdown would occur over

the Christmas holiday -- when most lawmakers flee the US Capitol -- leaving Washington red-faced at the end of the year.

The closure could potentially spill into early January, when the new Congress -- including a Democratically-controlled House of Representatives -- is sworn in. Lawmakers involved

in funding negotiations suggested the first move would have to come from Trump's team.

"We'll see soon, but the clock's ticking away," Republican Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby told reporters. Democrats are united in their opposition to Trump's ask, saying their intent is to vote

for no more than \$1.6 billion in border security funding as laid out in bipartisan Senate legislation earlier this month.

Trump launched a fresh attack on the opposition party and its offer of wall-less border security funding. "Anytime you hear a Democrat saying that you can have good Boarder (sic) Security

without a Wall, write them off as just another politician following the party line," he tweeted.

White House senior advisor Stephen Miller said Sunday that building the wall remained a top priority and that Trump was "absolutely" prepared to shut down government to achieve that goal.

British Airways flies back to Pakistan after a decade

The British carrier halted services in 2008 after the deadly Marriott Hotel bombing in Islamabad

● BA had six weekly flights to the Pakistani capital before the Marriott attack

AFP | Islamabad, Pakistan

British Airways will resume flights to Pakistan next summer, the carrier announced yesterday, in a major vote of confidence from a Western airline a decade after suspending operations due to security fears.

The British carrier, which halted services in 2008 after the deadly Marriott Hotel bombing in Islamabad, will return in June 2019 with three weekly flights from London's Heathrow airport to the Pakistani capital, airline officials said.

BA had six weekly flights to the Pakistani capital before the Marriott attack, which killed more than 50 people and triggered a major drawdown by embassies and international agencies over safety concerns.

The carrier's announcement was "a reflection of the great improvements in the security situation in Pakistan" in the years since, said British High Commissioner to Pakistan Thomas Drew in a statement.

"We only fly somewhere when



(L to R) Special Assistant to Pakistani Prime Minister for Overseas Zulfikar Bukhari, Robert Williams, British Airways head of Sales for Asia Pacific and the Middle East, acting British High Commissioner Richard Crowder and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's advisor on commerce Abdul Razak Dawood pose for a photograph after a press conference in Islamabad

we know it's safe to do so," Robert Williams, BA's head of sales for Asia, told a press conference in Islamabad. Tickets starting at \$630 were due to go on sale from Tuesday.

BA said the route -- which will be serviced by the Boeing 787 Dreamliner -- is among four direct long-haul flights being introduced in 2019, along with Pittsburgh and Charleston in the US, and Osaka in Japan.

The announcement caused a stir on Twitter, where it was greeted with jubilation by many

Pakistanis.

Dramatic shift

Britain is home to more than a million residents of Pakistani origin, making it the largest Pakistani diaspora community in Europe.

The struggling Pakistan International Airlines is currently the only carrier with direct flights between the two countries.

Since the Marriott attack the country has been largely dependent on Middle Eastern airlines such as Emirates and

The army tweeted its gratitude to the airline using the hashtag #PeacefulPakistan, while the government's official account proclaimed the country a "new investment destination of Asia"

Etihaad, with most international flights routed through the Gulf, making travel expensive and cumbersome for many passen-

gers. Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific was one of the last major international carriers to cease operations in Pakistan after dozens were killed during a 2014 siege at Karachi airport by Taliban militants.

Many Western countries have travel advisories in place to warn their citizens of the potential for kidnapping and bomb attacks, especially in areas near the Afghan border.

The announcement came after Prime Minister Imran Khan vowed to revitalise Pakistan's

struggling tourism industry in effort to bring in much-needed revenue to its fragile economy.

Pakistan has a rich cultural and archaeological heritage, along with serene alpine valleys, pristine beaches and vast deserts peppered with vibrant Islamic shrines.

The country is also home to some of the world's tallest peaks including K-2 -- the second highest summit after Everest, which sits atop a region of 120 other mountains rising above 7,000 metres (23,000 feet).



Since the Marriott attack the country has been largely dependent on Middle Eastern airlines such as Emirates and Etihad, with most international flights routed through the Gulf, making travel expensive and cumbersome for many passengers.



CrediMax and Travelex Bahrain officials during a signing ceremony to provide MaxWallet payment solution. The signing ceremony took place at CrediMax HQ in the presence of Yousif Ali Mirza, CrediMax CE and Tom Fane, Travelex Commercial Director as well as Travelex General Manager Jacqueline Nosworthy and CrediMax official Mohammed Mutaleb.

Goldman says former Malaysia govt lied, after charges filed

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Goldman Sachs yesterday accused the former Malaysian government and state fund IMDB of lying to the bank, after Kuala Lumpur charged the Wall Street titan over a massive financial scandal.

Malaysia's attorney-general Monday filed criminal charges against the US bank and two of its ex-employees over the alleged looting of IMDB.

Goldman has faced mounting questions about its role as the bank helped IMDB raise

\$6.5 billion through a series of bond issues.

Monday's charges allege the bank's subsidiaries and the two ex-bankers, working with a shadowy Malaysian financier, misappropriated \$2.7 billion, bribed officials and gave false statements as they helped IMDB to raise the cash.

But Goldman said that "certain members of the former Malaysian government and IMDB lied to Goldman Sachs, outside counsel and others about the use of proceeds from these transactions."



Khaleeji Commercial Bank (KHC) officials and employees, during a ceremony on the occasion of the National Day of Bahrain and the 19th Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne, at the bank's headquarters in Bahrain Financial Harbour. The ceremony was attended by KHC CEO Sattam Sulaiman Algaosabi. On the sidelines of the celebration, a ceremony was held for KHC employees. The bank also joined its clients in celebrating the National Day by presenting them with special gifts in all of its branches located around the Kingdom.

Trump directs Pentagon to create 'Space Command'

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday ordered the creation of "Space Command," a new organizational structure within the Pentagon that will have overall control of military space operations.

The command will be separate from Trump's goal to build an entirely new branch of the military called "Space Force" -- but could be a step in that direction.

"I direct the establishment, consistent with United States law, of United States Space Command as a functional Unified Combatant Command," Trump said in a memo to Defense Secretary Defense Jim Mattis.

Speaking at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida's Cape Canaveral, Vice President Mike Pence said the new US Space Command will integrate space capabilities across all branches of the military.

"It will develop the space doctrine, tactics, techniques and procedures that will enable our war fighters to defend our nation in this new era," Pence said.

SpaceCom, as it will inevitably come to be known, will be the Pentagon's 11th combatant command, along with other well-known commands including Central Command and Europe Command.

Markets fall on weak oil prices

● **Dubai suffers worst one-day drop since June**

● **DAMAC Properties slides to lowest since February 2015**

● **Telecom Egypt continues to gain on 2019 revenue forecast**

● **Saudi's Bank Albilad rises on capital increase plan**

Reuters

The Dubai stock market fell sharply yesterday to post its biggest one-day loss since June as real estate stocks slid, while tumbling oil prices dragged down all major Gulf bourses.

Oil prices fell 4 per cent after reports of swelling inventories and forecasts of record US and Russian output combined with a sharp sell-off in stock markets as the outlook for global growth deteriorated.

In Dubai, the index dropped 2.1pc with the emirate's largest lender, Emirates NBD, shedding 4.6pc and its biggest listed developer, Emaar Properties, falling 2.3pc.

DAMAC Properties plunged 6.3pc to its lowest level since February 2015. Dubai inflation data released on Monday showed housing and utility costs



Traders on the floor of Saudi Stock exchange (file)

falling 4.7pc year-on-year, their biggest decline in years.

Nasdaq-Dubai listed DP World was down 0.8pc.

Dubai's main index is the worst performing in the Middle East and North Africa this year, down more than 25pc and close to its lowest levels since 2013.

Egypt's blue-chip index fell 0.7pc, mirroring a slide in emerging markets generally. Banks continued to decline with Egypt's largest lender, Commercial International Bank, shedding 0.6pc.

Arab Cotton Ginning lost 3.0pc after its first-quarter profit dropped over 96pc.

Global Telecom added 4.4pc while Telecom Egypt climbed 3.3pc, continuing to surge after

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▼ 0.3pc	» 7,943 points
DUBAI	▼ 2.1pc	» 2,511 points
ABU DHABI	▼ 0.8pc	» 4,829 points
EGYPT	▼ 0.7pc	» 13,121 points
KUWAIT	▼ 0.8pc	» 5,358 points
BAHRAIN	▼ 0.4pc	» 1,314 points
OMAN	▼ 0.7pc	» 4,379 points

saying on Monday it expects revenue growth in the mid-to high single digits in 2019. The

firm also expects 2018 revenue to beat guidance.

The Abu Dhabi index slipped 0.8pc with First Abu Dhabi Bank, the United Arab Emirates' biggest lender, falling 1.3pc. Eight staff have been cut by FAB Securities, a unit of First Abu Dhabi, Reuters reported, citing sources.

Abu Dhabi National Energy Co slumped 9.1pc to its lowest level since April 2018.

Dana Gas added 1.9pc after saying it had received \$20 million from the Egyptian government. The firm's total receipts from Egypt reached \$152 million for the year.

The Saudi Arabian index lost 0.3pc with the largest lender, National Commercial Bank,

dropping 2.1pc and Yanbu National Petrochemicals slipping 2.4pc.

Telecommunications firm Etihad Etisalat (Mobily) was down 2.1pc, continuing to drop after disclosing a new system of royalty payments to the government on Sunday.

However, Saudi Company for Hardware jumped 6.3pc after shareholders approved a capital increase to 360 million riyals (\$96 million) through a bonus share issue.

Bank Albilad gained 3.2pc after its board recommended an increase in the bank's capital to 7.50 billion riyals from 6 billion riyals through bonus shares.

The Qatar stock exchange was closed for a public holiday.

UK to overhaul audit sector

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Britain unveiled a radical overhaul of the nation's accountancy sector on Tuesday in a bid to fix "deep-seated problems" after a series of major scandals, regulators said.

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) watchdog, revealing the initial findings of an investigation, said choice is too limited in the auditing sector dominated by the so-called Big Four -- Deloitte, EY, KPMG and PwC.

It also took aim at the link between their auditing roles and the lucrative consulting services they also offer businesses, a potential source of conflict of interest that critics have long pointed out.

"The CMA is proposing legislation to: separate audit from consulting services; introduce measures to substantially increase the accountability of those chairing audit committees in firms, and impose a 'joint audit' regime giving firms outside the Big Four a role in auditing the UK's biggest companies," it said in a statement.

The Big Four have a long-established oligopoly to advise and monitor big business, experts say. "Companies choose their own auditors, and as a result we have seen too much evidence of them picking those with whom they have the best 'cultural fit' or 'chemistry'

rather than those who offer the toughest scrutiny," added the CMA, which launched its probe in October.

"Choice is too limited, with the Big Four audit firms conducting 97 percent of the audits of the biggest companies.

"Auditors' focus on quality appears diluted by the fact that at least 75 percent of the revenue of the Big Four comes from other services like consulting."

Major firms feel they need one of the Big Four on their side as investors usually want to see their labels when they scrutinise the quality.

"But ordinary people do not realise that they are impacted by ongoing problems in the sector. "Addressing the deep-seated problems in the audit market is now long overdue," said chairman Andrew Tyrie. While most people will never read an auditor's opinion on a company's accounts, tens of millions of people depend on robust and high-quality audits, he said.

"If a company's books aren't properly examined, people's jobs, pensions or savings can be at risk," said Tyrie.

The regulator will now consult on its proposals and hopes to conclude its work "as soon as possible" in 2019.

He said if it turns out that the proposals are not far-reaching enough, the CMA will persist until the sector's problems are resolved.

Weak global growth outlook hurt crude

AFP | London, United Kingdom

World oil prices tumbled yesterday to the lowest levels in more than a year, hit by fears over the outlook for the global economy.

Prices were dented by concerns over the demand outlook and a stubborn supply glut.

On Wall Street, stocks saw a rebound in early business after Monday's rout, but equity markets remained subdued in Europe, except for Frankfurt which posted small gains.

The Brent and New York crude contracts collapsed as low as \$57.20 and \$47.84 per barrel respectively during the European morning session, but pared losses by the afternoon.

"Stocks have not been the only victims of broader market misery this festive season," said Oanda analyst Craig Erlam.

"Oil tumbled ... as equities plunged into the red as investors continue to view 2019 as a challenging year for global growth."

Challenging year

There are also questions about the impact of a recently promised output cut by OPEC and other top producers including Russia.

"OPEC may have come to an agreement with its allies to cut production next year and rebalance markets ... but traders are clearly not convinced enough will be done," predicted Erlam.

Crude prices have fallen about a third from four-year highs touched at the start of October.

"The crash seen in the price of crude oil over the past few



Traders work on the floor at the closing bell of the Dow Industrial Average at the New York Stock Exchange

months has arguably been the biggest story of the year," noted XTB analyst David Cheetham.

"Fears that Iranian sanctions reimposed by Washington would cause a drastic fall in output saw the market rally to its highest level in almost four years ... but these concerns now look badly misplaced."

'A lot of pessimism

Asia posted sharp losses earlier in the wake of Monday's Wall Street selloff, as investors also awaited the US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision due later this week.

The British stock market meanwhile remained beset

with worries over the nature of the nation's looming exit from the European Union next March.

"There is a lot of pessimism in the markets right now," said Erlam.

Dealers across the world have taken fright over a range of issues, including the China-US trade war, falling oil prices, political uncertainty, China's stuttering economy and geopolitical tensions.

Also weighing on confidence has been the Fed's monetary tightening drive that has seen it lift interest rates through the year, making it more expensive to borrow cash for investment.

The US central bank concludes its latest policy meeting Wednesday and is widely expected to announce another hike.

US President Donald Trump yesterday once again hit out at the bank's policy and called on it not to lift rates again.

Key figures around 1540 GMT

Oil - Brent Crude:	▼ \$1.04	at \$58.99 per barrel
Oil - WTexas Inter	▼ \$1.27	at \$49.56
London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.6 per cent	at 6,730.43 points
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▲ 0.3pc	at 10,801.97
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.3pc	at 4,784.08
EURO STOXX 50:	▼ 0.3pc	at 3,055.85
New York - Dow:	▲ 1.0pc	at 23,825.05
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 1.8pc	at 21,115.45 (close)
Hang Seng:	▼ 1.1pc	at 25,814.25 (close)
Shanghai - Com:	▼ 0.8pc	at 2,576.65 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲	at \$1.1372 from \$1.1348
Dollar/yen:	DOWN	at 112.53 yen from 112.87 yen

show

Ansel Elgort joins 'The Great...'

IAN S | Los Angeles

The Fault in Our Stars" fame actor Ansel Elgort has joined the ensemble cast of "The Great High School Imposter" movie.

The project is based on an article published earlier this year about Artur Samarin, a young Ukrainian man who posed as a teenager so he could be adopted by a childless couple in a small Pennsylvania town and became the top student in his high school, Samarin was five years older than he claimed. His adopted parents later turned him to the authorities, reported variety.com.

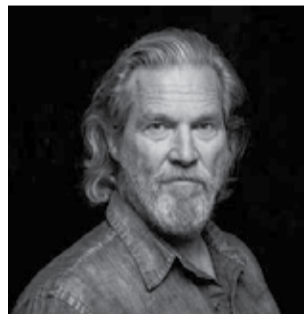
Mike Makowsky is adapting the script while Jeremy Steckler of Conde Nast Entertainment is producing.

Apart from "The Great High School Imposter", Elgort will also be next seen in Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story" remake.



Ansel Elgort

Jeff Bridges to receive lifetime achievement honour at Golden Globes



Jeff Bridges

Reuters | Los Angeles

Oscar-winning actor Jeff Bridges will receive a lifetime achievement award at January's Golden Globes ceremony for his wide range of work, from Western "True Grit" to comedy "The Big Lebowski," the Hollywood Foreign Press Association said on Monday.

Bridges will be honored by the HFPA with the Cecil B. DeMille Award, an annual accolade given to a person who has made a lasting impact on the world of film.

The 69-year-old actor has been nominated for five Golden Globes and won once for his role as a faded country music star in 2009 drama "Crazy Heart." That performance also earned Bridges an Oscar. He also famously played the slacker known as "The Dude" in 1998's "Big Lebowski."

"Bridges' brilliant body of work across diverse genres has captured the hearts and minds of audiences worldwide for more than six decades," HFPA President Meher Tatna said in a statement.

Grant Gustin marries LA Thoma



LA Thoma and Grant Gustin

IAN S | Los Angeles

The Flash" star Grant Gustin and LA Thoma are now married.

They walked down the aisle on Saturday at Valentine DTLA, a sprawling 9,000-square-foot venue erected in the 1920s, reports eonline.com.

Their guest list featured plenty of actors like Melissa Benoist, RJ Brown, Daveed Diggs, Jared Loftin, Lee-la Rothenberg, Taylor

Trench and Chris Wood.

Talent manager Robert Stein took a picture with the couple in a photo booth and shared it on Instagram.

"What heartfelt joy it was to watch Grant and LA, surrounded by their family and friends, come together for a loving union. Wishing them both a lifetime of love and happiness," Stein wrote.

"They are so blessed to have one another to spend the rest of their lives together."

Gustin proposed to Thoma in April 2017.

John Cena



John Cena

John Cena's favourite Transformer was Optimus Prime

IAN S | London

Wrestling star and actor John Cena says Optimus Prime was his favourite Transformer as a child.

The "Bumblebee" actor admitted while he "should" pick the title character from the new blockbuster prequel - in which he plays evil Sec-

AQUAMAN
(PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW
Ⓜ JASON MOMOA, AMBER HEARD,
NICOLE KIDMAN

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT (ATMOS): 11.15 AM. + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM.
DAILY AT (VIP): 10.30 AM. + 1.30 + 4.30 + 7.30 + 10.30 PM.

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT (ATMOS): 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 + 12.00 MN.

DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 11.30 AM. + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM.

DAILY AT 10.30 AM. + 1.00 + 4.00 + 7.00 + 10.00 + (1.00 AM. THURS./FRI.)

DAILY AT (VIPI): 11.00 AM. + 2.00 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 11.00 PM.

DAILY AT (VIPII): 12.30 + 3.30 + 6.30 + 9.30 + (12.30 MN. THURS./FRI.)

SEEF (II) DAILY AT 11.15 AM. + 12.45 + 2.15 + 3.45 + 5.15 + 6.45 + 8.15 + 9.45 + 11.15 PM. + (12.45 MN. THURS./FRI.)

SEEF (I) DAILY AT 11.45 AM. + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM. SAAR DAILY AT 11.30 AM. + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.00 + 8.30 PM. + (11.00 PM. + 11.30 PM THURS./FRI.)

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT 10.45 AM. + 11.45 AM. + 1.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 5.45 + 7.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM. + 11.45 PM.

SPIDER MAN INTO THE SPIDER VERSE

(PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW
Ⓜ HAILEE STEINFELD, NICOLAS CAGE,
MAHERSHALA ALI

OASIS JUFFAIR DUBBED (KIDS CINEMA) DUBBED IN ENGLISH: 10.30 AM + 8.00 PM.

OASIS JUFFAIR DUBBED (KIDS CINEMA) DUBBED IN ENGLISH (3D): 5.30 + 10.30 PM.

OASIS JUFFAIR DUBBED (KIDS CINEMA) IN ARABIC: 1.00 PM.

OASIS JUFFAIR DUBBED IN ENGLISH: 4.00 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM.

OASIS JUFFAIR DUBBED IN ENGLISH (3D): 1.30 PM.

OASIS JUFFAIR DUBBED IN ARABIC: 9.00 PM.

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT : DUBBED IN ENGLISH : 11.00 AM. + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM.

DAILY AT : DUBBED IN ENGLISH (3D): 10.45 AM. + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM.

DAILY AT : DUBBED IN ARABIC : 10.30 AM. + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM.

SEEF (II) DAILY AT : DUBBED IN ENGLISH : 11.00 AM. + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM.

DAILY AT : DUBBED IN ARABIC : 12.00 + 2.30 + 5.00 + 7.30 + 10.00 + (12.30 MN. THUR./FRI.)

SAAR DAILY AT : DUBBED IN ENGLISH : 12.30 + 3.00 + 5.30 PM.

DAILY AT : DUBBED IN ARABIC : 11.15 AM. + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 PM.

WADI AL SAIL DUBBED IN ENGLISH: 11.00 AM. + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 PM.

DUBBED IN ARABIC: 10.30 AM. + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 PM.

SECOND ACT

(PG-15) (COMEDY) NEW
Ⓜ HJENNIFER LOPEZ, VANESSA HUDGENS, MILO VENTIMIGLIA

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM.

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM.

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM.

SAAR DAILY AT: 9.15 + (11.30 PM. THURS./FRI.)

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM.

THREE WORDS OF FOREVER

(PG-15) (FILIPINO/ROMANTIC/DRAMA/COMEDY) NEW
Ⓜ HSHARON CUNETI, RICHARD GOMEZ, KATHRYN BERNARDO

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM.

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM.

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM.

ELLIOT THE LITTLEST REINDEER

(PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW

Ⓜ Morena Baccarin, Josh Hutcherson, John Cleeve

OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 3.30 PM.

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 11.30 AM

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 PM.

PINKY MEMSAAB: A DUBAI STORY

(PG-15) (URDU/ DRAMA) NEW
Ⓜ SUNNY HINDUJA, KIRAN MALIK, ADNAN JAFFAR

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 4.15 + 9.00 PM.

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 PM.

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM.

RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET

(PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
Ⓜ JOHN C. REILLY, SARAH SILVARMAN, GAL GADOT

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT : 11.15 AM. + 4.00 + 8.45 PM.

CREED II

(PG-13) (DRAMA/ACTION/SPORT)
Ⓜ TESSA THOMPSON, MICHAEL B. JORDAN, SYLVESTER STALLONE

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 12.45 + 6.00 + 11.15 PM.

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN.

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 10.45 AM. + 3.45 + 8.45 PM

MORTAL ENGINES

(PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER)
Ⓜ HUGO WEAVING, HERA HILMAR, ROBERT SHEEHAN

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT : 1.30 + 6.15 + 11.00 PM.

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT : 11.00 AM. + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM.

SAAR DAILY AT: 8.30 + (11.00 PM THURS./FRI)

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 2.15 + 7.00 + 11.45 PM.

ORU KUPRASIDHA PAYYAN

(PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW
Ⓜ TOVINO THOMAS, NIMISHA SAJAYAN, ANU SITHARA

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM.

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN.

AL HAMRA DAILY AT * 3.00 + 9.00 PM.

JOSEPH

(PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW
Ⓜ JOJU GEORGE, MALAVIKA MENON, JAMES ELIYA

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT : 11.45 AM. + 2.30 + 5.15 + 8.00 + 10.45 PM.

SEEF (I) DAILY AT : 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM.

AL HAMRA DAILY AT : 12.00 + 6.00 + (12.00 MN. THURS./FRI.)

KEDARNATH

(PG-15) (HINDI/DRAMA/ROMANTIC)
Ⓜ RAJINIKANTH, AKSHAY KUMAR, AMY JACKSON

OASIS JUFFAIR DAILY AT : 3.30 + 8.45 PM.

ODIYAN

(PG-13) (MALAYALAM) NEW
STARING FRIDAY 14TH
Ⓜ HMOHANLAL, PRAKASH RAJ, MANJU WARRIER

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 1.45 + 5.00 + 8.15 + 11.30 PM.

RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET

(PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
Ⓜ JOHN C. REILLY, SARAH SILVARMAN, GAL GADOT

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM.

SAAR DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 PM.

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM.

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.45 + 9.30 PM.

ROBIN HOOD

(PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)
Ⓜ TARON EGERTON, EVE HEWSON, JAMIE FOXX

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN.

INSTANT FAMILY

(PG-15) (COMEDY)
Ⓜ MARK WAHLBERG, ROSE BYRNER, OCTAVIA SPENCER

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM.

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.30 PM.

JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN

(PG) (COMEDY/ACTION/ADVENTURE)
Ⓜ ROWAN ATKINSON, OLGA KURYLENKO, EMMA THOMPSON

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN.

HUNTER KILLER

(PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER)
Ⓜ GERARD BUTLER, GARY OLDMAN, OMMON

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 2.45 + 7.00 + 11.15 PM.

WIDOWS

(15+) (CRIME/THRILLER/DRAMA)
Ⓜ VIOLA DAVIS, MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ, ELIZABETH DEBICKI

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 4.00 + 8.30 PM.

EL BADLHA

(PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY)
Ⓜ TAMER HOSNY, AKRAM HOSNI, MAJED EL MASRY, AMINA KHALIL

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.30 + 11.00 PM.

THE POSSESSION OF HANNAH GRACE

(18+) (THRILLER/HORROR)
Ⓜ SHAY MITCHELL, STANA KATIC, LOUIS HERTHUM

CITYCENTRE DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 PM.

WADI AL SAIL DAILY AT: 11.00 PM.

CHRISTMAS BREAK IN

(PG) (COMEDY/FAMILY) NEW
Ⓜ DENISE RICHARDS, DANNY GLOVER, CAMERON SEELY

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM.

MALEVOLENT

(15+) (HORROR/THRILLER) NEW
Ⓜ FLORENCE PUGH, CELIA IMRIE, BEN LLOYD-HUGHES

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 1.45 + 5.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM.

THE BOMBING (AIR STRIKE)

(PG-15) (ACTION/DRAMA) NEW
Ⓜ BRUCE WILLIS, YE LIU, SEUNG-HEON SONG

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM.

11 DAYS

(PG-13) (DRAMA) NEW
Ⓜ HABEEB GHULOOM, OLIGYA, LITA TADPILITA

SEEF (II) DAILY AT: 3.45 + 7.45 PM.

THE MAN WHO INVENTED CHRISTMAS

(PG-13) (COMEDY/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY) NEW
Ⓜ DAN STEVENS, CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER, JONATHAN PRYCE

SEEF (I) DAILY AT: 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM.

I loved the good guys. I wasn't one of those fans that like the bad guys

JOHN CENA

tor 7 agent Jack Burns, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

In an interview to a newspaper, Cena said: "I was the right age for it, but I was possibly a little bit at the wrong time. I grew up with four other brothers and we had to fight for everything we had in our house.

"I had a wonderful childhood,

but it's not like it was overflowing with gifts and presents, so we had to use our imaginations in certain circumstances.

"But my favourite, and I know I should say Bumblebee, really was Optimus Prime. He was the leader of essentially the good guys. I hark back to my obsession with WWE as a kid."

SPORTS

Brave CF to hold public workouts at Kris Gethin gym



Jalal Al Daaja (right) with coach Ali Al Tamri during open workouts
TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation has confirmed to host the public workouts for Brave 20 at Kris Gethin Gyms in Hyderabad.

Brave 20 is held in association with Mercury Sports and Entertainment marking the return of Brave Combat Federation to India.

The partnership between Brave Combat Federation and Mercury Sports and Entertainment will ensure future editions of the promotion in India alongside derivative projects aimed at the development of Mixed Martial Arts in India. The open workouts will be held on 20th December at the Kris Gethin Gyms in Hyderabad.

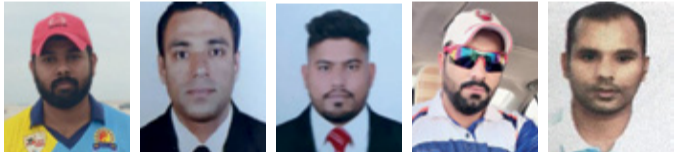
Kris Gethin is part of the team Physique Global. Phy-

sique Global is a fitness mentoring and educative service to fitness enthusiasts around the World and it is widely recognized in India for training Bollywood superstars like Hrithik Roshan, John Abraham, Karan Johar, Mahesh Babu, Arjun Kapoor, Ranveer Singh, and Imran Khan.

Brave Combat Federation has confirmed that athletes will take part in open workouts and interact with their fans, media, martial arts, and fitness enthusiasts.

The confirmed athletes who will be featured in the open workouts includes Micol di Segni, Sidney Wheeler, Maria Ribeiro, Rob Beech, Khamzat Chimaev, John Brewin, Anas Siraj Mounir, Mindaugas Gerve, Ali Qaisi, Kantharaj Shankar, Nelson Paes and Jason Solomon.

Tornado Riders edge Hempel Paints



Anu - SNCS Arafat Infonas Ranjith Riaz Kooheji Thilina Alpha
TDT | Manama

Tornado Riders beat Hempel Paints by 7 wickets in a CBA Division D T-20 league match.

Hempel won the toss and elected to bat first. Bilal became the top scorer with 42 runs and was well supported by Ahsan (31) which helped them to score 163 runs in 20 overs. Vijeesh and Ruzo took two wickets each for Riders.

Chasing the target Riders openers Vijeesh (40) and Ranjeeth (60) put a 103 runs partnership for the first wicket that helped them to reach the target in 18th over. Abbas took 3 wickets for Hempel.

Brief Score: Tornado Riders 166/3 in 17.5 overs (Ranjeeth 60, Vijeesh 40, Abbas 3/19) beat

Hempel Paints 163/9 (Bilal 42, Ahsan 31, Vijesh 2/18) by 7 wickets

Other Match Results

Spartans 189/5 in 20 overs (Zeeshan 64, Farhan 27) beat Indian Super Kings 164/7 in 20 overs (Niraj 34, Ahimduallah 4/25) by 25 runs

Superb XI 174/6 in 20 overs (Adeel 45, Shams 23, Ghayazuddin 2/28) beat Cebarco 163/7 (Millon 55, Ajay 33, Azhar 4/30) by 11 runs

Infonas XI 180/5 in 20 overs (Arafat 88, Musab 30, Adnan 2/20) beat Waqas Pak CC 96/10 (Waqas 16, Rashid 3/12) by 84 runs

Bulls CC 89/1 in 9.4 overs (Navin 32, Lenin 23) beat Young Blasters 86/8 (Dawood 32, Aby 3/12, Sanjay 3/24) by 9 wickets

Mendis, Mathews stonewall NZ

Mathews hits ton, celebrates with push-ups as Sri Lanka defy New Zealand

● Kusal Mendis and Angelo Mathews built an epic stand to give Lanka hope on wicketless day

● Sri Lanka trail by 37 runs with 7 wickets remaining

AFP | Wellington

Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews celebrated with push-ups on the pitch after joining Kusal Mendis in passing 100 yesterday as the pair batted the whole day without losing a wicket to offer the tourists hope of an unlikely first Test draw in Wellington.

Mendis was 116 not out at stumps on day four and Mathews 117, with their record-breaking unbroken 246-run partnership setting a Sri Lankan record against New Zealand.

It was also the first time in New Zealand that a full day's play has been completed without a Test wicket falling and the first time anywhere since South Africa achieved the feat against Bangladesh in Chittagong in 2008.

The pair's epic vigil meant the tourists ended the day at 259 for three after starting in a seemingly hopeless position



Angelo Mathews of Sri Lanka celebrates his century with a set of push-ups while Kusal Mendis looks on

with three wickets down for just 20 in their second innings after conceding a first innings deficit of 296 to New Zealand.

Sri Lanka still need a further 37 to avoid an innings defeat but with a flat pitch offering nothing to New Zealand's seam attack and rain threatening on the final day, a draw is now a real prospect.

New Zealand had hoped to wrap up the match early on the fourth day after posting an imposing 578 in the first innings, anchored by Tom Latham's unbeaten 264 -- which eclipsed England captain Alastair Cook's record 244, set just under a year ago in Melbourne, to become

246

runs were scored in partnership by Angelo Mathews and Kusal Mendis

Sri Lanka 1st innings 282 (Mathews 83, Dickwella 80; Southee 6-68)	
New Zealand 1st innings 578 (Latham 264 not out, Williamson 91; Kumara 4-127)	
Sri Lanka 2nd innings (overnight 20-3)	
M. Gunathilaka lbw Boult	3
F. Karunaratne c Boult b Southee	10
D. de Silva b Southee	0
K. Mendis not out	116
A. Mathews not out	117
Extras (lb2, nb3, w8)	13
Total (for 3 wkts, 102 overs)	259

the highest score by an opener carrying their bat in Test history.

But the home bowlers grew increasingly frustrated by the stubborn rearguard action, resorting to a barrage of bouncers that failed to rattle the batsmen.

Mathews defiant

A defiant Mathews sent them a message that he still has plenty left in the tank with his push-up celebration late in the final session.

Sri Lanka bowling coach Ramesh Ratnayake said before play commenced that his side needed to approach the final two days session-by-session and try to chip away at New Zealand's lead.

Mendis, who made only two in the first innings, initially took a more positive approach and went after short-ball specialist Neil Wagner.

Grosjean named France Davis Cup Captain

Reuters | Paris

Former world number four Sebastien Grosjean has been named France Davis Cup captain for the next two seasons, the French Tennis Federation said on Monday.

Grosjean, part of the France team who won the Davis Cup title in 2001, replaced Yannick Noah after the French federation's initial choice Amelie Mauresmo opted not to take up the role.

Former world number one Mauresmo, who would have become the first woman to captain the team, chose to work with French player Lucas Pouille.

"It's a great honour to be named captain of the French Davis Cup team because I've always been attached to this competition," Grosjean, who will also lead the men's delegation for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, said in a statement.

"This post, which now has an Olympic dimension, promises to be exciting."



France's Sebastien Grosjean in action

France tennis chief Bernard Giudicelli said the team would be stronger than ever with Grosjean's appointment.

"Sebastien's enthusiasm is proof of this and I'm happy to see a former winner take on the role. His knowledge of professional tennis, in all its forms, will be a valuable asset for our federation."

Grosjean, a four-times Grand Slam semi-finalist and winner of four ATP titles, has coached

compatriot Richard Gasquet and Australia's Nick Kyrgios since his retirement in 2010.

France were beaten by Croatia in last month's Davis Cup final in Lille.

As runners-up, they will not play in the February qualifying round of the tournament, which has been revamped.

The traditional World Group format will be replaced by an 18-nation finals week to be held in Madrid in November.

Federations meetings scheduled

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) started a new strategy to hold meetings with representatives of national sports federations in an attempt to have constant updates on their problems and needs.

The approach is in line with the directives of Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Chairman, and BOC President

Supreme Council for Youth and Sports assistant secretary general and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) secretary general Abdulrahman Askar said the committee will now have two days per week to schedule meetings with the federations. Those regular meetings will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays.

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Man Utd sack Mourinho

Jose Mourinho's stormy reign at Manchester United comes to an end

● Club and coach split with United 19 points off first place

● External candidate to be appointed as caretaker manager in 48 hours

AFP | Manchester

Manchester United sacked manager Jose Mourinho yesterday after the club's worst start to a season in nearly three decades.

Mourinho, 55, became increasingly spiky in his last few months at Old Trafford, lashing out at the board's transfer policy and turning his fire on his squad, especially record signing Paul Pogba.

His constant complaints about the players' lack of desire had an impact on the pitch, culminating in the 3-1 defeat by Premier League leaders Liverpool on Sunday which left United 19 points behind their opponents.

Mourinho's sacking comes just two-and-a-half years into his tenure and three years and a day since Chelsea sacked him just months after he had guided them to the title.

Reports said United will name a caretaker manager in the next 48 hours.

The club's worst start in the league since 1990 means even Mourinho's ambition of finishing in the top four and a Champions League qualification spot is in danger.

Despite United reaching the Champions League knockout stages, where they face an in-



Manchester United's Portuguese manager Jose Mourinho leaves the pitch following the UEFA Champions League group H football match between Manchester United and Young Boys (file photo)

timidating last-16 tie with Paris Saint-Germain, a combination of poor results, dressing-room discord and criticism of the board proved potent factors in the decision to dismiss the Portuguese manager.

A United source told AFP that Mourinho had been supported in his efforts to sign players and described reports of player power at the club as being key to

the sacking as wide of the mark. United will reportedly have to pay Mourinho £22.5 million (\$28.5 million) -- as the club are still in the Champions League -- to sever the ties.

"Manchester United announces that manager Jose Mourinho has left the club with immediate effect," a club statement said.

"The club would like to thank Jose for his work during his time

at Manchester United and to wish him success in the future.

"A new caretaker manager will be appointed until the end of the current season, while the club conducts a thorough recruitment process for a new, full-time manager."

'Outstanding candidate'

In the longer term former Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane has been linked to the club as has his fellow 1998 World Cup-winning team-mate Laurent Blanc, who played for United. Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino is also strongly tipped.

One bookmaker makes Pochettino the early favourite and the 46-year-old Argentinian is also former Manchester United midfielder Gary Neville's favoured option.

"They need someone who meets the three key principles of that football club: the promotion of youth, entertaining football and to win football matches," Neville told Sky Sports News.

"People suggest he (Pochettino) hasn't won a trophy yet at Tottenham but with a net spend of minus £29 million or something over the last four years, I'm not sure he could have done more.

"I do think he is the person who is the outstanding candidate."

Mourinho's reign had started well enough with the League Cup and the Europa League trophies but for a club that has been champions of England 20 times, neighbours Manchester City's dominance over them in the league has hurt.

The wound went even deeper for Mourinho as City are man-

\$28.5m

will have to be paid by United to Mourinho to sever the ties as the club are still in the Champions League

aged by Pep Guardiola, who got the better of him when he was in charge at Barcelona and Mourinho was at Real Madrid.

Despite his protestations to the contrary, the United board gave Mourinho plenty of money to compete.

Top-quality players such as Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku -- who he persuaded to snub Chelsea and come to United for £75 million in 2017 -- and Pogba for a then world record fee of £89 million in 2016 have floundered under his authoritarian stewardship.

Indeed it was his deteriorating relationship with World Cup-winning midfielder Pogba -- one of many to feel the lash of his tongue in public -- that symbolised decline at club under him.

Mourinho questioned his attitude while the player hit back with open criticism of the tactics, culminating in him kicking his heels on the bench during Liverpool debacle on Sunday.



Mauricio Pochettino

Pochettino focused on Spurs amid United talk

AFP | London

Mauricio Pochettino insists he is focused on doing his best for Tottenham amid reports he is the leading candidate to replace Jose Mourinho at Manchester United.

Tottenham manager Pochettino was installed as the bookmakers' favourite to take charge at Old Trafford after Mourinho was sacked by United yesterday.

United are expected to appoint a caretaker manager this week to lead the troubled team for the rest of the season.

That would give them time to tempt Pochettino to leave Tottenham, where he has established a reputation as one of the brightest young managers in Europe during his four-year reign.

Pochettino refused to completely rule out any interest in the United job, which might appeal to him given the club's vast resources in contrast to Tottenham, who failed to sign a single player in the summer transfer window.

But the 46-year-old, whose has led Tottenham third in the Premier League and a place in the Champions League last 16 this season, insists he is only concerned with his current team at present.

"After nearly five years there is a lot of rumours about my position as manager at Tottenham," Pochettino told reporters ahead of Wednesday's League Cup quarter-final at Arsenal.

Pogba deletes cryptic post after Mourinho axed

AFP | London

Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba quickly deleted a controversial social media post of him smiling after manager Jose Mourinho was sacked by the club.

The volatile Mourinho's exit was in part triggered by the breakdown of his relationship with France midfielder Pogba, who did not even make an appearance as a substitute for Sunday's dismal 3-1 defeat at Liverpool.

Pogba took to Instagram just moments after news of Mourinho's sacking broke, posting a picture of himself smiling and writing 'caption this' next to it.

The 25-year-old's post was widely interpreted as celebrating Mourinho's departure and he was criticised by former



Paul Pogba's now-deleted Instagram post

United defender Gary Neville, who responded on Twitter by writing: "You do one as well!", suggesting he should leave the club as well.

Over 64,000 people had 'liked' Pogba's cheeky message, but he deleted the post 10 minutes later amid claims it was actually part of a marketing campaign for Adidas.

Pogba joined United for a club record £89 million (\$112 million) just weeks after Mourinho was hired in 2016.

But the former Juventus player was repeatedly criticised by Mourinho during his two-and-a-half year reign.

After his inspired performances helped France win the World Cup in Russia in July, Mourinho opted not to praise Pogba, instead infuriating the star by publicly asking why he did not try as hard for United.

Pogba was stripped of the United vice-captaincy earlier this season.

The pair were captured having a frosty exchange on the training ground as Mourinho grew angry with his key midfielder's lethargic performances, dropping him on several occasions to spark talk he would be sold by the end of the season.

WTA increases rankings protection for mothers

Reuters | London

The Women's Tennis Association (WTA) will offer greater rankings protection to mothers returning to the tour after giving birth and introduce a modernised dress rule as part of new rules announced on Monday for next season.

The changes address issues that came up in 2018 when former world number one Serena Williams, who returned to action after giving birth, was unseeded for some events and caused an uproar with a black, skin-tight bodysuit she wore at the French Open.

But after gathering feedback

from players, the WTA said its board of directors approved changes that will allow players out of competition for 52 weeks or longer to use their Special Ranking in 12 tournaments.

A player returning from pregnancy will have a three-year period to use her Special Ranking, which will now begin at the birth of the child.

For players who would qualify for a seeded position in the draw, the updated rule will ensure they will not face a seed in the opening rounds whether returning from pregnancy or injury.



Serena Williams celebrates a winner (file photo)

PSG give Rabiot green light to find new club

AFP | Paris

Paris Saint-Germain have decided to allow unsettled France midfielder Adrien Rabiot to leave the club at the end of the current season, when he will be a free agent, their director Antero Henrique said.

The 23-year-old with more than 150 top flight appearances has been agitating for a transfer for some time, and also snubbed a chance to be a squad member for France's World Cup winning team.

The club's patience over Rabiot's reluctance to sign a new deal snapped on Monday however.

"The club made the decision after a meeting with the player," said sporting director Henrique.

"The player told me he would not sign a new contract and wanted to leave the club as a free agent at the end of season," he said.

Henrique said Rabiot would suffer because of the decision.

"The clear consequence of this is that he will be out of the starting line up for an unlimited period," he said.



Over 64,000 people had 'liked' Pogba's cheeky message on Instagram

Aussies level India series

Australia register their first win in the longest format since ball-tampering scandal

● **Tim Paine's 'new Australian team' proves its capability to produce right results after victory in second Test**

● **Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Starc blow away lower order taking three wickets apiece**

AFP | Perth, Australia

Australia captain Tim Paine was a relieved man after his team beat India by 146 runs in Perth yesterday to level the series with their first Test win since the ball-tampering 'sandpapergate' scandal that rocked international cricket.

Set 287 to win, India resumed at 115 for five on the final day and never threatened to pull off a miraculous victory, losing their last five wickets for just 21 runs.

India were dismissed for 140, with spinner Nathan Lyon claiming 3-39 to finish with eight wickets for the match and guide the home team to a drought-breaking success, their first in seven Tests spanning almost 10 months.

It was Paine's first Test win in five matches since taking over from the suspended Steve Smith in South Africa, and also the first victory for new coach Justin Langer, coming in his hometown.

Paine, who was involved in a verbal spat with Indian counterpart Virat Kohli on the third and fourth days, said the overwhelming emotion was relief at finally being able to put a dark peri-



Manchester United's Portuguese manager Jose Mourinho leaves the pitch following the UEFA Champions League group H football match between Manchester United and Young Boys (file photo)

od in Australian cricket behind them.

"I'm relieved personally," he said.

"It's been hard work -- the first two Tests of this series have been really tough.

"We've got some inexperienced players in terms of Test matches played, to get a win like that against the best Test team in the world is going to give them a huge boost of confidence."

Kohli defends selections

Kohli defended his side's decision to play four fast bowlers instead of picking Ravindra Jadeja to replace injured spinner Ravi Ashwin.

Despite the lively and at times unpredictable wicket, Kohli said the Indians were confident they could chase down the target, but paid credit to the Australian bowlers.

"We had the belief we could do it," he said.

"They were more relentless and got the balls in the right areas for long enough."

Both captains played down the on-field banter during the match, saying it never crossed the line of what was acceptable.

Australia's previous Test win was against South Africa at St George's Park in March.

It was during the following Test at Newlands that Camer-



In March, the men's Australian team was involved in a ball-tampering scandal during and after the third Test match against South Africa in Cape Town

on Bancroft was caught using sandpaper to alter the ball and Australian cricket was plunged into turmoil.

The scandal led to lengthy suspensions from Cricket Australia for Bancroft, Smith and opener David Warner and saw Paine appointed as skipper just months after being recalled to the side.

Australia's best result in the four previous Tests since the scandal was narrowly hanging on for a draw against Pakistan in Dubai.

They had also won only six of 22 one-day internationals and Twenty20 matches since the scandal.

Paine praised the efforts of

Australia 1st innings	326 (M. Harris 70, T. Head 58; Sharma 4-41)
India 1st innings	283 (V Kohli 123, A Rahane 51; Lyon 5-67)
Australia 2nd innings	243 (Khawaja 72; Shami 6-56)
India 2nd innings	
KL Rahul b Starc	0
M. Vijay b Lyon	20
C. Pujara c Paine b Hazlewood	4
V. Kohli c Khawaja b Lyon	17
A. Rahane c Head b Hazlewood	30
H. Vihari c Harris b Starc	28
R. Pant c Handscomb b Lyon	30
U. Yadav c and b Starc	2
I. Sharma c Paine b Cummins	0
M. Shami not out	0
J. Bumrah c and b Cummins	0
Extras (b6, w3)	9
Total (all out, 56 overs)	140
Australia won by 146 runs	
Series level 1-1	

openers Aaron Finch and Marcus Harris on the first day, saying their century partnership was critical to the final result, and lauded the growing leadership of Lyon.

He said he expected Finch, who split an index finger while batting in the second innings, to be fit for the third Test in Melbourne in eight days.

Having already lost first innings centurion Kohli for 17 on the fourth day, India's hope rested on overnight batsmen Hanuma Vihari and Rishabh Pant.

However, Vihari added just four to his overnight score and fell to Mitchell Starc, who took 3-46, for 28.

The right-hander tried to flick the ball through the leg side, ballooned a simple catch to Harris at midwicket and the last four wickets followed quickly.

The last man to fall was Jasprit Bumrah, who went for a big shot but only succeeded in skying a chance back to bowler Pat Cummins.

Messi claims record fifth Golden Shoe

AFP | Barcelona, Spain

Lionel Messi collected a record fifth Golden Shoe award yesterday for finishing last season as the top goalscorer in Europe.

The striker scored 34 goals in 68 games for Barcelona, putting him ahead of Liverpool's Mohamed Salah and Tottenham's Harry Kane.

Cristiano Ronaldo, who has won the award four times, hit 26 goals in 52 matches for Real Madrid.

After being presented with his latest prize in Barcelona, Messi said: "The truth is I had no idea this would happen when I started. I dreamt of playing professional football and enjoying success, I love the game, but I never imagined I would have so much.

"I enjoy the work, the ef-



Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi poses with his five Golden Shoe awards

fort, I'm at the best team in the world and play with the best team-mates in the world, so everything is easier."

The ceremony was attended by Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu, as well as fellow players like Sergio Busquets and Sergi Roberto.

Messi also discussed Monday's Champions League draw, which pitted Barca against Lyon in the round of 16.

"Lyon will be a complicated opponent," Messi said. "Even if they are not known as one of the strongest teams, they are dangerous as they showed against

Manchester City, one of the best teams in the world.

"It will be difficult to go through, but the opportunity is there for us. We have several Frenchmen in the team like Samuel Umtiti and Malcom, who played in France, so perhaps they can help as well."

India hits out at sledging war claims during Test

AFP | Perth, Australia

India yesterday slammed "baseless" reports of a sledging showdown between rival captains Tim Paine and Virat Kohli during the second Australia-India Test.

The Indian team management strongly denied reports that Kohli had belittled Paine as just "a stand-in captain". Both skippers were warned by umpire Chris Gaffaney during the game which Australia won by 146 runs.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India said: "It is 'assumed' that Kohli said, 'I am the best player in the world and you are just a stand-in

captain'.

"These claims were based on hearsay and the BCCI would like to bring into notice that no such words were spoken on the field by Indian captain."

It added: "The BCCI got a clarification from the team management about the incident and would like to classify the reports as baseless."

Australia's win was their first in a Test since a ball-tampering scandal in March, which triggered a damning review of a win-at-all-costs team culture.

Exchanges between Kohli and Paine were picked up by stump microphones and prompted Gaffaney's call to "play the game".



Virat Kohli of India and Tim Paine of Australia bump into each other

34

goals were scored by Lionel Messi in 68 games for Barcelona, putting him ahead of Liverpool's Mohamed Salah and Tottenham's Harry Kane