

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 DAILY **tribune**



Messi claims record fifth Golden Shoe

No one can 'dictate' to China: Xi

Fin Ministry held 10 VAT workshops last week

TDI | 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.



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

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.

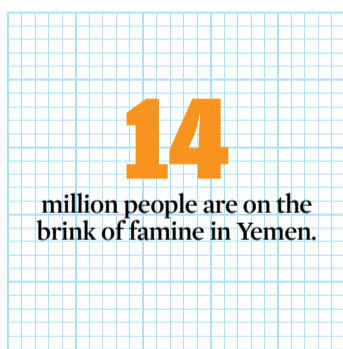
"There has been complete calm since 03:00 am Yemen time (1200 GMT) in the city of Hodeida," a military source loyal to the government told AFP on Tuesday.

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

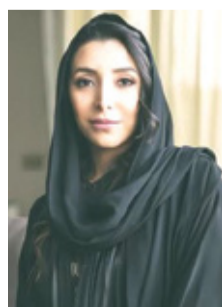
Saudi women among UK list of top innovators

Jeddah

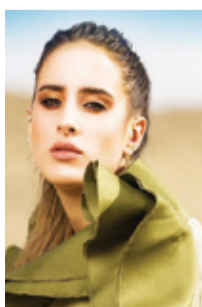
Two Saudi women have landed in a prominent top 100 list at the prestigious British Fashion Council.

Marrim Mossalli, founder and senior consultant of Saudi's luxury communications firm, Niche Arabia, and Taledah 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



Marrim



Taledah

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."

