

THE DAILY tribune



Nadal triumphs in Rome **16** SPORTS

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ahli united bank
Ramadan Prayer Timings
 Day 15
 Fajr: 03:20 AM
 Dhuhr: 11:34 AM
 Asr: 03:02 PM
 Maghrib: 06:20 PM
 Isha: 07:50 PM
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03 Gulf leaders to meet

04 Bahrain eSatisfied

Katyusha rocket crashes into Baghdad Green Zone

Baghdad, Iraq

A Katyusha rocket crashed yesterday into Baghdad's Green Zone which houses government offices and embassies including the US mission, Iraqi security services said in a statement.

The rocket -- which came after Washington ordered the evacuation of non-essential diplomatic staff from the Baghdad embassy and the Arbil consulate citing threats from Iranian-backed Iraqi armed groups -- caused no casualties, it said.

"A Katyusha rocket crashed into the Green Zone without causing casualties," it said in a brief statement without giving further details.

Bahrain, US to hold "Peace to Prosperity" workshop

TDT | Manama

Bahrain and the United States will jointly host a "Peace to Prosperity" economic workshop in Manama to encourage investment in Palestine.

The workshops, on 25 and 26 June 2019, will bring together government, civil society, and business leaders from across the region and the world to share ideas, discuss strategies, and galvanize support for potential economic investments and initiatives.

"Peace to Prosperity" will facilitate discussions for a prosperous future for the Palestinian people and the region, including enhancements to economic governance, development of human capital, and facilitation of rapid private-sector growth.

"I look forward to these im-



Shaikh Khalid

portant discussions about a vision that will offer Palestinians exciting new opportunities to realize their full potential. This workshop will engage leaders from across the entire Middle East to promote economic growth and opportunity for the people in this important region," said United States Secretary of the Treasury Steven T. Mnuchin.

"The workshop underscores the close strategic partnership between Bahrain and the United States as well as the strong and shared interest in creating thriving economic opportunities that benefit the region," said Bahrain Minister of Finance and National Economy Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

Separately, Foreign Minister, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, said that the "Peace to Prosperity" workshop will address the economic and investment needs of the Palestinian people while supporting the development of the region in general.

The Kingdom, the Minister said, will exert "all efforts that would lead to investment in infrastructure and the development of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and enable the Palestinian people to prosper."

He underlined the close partnership between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United States of America, stressing their common interest in promoting thriving economic opportunities in Palestine and the wider region.

The Foreign Minister stressed that the next stage requires all parties to join forces and integrate efforts to create a bright economic future for the benefit of all peoples in the region.

In another statement, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani, noted that Bahrain and its private sector are keen to take advantage of the opportunities that this workshop provides.

The Minister said sustainable growth requires open trade and joint strategic projects that benefit all.

Premier calls for joint action

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday called for joint action to face regional challenges, maintain security and stability and fast-track growth.

In this regard, HRH the Premier pointed out the success of the UAE which started in the era of late Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and continued by his sons.

HRH the Premier was speaking as he received yesterday members of the Royal Family, senior officials and visiting Kuwaiti journalist and Editor-in-Chief of Kuwaiti *Al-Khaleej* newspaper Ahmed Is-



HRH PM receiving Royal family members, senior officials yesterday

mail Bahbahani.

The Premier stressed deep-rooted fraternal relations between Bahrain and Kuwait, taking pride in strong ties binding both countries.

The PM lauded the key role of the Amir of Kuwait Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al

Sabah and his contributions to serving humanity and promoting peace and stability all over the world.

The Prime Minister reiterated respect of the Bahraini people for Kuwait's contribution to the development efforts in Bahrain.

Modern infrastructure key to development

TDT | Manama

HRH the Crown Prince yesterday stressed the importance of continuing to implement wide-ranging projects that further develop the Kingdom's infrastructure.

"A modern and efficient infrastructure plays a key role in attracting investments and stimulates innovation," said His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa while highlighting the important role the private sector plays in the Kingdom's infrastructure development.

"The Kingdom's major infrastructure projects represent a pillar of Bahrain's economic advancement and stimulate the creation of further jobs for citizens," said the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister.

HRH the Crown Prince was visiting the Majlis of the Commander-in-Chief of the Bah-



HRH Crown Prince during a Majlis visit yesterday

rain Defence Force, HE Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Majlis of Prince Faisal bin Mohamed bin Shuraim Al-Marri, the Majlis of Abdulla bin Hamad Al Noaimi, and the Majlis of the Al Jalahma family.

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Representative of HM the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and Chairman

of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, were present at HRH's visit to the Majlis of Prince Faisal bin Mohamed bin Shuraim Al-Marri.

Speaking on the occasion, the Crown Prince said the Kingdom's far-reaching efforts to achieve its sustainable development goals are in line with His Majesty the King's comprehensive development programme.

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa accompanied HRH the Crown Prince to the Majlis visits.

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'Ready to respond'

Reuters | Riyadh

Saudi Arabia said yesterday that it wants to avert war in the region but stands ready to respond with "all strength", telling Iran that the ball was now in its court.

Riyadh has accused Tehran of ordering Tuesday's drone strikes on two oil pumping stations in the kingdom, claimed by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group. Two days earlier, four vessels, including two Saudi oil tankers, were sabotaged off the coast of the United Arab Emirates.

"The kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not want a war in the region nor does it seek that," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel al-Jubeir told a news conference.

"It will do what it can to prevent this war and at the same time it reaffirms that in the event the other side chooses war, the kingdom will respond with all force and determination, and it will defend itself and its interests."

Saudi Arabia's King Salman on Sunday invited Gulf and Arab leaders to convene emergency summits in Mecca on May 30 to discuss implications of the attacks.

"The current critical circumstances entail a unified Gulf and Arab stance toward the besetting challenges and risks," the UAE foreign ministry said in a statement.

UAE has not blamed anyone for the tanker sabotage operation, pending an investigation. No-one has claimed responsibility, but two US government sources said last week that US officials believed Iran had encouraged the Houthi group or Iraq-based Shia militias to carry it out.

The drone strike on oil



Adel al-Jubeir

pumping stations, which Riyadh said did not disrupt output or exports, was claimed by the Houthis, who have been battling a Saudi-led military coalition in a war in Yemen since 2015.

A Norwegian insurers' report said Iran's Revolutionary Guards were "highly likely" to have facilitated the attack on vessels near the UAE's Fujairah emirate, the main bunkering hub lying just outside the Strait of Hormuz.

Saudi Prince calls Pompeo

Washington has tightened economic sanctions against Iran, trying to cut Tehran's oil exports to zero, and beefed up the US military presence in the Gulf in response to what it said were Iranian threats to United States troops and interests.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman discussed regional developments, including efforts to strengthen security and stability, in a phone call with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, the Saudi Media Ministry tweeted yesterday.

"We want peace and stability in the region but we will not sit on our hands in light of the continuing Iranian attack," Jubeir said. "The ball is in Iran's court and it is up to Iran to determine what its fate will be."



HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister visiting the Majlis of the Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force, HE Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa and, right, the Majlis of the Al Jalahma family



HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister visiting the Majlis of the Al Buainain family



HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister visiting the Majlis of Abdulla bin Hamad Al Noaimi



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister visiting the Majlis of the Al Fadhala family



HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister visiting the Majlis of the Al Rumaihi family



Acting Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Joyce Msuya, arrived in Bahrain as part of strategic visits to the Western Asia region aimed at holding high-level meetings with the UNEP partners to promote cooperation and signing agreements in support of sustainable development goals. Msuya was welcomed at Bahrain International Airport by Chief Executive of the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), Dr. Mohammed Mubarak bin Dainah, UNEP Regional Director Sami Demasi and a number of officials.



The Arabian Gulf University (AGU) Deputy President Dr Khaled Saeed Tabbara with Italian Ambassador to Bahrain Domenico Bellato. In the meeting, the Ambassador is briefed about the role played by AGU as a regional university that is collectively owned, funded and managed by the GCC States. The Ambassador was also familiarised with the medical, technical and educational majors offered by the university, in addition to its cooperation with regional and international institutions, such as the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme.

Crack down on unsafe Ramadan tents

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Northern Governorate has launched a crackdown on illegal and unsafe Ramadan tents.

Four tents, which didn't have the necessary permits, were identified so far in the governorate, according to Northern Municipality sources

No permits were issued for commercial Ramadan tents this year, said the municipality warning: "Tents should not be



A Ramadan tent

put up without the consent of relevant parties."

A permit from the civil defence, municipal council and

other relevant parties are required to set up a tent.

"Ramadan tents have significant fire risks if safety procedures are not taken," the Ministry of Interior warned.

Director of the Department of Administrative Affairs of the General Directorate of Civil Defence Colonel Talal Abdullah Al-Ghanim stressed the importance of taking precautionary measure citing the influx of people after evening prayers to these tents.

He said inspection visits are being carried out to ensure that the tents are safe. "Recognising the importance of preserving the safety of Ramadan tents, we have carried out awareness campaigns to reduce risks and accidents," he said

"Civil Defence personnel conduct inspection visits to tents and ensure that people comply with the safety requirements, and to guide them through the best standards and procedures," he said.



Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) donated untouched leftover food from its annual Ramadan staff Ghabga to the Bahrain Food Bank, a non-profit organisation that collects and distributes surplus food from hotels to needy individuals and families. Held at the Gulf Hotel, the Ghabga brought together senior BAC management and employees from across the organisation to bond and socialise outside of the workplace environment. The Ghabga also included an award segment that saw 10 team members honoured with the Employee Excellence Award in recognition of their important contributions to the overall success of the organisation. The team members who received the award were Sawsan Yusuf Albureshaid, Adel Ahmed AlDhaen and Ebrahim Juma Turabi from Airport Operations; Edit Agap, ElMuthana Salahaldin Mohamed and Sara Ahmed Ahmed from Support Services; Bader Adel Alsherawi and Ali Jaafar Moosa Ali from Development & Technical and Narjes Ali Najaf from Strategy Implementation and Business Improvement.

BIG STORY
big story

Gulf leaders to meet in Mecca for urgent talks

Bahrain welcomes Saudi Arabia's calls for urgent Gulf, Arab League meetings

Bahrain said it "highly values this call from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud" to hold two emergency summits in Mecca on May 30" to discuss recent "aggressions and their consequences" in the region



The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and its carrier group transit the Suez Canal.

TDT | Manama

Bahrain yesterday welcomed Saudi Arabia's call to hold urgent meetings of the regional Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab League to discuss escalating tensions in the region.

The Kingdom "highly values this call from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud" to hold two emergency summits in Mecca on May 30, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement to the state news agency said.

The statement affirms Bahrain's full support for all the steps taken by Saudi Arabia and appreciates "Riyadh's steadfast solidarity and its strenuous efforts to preserve the security and stability of the region and to promote Arab interests."

The wise call by the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques "affirms the leading Saudi role in cementing joint Arab action," the Ministry statement said.

Bahrain added: "It valued the Saudi keenness on enhancing collective action to overcome the delicate conditions that the GCC region is going through consultation and coordination between the GCC and Arab countries".

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has called for holding two emergency summits, one for the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and the other for the Arab leaders, in Makkah on May 30.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said King Salman had invited Gulf leaders and Arab states to discuss recent "aggressions and

their consequences" in the region.

Tensions have soared in the Gulf, with the United States deploying an aircraft carrier and bombers there over alleged threats from Iran.

Saudi foreign affairs minister Adel al-Jubeir said his country does not want to go to war with Iran, but was ready to defend its interests.

Riyadh "does not want a war, is not looking for it and will do everything to prevent it".

The United Arab Emirates "welcomed" Saudi Arabia's invitation.

The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in a statement published on state news agency WAM said, "the call for high-level meetings is reflective of the Saudi leadership's continued determination

to establish peace and security in the region."

The statement said that "critical circumstances" in the region require "a united Gulf Arab and Arab stand toward the besetting challenges and risks."

UAE described King Salman's call as a "significant opportunity for the countries of the region to achieve their aspirations for establishing peace and stability."

Four ships, including two Saudi oil tankers, were damaged in mysterious sabotage attacks last Sunday off the UAE's Fujairah, located at the crucial entrance to the Gulf.

That incident was followed by drone strikes Tuesday by Yemen's Huthis on a major Saudi oil pipeline, which provided an alternative export route if the Strait of Hormuz closed.

Iran has repeatedly threatened



Bahrain values the Saudi keenness on enhancing collective action to overcome the delicate conditions that the GCC region is going through consultation and coordination between the GCC and Arab countries

BAHRAIN'S MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

to prevent shipping in Hormuz in case of a military confrontation with the United States, which has imposed sanctions on Tehran in recent months.

Jubeir said the UAE was leading the probe into the damaged oil tankers but added that "we will make the announcements once the investigations are completed".

SPA yesterday said the Saudi crown prince spoke on the phone with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo about efforts to enhance security in the region.

Reports also said that a number of Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, have approved Washington's request to redeploy US forces in Arabian Gulf waters and territories to thwart possible Iranian attacks in the region.

Washington has sent its aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln to the Arabian Gulf. The development comes as four commercial vessels, including two Saudi oil tankers, were sabotaged near the UAE's emirate of Fujairah.

Northern Governorate gets two more 24-hour health centres

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Two additional health centres were assigned to operate on a 24-hour basis in the Northern Governorate, much to the relief of residents there.

Starting June, people in Hamad Town and Barbar will receive round the clock service from health centres.

Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al-Sabah health centre in Barbar and Mohammed Jassim Kanoo



Mohammed Jassim Kanoo Health center will operate around the clock

Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al-Sabah health centre in Barbar, Mohammed Jassim Kanoo Health Center in Hamad Town will operate 24 hours

Health Center in Hamad Town will operate 24 hours as directed by the Ministry of Health.

The move, according to ministry sources, was made considering the size of the Northern

Governorate and the number of people. Hamad Kanoo Health Center in Riffa, Muharraq Health Center, and Engineer Health Center in Isa Town are currently operating 24 hours.

The two additional health centres are expected to take some pressure off the Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC), especially during evening hours.

The Ministry is also taking various other measures to improve the situation at SMC.

At present, the accident and emergency section at SMC receives around 800 to 900 patients daily with an average waiting time of 75 minutes at the section.

The Ministry is updating its system there based on UK's 'Manchester Triage System'.

The new system will adopt a more efficient mechanism in categorising patients received based on the severity of the injuries/illnesses.

Bahrain eSatisfied

Bahrain's eGovernment services beat global satisfaction average

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

When it comes to offering high-quality eGovernment services, Bahrain is second to none. According to a new study, Bahrain has topped many advanced economies with its eService satisfaction ratings.

The study released by the University of Bahrain says that eGovernment satisfaction ratings here are above the international average.

eServices here recorded a satisfaction rate of 81 per cent, comfortably beating the international average of 78.1pc.

In the United States of America, the eGovernment satisfaction level is 77pc.

An estimated 5,000 people, individuals, government employees and business persons from all governorates, took part in the study.

The study, based on 2018 statistics, was conducted by a specialised team from the Scientific Research Center in the University of Bahrain.

Face-to-face and email interviews were used for the study which says that the percentage of awareness of services in all sectors reached 93.4pc in 2018, an increase of 7pc from 2017.

The increase was mainly attributed to the dependence on digital and social media channels for the dissemination & promotion of information & new service launches following the latest market trends.

In 2018, usage of electronic

services increased 88pc from the 2017 level of 85pc.

Rate of satisfaction of electronic services reached 81pc in 2018 compared to 77pc in 2017.

eServices offered by Civil Service department recorded the highest satisfaction with an 88pc rating. Social Insurance

eServices followed with 87pc, eTraffic Services with 85pc and the Identity Card eServices with 85pc.

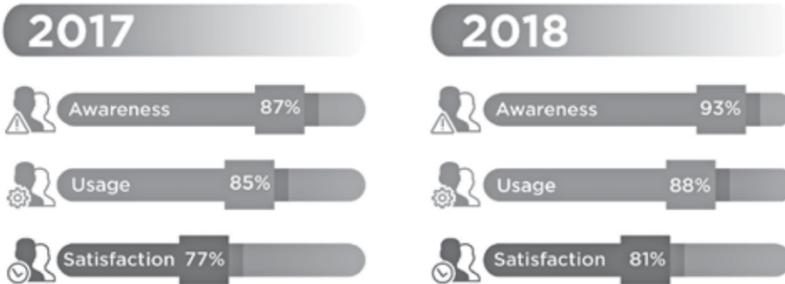
National Portal 'Bahrain.bh' for the business sector recorded 88pc approval, reflecting the government's efforts to simplify procedures and create appro-

appropriate infrastructure to attract more investments.

The study revealed that the average usage of eService channels reached 72pc in general, while the satisfaction rate of eService channels is 81pc, an increase of 3pc from the prior year.

Customer Satisfaction Index on eServices BHCSI 2017-2018

Descriptive analysis:



Customer Satisfaction Indicator:



INFORMATION & eGOVERNMENT AUTHORITY
هيئة المعلومات والحكومة الإلكترونية

'Bahraini Hezbollah' members to learn fate on June 30

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal will announce its final verdict on the "Bahraini Hezbollah" case on June 30.

The Fourth High Criminal Court convicted 91 Bahrainis in the case which has 169 suspects.

The Court stripped 138 of their nationalities while awarding others sentences ranging from three years to life imprisonments.

The suspects were accused of establishing and joining a terrorist group, as well as instigating a terrorist attack. They were also accused of conducting weapons and explosive training, possessing, obtaining, manufacturing and using explosives and firearms without a license, financing a terrorist group, transferring and receiving funds allocated to a terrorist group, and concealing weapons, ammunition and explosives.

Ninety-six suspects were

The Fourth High Criminal Court convicted 91 Bahrainis in the case which has 169 suspects.

awarded life terms by the court, which also awarded a 10-year jail term to 39 suspects, 7 to 23 suspects and 3 to seven suspects.

One of the suspects was given a five-year jail term and acquitted 30 defendants.

The court also ordered 96 suspects to pay fines of BD100,000 each and 12 suspects a BD500 fine. One of the suspects was ordered to pay BD231.8 as compensation for damages.

Court files say, the group was formed at the behest of Iranian leaders by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC).

"Bahraini Hezbollah" was formed by merging Saraya Al Ashtar (Al Ashtar Brigades), Saraya Al-Mukhtar (The Chosen Brigades) and Saraya Al Muqawama Al Sha'abya (Popular Resistance Brigades).

All of these groups have a history of committing deadly terrorist attacks here in the Kingdom.

Three men arrested for murder

TDT | Manama

Three men are facing murder charges in connection with the brutal murder of their fellow national.

The men, who were all Asians

by nationality, committed the crime as the victim failed to repay them the money he owed, according to the Public Prosecution.

Joint investigations by the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science division in Interior Ministry led to the arrest of three suspects.

The suspects confessed to investigators that they planned the ambush to kill the victim, before robbing him.

Police retrieved the weapons

Joint investigations by the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science division in Interior Ministry led to the arrest of three suspects.

used in the crime and the stolen money from the suspects' room.

Investigation leading into the arrest occurred,

when the victim was found in serious condition with severe injuries on one of the streets in the Capital Governorate.

The victim later succumbed to his injuries in the hospital.

The suspects lent the victim some money which he failed to repay, which led to the murder.

The men confessed to their crime of premeditated murder and were referred to the Public Prosecution.

The investigation is continuing to refer the case to the criminal court.

Court orders mental health assessment for tobacco smuggler

TDT | Manama

The Criminal Court has ordered the accused in a tobacco smuggling case to undergo a mental health assessment to determine if he is fit to face the trial.

Judges adjourned the trial to June 3.

The suspect was caught while attempting to smuggle tobacco worth BD25,000 into the Kingdom with the help of his brother in the Customs Department.

The banned substances were found hidden in a shipment of clothes that were being brought to Bahrain through King Fahad Causeway.

The driver of the vehicle who got suspicious about the smell coming from the ship-

The suspect was caught while attempting to smuggle tobacco worth BD25,000

ment alerted the customs officer, who at first gave the shipment a pass.

Following the tip-off, the authorities launched an investigation which led to the arrest of the second suspect who confessed to the crime and revealed his brother's role.

Following an investigation, both the accused were referred to the First High Criminal Court by the Public Prosecution.

However, during the trial, the court observed strange behaviours of the first defendant and ordered a medical examination. The defendant's lawyer told the court that the man received psychiatric assistance in 2011 and 2018.



Under the patronage of Jameel Humaidan, the minister of Labour and Social Development, Alwane Bahrain Society organised its annual Ramadhan Ghabga. Attended by Assistant Under Secretary of Community Development Khalid A. Eshaq Al Koheji, MP Masooma Abdulkareem and a number of respected guests, friends and members



Iftar meeting organised by Syms Bahrain jin association with Discover Islam at Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam. Shaikh Ishaq Mahmood Al Kooheji, Chairman of Discover Islam, was the Chief Guest

WORLD
world

Sudan protesters want civilian as head

● Talks between the current ruling military council and the protest movement over the planned transfer of power are set to resume

● The generals and protest leaders are at loggerheads over the final composition of the next ruling body

Khartoum, Sudan

Sudan's protest movement said that it is determined to have a civilian as head of a new governing council ahead of negotiations Sunday with army rulers to finalise its makeup.

Talks between the current ruling military council and the protest movement over the planned transfer of power are



Sudanese hardline cleric Mohamed Ali Jazuli speaks as supporters of Islamist movements rally in front of the Presidential Palace in downtown Khartoum

set to resume amid international pressure to return to the table after the generals suspended the negotiations earlier this week.

The Alliance for Freedom and Change, the umbrella group that brought down autocratic leader Omar al-Bashir after

months-long protests against his three-decade rule, said the talks were set to begin at 9:00 pm (1900 GMT) Sunday.

The military council had announced the previous night that the new round of talks would be held at the presidential palace in Khartoum.

"The talks will revolve around outstanding issues concerning the representation in the sovereign council and its chairmanship," the alliance said in a statement.

The generals and protest leaders are at loggerheads over the final composition of the next ruling body, the thorniest issue so far in negotiations between the two sides.

The generals insist the new body be military-led but the protest leaders are determined to have a majority civilian body.

On Sunday the protest movement said it is determined to have a "civilian sovereign council led by a civilian as its chairman and having a limited military representation".

The current military council that took power after ousting

Bashir on April 11 is headed by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the generals negotiating with protesters have previously said that Burhan would lead the new governing body too.

Before talks were suspended the two sides had agreed on several key issues, including a three-year transition period and the creation of a 300-member parliament, with two thirds of lawmakers to come from the protesters' umbrella group.

But Sunday's negotiations come against the backdrop of rising tension after hundreds of supporters of several Islamic movements rallied outside the presidential palace to reject any civilian administration deal that excludes the Islamic law sharia as its guiding principle.

The Alliance for Freedom and Change has so far remained silent on whether sharia has a place in Sudan's future, arguing that its main concern now is installing a civilian administration.



Handguns are displayed during the 45th edition of the Arms Trade Fair, in Lucerne

Swiss vote to tighten gun laws, safeguard EU relations: early results

Geneva, Switzerland

The Swiss voted yesterday to toughen their gun laws and bring them in line with EU legislation, heeding warnings that rejecting the move could have threatened relations with the bloc, early results showed. Exit polls and preliminary results released shortly after polls closed at noon (1000 GMT) indicated that voters overwhelmingly supported reforming Swiss gun laws.

According to projections by the gfs.bern polling institute, the reform received 66-per cent backing in Sunday's referendum.

A demand from the neighbouring European Union that the Swiss toughen their gun laws has prompted a rare national debate over firearm ownership in the wealthy Alpine nation, which has a deeply-rooted gun culture.

While the government has cautioned that the new legislation is crucial to the non-EU country maintaining its treaties with the bloc, the proposal sparked a fierce pushback

from the gun lobby and shooting enthusiasts, who gathered enough signatures to trigger a vote under Switzerland's famous direct democratic system.

Brussels changed its own weapons laws two years ago following a wave of deadly terrorist attacks across Europe, slapping bans on certain types of semi-automatic firearms.

While not an EU member, Switzerland is bound to the bloc through an array of intricately connected bilateral agreements.

Bern had cautioned that a "No" vote would lead to Switzerland's exclusion from the visa-free Schengen travelling region and also the Dublin accords regulating Europe's asylum-seeking process.

This would have far-reaching consequences for security, asylum and even tourism, and would cost the country "several billion Swiss francs each year," it said. The shooting enthusiasts behind Sunday's referendum meanwhile claim the government warnings are "exaggerated".

Austrian prez calls for Sept snap elections

Vienna, Austria

Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen said yesterday he wanted snap elections to take place in September after the government collapsed over a corruption scandal.

"My preference is for early elections in September, if possible the beginning of September," he told journalists after holding talks with Chancellor Sebastian Kurz. The legal procedures to fix the date will now have to take place over the coming weeks, with Van der Bellen set to hold

further talks with other party leaders.

The announcement came after a dramatic 48 hours in Austrian politics which saw far-right Vice-Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache resign in disgrace following explosive revelations in a hidden camera

sting.

On Friday, two German newspapers published footage showing Strache openly discussing the possibility of awarding public contracts in return for campaign help for his far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ).

Thousands rally in Germany against nationalism before European vote

Berlin, Germany

Thousands of people marched in cities across Germany on Sunday to protest against nationalist and far-right parties looking to secure more seats in this week's European elections.

Recent polls show far-right parties like Italy's League, Germany's Alternative for Germany (AfD) party and French leader Marie Le Pen's National Rally (RN), are expected to do well in the vote for seats in European Parliament.

Sunday's rallies brought together more than 250 organisations under the banner "Against nationalism" in several cities including Frankfurt and Berlin, where thousands marched through the capital from the symbolic Alexanderplatz to the city's Victory column.

"I am here because I don't want to relive what a national-socialist party already did during my lifetime. That should never happen again," said Renate Foigt, 74.

Tender Invitation



Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) invites Insurance Companies to submit proposal for the following:

Tender title	Tender Document Fees	Initial Bond	Tender Closing Date
Group Medical & Life Insurance	BD 50/- (Non-refundable)	BD 1000/-	Monday, 01:00 p.m 10th June 2019

Guidelines for the submission of bids:

- 1- Paying of the tender document fees should be in favour of (Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry) with effect from Monday 20th May 2019, then collection of tender documents will be from the ("Financial Affairs Department") of BCCI, which is located at the 4th floor at ("Bait Al Tijjar") BCCI headquarters in Sanabis, between 08:00 to 13:00.
- 2- The following documents are to be enclosed with the bids:
 - An initial bond in the form of a certified cheque, bank guarantee or insurance certificate.
 - A valid copy of the Commercial Registration Certificate (CR).
- 3- All the documents submitted with the tender should be stamped with the company's seal.
- 4- The successful bidder should be / become a member of BCCI.
- 5- Offers must be submitted in sealed envelopes subscribed with the title of the tender, addressed to the "CEO", "Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry" and should be submitted to ("Financial Affairs Department") before the closing date & time.
- 6- This invitation is considered as part of the tender documents.

For more details

kindly contact us on:

17380105 / 17380104

or Email:

alqallaf@bccibh

Five killed in Honduras plane crash, no survivors

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Four Canadians and an American pilot died Saturday when their small plane plunged into the sea off the Honduran island of Roatan where they were vacationing, firefighters said.

The plane crashed near the town of Dixon Cove, a few minutes after taking off from the island's airport, rescuers said.

The dead were identified as Bradley Post, Bailey Sony, Tomy Dubler and pilot Patrick Forseth. The other Canadian pilot, Anthony Dubler, briefly survived the crash but died at the Roatan hospital of his injuries.

The causes of the crash and the registration information for the aircraft were not immediately available.

UN peacekeeper killed in Mali

United Nations, United States

A Nigerian peacekeeper was killed Saturday in an attack on the United Nations' stabilization mission in Mali, the UN said.

The victim "succumbed to his wounds following the armed attack by unidentified assailants" in Timbuktu, a statement said. A Nigerian peacekeeper was also injured.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was "deeply saddened" by the assault, which he said could amount to a war crime.

India's marathon election ends

Kolkata, India

Voting ended yesterday in India's marathon election that will decide whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi gets a second term in power.

As the final polling booths closed, a huge security cordon was thrown around the voting machines and boxes of paper ballots used for the world's biggest election before the official count starts on Thursday.

Several early exit polls released by Indian media predicted that Modi's right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will lose seats but with allies would still secure a majority of the 542 seats fought.

The opposition Congress party was predicted to more than double its 2014 tally of 42 seats. The polls have in the past been notoriously unreliable, however, adding to the political jitters.

Tens of thousands of police and paramilitaries were on duty in West Bengal state -- a symbol of the mounting tensions between the BJP and opposition parties during the six weeks of voting that has focused on Modi's record since his landslide win five years ago.

Long queues formed outside polling stations across the eastern state but the BJP and its rivals again accused each other of using violence, fraud and intimidation.

An improvised bomb was thrown at one Kolkata polling station and security forces intervened to stop BJP, communist and other groups blocking different booths across the state capital that was hit by two days



Elderly Indian voter Kasturi Devi, 101, leaves helped by officials after casting her vote at a polling station in Patna

of street battles last week.

Conjoined twins Sabah and Farah voted in the city of Patna in eastern Bihar state and 102-year-old Shyam Saran Negi, who has taken part in every vote since independence in 1947, cast his ballot in mountainous Himachal Pradesh state, highlighting the huge diversity of the exer-

cise.

Modi's constituency in Varanasi, the Hindu holy city in northern Uttar Pradesh state, was also among those to vote.

\$7 billion outlay

The Delhi-based Centre for Media Studies estimates that the outlay on this election could top



Indian nuns from the Mother Teresa Missionaries of Charities queue to cast their votes at a polling station at St. Mary's School in Kolkata



Conjoined twins Sabah and Farah voted in the city of Patna in eastern Bihar

\$7 billion, making it one of the priciest contests globally -- with the lion's share of the spending by the BJP trying to woo India's 900 million eligible voters.

Lots of it has been spent on social media, with the parties using armies of "cyber warriors" to bombard India's hundreds of millions of Facebook

and WhatsApp users with messages.

Fake news and doctored images have abounded, including of Gandhi and Modi having lunch with Imran Khan, prime minister of arch rival Pakistan, or of a drunk Priyanka Gandhi, a politician and the sister of Rahul.

Ecstatic Australian conservatives bask in election glory

Sydney, Australia

Australia Prime Minister Scott Morrison yesterday basked in the glow of a "miracle" election victory that sparked praise from the US president, soul searching on the left and speculation about what policies he will pursue.

Morrison's Liberal-National coalition bucked the polls to secure a victory for the ages, but it remained unclear if he would garner enough votes to have a parliamentary majority or need to govern with the help of independents.

The latest incomplete projections from the Australian Electoral Commission yesterday showed his party at six short of the 76 seats needed for a majority in parliament.

Projections by national broadcaster ABC showed the coalition with 73 seats, and leading in the count in four others.

The 51-year-old Morrison may yet have to depend on ecologically-minded independents to pass legislation and manage deep divisions within his fractious coalition with no room for defections.

As awed Australian pundits declared Morrison a campaigning "legend", US President Donald Trump got in on the act, sending a congratulatory tweet.

The two men spoke by phone after the results came in, vowing "close cooperation on shared priorities", according to White House account of the call.



Australia's newly elected Prime Minister Scott Morrison (C) arrives to deliver a victory speech with his family after winning the Australia's general election in Sydney

Trump's allies will be quick to claim Morrison's win as another victory in the global march of populism.

But the results showed a more mixed message from an electorate that appears increasingly split on the significant issues of the day.

Brash billionaire Clive Palmer -- who explicitly styled himself on Trump in a free-spending nationwide campaign that promised to "Make Australia Great" -- appears to have failed

to win a single parliamentary seat.

Ex-prime minister Tony Abbott -- the poster boy for the right wing of the Liberal party -- was unceremoniously turfed out of office after 25 years holding the same seat, with voters opting for a green independent.

Challenging economic outlook

Despite his high political stock, Morrison may face a rocky three-year term.

First, he will have to contend

with a challenging economic outlook and figure out how to pay for a budget based on improbable growth forecasts.

After almost three decades of robust economic growth, Australia's economy is showing signs of stalling.

The central bank is widely expected to cut interest rates when it meets next month, in a bid to counter a housing market dip, stagnant wages and a weakening labour market.

Morrison finds himself in the

unusual position of having made few promises to the electorate beyond extending tax cuts.

His campaign was relentless and disciplined -- appearing on the stump before voters day-after-day to warn that the main opposition Labor party would tax voters into oblivion and that its chief, former trade union leader Bill Shorten, could not be trusted.

Enough Australians agreed, offering a clear rebuke of Shorten and his policies. But it is less

clear what they voted for.

In coal-rich Queensland, voters backed new mining projects that would bring jobs, but which are fiercely opposed in much of the rest of the country.

The divisions within Morrison's Liberals were already clear to see Sunday, with right and centrist factions racing to fill the policy void.

Some demanded an immediate loosening of rules on fossil fuel exploration, while moderates hinted at a re-think of the party's climate scepticism.

"I have to say to you on climate change, it is real. We take it very seriously," said Morrison's deputy, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg.

Inside the vanquished Labor party, Shorten's defeat and quick resignation prompted an immediate jockeying for leadership, with several party stalwarts -- including long-time contender from the party's left Anthony Albanese -- set to throw their hats in the ring.

Party officials defended their decision to set out their policies in detail -- which critics said provided Morrison with too big a target and made the vote a referendum on Shorten.

At least one other group was also licking their wounds.

Usually reliable pollsters had spectacularly failed to predict the election outcome and will be picking over the numbers for days and weeks to come to see what went wrong.

Turkey says to produce S-500s with Russia after S-400 deal



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan flashes four fingers and makes the Rabia sign as he speaks during holy month of Ramadan, at Istiklal Avenue in Istanbul.

Ankara, Turkey

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday said Turkey and Russia would jointly produce S-500 defence systems after Ankara's controversial purchase of the S-400 missile defence system from Moscow.

Turkey's push to buy the S-400s has further strained already tense relations with the United States which has repeatedly warned Ankara of the risks including sanctions as a result of the purchase.

"There is absolutely no question of (Turkey) taking a step back from the S-400s purchase. That is a done deal," Erdogan said in Istanbul.

"There will be joint production of the S-500 after the S-400," Erdogan told an audience of young people asking questions.

Ties between NATO allies Turkey and the US have frayed over multiple issues including American support for a Syrian Kurdish militia viewed as terrorists by Ankara and the US failure to extradite a Muslim preacher blamed for the 2016 coup attempt against Erdogan.

Washington says the deal with Moscow is a threat to Western defence and in April suspended deliveries of the F-35 stealth fighter jet to Turkey in a bid to halt the purchase.

Boeing acknowledges flaw

New York, United States

Boeing acknowledged Saturday it had to correct flaws in its 737 MAX flight simulator software used to train pilots, after two deadly crashes involving the aircraft that killed 346 people.

"Boeing has made corrections to the 737 MAX simulator software and has provided additional information to device operators to ensure that the simulator experience is representative across different flight conditions," it said in a statement.

The company did not indicate

when it first became aware of the problem, and whether it informed regulators.

Its statement marked the first time Boeing acknowledged there was a design flaw in software linked to the 737 MAX, whose MCAS anti-stall software has been blamed in large part for the Ethiopian Airlines tragedy.

According to Boeing, the flight simulator software was incapable of reproducing certain flight conditions similar to those at the time of the Ethiopian Airlines crash in March or the Lion Air crash in October.

The company said the lat-

est "changes will improve the simulation of force loads on the manual trim wheel," a rarely used manual wheel to control the plane's angle.

"Boeing is working closely with the device manufacturers and regulators on these changes and improvements, and to ensure that customer training is not disrupted," it added.

Southwest Airlines, a major 737 MAX customer with 34 of the aircraft in its fleet, told AFP it expected to receive the first simulator "late this year."

American Airlines, which has 24 of the aircraft, said it had ordered a 737 MAX simulator

that will be delivered and put into operation in December.

"As a result of the continuing investigation into both aircraft accidents, we are looking at the potential for additional training opportunities in coordination with the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) and Allied Pilots Association," it added.

The planes have been grounded around the world, awaiting approval from US and international regulators before they can return to service.

Only Air Canada has a MAX simulator, industry sources said.



A Boeing 787-8 from LAN Air Lines is seen on the tarmac of LAX Los Angeles airport

'Now our watch is ended': 'Game of Thrones' wraps



British actress Emilia Clarke



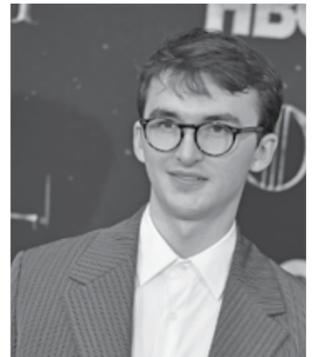
US actor Peter Dinklage



Arya Stark (Maisie Williams) in Game of Thrones



British actor Kit Harington



British actor Isaac Hempstead Wright

Los Angeles, United States

After eight epic years of chivalry, sex, death and dragons, "Game of Thrones" fans worldwide have just 79 pulsating minutes remaining Sunday to get their final fix in one of the most hotly anticipated events in TV history.

The blood-spattered tale of noble families vying for the Iron Throne has just one episode to go and buzz is at fever pitch for a ratings juggernaut that has demolished audience records like a Dothraki barbarian finishing off a skillet of horse meat.

"We want people to love it. It matters a lot to us. We've spent 11 years doing this," Dan Weiss, who directed the 73rd and final episode with fellow showrunner David Benioff, told Entertainment

ment Weekly.

While many will watch at home, perhaps with a goblet of Dornish red wine and a punnet of Braavosi cockles, thousands will celebrate and mourn the show's denouement at viewing parties in bars, banqueting halls and backyards from Alaska to Armenia. One of the darkest and most controversial prime-time series ever made, "GoT" has been the target of criticism over the years for senseless violence and its repeated use of rape as a dramatic device.

Hacked, burned, flayed

The scriptwriters have brutalized women, killed children, depicted graphic sex and had their characters hacked, stabbed, flayed, poisoned, decapitated, burned alive, eye-gouged and eviscerated -- all in glorious

close-up.

Even principal character Jon Snow (Kit Harington), whose fellow Night's Watch troops would chant "And now his watch is ended" at comrades' funerals, suffered the indignity of being briefly dead after a particularly violent quarrel.

The adult themes have not deterred fans, however, nor the industry itself, which has seen fit to make it the most decorated series in history, with 47 Emmy Awards.

Airing in 170 countries under its portentous tagline, "Winter is Coming," the show is also the most expensive ever, with a budget of \$15 million per episode in its final run.

The season seven finale set an all-time US record for premium cable TV with 16.5 million people watching live or streaming on

the day of transmission and 15 million more tuning in later.

Viewing records also tumbled across the world, with Britain's Sky Atlantic and OCS in France showing episodes in the middle of the night in sync with their US premieres. Season six was the first to move beyond the source material, George R.R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" novels, and carve its own path.

Critics said it marked a return to form, with the narrative allowing female characters to demonstrate complexity and moral agency lacking in some of the earlier seasons.

The shortened final two seasons have been more of a mixed bag, with many fans furious over what they consider poor writing.

Mass-murdering madness

Most controversial has

been the rapid descent into mass-murdering madness by Emilia Clarke's fan favorite Daenerys Targaryen, arguably the lead character in an enormous ensemble that has called on the services of such luminaries as Charles Dance, Sean Bean, Jim Broadbent and Diana Rigg.

A Change.org petition called "Remake Game of Thrones Season 8 with competent writers" had passed one million signatures with more than 24 hours to go until Sunday's finale.

Assuming there is no do-over, the biggest mystery of all remains who will be sitting on the Iron Throne and ruling Westeros when "Game of Thrones" comes to an end.

To throw hackers and pirates off the scent, Benioff and Weiss shot several versions of the final episode, a tactic already used for

"The Sopranos" and "Breaking Bad."

Sophie Turner, who plays Sansa Stark, has admitted that even she was fooled into believing a fake version of the ending.

Martin will himself discover the on-screen ending of his long-running masterwork before he has had a chance to conclude the fantasy on paper.

The plot lines for his long-awaited final two novels in the series -- "The Winds of Winter" and "A Dream of Spring" -- were adapted to the screen based on outlines Martin gave the show's writers. But there is no guarantee they will stick to his plan.

"Obviously, I wished I finished these books sooner so the show hadn't gotten ahead of me. I never anticipated that," Martin once told an interviewer.

The spirit of Ramadan extends to sharing fridges



SHELINA JANMOHAMED

Food waste actually increases during the holy month but there's a lot we can do to cut back

It's nearly half way through the holy month and I am already feeling pangs of food-related guilt. This is the reality of Ramadan, as leftovers from previous iftars build up and languish in fridges, quickly discarded as thoughts turn to the next decadent evening meal, which will itself most likely be consigned to scraps, long-forgotten at the back of a fridge shelf. And so the cycle repeats itself, 30 times over.

There are no doubt millions of fridges like this around the world, thanks to a global Ramadan food culture that focuses on big, freshly cooked, expansive banquets, lavish hospitality for guests, lots of takeaway goodies and treats and mounds of rich food. These are understandable: we are all human and after a long day's fasting, in a month that is underpinned by community and togetherness, people want to enjoy one of the highlights of Ramadan with family and friends.

However, this kind of Ramadan experience comes at a price: excessive and appalling amounts of food waste.

Ramadan should be a time when we stop focusing on food. By fasting from dawn until dusk and abstaining from any food or drink during daylight hours, we aim to be mindful of those who have far less than we do around the world. The hunger pangs that prick our stomachs act as reminders for our collective conscience of the millions globally who struggle to feed themselves or their families. Some of them might live much closer than we think, perhaps even in our own communities. The children of those families might share a classroom with our children.

Despite the exhortations about being more conscientious during Ramadan, the most shocking thing is that food waste actually rises during the holy month. Those small packages of leftovers in the fridge, the half-eaten dishes in restaurants and those varied tasters of multiple



A young girl prepares food packets to serve workers



Worker grabbing a light meal from Dubai's Ramadan sharing fridge

We need to start recognising the dissonance between what we say Ramadan is, and what we actually do during those 30 days



Workers pick up food packets from a fridge point

cuisines at iftar might feel like the perks of the month but they add up to a mountain of food waste.

According to the UAE Food Bank project, leftover food waste is expected to go up from an average of 2.7 kilograms per person daily to 4.5kg during Ramadan. The situation in Malaysia is similar, where wastage rises by a third from 15,000 tonnes per week to 20,000 tonnes. This is likely to be replicated wherever Ramadan is being observed by a large Muslim population.

We need to start recognising the dissonance between what we say Ramadan is, and what we actually do during those 30 days.

That doesn't have to mean an end to the Ramadan spirit. Instead, it is about a mindset change and small, practical ad-

justments we instigate in our homes. It's about how we plan, cook and share food.

Take the amount of time spent preparing. A study by market research firm AMRB found that nearly twice as much time was spent cooking during Ramadan than at any other time of year and that there was a 43 per cent increase in the number of dishes prepared at home during the month.

The answer? Expect fewer dishes on the table, spend less time preparing them and repurpose leftovers where possible. This would reduce the burden on whoever carries the responsibility for cooking and slash food waste. Planning ahead and realistic expectations are key.

Food waste also means environmental waste, with plastics and packaging adding up too. By buying less, this can also

be reduced.

Fundamentally, the answer is rooted in Ramadan traditions that already exist: share with those who really need the food. The increase in the amount given to charity during the month of fasting is testament to people's generosity and open-heartedness. It's also the key to re-thinking how we share our iftars. Instead of having excessive meals on our own, we can think about how to distribute it.

Initiatives like the Ramadan Sharing Fridges scheme in the UAE, where people can leave cooked food, fresh fruit and vegetables and drinks, so those in need can help themselves, is a beautiful example of a community sustaining itself and cutting back on waste. In fact, to make it even easier this year, ride-hailing app firm Careem will even come and collect food from your door to deliver to the fridges. A bit of planning ahead means that one meal and one simple act from a kind soul can bring joy to a lot more people – and isn't that the true essence of Ramadan?

(Shelina Janmohamed is the author of *Love in a Headscarf and Generation M: Young Muslims Changing the World*)

1949

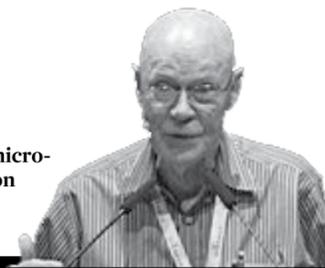
In the United States, the Armed Forces Security Agency, the predecessor to the National Security Agency, is established.

1956

In Operation Redwing, the first United States airborne hydrogen bomb is dropped over Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean.

1964

Discovery of the cosmic microwave background radiation by Robert Woodrow Wilson and Arno Penzias.



1967

The Popular Movement of the Revolution political party is established in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Today is the final phase of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. I urge all those voting in this phase to vote in record numbers. Your one vote will shape India's development trajectory in the years to come. I also hope first time voters vote enthusiastically.

@narendramodi

02



Today is the 7th and last phase of polling. Our mothers and sisters have played a key role in these elections, not just as candidates, but also as committed voters whose voices must be heard. I salute them all. #AbHo-gaNYAY

@RahulGandhi

03



Majestic and magnificent. Serene and spiritual. There is something very special about the Himalayas. It is always a humbling experience to return to the mountains.

@narendramodi

04



San Francisco police raided a journalist's home, seized his computers, phones and notebooks, and handcuffed him for six hours — all because he refused to divulge the identity of his source. Baffling to me that this isn't a bigger story.

@kenklippenstein

Protecting civilians in combat zones: tackling explosive weapons in populated areas

Many weapons originally intended for battlefield use pose serious humanitarian concerns when used in populated areas



IZUMI NAKAMITSU

Human suffering caused by war is not a new phenomenon. And while our highest priority remains the prevention of war, evolving patterns of armed violence are posing new and more difficult challenges that require action.

The number of people killed in armed conflict has risen tenfold since 2005. Conflict is migrating into villages, towns and cities, but governments and non-state actors are continuing to use weapons designed for open battlefields.

Many weapons originally intended for battlefield use, those that disperse multiple munitions over a wide area, fire without a direct line of sight to the target, or produce large blasts and fragmentation, pose serious humanitarian concerns when used in populated areas.

In 2018 alone, these "wide-area" weapons killed civilian women, men and children by the tens of thousands, both directly and by destroying critical infrastructure needed to move supplies like food and medicine.

In recent conflicts, civilians have constituted more than 90 per cent of those killed or injured by explosive weapons

In recent conflicts, civilians have constituted more than 90 per cent of those killed or injured by explosive weapons used in populated areas. Eight civilians now die in conflict for every soldier killed, a reversal of the ratio that prevailed in the early part of the twentieth century

used in populated areas. Eight civilians now die in conflict for every soldier killed, a reversal of the ratio that prevailed in the early part of the twentieth century.

In places like Afghanistan and Yemen, combatants continue to use weapons like improvised explosive devices and air-launched munitions, both of which harm people far beyond the user's line of sight.

This devastating reality demands new measures to protect civilians.

The need to protect people from war's effects—called the "humanitarian imperative"—has driven decades of international efforts to regulate warfare.

In the 70 years since the adoption of the Geneva Conventions, which established the cornerstones of international humanitarian law, global-level prohibitions have entered into force for anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions as well as chemical and biological weapons.



Yemeni firefighters douse flames following an explosion near a security post in the southern port city of Aden (file photo)



Sri Lankan security personnel keep watch outside the church premises following a blast at the St. Anthony's Shrine in Kochchikade, Colombo (file photo)



Afghan security forces gather at the site of a suicide bomb attack outside a British security firm's compound in Kabul (file photo)

Despite this progress, civilians continue to bear the brunt of conflict globally.

A number of responsible governments and armed forces have taken many steps to protect civilians from warfare, such as adjusting military doctrines, policies and rules of engagement, and some have enhanced training practices in these areas.

NATO and the African Union, for instance, have each enacted tactical directives and other policies aimed at placing limits on the use of certain heavy weapons.

The United Nations has compiled information on these practices that can serve as a basis for common standards to safeguard civilians. There needs to be a shared understanding that combatants should not use certain heavy weapons in densely populated areas as they are highly likely to cause indiscriminate harm. Affirming this understanding in a political declaration would be an important first step.

Other measures should be pursued in parallel.

Improving how we collect data on civilian casualties can further inform policy and practice. Authoritative information on the impact of these weapons will help governments meet their humanitarian commitments and weigh risks associated with arms exports.

In his agenda for disarmament issued

in 2018, Securing Our Common Future, the Secretary-General calls for new efforts to protect civilians from the urbanization of armed conflict, in particular from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. He stands ready to facilitate the development of a political declaration as well as appropriate limitations, common standards and operational policies, building on proven and existing practice.

Governments can also support these efforts by sharing more details on their practices, including through military-to-military dialogue.

Momentum for effective multilateral action is growing. In October 2018, 50 countries at the UN General Assembly jointly voiced their grave concern about the humanitarian harm caused by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

This was a clear call to accelerate our efforts in the spirit of "disarmament that saves lives," as the Secretary-General described these initiatives in his agenda for disarmament.

We need to seize this moment and act together to protect civilians from unacceptable harm caused by the urbanization of warfare. The humanitarian imperative must drive us forward with urgency.

(Izumi Nakamitsu is UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs)

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

business

Canada aims to ratify trade deal after lifting of tariffs



Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland speaks to reporters

Ottawa, Canada

Ottawa plans to proceed "full steam ahead" on ratification of a free trade agreement with the US and Mexico, Canada's foreign affairs minister said Saturday, after the neighbors scrapped reciprocal tariffs on steel and aluminum imports.

Canada had been "very clear" that as long as the tariffs were in place "it would be very hard for us to move forward with ratification," Chrystia Freeland told CBC News.

On Friday, US President Donald Trump announced the lifting of tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada and Mexico. Ottawa and Mexico City also announced the elimination of reciprocal duties.

The steep US tariffs imposed last year -- 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum -- became a major stumbling block to ratifying a new North American trade pact negotiated last year by the three countries.

With the removal of the obstacle, "our government

now intends to move forward with the ratification," of the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement, Freeland said, describing the process as progressing "full steam ahead."

However, she did not specify when the deal would be presented to Parliament, which remains in session only until June.

Freeland acknowledged that despite the lifting of the aluminum and steel tariffs, it would be "naive" to think US protectionism is no longer a threat.

"Eternal vigilance is required," she said.

Meanwhile, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said Saturday the US move to withdraw tariffs was a "triumph" for Mexico.

"It was a triumph for the Mexican government negotiators, a triumph of diplomacy. We even gave a bit of little help to the government of Canada. Not to brag," Lopez Obrador told reporters in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas.

He stressed that his administration is working toward "free trade, not a trade war."

Opposition will not back unchanged Brexit bill



Britain's opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn appears on BBC TV's The Andrew Marr Show in London

Reuters | London

The leader of Britain's opposition said he would not support Prime Minister Theresa May's new attempt to push through her Brexit bill if it was fundamentally the same as the bill that had been defeated three times before.

"We haven't seen whatever the new bill is going to be yet but nothing I've heard leads me to believe it is fundamen-

tally any different from the previous bill that has been put forward so as of now we are not supporting it," Jeremy Corbyn told the BBC's Andrew Marr show on Sunday.

May said in the Sunday Times she would present a "new bold offer" to lawmakers with "an improved package of measures" in a final attempt to get the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement Bill through parliament before she leaves office.

Bapco reaches financial close for modernisation project

Refining capacity will increase to 380,000 barrels/day from 267,000 barrels

● BMP is projected to be completed by 2022 and will increase Bapco's refining capacity to 380,000 barrels per day from 267,000 barrels

● Foundation stone of the project was laid on 5 March 2019

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco) announced reaching a financial close on its multi-billion dollar Bapco Modernisation Programme (BMP), allowing it to proceed to the next stage of the project.

BMP is projected to be completed by 2022 and will increase Bapco's refining capacity to 380,000 barrels per day from 267,000 barrels.

"I am proud of this team for securing financial close on this major project. We achieved this by assembling a strong team that worked tirelessly to secure a positive result"

SHAIKH MOHAMMED BIN KHALIFA AL KHALIFA
MINISTER OF OIL



Financing was formally secured on 20 December 2018, with BNP Paribas, HSBC Middle East and Verus Partners acting as financial advisors.

Commenting, Shaikh Mohamed bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa, the Minister of Oil, said: "I am proud of this team for securing financial close on this major project. We achieved this by assembling a strong team that worked tirelessly to secure a positive result."

For his part, Dr Dawood Nasif Bapco Board Director and Chairman of BMP Steering Committee added: "We are pleased to reach the financial close of this vital project and we look eagerly to move forward with the implementation phase which will contribute to Bapco's position as one of the most competitive refineries."

Foundation stone of the project was laid on 5 March 2019 in a ceremony held under the patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister and in presence of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince Deputy Supreme Commander

First Deputy Premier.

Bapco assembled five export credit agencies (ECAs) and a syndicate of 21 commercial banks to finance the project.

Financing was formally secured on 20 December 2018, with BNP Paribas, HSBC Middle East and Verus Partners acting

Ebrahim K. Kanoo summer discounts

TDT | Manama

Ebrahim K. Kanoo, the sole distributor of Michelin tyres in Bahrain, announced the launch of its 'Michelin Rewards' summer campaign.

The programme offers special discounts on Michelin tyres and free wheel alignment services at all TyrePlus branches in Bahrain.

From the 1st of May until 31st of July, 25 per cent discount will be offered for purchasing four Michelin tyres for cars, SUVs and light trucks.

Free shopping vouchers will be offered along with from City Centre Bahrain valued at BD10 for rim sizes between

13 to 15 inches, BD15 for sizes between 16 to 18 inches, and BD30 for sizes between 19 to 22 inches. Free wheel alignment inspection services are offered at TyrePlus branches in Tubli, Muharraq, Nuwaidrat and Sitra.

Ebrahim K. Kanoo Tyre Division and TyrePlus Senior Manager, Ahmed Saeed said: "This offer will be available throughout Bahrain's hottest period so it gives car owners an excellent opportunity to ensure their peace of mind."

The offer will be valid at all participating outlets from the 1st of May until the 31st of July, or while stocks last.

KFH names Adeela Saleh winner of Durrat Marina apartment



The prize distribution ceremony

TDT | Manama

Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain (KFH-Bahrain) has announced Adeela Saleh Ameen as the Grand Prize winner of a luxury furnished apartment at Durrat Marina, alongside 60 winners for the April 2019 draw for the 'Libshara' Savings Account.

The draw took place at KFH-Bahrain's headquarters at Bahrain World Trade Centre.

On the occasion, Subah Al Zayani, Deputy Head of Retail Banking Group at KFH congratulated Adeela Saleh Ameen for winning the 2nd luxury furnished apartment, including service costs for 2 years, at the iconic waterside development Durrat Marina;

located near the luxurious Durrat Al Bahrain."

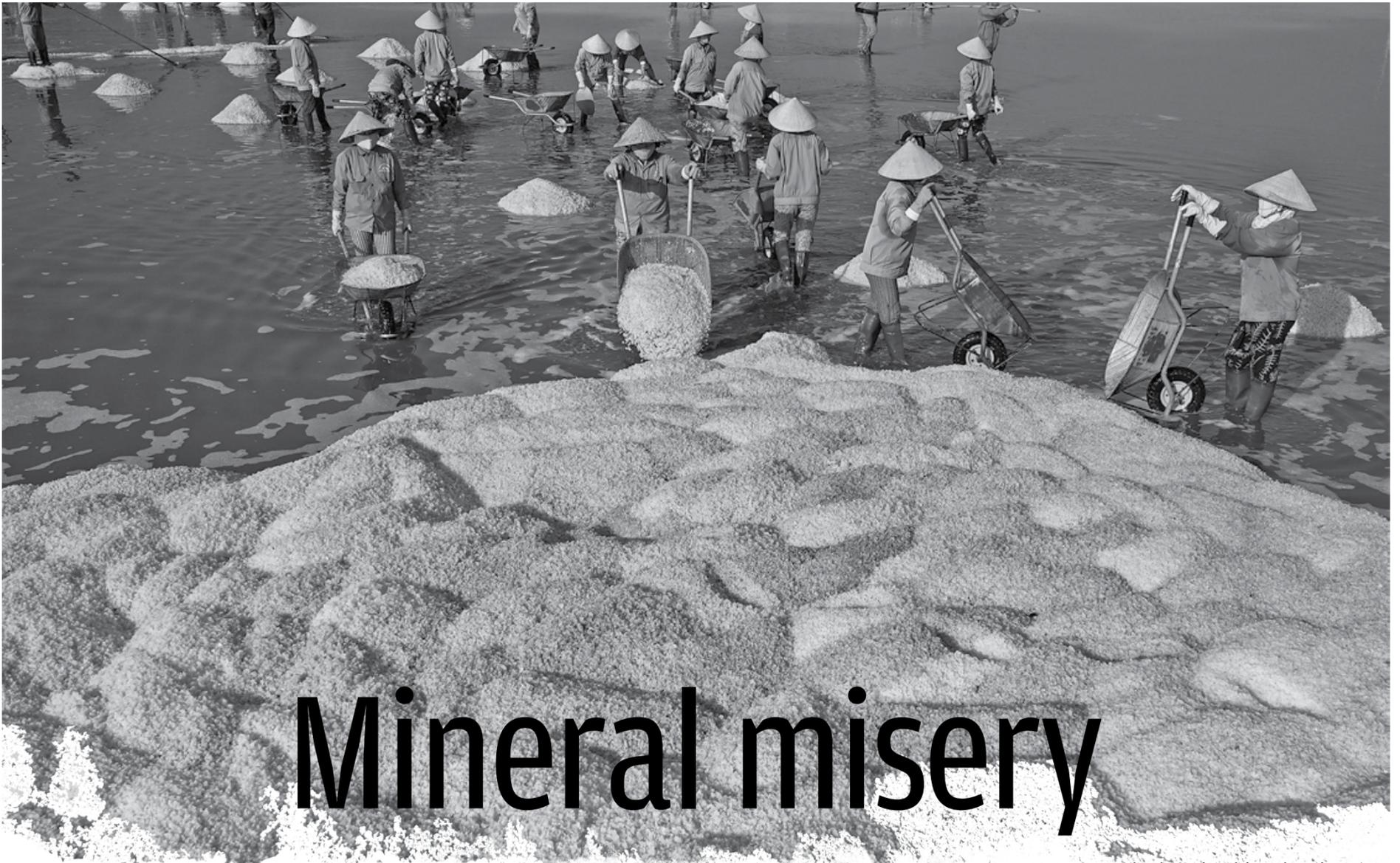
Adeela Saleh Ameen, said, "I truly never imagined to win a Grand Prize, or expected to win this luxurious apartment in Durrat Marina."

The 2019 Libshara prizes include, 6 grand luxury apartment prizes at Durrat Marina, 6 grand cash prizes of \$50,000, as well as every month sixty lucky monthly winners will receive an amount of \$500 each for the special segment categories.

KFH said it has also collaborated with "VIVA" Telecommunications Company to present 10 monthly vouchers worth \$500 for small and medium enterprises upon spending BD50 or more on corporate services, in addition to other cash prizes.



Al Baraka Islamic Bank (AIB - Bahrain) yesterday announced the names of the winners of alBarakat Account Raffle Draw for May 2019. Amongst a total of 82 winners for May 2019, Yousif Mahmood AlAlawi won the Monthly Grand Prize of BD 10,000, while Isa Ali Abdulrahman Janahi was drawn as the winner of the One Year Salary of BD 555 Per Month.



Mineral misery

Vietnam salt farmers battered by imports, climate

Workers harvesting salt in southern Vietnam's Hon Khoi salt fields.

Hon Khoi, Vietnam

The salt farmers of Hon Khoi rise before dawn as they have for generations, fanning out across shallow seawater pools in southern Vietnam to harvest the precious mineral, hoping for a better season than the last.

The work is punishing and the incomes unstable, subject to seesawing demand swayed by foreign imports, and increasingly unpredictable weather patterns.

Many people in the sleepy seaside town in Khanh Hoa province have worked much of their lives in the salt fields -- an Instagram hotspot where workers wearing conical hats ferry mountains of the saline crystals in bamboo baskets along reflective ponds against a setting sun.

They shuffle carefully along narrow ledges separating the rectangular plots that are pumped full of salty seawater.

But

the farmers say life is tough on the fields where they toil during the annual harvesting season from January to June.

"This job is no fun at all, we have to work so hard in the sun and then during the cool season we are off," said Nguyen Thanh Lai, his tan skin weathered from nearly four decades working in the fields.

He sells his harvest to local traders who pass it up the value chain until it reaches dining tables or factories around Vietnam, where it is used to preserve fish, concoct Southeast Asia's popular, pungent fish sauce, or make soda water.

Lai has long struggled to raise his five kids, but he says both demand and market price used to be more reliable.

"In the past we didn't make losses in salt production, now there are losses," the 60-year-old told AFP, wearing two hats to shield from the searing morning sun.

As technical supervi-

sor, he typically earns around \$360 a month during the harvesting season -- more than double what most salt workers take home.

But his income zigzags depending on demand, which itself fluctuates based on imports from abroad.

Climate woes

Vietnam produced about one million tonnes of salt in 2015, according to the latest official data, and often clocks surpluses, but it still ships salt in, mostly from China and India.

The country imported 500,000 tonnes of the mineral in 2017 despite a 147,000-tonne surplus of domestic pro-

duction.

The imported product is of a quality required for industrial use, something the local salt is not always suitable for.

Officials at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development did not respond to AFP's requests for comment.

But unpredictable demand is not all Viet-

nam's salt farmers are up against. In Hon Khoi -- a popular tourist destination for throngs of visitors who pack its white sandy beaches -- farmers are also contending with climate change.

Shifting weather patterns have upended work in an industry that depends on sunny, dry days for maximum production.

"If the weather is good, we can work for six months. If it rains, we all go hungry," said Nguyen Quang Anh, who has laboured in the fields for two decades.

"Climate change really has had an impact because salt production needs stable weather," the 57-year-old farmer said.

The UN says climate change has "undermined" the lives of farmers in Vietnam, where the wet season has come earlier or brought in heavier rains in recent years.

"In Vietnam and elsewhere, climate change has put weather in flux. When you can no longer plan for the future, you can only hope,"

said Dechen Tsering, UN Environment's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific.

Vietnamese authorities vowed to reform the sector in 2014, rolling out a 15-year plan to modernise the industry in a bid to help struggling farmers like Anh.

The blueprint called for production to triple by 2030, promised new technology, and called on local officials to support farmers hit by fluctuating weather patterns.

Few have felt the impact of the plan -- or ever heard about it -- in Hon Khoi, where the salt industry remains the main employer. That means many are taking a gamble on the sector.

"Sometimes I'm nervous, but I'm in the business so I have to accept the risks," said Nguyen Van Vinh, who just started working in the fields this season to supplement his income running a small stationery shop.



A worker harvesting salt in southern Vietnam's Hon Khoi salt fields.

Saudi, UAE see sufficient oil supplies



The members of the OPEC+ group posing for a picture following the meeting in the Saudi city of Jeddah

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Oil supplies were sufficient and stockpiles were still rising despite massive output drops from Iran and Venezuela, said Saudi Arabia and key producer UAE yesterday, as oil exporters met in Jeddah.

Producer nations gathered to discuss how to stabilise a volatile oil market amid rising US-Iran tensions in the Gulf, which threaten to disrupt global supply.

But “we see that (oil) inventories are rising and supplies are plenty,” Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih told reporters at the start of the meeting.

“None of us wants to see the

“**We see that (oil) inventories are rising and supplies are plenty. None of us wants to see the (oil) stocks swell again**”

KHALID AL-FALIH
SAUDI ENERGY MINISTER

(oil) stocks swell again,” he added, with reference to a supply surplus that sent prices sharply

lower in the second half of last year.

“We have to be cautious,” Falih said.

The UAE’s energy minister said there was no need to relax a deal by the OPEC+ group of oil exporting countries to cut output by 1.2 million barrels per day to support prices.

“We have seen inventory building. I don’t think it makes sense” to alter the existing deal, said Suheil al-Mazrouei.

The meeting comes days after sabotage attacks against tankers in highly sensitive Gulf waters and the bombing of a Saudi pipeline -- the latter claimed by Iran-aligned Yemeni rebels.

But Falih reiterated Sunday that the kingdom’s oil installations were well protected.

“We have strong (oil) industry security”, he told reporters.

“Everybody is vulnerable to extreme acts of sabotage.”

The meeting also comes as the full impact of re-instated US sanctions against Tehran kick in, slashing the Islamic republic’s crude exports.

Iran exports tumble

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said it was “premature” to talk about extending the deal, according to Interfax news agency.

Massive drops in exports by

Iran and Venezuela come alongside output cuts of 1.2 million barrels per day implemented by the OPEC+ group since January.

The International Energy Agency said earlier this month that global oil supply fell in April due to the effect of US sanctions on Iran and the OPEC+ production cuts.

The IEA said Iranian crude production fell in April to 2.6 million bpd, down from 3.9 million bpd in May 2018. It would withdraw from the multilateral 2015 Iran nuclear deal and re-impose sanctions.

Iran’s output is already at its lowest level in over five years, but could tumble in May to levels not seen since the devastat-

ing 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

Energy intelligence firm Kpler sees Iranian exports plunging from 1.4 million bpd in April to around half a million bpd in May -- down from 2.5 million in normal circumstances.

Venezuela’s output -- also subject to US export sanctions -- is also tumbling, down by over half since the third quarter of last year.

Kpler data shows OPEC+ members have kept to agreed production cuts.

But exporters fear a rush to raise production to plug the gap left by Iranian exports could backfire, triggering a new supply glut.



ASRY, the Arabian Gulf’s leading maritime repair and fabrication facility, held a Gergaoun with the participation of parents and children from AbdulRahman Bin Jassim Kanoo Parents Club

Gulf Air resolves crew transportation dispute

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air, the national carrier of Bahrain, said yesterday it resolved a crew issue on Saturday without disrupting normal operations in an hour.

The issue emerged following a ‘minor internal dispute within a contracted company’, a Gulf Air statement said.

The dispute resulted in halting the services provided to transport crew back and forth from the Gulf Air headquarters to the main terminal at the Bahrain International Airport in air-conditioned buses by the company.

The issue, Gulf Air statement said, caused due to a minor internal dispute within the contracted company with no liability to Gulf Air.

“No flight delays occurred due to this and our diligent and hardworking pilots and crew found alternative methods of transportation to the

“**No flight delays occurred due to this and our diligent and hardworking pilots and crew found alternative methods of transportation to the airport terminal to ensure no passengers were affected**”

GULF AIR SAID

airport terminal to ensure no passengers were affected,” the statement said.

This dispute was resolved within one hour by the intervention of the management to ensure smooth operations.



Executive and Management teams of Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) with employees and contractors during an ongoing “Safety in Special Times” Campaign. Speaking on this occasion, Alba’s deputy Chief Executive Officer, Ali Al Baqali, said: “Through these after-iftar visits, we look forward to spending quality time with our employees and boost their morale, while at the same time help them stay focused on Alba’s overarching Safety objectives.”

SHOW

OASIS JUFFAIR

1-DE DE PYAAR DE (15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
 * AJAY DEVGN, TABU, RAKUL PREET SINGH
 DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM

2-UGLY DOLLS (PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE) NEW
 * EMMA ROBERTS, KELLY CLARKSON, GABRIEL IGLESIAS
 DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 11.15 PM

3-A DOG'S JOURNEY (PG-13) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA) NEW
 * DENNIS QUAID, BETTY GILPIN, ABBY RYDER FORTSON
 DAILY AT (VIP): 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

4-MR. LOCAL (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW
 * SIVA KARTHIKEYAN, NAYAN THARA, RAADHIKA
 FROM FRIDAY 17TH
 DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM

5-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW
 * BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
 DAILY AT: 1.30 + 5.00 + 8.30 PM + 12.00 MN
 DAILY AT (3D): 10.30 AM + 4.45 + 11.00 PM

6-STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2 (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/COMEDY/DRAMA)
 * TIGER SHROFF, TARA SUTARIA, ANANYA PANDEY
 DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM

7-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)
 * COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO
 DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 2.45 + 9.00 PM

8-MAHARSHI (PG-13) (TELUGU)
 * MAHESH BABU, POOJA HEGDE, ALLARI NARESH
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.30 + 4.45 + 8.00 + 11.15 PM

9-UYARE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)
 * PARVATHY THIRUVOTH, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS
 DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.15 + 5.45 + 8.15 + 10.45 PM

10-ORU YAMANDAN PREMA KATHA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)
 * DULQUER SALMAN, SOUBIN SAHIR, SAMYUKTHA MENON
 DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 2.00 + 5.15 + 8.30 + 11.45 PM

11-ATHIRAN (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)
 * FAHADH FAZIL, SAI PALLAVI, ATUL KULKARNI
 DAILY AT: 2.00 + 8.15 PM

CITYCENTRE

1-DE DE PYAAR DE (15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
 * AJAY DEVGN, TABU, RAKUL PREET SINGH
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 PM + 12.00 MN

2-UGLY DOLLS (PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE) NEW
 * EMMA ROBERTS, KELLY CLARKSON, GABRIEL IGLESIAS
 DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN

3-A DOG'S JOURNEY (PG-13) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA) NEW
 * DENNIS QUAID, BETTY GILPIN, ABBY RYDER FORTSON
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN

4-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW



* BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
 DAILY AT (ATMOS): 12.30 + 4.00 + 7.30 + 11.00 PM
 DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 1.30 + 8.30 PM
 DAILY AT (IMAX 2D): 10.15 AM + 5.00 PM + 12.00 MN
 DAILY AT (VIP I): 12.15 + 3.45 + 7.15 + 10.45 PM
 DAILY AT (VIP II): 1.15 + 4.45 + 8.15 + 11.45 PM
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 12.00 + 3.00 + 3.30 + 6.30 + 7.00 + 10.00 + 10.30 PM

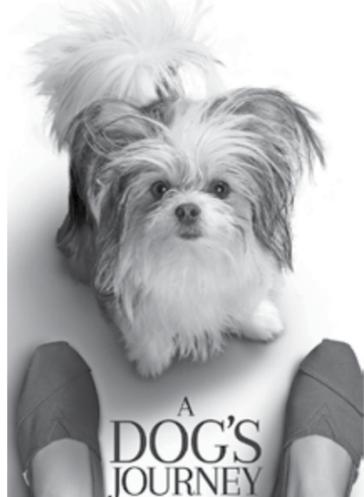
5-STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2 (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/COMEDY/DRAMA)
 * TIGER SHROFF, TARA SUTARIA, ANANYA PANDEY
 DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN

6-BRIGHTBURN (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR)
 * ELIZABETH BANKS, DAVID DENMAN, JACKSON A. DUNN
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM + 12.30 MN

7-LONG SHOT (15+) (COMEDY/ROMANTIC)
 * CHARLIZE THERON, SETH ROGEN, JUNE DIANE RAPHAEL
 DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM

8-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)
 * COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO
 DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

Some friendships transcend lifetimes.



A DOG'S JOURNEY

9-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)
 * ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL
 DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

10-WONDER PARK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
 * BRIANNA DENSKI, JENNIFER GARNER, KEN HUDSON CAMPBELL
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM

11-ESCAPE ROOM (PG-15) (THRILLER)
 * TAYLOR RUSSELL, LOGAN MILLER, DEBORAH ANN WOLL
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

12-THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER)
 * LINDA CARDELLINI, RAYMOND CRUZ, PATRICIA VELASQUEZ
 DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM

13-CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)
 * BRIE LARSON, GEMMA CHAN, SAMUEL L. JACKSON
 DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.15 + 4.45 + 7.15 + 9.45 PM + 12.15 MN

14-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA)
 * LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN

15-THE UPSIDE (PG-15) (COMEDY/DRAMA)
 * KEVIN HART, BRYAN CRANSTON, NICOLE KIDMAN
 DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.30 + 9.15 PM

16-NADI ELREGAL EL SERI (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)
 * KARIM ABDULAZIZ, GHADA ADEL, MAJDE ALKIDDAWI
 DAILY AT: 2.15 + 7.00 + 11.45 PM

SEEF (II)

1-UGLY DOLLS (PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE) NEW
 * EMMA ROBERTS, KELLY CLARKSON, GABRIEL IGLESIAS
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

2-A DOG'S JOURNEY (PG-13) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA) NEW
 * DENNIS QUAID, BETTY GILPIN, ABBY RYDER FORTSON
 DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

3-THE CONVENT (PG-13) (HORROR) NEW
 * MICHAEL IRONSIDE, ROSIE DAY, CLARE HIGGINS
 DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.15 + 4.15 + 6.15 + 8.15 + 10.15 PM + 12.15 MN

4-CONTRACT TO KILL (PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER) NEW
 * STEVEN SEAGAL, RUSSELL WONG, JEMMA DALLENDER
 DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN

5-LIZZIE (18+) (DRAMA/CRIME/BIOGRAPHY) NEW
 * CHLOE SEVIGNY, KRISTEN STEWART, JAMEY SHERIDAN
 DAILY AT: 2.15 + 6.45 + 11.15 PM

6-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)
 * BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
 DAILY AT: 1.15 + 4.45 + 8.15 + 11.45 PM
 DAILY AT (3D): 12.15 + 3.45 + 7.15 + 10.45 PM

7-STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2 (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/COMEDY/DRAMA)
 * TIGER SHROFF, TARA SUTARIA, ANANYA PANDEY
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM

8-BRIGHTBURN (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR)
 * ELIZABETH BANKS, DAVID DENMAN, JACKSON A. DUNN
 DAILY AT: 2.15 + 6.45 + 11.15 PM

9-LONG SHOT (15+) (COMEDY/ROMANTIC)
 * CHARLIZE THERON, SETH ROGEN, JUNE DIANE RAPHAEL
 DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.15 + 8.45 PM

10-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)
 * COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM

11-NADI ELREGAL EL SERI (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY)
 * KARIM ABDULAZIZ, GHADA ADEL, MAJDE ALKIDDAWI
 DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.30 + 9.00 PM

SEEF (I)

1-DE DE PYAAR DE (15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
 * AJAY DEVGN, TABU, RAKUL PREET SINGH
 DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

2-MR. LOCAL (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW
 * SIVA KARTHIKEYAN, NAYAN THARA, RAADHIKA
 FROM FRIDAY 17TH
 DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM

3-MONSTER (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW
 * S.J. SURYA, PRIYA BHAVANI SHANKAR, KARUNAKARAN
 FROM FRIDAY 17TH
 DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM

4-MAHARSHI (PG-13) (TELUGU)
 * MAHESH BABU, POOJA HEGDE, ALLARI NARESH
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 2.15 + 5.30 + 8.45 PM + 12.00 MN

5-UYARE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)
 * PARVATHY THIRUVOTH, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN

6-KEE (PG-15) (TAMIL)
 * JIIVA, GOVIND PADMASOORYA, NIKKI GALRANI
 DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM

SAAR

1-DE DE PYAAR DE (15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
 * AJAY DEVGN, TABU, RAKUL PREET SINGH
 DAILY AT: 8.15 + 11.00 PM

2-UGLY DOLLS (PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE) NEW

* EMMA ROBERTS, KELLY CLARKSON, GABRIEL IGLESIAS
 DAILY AT: 7.15 + 9.45 PM

3-A DOG'S JOURNEY (PG-13) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA) NEW
 * DENNIS QUAID, BETTY GILPIN, ABBY RYDER FORTSON
 DAILY AT: 7.30 + 11.45 PM

4-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)
 * BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
 DAILY AT: 7.30 + 11.00 PM

5-BRIGHTBURN (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR)
 * ELIZABETH BANKS, DAVID DENMAN, JACKSON A. DUNN
 DAILY AT: 11.45 PM

6-LONG SHOT (15+) (COMEDY/ROMANTIC)
 * CHARLIZE THERON, SETH ROGEN, JUNE DIANE RAPHAEL
 DAILY AT: 9.15 PM

AL HAMRA

1-MR. LOCAL (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW
 * SIVA KARTHIKEYAN, NAYAN THARA, RAADHIKA
 FROM FRIDAY 10TH
 DAILY AT: 5.45 PM + (12.00 MN FRI)

2-MONSTER (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE) NEW
 * S.J. SURYA, PRIYA BHAVANI SHANKAR, KARUNAKARAN
 FROM FRIDAY 17TH
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM

3-MAHARSHI (PG-13) (TELUGU)
 * MAHESH BABU, POOJA HEGDE, ALLARI NARESH
 DAILY AT: 2.30 + 8.45 PM

WADI AL SAIL

1-DE DE PYAAR DE (15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW
 * AJAY DEVGN, TABU, RAKUL PREET SINGH
 DAILY AT: 9.00 + 11.45 PM

2-UGLY DOLLS (PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE) NEW
 * EMMA ROBERTS, KELLY CLARKSON, GABRIEL IGLESIAS
 DAILY AT: 7.45 + 9.45 PM

3-A DOG'S JOURNEY (PG-13) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA) NEW
 * DENNIS QUAID, BETTY GILPIN, ABBY RYDER FORTSON
 DAILY AT: 8.45 + 11.00 PM

4-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)
 * BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
 DAILY AT: 11.30 PM

5-BRIGHTBURN (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR)
 * ELIZABETH BANKS, DAVID DENMAN, JACKSON A. DUNN
 DAILY AT: 11.45 PM

6-STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2 (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/COMEDY/DRAMA)
 * TIGER SHROFF, TARA SUTARIA, ANANYA PANDEY
 DAILY AT: 8.30 PM

7-MAHARSHI (PG-13) (TELUGU)
 * MAHESH BABU, POOJA HEGDE, ALLARI NARESH
 DAILY AT: 8.00 + 11.15 PM

8-UYARE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)
 * PARVATHY THIRUVOTH, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS
 DAILY AT: 9.00 + 11.30 PM

MOVIE REVIEW

Can You Ever Forgive Me?: an enjoyable real-life caper

Can You Ever Forgive Me? is a 2018 American biographical film directed by Marielle Heller and with a screenplay by Nicole Holofcener and Jeff Whitty, based on the confessional memoir of the same name by Lee Israel.

Melissa McCarthy stars as Israel, and the story follows her attempts to revitalize her failing writing career by forging letters from deceased authors and playwrights.

The film also features Richard E. Grant, Dolly Wells, Jane Curtin, Anna Deavere Smith, Stephen Spinella, and Ben Falcone in supporting roles. Israel took the title from an apologetic line in a letter in which she posed as Dorothy Parker.

Can You Ever Forgive Me? received critical acclaim, with McCarthy and Grant's performances receiving widespread praise.

On review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 98% based



Richard E Grant and Melissa McCarthy in Can You Ever Forgive Me

on 280 reviews, with an average rating of 8.2/10. The website's critical consensus reads, "Deftly directed and laced with dark wit, Can You Ever Forgive Me? proves a compelling showcase for deeply affecting work from Richard E. Grant and Melissa McCarthy."

On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 87 out of 100, based on 53 critics, indicating "universal acclaim". Film Journal International

said McCarthy's performance was "stunning" and her previous film roles "could not anticipate how fearlessly and credibly she inhabits [sic] Lee Israel."

Eric Kohn of IndieWire said the film was a "charming melancholic comedy" where "Heller channels the dark urban milieu of vintage Woody Allen", and in which McCarthy's performance "elevates the material at every opportunity."

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DAISE GEORGE S/O K O VARKEY, holding Indian Passport No. **Z2106043**, dated 03.05.2012 issued at **BAHRAIN** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **KOORMATTATHIL HOUSE, KOOVAPPALLY P.O. KOTTAYAM DISTRICT, KERALA PIN - 686518**, presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) **Flat No. 1, Building No. 1637, Road No. 3737, Block 337, UM Al Hassam**, will henceforth be known as (Given name) **DAISE** (Surname) **GEORGE**. Objection(s) if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O Box 26106, Bldg 1090, Road 2819, Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

I, LEENA JACOB W/O DAISE GEORGE, holding Indian Passport No. **K6329986**, dated 29.09.2013 issued at **BAHRAIN** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **KOORMATTATHIL HOUSE, KOOVAPPALLY P.O. KOTTAYAM DISTRICT, KERALA PIN - 686518**, presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) **Flat No. 1, Building No. 1637, Road No. 3737, Block 337, UM Al Hassam**, will henceforth be known as (Given name) **LEENA** (Surname) **JACOB**. Objection(s) if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O Box 26106, Bldg 1090, Road 2819, Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

I, DAISE GEORGE, Father of DELNA MARIA DAISE, holder of Indian passport NO. **P5408270**, issued at **COCHIN** on 28.12.2016, permanent resident of **KOORMATTATHIL HOUSE, KOOVAPPALLY P.O., KOTTAYAM PIN: 686518, KERALA, INDIA** (full postal address in India to be given) and presently residing at **FLAT NO. 1, BUILDING NO. 1637, ROAD NO. 3737, BLOCK 337, UM AL HASSAM**, (full postal address in Bahrain) do hereby change my daughter name as (given name) **DELNA MARIA** (surname) **DAISE**. Objection(s), if and may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P. O. Box 26106, Al-Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

I, NAIM AKHTAR S/O SHERUDADIN, holding Indian Passport No. **Z2386813**, dated 12.11.2014 issued at **BAHRAIN** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **OLD H. NO. 198/2, NEW H NO. 263, KALYAN SINGH, MAWANA, MEERUT, U.P.**, presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) **BUILDING NO - 2048, ROAD 206, BLOCK NO - 1033, MALKIYA**, will henceforth be known as (Given name) **NAIM** (Surname) **AKHTAR**. Objection(s) if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O Box 26106, Bldg 1090, Road 2819, Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

I, DAISE GEORGE, Father of DELVIN GEO DAISE, holder of Indian passport no. L4931395, issued at **BAHRAIN** on 22.06.2014, permanent resident of **KOORMATTATHIL HOUSE, KOOVAPPALLY P.O. KOTTAYAM DT., KERALA - 686518**, (full postal address in India to be given) and presently residing at **FLAT NO. 1, BUILDING NO. 1637, ROAD NO. 3737, BLOCK 337, UM AL HASSAM**, (full postal address in Bahrain) do hereby change my son name as (given name) **DELVIN** (surname) **DAISE**. Objection(s), if and may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P. O. Box 26106, Al-Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

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Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI)'s Ramadan Majlis



BisB's Team "Jood" distribute packages to drivers

TDT | Manama

More than forty employees from Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) "Team Jood" recently volunteered their time taking part in the Bank's annual campaign entitled "Iftar on the Road" offering fasting drivers caught

in the pre-Iftar rush a packaged box containing essential traditional snacks, enabling them to break their fast. The campaign took place on Friday just before the Sunset Prayer Time, wherein more than 1400 meals were distributed across four key traffic junctions of the island.



US Embassy's Annual Youth Iftar



Bahrain Medical Society (BMS)'s Ramadan gathering for doctors



SPORTS

sports



Repsol Honda Team's Spanish rider Marc Marquez competes in the lead during the MotoGP race

Marquez takes French MotoGP for Honda 300-win landmark

AFP | Le Mans, France

Spain's defending world champion Marc Marquez won the French MotoGP at Le Mans yesterday, racking up Honda's 300th victory in the division and completing a memorable family double after younger brother Alex took the Moto2 race.

It was Marquez's 47th top level Grand Prix win and third of the season, finishing ahead of Italian pair Andrea Dovizioso and Danilo Petrucci of Ducati.

For Japanese manufacturer Honda it was a 300th elite class victory, 53 years after Jim Redman secured their first. Starting from pole, five-time MotoGP world champion Marquez won by almost two seconds from Dovizioso and now leads overall standings after five rounds by eight points from the Italian Ducati rider.

He is 20 points ahead of Alex Rins, the Suzuki rider who was down in 10th yesterday, while Italian veteran Valentino Rossi of Yamaha -- fifth in the race -- is fourth on 72 points.

"It's always difficult at Le Mans," Marquez said of the winding Bugatti circuit.

One rider who might agree with him is Spain's Maverick Vinales, who ended up slid-

ing out on the second factory Yamaha after a tangle with Francesco Bagnaia.

Earlier in the day, Alex Marquez won the Moto2 race ahead of fellow Spaniards Jorge Navarro and Augusto Fernandez while championship leader Lorenzo Baldassarri crashed out.

It was the 23-year-old's fourth career win and first since 2017.

"I'm happy to win but even happier because my brother won in Moto 2," said Marc Marquez after completing the family double.

"When I saw that I said to myself 'you have to win too because it would be a great day for the family'."

"He has experienced hard times and it is not always easy to be 'the brother' as it always gives the extra pressure.

"It was important that he got another victory a year and a half after the last."

Despite winning three of the season's five races, Marc Marquez insisted that he was not frustrated to still have such a narrow advantage in the world championship race.

"No because there was one race where I scored zero points," said the Spaniard in a nod to his failure to finish the Grand Prix of the Americas.

“Dovi” is doing a very good job and he is still in the top five. This is the way to fight a championship and he will be a tough opponent this year

MARC MARQUEZ

Messi increases goal haul as Barca draw with Eibar

Lionel Messi hits 50 goals for Barcelona as Real Madrid ends season to forget

AP | Barcelona

Lionel Messi scored twice to hit the 50-goal mark for the sixth time in his career yesterday while Real Madrid put a fittingly poor ending to its worst season in recent memory after losing in the final round of the Spanish league.

Messi scored his 49th and 50th goals in all competitions this season to give Barcelona a 2-2 draw at Eibar and finished as the league's top scorer with 36 goals for the Spanish champions.

Barcelona, which had clinched the league title with three rounds to play, will now look to also retain the Copa del Rey title next weekend when it faces Valencia. Its chance of a rare treble of major titles was ended by Liverpool in the Champions League semifinals.

Jeers for Madrid

Madrid endured the jeers of its own frustrated fans after a 2-0 loss to Real Betis at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Most of Madrid's supporters have long placed their hopes on what changes the club will make to an underperforming squad in the summer.

Not even coach Zinedine Zidane could find a saving grace to the campaign.

"It isn't that we don't want to (play better), we aren't able to," Zidane said. "The best thing is for this to be over. We are already thinking about the future and next season."

Madrid entered the match with nothing to play for, locked into a third-place finish for the second consecutive season for the first time since 1974. It finished 19 points behind Barcelona and eight behind second-place Atletico Madrid.

Since the return of Zidane to take charge of the club after its shock loss to Ajax in the round-of-16 in the Champions League, Madrid has finished the cam-



Barcelona's Lionel Messi shoots to score in front Eibar's goalkeeper Marko Dmitrovic

paign with a record of five wins, two draws and four losses.

"The fault is ours," Madrid defender Marcelo said. "We didn't start well and we didn't finish it well either. In no way was this the season we wanted to have."

Messi's double

Messi moved four goals ahead of Paris Saint-Germain forward Kylian Mbappé -- who has 32 in the French league with a round left -- as the top scorer in Europe's major domestic leagues.

Marc Cucurella, a Barcelona youth player on loan to Eibar, opened the scoring before Messi got his first goal from a pass by Arturo Vidal in the 31st.

Messi added a second just a minute later when he broke behind Eibar's high defensive line, received the ball from Ivan Rakitic and chipped it over goalkeeper Marco Dmitrovic.

Eibar defender Pablo de Blasis leveled just before halftime when he scored from distance into an open net after Barcelona goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen made a poor clearance with his



Messi moved four goals ahead of PSG's Kylian Mbappe -- who has 32 in the French league with a round left -- as the top scorer in Europe's major domestic leagues

head outside the area.

Youth player Carles Pérez debuted for Barcelona in the second half.

The victory at Madrid didn't save Quique Setién's job.

Betis announced shortly after that Setién and the Seville-based club had agreed to part ways after two seasons together, confirming weeks of speculation that he was on his way out.

At least Setién's last match in charge was one to remember for

the coach.

Betis outplayed the hosts from the start and got second-half goals from Loren Morón and former Madrid forward Jesé Rodríguez.

Giovani Lo Celso led Betis to victory with his creativity. The Argentine midfielder created all of his team's best chances, drawing a save from goalkeeper Keylor Navas before setting up both goals.

A long ball by Lo Celso set Andrés Guardado free down the left as he sprinted clear of Raphael Varane before crossing for Morón to score.

Lo Celso then slipped a ball through to Junior Firpo, who found Jesé unmarked at the edge of the six-yard box.

Betis, which beat both Madrid and Barcelona at their stadiums, ended the season in 10th place.

"This allows us to finish a season that has been a bit disappointing with a victory against a team and at a stadium that will always be a nice memory," Setién said before the club announced his departure.

Qaed bowls high series to climb to top of Group

TD | Manama

Mustafa Qaed enjoyed a strong day at the lanes as qualifying rolled ahead on Saturday in the 2019 edition of The Godfathers Tournament, currently being played at Funland Centre.

The competition is being held in memory of the late Murtadha Qudrat Rasti and the late Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa.

Qaed played the daily high series amongst Group B participants of 660 pins and rose to the top of his division's standings in the process.

The Bahraini bowler's impressive outing was his second-best of the competition thus far. It added to his two other top trials of 690 and 639, giving him a 1,989 total and a 221.0 average. With his latest score, he climbed to the top of Group B, which is for intermediate participants, and where he displaced former leader Abdulrahman Alali.

Alali dropped to second with a 220.3 average and 1,983 total, while Essa Taqi followed in third with a 218.4 average and a 1,966 total.

Ranked fourth through sixth, respectively, were Patrick Toney, Abdulla Almurbati and Ali



Group B bowler Eulyis Salcedo, left, and Group C participant Fatima Almahmoud with Funland general manager Adel Rasti

Abdulla.

Also putting in fine performances late Saturday night were Emerson Gotencio and Hisham

Mohammed.

Gotencio was the evening's top man, playing the overall daily high series of 717 pins as he

competed in Group A amongst elite bowlers. Mohammed, on the other hand, had the best series of 478 amongst Group C participants, who are beginning bowlers.

In Group A, Gotencio's score was his highest series so far, with his other two being 710 and 692. He raised his average to 235.4 pins per game from a 2,119 average, putting him in second position.

Abdulla Abdulkarim was the new leader. With trials of 748, 701 and 698, Abdulkarim enjoyed a 238.6 average and a 2,147 total that helped him leapfrog to first place.

Man City's Kompany to leave club

AFP | London

Vincent Kompany announced that he will leave Manchester City after 11 trophy-laden years to become player-manager of Anderlecht.

Belgian defender Kompany joined City in 2008 and made 360 appearances, winning four Premier League titles, two FA Cups, four League Cups and two Community Shields.

"As overwhelming as it is, the time has come for me to go. And what a season to bow out," Kompany said.



Nadal triumphs in Rome

Rafael Nadal beats Novak Djokovic to win ninth Italian Open title

● **Rafael Nadal's win gives him his first clay-court title of 2019**

● **The win gives Nadal a 26-28 lifetime record against Djokovic**

AP | Rome

Rafael Nadal is right back where he wants to be. After losing in the semi-finals of three straight clay-court tournaments, Nadal dominated for stretches against his long-time rival, Novak Djokovic, in a

6-0, 4-6, 6-1 win yesterday for a record-extending ninth Italian Open title.

It marked the first time in an Open Era-record 54 meetings, and in their 142nd set against each other, that Nadal won a set against Djokovic without conceding a game — otherwise known as a bagel.

The timing for Nadal's return to form could not have been more opportune, as he will seek a record-extending 12th title at the French Open next weekend.

"Winning a title is important but for me the most important thing is feel myself competitive, feel myself healthy," Nadal said. "Then with the feeling that I am

improving. I know if I'm able to reach my level you can win, you can lose, but normally I'm going to have my chances, especially on this surface."

Top-ranked Djokovic, meanwhile, appeared exhausted after spending more than 5 1/2 hours on court against Juan Martin del Potro and Diego Schwartzman the previous two days.

Djokovic was also coming off the Madrid Open title last week. "I don't want to talk about fatigue or things like that," Djokovic said. "Rafa was simply too strong today."

The Foro Italico crowd continually tried to encourage Djokovic with chants of "Vai Nole!"



Nadal overtakes Djokovic at the top of the list for Masters wins -- the pair were level at 33 each before yesterday's final -- in a timely boost ahead of his assault on a 12th French Open crown in a week's time

— Go Nole! — but the top-ranked Serb struggled with his overhead and drop shots.

Midway through the second set, Nadal chased down a lob with an over-the-shoulder shot and Djokovic's ensuing overhead landed in the net to conclude a long point.

Djokovic again netted an overhead in the next game and then kicked the ball in frustration when he missed a drop shot attempt late in the second.

But Djokovic hung around in the second and converted his first set point when a looping forehand from Nadal sailed wide for his first break of the match. As he walked to his chair after

winning the second set, Djokovic waved his arms to get the crowd behind him.

However, Djokovic didn't have much left in the tank.

When Nadal pushed Djokovic deep into the corner in the opening game of the third set and Djokovic's desperation lob sailed long to hand Nadal a break, Djokovic smashed his racket to the clay three times in frustration and received a warning from the chair umpire.

Djokovic won only 29 per cent of points on his second serve and committed 39 unforced errors to Nadal's 17. Also, Nadal won 23 of 31 rallies with nine or more shots.

Roglic rampage leaves Yates reeling at Giro

AFP | San Marino, San Marino

Slovenian ace Primoz Roglic set a serious marker on the Giro d'Italia yesterday, not only winning the stage nine individual time-trial, but damaging several key title rivals in the process.

European champion and world one-hour record holder Victor Campenaerts was second by 11sec on the day despite a late mechanical failure, while Dutch rider Bauke Mollema came third to boost his chances of an eventual podium shot.

Roglic, of Team Jumbo-Visma, who also won the opening day time-trial, finished the 34.8km rain-sodden run to San Marino in 51mins 52sec to win in impressive style.

It was a full 1min 05sec faster than Italy's two-time Giro winner Vincenzo Nibali, and a devastating 3min 11sec faster than Britain's self-declared pre-race favourite Simon Yates, who appeared to struggle on the final climb.

The notoriously wily Nibali, known as 'the shark' for his ferocious winning moves, appeared exultant after the stage.

"I believe that was a good time from me," said the Bahrain Merida leader.

"It's a great thing to have taken so much time off Yates and (Miguel Angel) Lopez," he said of the two men he would normally most fear in the mountains.

"Roglic took more than a minute off me but time-trials



Team Jumbo rider Slovenia's Primoz Roglic takes part in stage nine of the 102nd Giro d'Italia

“It's a great thing to have taken so much time off Yates and (Miguel Angel) Lopez. Roglic took more than a minute off me but time-trials are his speciality

VINCENZO NIBALI

are his speciality," added the 34-year-old.

"There's a long way to go, but lots of people lost ground here and not just Lopez and Yates, and these people will now have to go on the attack.

"This is turning out to be a beautiful Giro."

Reigning Vuelta champion Yates led the Giro for over two weeks last year only to suffer a penultimate-stage meltdown, and has vowed to make up for it this year.

The win leaves Roglic, a 29-year-old former ski-jumper, in second place in the overall standings behind overnight leader Valerio Conti of Italy, who kept his promise to fight to keep hold of the pink jersey.

But above all it puts this season's form rider Roglic, who won the Tour of Romandie, the UAE Tour and the Tirreno Adriatico, firmly in the driving seat for a first ever victory in a three-week tour.

The Slovenian takes a 1min 44sec advantage over Nibali into the mountainous section of the Giro where the Italian's cut-throat tactics saw him claim overall wins in 2013 and 2016.

Pliskova sweeps past Konta to win Italian Open

● **Karolina Pliskova won her 13th career title in Rome**

AFP | Rome

Czech fourth seed Karolina Pliskova swept past Britain's Johanna Konta 6-3, 6-4 to win the WTA Italian Open yesterday.

Pliskova, the 2017 French Open semi-finalist, clinched her 13th career title, in the final major warm-up tournament on clay before Roland Garros starts on May 26.

A break in each set was enough for the former world number one to get past Konta, sealing victory on her third match point after 85 minutes on court.

"It was a great week for me

and my team," said the 27-year-old, now coached by former Rome champion Conchita Martinez.

"There were a couple of tough matches so I was happy to fight through them. I was a little bit nervous today, but it was my first final in Rome, so that's to be expected."

She had never gone past the semi-finals in her four previous appearances in Rome.

Last year she exited in disgrace after smashing a hole in the umpire's chair in a temper tantrum after losing in the second round.

Pliskova, the highest remaining seed, got an early break in the final and swept 3-0 up in just eight minutes on the red clay of the Foro Italico.

A double fault when serving for the set handed Konta a break point but the British number one squandered the

chance with a smash into the net with the entire court open to her.

Konta then hit a weak forehand shot into the tape and the ball bounced wide, allowing Pliskova to wrap up the first set in 36 minutes.

Pliskova broke in the seventh game of the second set, despite Konta saving two break points, with the Czech world number seven powering through for the biggest title of her career since Cincinnati in 2016.

She becomes the first Czech woman to win the Rome tournament since Regina Marsikova in 1978.

For Konta, who has won three WTA titles, it was her second straight defeat in a final on clay after the Morocco Open earlier this month.

"It's always tough playing Karolina," said former world number four Konta, who has slipped to 42nd.

"There's rarely really a rhythm to the match. She plays with big shots, quite flat, and big serves.

"It can feel sometimes you're fighting an uphill battle. That was the case today."

"She didn't really have a let-down throughout the match.

"She played very consistently. I found it quite hard to get a footing into the match, which is credit to her.

The 28-year-old Konta, the first British woman in the Rome final since Virginia Wade in 1971, will now be seeded at the French Open later this month.



Czech Republic's Karolina Pliskova returns a forehand to Britain's Johanna Konta