

Kiwis compound Proteas woes

Kane Williamson anchored New Zealand to a tense four-wicket victory at Edgbaston yesterday after an astonishing stroke of luck when South Africa failed to review an edge from the Kiwi captain.

P16

THE DAILY tribune



'Its me writing about things happening in real time': Camila 14 CELEBS

WORLD 6 Promised \$9 million online, US teen killed 'best friend': police



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Rory Stewart knocked out
London

Four men are left in the race to be next prime minister after Rory Stewart was knocked out.

The international development secretary was eliminated after coming last with 27 votes, 10 fewer than last time.

He said his warnings about a no-deal Brexit "probably proved to be truths people weren't quite ready to hear".

Boris Johnson topped the vote again with 143 votes, 17 more than last time.

Jeremy Hunt came second with 54, Michael Gove got 51 and Sajid Javid 38.

A fourth round of voting will take place on Thursday.

Yoga event set
Manama

The Indian Embassy along with the Ministry of Youth and Sports will organise the event 'Yogafest' at Khalifa Sports City Stadium from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm tomorrow marking the International Yoga Day. The day is celebrated annually on 21 June since its inception in 2015.

An international day for yoga was declared unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly. Yoga is a physical, mental and spiritual practice originated in India.



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05 Frauds print fake visas, cheat expat jobseekers



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Report 'untrue'

Saudi says UN Khashoggi report contains 'baseless allegations'

● Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel Al Jubeir said the report contained 'nothing new.'

● Saudi prosecutors said Khashoggi was killed by a "rogue operation" in a botched attempt to repatriate him.

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia said yesterday that a report by a UN expert on the murder of Jamal Khashoggi contains "baseless allegations" and "contradictions."

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel Al Jubeir said the report contained "nothing



new."

He said the judicial authorities in the Kingdom are the only ones competent to investigate the case and that a number of suspects have already been arrested.

The report "contains clear contradictions and baseless allegations which challenge its credibility," he said on Twitter.

"We strongly reject any attempt to prejudice the Kingdom's leadership or to remove

the case from the course of justice in the Kingdom or influencing it in any way."

The report released Wednesday by UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Agnes Callamard, said the murder of Khashoggi was the responsibility of the state of Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia late last year indicted 11 people for the killing and prosecutors are seeking the death penalty against five of them.

Saudi prosecutors said Khashoggi was killed by a "rogue operation" in a botched attempt to repatriate him.

Mr Al Jubeir said the trials are being attended by representatives from the embassies of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council in addition to Turkey and Saudi human rights organisations.

US intelligence proves 'without question' Iran behind tanker attacks

● Hook said the US supported the right of countries like Saudi Arabia, which are on the front lines of Iranian aggression.



Those who have seen the intelligence all come away without any question Iran is behind these attacks.

MR HOOK

Washington

The US special representative for Iran, Brian Hook said yesterday that US intelligence proves "without question" Iran is behind the attack on two tankers in the Gulf of Oman.

Hook said that Iranian vessels operating in and around the Strait of Hormuz on June 12 and 13 approached tankers Front Altair and Kokuka Courageous before each ship suffered explosions on June 13.

"Those who have seen the intelligence all come away without any question Iran is behind these attacks," Hook told a congressional hearing on the Trump administration's Iran policy.

Hook added that the intelligence showed a senior Islamic Republican Guard Corps (IRGC) official confirmed that its personnel had "completed two actions."

Earlier the US Navy displayed mine fragments and a magnet it said it had removed from one of two oil tankers, saying the mines bore a striking resemblance to Iranian ones.

Addressing Iran's involvement in Yemen, committee member Joe Wilson referred to the Houthi attack on Abha

airport last week, which injured 26 people.

He asked Hook how the US planned to hold Iran accountable for such actions, given Tehran's support for the Houthis.

Hook said the US supported the right of countries like Saudi Arabia "which are on the frontlines of Iranian aggression" in their right to defend themselves when attacked, especially by the Houthi rebels.

"Iran has spent hundreds of millions of dollars organising, training and equipping the Houthis to fight at a level beyond which makes any normal sense and it has prolonged and intensified the conflict," Hook said.

The US on Monday announced the deployment of about 1,000 more troops to the region because of the threat from Iran. The deployment is in addition to a 1,500-troop increase announced last month.

BIO SEARCH

Boris Johnson's 'great-grandfather' was an Ottoman politician

London

Boris Johnson's paternal great grandfather was a journalist and liberal politician who was killed after being kidnapped on a charge of treason as the Ottoman Empire entered its final days.

Mr Johnson referred to his 'Muslim great grandfather' during yesterday's televised Tory leadership debate as he defended himself against accusations of Islamophobia.

The reference may well have surprised many viewers un-



Ali Kemal and his first wife Winifred.



Johnson

aware of Mr Johnson's lineage but the true extent of his family's links to modern-day Turkey was revealed in depth in 2008.

The Tory heavyweight took part in the BBC's Who Do You

Think You Are? Programme which shed light on exactly where Mr Johnson had come from.

Ali Kemal, Mr Johnson's great grandfather, was born in Con-

stantinople, now Istanbul, in 1867.

He was a prominent journalist, poet and politician who became known for his strong liberal democratic political views.

But such views saw him exiled under Abdul Hamid II, the 34th Sultan, who reigned from 1876 to 1909.

Increasing instability within the Empire in the years before the First World War prompted Kemal to flee for his life to England where his wife Winifred gave birth to a son, Osman Wilfred Kemal, in Bournemouth,

with the pair having already had a daughter called Selma.

His wife died after giving birth and Kemal then stayed with his mother in law, Margaret Brun, whose maiden name was Johnson.

He subsequently returned to the Ottoman Empire where he remarried and had another son.

It was then that he rose to great political prominence as he became Minister for the Interior in 1919 in the government of Damat Ferid Pasha, who at the time was the de facto prime minister.

Youth City 'pioneering opportunity to groom youngsters'

Manama

Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Work and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS), His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa described giving importance to the youth and training them as a top priority of SCYS.

He said the aim is to carry out the royal vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to groom the youth and empower them with the needed capabilities to use their potentials in the building and modernisation process.

In a statement marking the launch of the 10th edition of the Youth City 2030, which is organised by the Ministry of



HH Shaikh Nasser

Youth and Sport Affairs, he said it is a suitable place to focus on the initiatives of the national plan to promote belonging to the nation and boost values of citizenship.

He underlined the efforts made to groom Bahraini youngsters and empower them to meet the requirements of the upcoming phase of national work that necessitates exceptional multi-

plied efforts by all to achieve the Kingdom's vision 2030.

HH Shaikh Nasser underscored the importance of the Youth City in promoting the opportunities for Bahraini youngsters to enrol at the job market thanks to the practical and scientific programmes, which will be provided by the city to meet the labour market needs in the Kingdom.

He also pointed out the role of the Youth City 2030 in tapping on the creativity potential of Bahraini youngsters and enhance their participation in the Kingdom's development march.

HH Shaikh Nasser called on Bahraini youth to take part actively in the Youth City and avail of its training programmes to play their part in the Kingdom's development.

Focus on rights strides

Assistant Foreign Minister chairs High Co-ordination Committee for Human Rights

● The committee reviewed the Kingdom's national reports in accordance with its accession to international human rights laws.

● The Supreme Co-ordination Committee for Human Rights was formed by Decree No (50) for the year 2012 issued by His Royal Highness with the Prime Minister.



Mr Al Doseri chairs the meeting.

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TDT | Manama

The Assistant Foreign Minister, Abdulla Al Doseri, chaired the 23rd meeting of High Co-ordination Committee for Human Rights, in the presence of committee members, representatives of government ministries and official institutions.

The Assistant Foreign Minister affirmed Bahrain's keenness to continuously protect human rights through the review and development of legal frameworks, government programs, policies and actions that serve the progress of human dignity and the goals of sustainable development.

Mr Al Doseri also highlighted the application of

supreme laws and principles that contribute to the achievement of justice, security and well-being for all in a democratic society in which everyone enjoys civil and political rights, tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

The meeting also stressed the reform approach established by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, which ensures the preservation of human rights as a basis for building, progress and eliminating intolerance and terrorism.

The Committee discussed a number of topics, which focused on supporting and developing human rights work, such as the preliminary draft of the National Plan for Human Rights.

It also reviewed the Kingdom's national reports in ac-

cordance with its accession to international human rights laws.

The Supreme Co-ordination Committee for Human Rights was formed by Decree No (50) for the year 2012 issued by His Royal Highness the Prime Minister, and was restructured by Decree No (14) of 2014 and Decree No 31 of 2017.

The Committee is concerned with various issues related to the development and promotion of human rights, including the establishment of a co-ordination mechanism to ensure the best policies for dealing with human rights issues and the preparation of a national human rights plan at the government level, as well as co-operating with international human rights organisations to achieve the aspired goals.

Arab Parliament classifies Houthis as a terrorist group

Manama

The Arab Parliament announced yesterday that it has designated the Iranian-backed Houthi militia as a terrorist group for its role in deliberately targeting civilians and civilian installations, calling on the League of Arab States and the UN to take similar action.

The resolution was issued during an Arab Parliament meeting in Cairo in the wake of the "terrorist attack on civilian installations in Saudi Arabia and commercial vessels in the territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates and the Sea

The Parliament will not condone any group targeting civilian areas, such as the Houthi attacks on neighbouring countries like Saudi Arabia.

MR AL SULAMI

of Oman," reported the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

The Arab Parliament called on the UN and the Security Council to adopt a firm and immediate position to classify

the Houthi militia as a terrorist organisation; for its flagrant violation of international law and its deliberate targeting of civilian and vital installations in Saudi Arabia with ballistic missiles and aircraft.

It also called on the world body to also pursue its leaders, financiers and supporters, whether they are states or groups.

Meshaal bin Fahm Al Sulami, spokesperson of the Arab Parliament, said the Parliament will not condone any group targeting civilian areas, such as the Houthi attacks on neighbouring countries like Saudi Arabia.

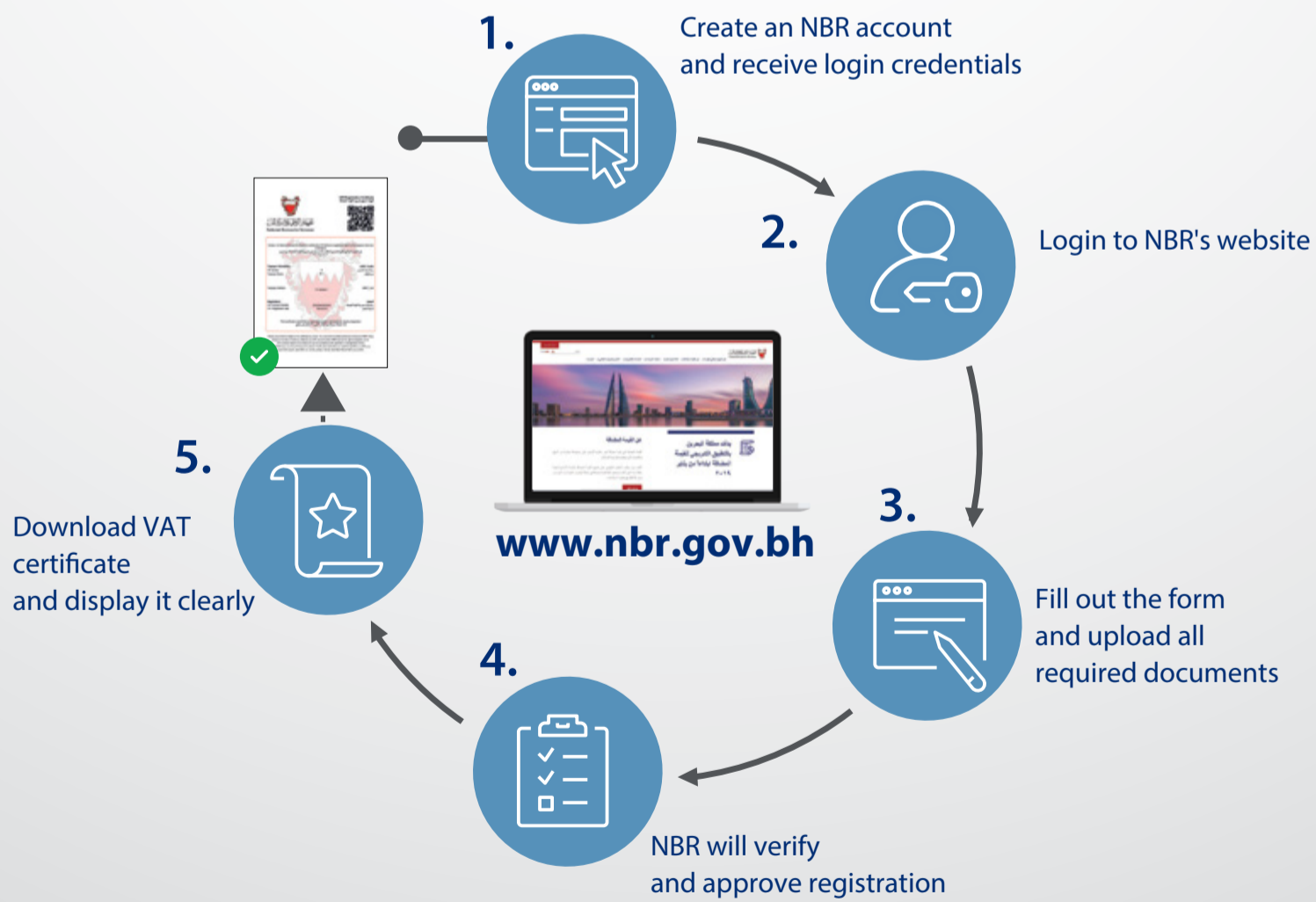
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Derasat, UN-Habitat sign co-operation agreement

Manama

Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat) yesterday signed a contract with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to prepare the Arab Cities Report 2020, in co-operation with the Regional Office of the United Nations Human Settlements Organisation.

Derasat Chairman Dr Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa and Head of UN-Habitat Cairo, Irfan Ali, sealed the agreement in the presence of UNDP Resident Representative to Bahrain, Stefano Pettinato, and the UN



Dr Shaikh Abdulla, Mr Ali sign the agreement in the presence of Mr Pettinato and Mr Al Sharkawi.

Resident Co-ordinator to Bahrain Amin Al Sharkawi.

The Derasat Chairman said

the report is the first official one on Arab cities since 2012, which

would be launched at the 10th

World Urban Forum in February 2020 in Abu Dhabi.

He added it would include

data and the latest urban statistics related to Arab cities to come up with recommendations that benefit urban planning in Arab cities.

In addition, action plans, objectives and recommendations would be presented under the umbrella of the Sustainable Development Goals and the new urban plan.

The Derasat Chairman said the report would also be the first regional one that Bahrain takes part in preparing it through Derasat, which would prepare a research to assist companies to create sustainable job opportunities for the youth in Arab cities.

He welcomed the UN-Habitat efforts that contribute to promoting international interest in development, noting its role in supporting countries and communities in the area of urban development.

He pointed out the comprehensive development achievements made, under the leadership of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, based on quality and efficiency standards in line with the principles of sustainability, competitiveness and equity.

The UNDP Resident Representative welcomed collaboration with Derasat, saying the project would set new criteria for excellence.

'5G radiation below international limits'

Level of signals emitted by telecom towers well below maximum permissible threshold

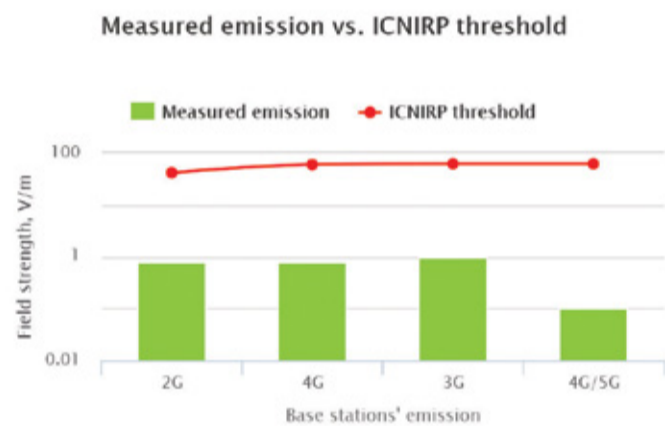
TDT | Manama

The level of 5G radiation in the Kingdom doesn't exceed one per cent of the level allowed internationally, according to a study carried out by the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA).

Frequencies used for 5G are the same as previously used for WiMAX and some 4G Services that were introduced in Bahrain since 2007 and 2013 respectively, a statement issued by the regulator said.

"Using specialised equipment acquired by the TRA's Spectrum Management Department, the measurements collected are compared to guidelines set forth by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) as detailed in the aforementioned Order," the statement added.

"Over the past four years, the TRA has measured more than 4,500 sites including the newly deployed 5G enabled radio sites; none of which have exceeded the limits and radiation standards of ICNIRP.



A graph showing measured emission versus ICNIRP threshold.

As per the condition stated in licences granted by the TRA in Bahrain, telecom operators are required to ensure that emissions from each radio installation are within ICNIRP limits.

MR AL NUAIMI

"Moreover, in January 2019, the historical measurements including WiMAX and 4G results, which is currently used for 5G were shared with a delegation from World Health Organisation.

"The delegation's report was presented to The Council of Ministers in February 2019 where it showed that the level of the signals emitted by the telecom towers are well below the maximum permissible threshold set by ICNIRP."

ICNIRP provides its recommen-

4,500 sites including the newly deployed 5G enabled radio sites were measured by the TRA.

dations, guidelines, and research results to the World Health Organisation (WHO), which adopts these recommendations and guidelines as a basis for health regulations and notices concerning protection from electromagnetic field strength radiation.

"As per the condition stated in licences granted by the TRA in Bahrain, telecom operators are required to ensure that emissions from each radio installation are within ICNIRP limits.

"They are also required to comply with any future radiation emission standards set by ICNIRP, or have been or will be adopted by the Kingdom," said Mohamed Al Nuaimi, director of Technical Operations.

UoB maintains elite position in global QS university rankings



This achievement is due to the continuous support that the university receives from the leadership of the Kingdom.

PROF HAMZAH

TDT | Manama

The University of Bahrain (UoB) has been listed among the elite Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) 1,000 universities in the world.

The prestigious annual rankings released by QS has the university continuously maintaining its overall position, and shows the academic reputation improve once again and retain its position in the top 500 globally for employer reputation.

According to the ranking, there are currently over 28,000 universities globally, of which the university managed to be ranked within the top 1,000.

In a statement issued to press, UoB President Prof Riyadh Hamzah expressed the highest appreciations on his behalf and behalf of all the affiliates of the University to the Kingdom's leadership.

The President affirmed that achievement was possible by

the collaborative and team effort of all the university's faculty and staff members, students, alumni, and partners.

Prof Hamzah stated: "I am pleased that once again the university has been recognised in the top four per cent globally and ranked in the list of the world's best universities.

"Moreover, I am delighted that we have also maintained our position in the top 2pc globally for employer reputation, this reinforces our position as central to human capital development to allow Bahrain to take advantage of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and support FDI into Bahrain."

He confirmed that this achievement is due to the continuous support that the University receives from the leadership of the Kingdom, and reflects that efforts that the University places in improving research, innovation and creativity and offering modern academic programmes.

French delegates review ambulance services

Manama

Chief of Public Security, Major-General Tariq Al Hassan yesterday received a French delegation specialised in the ambulance services.

The meeting followed directives issued by the Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa to ensure the best quality facilities as part of the National Ambulance services and to continue exchanging successful international experiences and expertise.

The Chief welcomed the guests, highlighting that the National Ambulance Project launched on June 15 is a pioneer one that reflects the dedication to provide services to citizens.



Maj Gen Al Hassan holds discussion with the French delegation.

He said that the project was introduced after intensive preparedness to enhance the ambulance services.

He hailed the support of Interior Minister through providing the necessary equipment and tools, along with training the workforce, revealing various plans to enhance the provided

services.

He expressed thanks and appreciation to the Supreme Council for Health and its Chairman, Lt-General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa for his support and follow up, along with the King Hamad University Hospital for cooperation and training of paramedics.

ambedics.

The meeting discussed the steps and procedures of the project to ensure readiness for fast response in dealing with cases and transferring patients within the highest safety standards.

During the visit, the French delegation inspected the ambulances of the project and the



The Kingdom now has plans in place to improve ambulance services.

National Ambulance Centre and its operational process.

The delegation hailed the directives and follow up of the Interior Minister of the phases of the project, hailing the level of readiness by the team in term of competency and equipment.

Head of the delegation high-

lighted that the members discussed various topics with the project's team and hailed the efficiency of the centre.

He revealed that the delegation's technical assistance would be through evaluating medical emergency services and the management process to ensure the safety of patients.

Frauds print fake visas, cheat expat jobseekers

Fake visas issued under Bahrain firm's name; probe urged

● The copy of the visa obtained by Tribune had many wrong information entered by the so-called agent.

● The group only realised the scam when one of the victims contacted a manager of Bahrain company.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Six friends fear that they may have lost their savings and passports after a fraudulent recruitment agent in India allegedly bamboozled the group.

The victims, all Indian nationals, who thought they would be travelling together to the Kingdom after being placed in jobs are now in a fix after realising they were scammed.

The group has been allegedly cheated by a fake recruitment agent in India.

The copy of the visa obtained by Tribune had wrong information entered by



The fake visa issued by the fraud agent.

325
Bahraini dinars were allegedly charged for each visa by the fraudsters.

the so-called agent.

The victims said that they gave the money to the agent as he was known to deal with visa related matters.

A brother of one of the victims said that it was an acquaintance of his brother's friend who did the cheating. "My brother has been looking for an overseas job for quite a while. His friend informed him that he knows someone who is able to recruit people to companies in the Gulf."

"My brother contacted this person and a job was prom-

ised for him. Subsequently, all other friends also contacted the person and were promised jobs in the Kingdom.

"The agent demanded Rs 60,000 (BD325) per visa and four of them obliged, giving him the money he asked for. My brother and one of his friends are yet to pay, but have handed over their passports."

The group only realised the scam when one of the victims contacted a manager of one of the companies, under whose name the visa was issued.

"I was contacted by a person who said his brother had received a visa to join my company. I was surprised because our company did not have any recruitment from India in recent times," the manager told Tribune.

"The victims then sent me the visa, which they received. The visa is obviously fake and photo-shopped. One of the obvious mistakes made by the agent is that they have printed a phone number in the name of CPR number," the manager said.

The manager urged the authorities to carry out a probe into the scam, which could adversely affect the future of many expatriate jobseekers.

School chairman assures more student safety measures

TDT | Manama

Safety measures at Indian School Bahrain (ISB) will be further strengthened after an alleged negligence by a teacher led to a boy being left behind in a school bus.

The teacher will "face strong action" after her negligence led to a boy being left behind in a school bus, the school's chairman said.

The boy was among the students, who were being transported in a minibus to the ISB's Isa Town campus, but he was left behind when everyone else got off the bus.



What happened was very unfortunate. We will make sure that this kind of incidents are not repeated.

MR NATARAJAN

ISB Chairman Prince Natarajan assured that the school administration will be taking adequate measures to ensure such incidents are not repeated.

"What happened was very unfortunate. We will make sure that this kind of incidents are not repeated."

"We have zero tolerance in this matter, this should not have happened. The school has a robust system but this was an unfortunate lapse that cannot be tolerated."

"After our investigation into the matter, we will know the person who is responsible for this error. It is not acceptable and the staff in question will face a strong action," he said.

"Now we are taking further measures to strengthen the checking of students when it comes to transportation. We will make sure that no such incidents happen again," he added.

BTEA in efforts to increase tourist numbers from UK

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) is carrying out a campaign across the UK in efforts to attract more British tourists to the Kingdom.

The authority made a promotional tour in the last few days with an aim to strengthen relations with travel and tourism agencies in the UK.

It also aimed to bring awareness about Bahrain and what the Kingdom has to offer for travel enthusiasts.

Yousef Al Khan, Director of Marketing and Tourism Promotion, said, "The tour aimed to strengthen relations with some of the top travel agencies in the UK and to promote Bahrain as a tourist destination. The tour pro-



BTEA officials with UK tour agents and officials.

vided us an opportunity to promote the Kingdom's new tourism projects."

"We are working towards increasing the number of visitors to Bahrain from the UK and are dedicated to establish Bahrain as a prime tourist hotspot."

Bahrain has been in a push to promote tourism to the country in recent years. Earlier this month, an aircraft was submerged under



We are working towards increasing the number of visitors to Bahrain from the UK and are dedicated to establish Bahrain as a prime tourist hotspot.

MR AL KHAN

Bahraini waters as part of the launch of the world's largest underwater theme park.

The theme park is expected to be a massive boost for tourism to the Kingdom.

Covering an area of over 100,000 sqm, the exceptional dive experience includes several structures in addition to a submerged Jumbo Jet as its centerpiece.

The structures will provide a safe haven for coral reef growth and a habitat for marine life.

The project is implemented in accordance to strict environmental standards and international best industry practices in the field of environmental sustainability; with an overall aim to revive the Kingdom's marine ecosystem and preserve its local marine environment, the BTEA had earlier said.

New water reservoirs inaugurated in Seef

TDT | Manama

Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) Chief Executive Shaikh Nawaf bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa yesterday inaugurated water reservoirs at the Seef Water Distribution Station.

The reservoirs will serve to increase Bahrain's water reserves by 3.6 per cent, the EWA said in a statement issued.

"These reservoirs are characterised by their unique engineering designs with aesthetic facades that make them blend into their surroundings.

"Also, the outside walls of the reservoirs and its facade have been used to install solar panels

for the production of renewable energy."

Shaikh Nawaf stressed the experiment will be expanded to cover all such reservoirs in other Bahrain areas as well.

He said the project is part of a strategic plan of the EWA to preserve the aesthetic appearance of Bahrain and to produce renewable energy.

He said the new engineering design has contributed to the provision of required storage of water in a harmonious fashion with neighbouring facilities and set up a renewable energy facility.

Seef Water Distribution Station includes a five million-gal-



Shaikh Nawaf with other EWA officials after inaugurating the water reservoirs.

lon earth reservoir as well as a one million gallon overhead reservoir for the Seef Water Park project.

Shaikh Nawaf said that the project comes within the framework of the master plan set by the EWA to develop and expand

the water transport networks in Bahrain in light of the guidance and interests of the wise leadership led by His Majesty

King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and his wise government led by His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister as well as the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

He said the plan includes the provision of electricity and water services and to meet the growing demand for these services in line with the development of urban, industrial and commercial areas while maintaining Bahrain's aesthetic character to provide better services for citizens and residents as well as to attract foreign investments.

world

MH17 investigators name three Russian suspects, one Ukrainian



Fred Westerbeke

Nieuwegein, Netherlands

International investigators said Wednesday they were issuing arrest warrants for three Russians and one Ukrainian suspect over the downing of flight MH17 in July 2014.

The Dutch-led probe said it was going to prosecute Russian nationals Igor Girkin, Sergey Dubinskiy and Oleg Pulatov as well as Ukrainian Leonid Kharchenko over the downing of the Malaysia Airlines plane.

"Today we will send out international arrest warrants for the first suspects that we will prosecute. They will also be placed on national and international wanted lists," Wilbert Paulissen, chief constable of the Netherlands National Police, told a press conference.

Dutch prosecutor Fred Westerbeke said they were the "four who will be held accountable for bringing the deadly weapon, the BUK Telar, into eastern Ukraine".

The same investigation team said in May 2018 that the BUK anti-aircraft missile which hit the Boeing 777 had originated from the 53rd Russian military brigade based in Russia's southwestern city of Kursk.

Promised \$9 million online, US teen killed 'best friend': police

● Schillmiller allegedly promised Brehmer \$9 million or more to send him videos or photographs of the attack.

Los Angeles, United States

An American teenager has been charged with conspiring to murder her "best friend" after a man she met online offered her \$9 million to commit the crime.

According to investigators, Denali Brehmer, an 18-year-old from Alaska, was recruited to kill her friend by a man a few years her elder, 21-year-old Darin Schillmiller of Indiana.

The pair had previously hooked up online, with Schillmiller assuming a fake identity and posing as a millionaire named "Tyler."

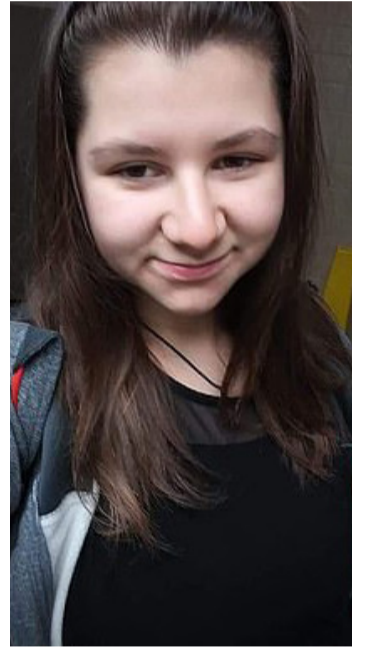
Court documents say that during the course of their online relationship, they discussed a plan to rape and murder someone in Alaska.

Schillmiller allegedly promised Brehmer \$9 million or more to send him videos or photographs of the attack.

Brehmer then proceeded to recruit four other teens and the group settled on Cynthia Hoffman -- who considered Brehmer to be her best friend -- as their victim.



From left, Kayden McIntosh, 16, Denali Brehmer, 18, and Caleb Leyland, 19, have been charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of 19-year-old Cynthia Hoffman near the Thunderbird Falls trail last week. (courtesy of ADN)



Victim: Cynthia Hoffman

Local news reports said Hoffman's father has described his daughter as having a learning disability and the mind-set of a 12-year-old

On June 2, authorities say, 19-year-old Hoffman was lured to a hiking trail northeast of Anchorage where she was bound with duct tape and shot once in the back of the head before being pushed into a river.

Her body was discovered on June 4. Police say the victim was driv-

en to Thunderbird Falls by Brehmer and Kayden McIntosh, a 16-year-old boy, under the guise of going on a riverside hike.

McIntosh allegedly shot Hoffman with Brehmer's gun and dumped her body in the water.

Authorities say Brehmer communicated with Schillmiller throughout the murder, sending him "Snapchat photographs and videos of Hoffman tied up and of the body afterward."

'Internet a dark place'

Both Brehmer and McIntosh have been arrested and charged

in relation to the murder. Schillmiller has also been arrested along with three others accused of assisting in the planning or execution of the killing.

A grand jury last Friday indicted all six defendants for first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder in the first degree, two counts of second-degree murder and other charges.

Schillmiller and Brehmer were also indicted Tuesday on federal child pornography and child exploitation charges.

Police said that a search on Brehmer's phone during their

investigation into Hoffman's death revealed videos of the teen sexually abusing a 15-year-old girl at Schillmiller's behest.

Court documents say Schillmiller admitted to attempting to blackmail Brehmer after the murder into sexually assaulting young girls. Both face up to life in prison on the child pornography charges.

They also face up to 99 years in prison on each of the other murder-related charges.

Schillmiller had previously tried to befriend other people online through a practice known as catfishing, authorities said.

Russia, China, block US effort to halt North Korea fuel deliveries

United Nations, United States

Russia and China yesterday blocked an American initiative that aimed to halt fuel deliveries to North Korea, which Washington accuses of exceeding its annual ceiling for 2019, diplomatic sources said.

Moscow and Beijing said more time was needed to study the US request, which was backed by 25 UN members including Japan, France and Germany, according to the sources.

A week ago, the United States, in a report, accused North Korea of breaching the United Nations-imposed ceiling on fuel imports by carrying out dozens of ship-to-ship transfers.

The cap on fuel imports is among a series of tough sanctions adopted by the UN Security Council in

response to North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear tests.

The United States insists that "maximum pressure" from the sanctions must remain on North Korea until it agrees to dismantle its weapons program.

Washington had asked that a United Nations sanctions committee rule that the annual cap of 500,000 barrels had been exceeded and order all countries to halt fuel deliveries.

Countries on the sanctions committee, including Russia and China, had until Tuesday to raise objections to the request to cut off fuel shipments to North Korea.

The issue "should be decided... on the basis of solid and credible facts and through abundant discussion and study," said Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang at a press briefing in Beijing yesterday.



Representative picture

Yoga day for 'Climate Action'

TDT | Manama

Millions of yoga enthusiasts around the world are set to roll out their mats to celebrate the fifth annual International Yoga Day on Friday.

This year, the Day will be celebrated by the United Nations with the theme 'Climate Action'.

The Day of Yoga aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practising yoga.

The UN recognises that yoga 'provides a holistic approach to health

and well being'.

The yoga path of wellness has only been growing in popularity, with athletes and non-athletes alike adopting this ancient practice across the world.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has been instrumental in making yoga popular in different parts of the world, appreciated the efforts which people are taking for Yoga Day. He had earlier urged citizens to make yoga an integral part of their lives.

PM Modi suggested June 21 as the International Day of Yoga as it is the longest day of the year in the Northern



A Yoga enthusiast in Durban, South Africa



Recognising its universal appeal, on 11 December 2014, the United Nations proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga on the recommendation of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Hemisphere.

The draft was first introduced by India's Permanent Representative Asoke Mukherji in the UNGA and 177 nations co-sponsored the resolution.

In India, the main event will be held in Ranchi in Jharkhand on Friday. Modi will perform Yoga along with 18,000 peo-

ple, including Chief Minister Raghuraj Das, Ministers and senior officials of the state.

Apart from India, there's a lot of excitement for Yoga Day around the world.

In Bahrain, the Indian Embassy with the support of Youth and Sports Ministry at Khalifa Sports City, Isa Town is organising a Yogafest21 on Friday from 7pm to 9pm.

In Abu Dhabi, the Yoga Day event will be held at Umm Al Emarat Park at 7 p.m. on Thursday. Shaikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, the Minister of Tolerance of UAE, would be the chief guest, said Indian Ambassador to the UAE Navdeep Singh Suri.

Similar events will be held in Sharjah and Ajman on Friday. In Umm Al Quwain and Ras Al Khaimah, the celebrations will be held on Saturday.

In Saudi Arabia, yoga enthusiasts of various nationalities laid down their mats and relaxed on Saturday as part of the Yoga Day. Indian consulate in Jeddah in collaboration with Arab Yoga Foundation celebrated it at the auditorium of International Indian School of Jeddah.

Kate and William's police convoy hits UK pensioner

London, United Kingdom

An 83-year-old woman was in a serious condition in a British hospital on Wednesday after being hit by a motorbike in the convoy carrying Prince William and his wife Kate.

The royal couple were travelling from their central London home to Windsor, west of the capital, on Monday when a police outrider collided with the pensioner.

Kensington Palace said they were "deeply concerned and saddened" and had contacted the woman, identified as "Irene".

"Their Royal Highnesses have sent their very best wishes to Irene and her family and will stay in touch throughout every stage of her recovery," the palace said.

The couple were reported to have sent flowers to the woman, who is in a serious but stable condition, with The Sun tabloid reporting she sustained



Representative picture

a broken pelvis.

A witness told the paper the "bike hit her and she spun round, off her feet and fell badly on the floor".

"The officer (driving) was devastated. But he was going on the wrong side of the road."

The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) said it was investigating the collision "in line with procedure".

William's grandfather Prince Philip, the husband of Queen Elizabeth II, was involved in a car accident in January, injuring two women when he drove into their vehicle.

South Korea to send 50,000 tonnes of rice to North

Seoul, South Korea

South Korea said yesterday it will send 50,000 tonnes of rice to North Korea via the World Food Programme to help the country cope with a severe food shortage.

The isolated, impoverished North -- which is under several sets of sanctions over its nuclear weapon and ballistic missile programmes -- has

long struggled to feed itself and suffers chronic food shortages.

"The government cannot ignore the plight among North Korean people," said Seoul's unification ministry, which handles inter-Korean relations. It will be the first time the South has provided food aid to the North since 2010, when it sent 5,000 tonnes of rice across the border.

Esper new Pentagon chief



Mark Esper, chosen by Donald Trump as new acting Pentagon chief, is close to top US diplomat Mike Pompeo, with whom he studied at the prestigious West Point military academy

Washington

Secretary of the Army Mark Esper, who was chosen by President Donald Trump to be the new acting Pentagon chief, is a former military man who moved to the defense industry. "I know Mark, and have no doubt he will do a fantastic job!" Trump wrote in a tweet announcing his appointment.

Unlike his predecessor in the post, who had no military experience, 55-year-old Esper who served in the 1991 Gulf War. He was part of the famous 101st Airborne Division of the US Army, which was recently honored at the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings at Normandy. He is also close to top US diplomat Mike Pompeo, with whom he studied at the prestigious West Point military academy. Both men graduated

in the same year, 1986.

And Esper is familiar with the US Congress, having advised several senators, including Chuck Hagel, who later became secretary of defense.

Esper had been a senior executive of the Raytheon defense firm for seven years when he was tapped by Trump to be the secretary of the army in 2017.

Since then, the reserved man, who is married with three grown children, has been tirelessly combing American universities to recruit young people for increasingly technological Army jobs. He has also been in charge of equipping and training the US Army.

Esper's name had been circulating as a potential replacement to former Marine general Jim Mattis after his resignation as secretary of defense in December.

Trump launches 2020 reelection campaign

Orlando

President Donald Trump launched his 2020 reelection campaign Tuesday, whipping up a crowd of at least 20,000 with a nationalist boast about the US economy being the "envy" of the world and warning that opposition Democrats want to "destroy" the country.

Promising the packed arena in Orlando, Florida an "earthquake at the ballot box," Trump said: "We did it once and we're going to do it again -- and this time we're going to finish the job."

"Our economy is the envy of the world," boomed the US leader, who is betting that strong job growth will help persuade the country to give him a second term.

"We are going to keep America great again," Trump told the crowd. "Oh we will keep it so great. Better than ever before."

"And that is why tonight I stand before you to officially launch my campaign for a second term as president of the United States."

Striking a darker note, Trump repeatedly encouraged the crowd to boo journalists covering the event, calling them "fake news."

The Republican then turned on the Democrats, accusing them of seeking to "rip your country apart."

"Our radical Democrat opponents are driven by hatred, prejudice and rage. They want to destroy you and they want to destroy our country as we know it," he said to roars of boos. "Not acceptable. It's not going to happen."

Even if dismal early poll numbers show he faces a difficult race, Trump goes into the reelection fight buoyed by soaring GDP, low unemployment, and confidence in the fierce loyalty of his right-wing base.

Trump -- himself accused by

Kamala Harris
Aged 54
Senator and ex-state attorney general

Elisabeth Warren Aged 69
Senator

Bernie Sanders
Aged 77
Independent senator

Pete Buttigieg
Aged 37
Mayor of South Bend (Indiana)

Joe Biden Aged 77
Vice-president to Barack Obama

Democrats
23 candidates

Republicans
Donald Trump
Aged 73

Beto O'Rourke
Aged 46
Former member of Congress (Texas)

2020 battle for the White House

Timetable

- ▶ Feb 3, 2020
Start of primaries: Iowa caucuses
- ▶ March 3
Super Tuesday
- ▶ July 13-16
Democratic Party convention Milwaukee (Wisconsin)
- ▶ Aug 24-27
Republican Party convention Charlotte (N. Carolina)
- ▶ Nov 3
Presidential election

With around 500 days to go to the election, nationwide opinion polls point to a Trump defeat

But in 2016, it only took victories in a handful of crucial states to hand him the White House

Among the Democratic candidates, Joe Biden is streets ahead of his rivals

Source: AFP Photos

opponents of wide-ranging corruption -- told the crowd that together they had formed "a great political movement" that had "stared down a broken and corrupt political establishment"

Key state for victory

Supporters lined Orlando's downtown sidewalks all day, waiting in tents and chairs overnight to be the first in the door.

"This is a historic event, we

would not miss this for anything," one fan, David Meloney, told AFP.

Florida will be one of the key swing states in 2020 if Trump is to defeat the nominee chosen from a field of 23 Democratic hopefuls.

And ahead of the rally, he pushed several of the core issues in his populist, nationalist platform.

In a tweet early Tuesday, he attacked the European Union

for what he says is currency manipulation making it "unfairly easier" for the US ally when it comes to trade.

Another of his biggest focuses was illegal immigration.

This is a theme he has hammered repeatedly during his presidency and he is ramping this up further with an announcement Tuesday on Twitter that he wants the deportation of "millions of illegal aliens."

Chinese worker killed in B'desh construction site clash

● Police said the violence was triggered by the death of a Bangladeshi worker

● The presence of large numbers of Chinese workers has caused some tensions with locals

Dhaka

Hundreds of Chinese and Bangladeshi labourers clashed at the site of power plant being built south of Dhaka, police said yesterday, leaving a Chinese worker dead and more than a dozen others injured.

Police said the violence was triggered by the death of a Bangladeshi worker at the site of a China-funded 1,320-megawatt plant, prompting locals to accuse the Chinese of trying to cover up the incident.



Representative picture

At one point, hundreds of Bangladeshi and Chinese workers were fighting at the site -- about 200 kilometres (125 miles) south of the capital -- and more than a dozen were injured, including six Chinese who were taken to hospital.

"One of the Chinese workers later died in the hospital. He had injuries to his head," local police chief Monirul Islam told AFP, adding it took over 1,000 policemen to restore calm.

China is a close ally of Bangladesh, and Chinese state-run and private firms have invested billions of dollars in the South Asian country's infrastructure projects -- mostly in power, energy and transport sectors.

The presence of large numbers of Chinese workers in Bangladesh, as in other countries where Beijing is investing heavily, has caused some tensions with locals, and officials

said similar clashes occurred a year ago.

Police said more than 6,000 people -- including some 2,000 from China -- work at the power plant site.

Regional administrator Ram Chandra Das told AFP that authorities have ordered a probe into the incident.

"The situation is now calm," he said, adding no arrests had been made.

In April 2016, four people were killed after police opened fire on villagers protesting against the construction of two China-backed power plants in southeastern Bangladesh.

In October that year Chinese President Xi Jinping made a historic visit to Bangladesh and the two countries signed \$20 billion worth of loan agreements.

The latest clashes come just weeks before Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is to visit Beijing.

China's investments in Bangladesh are part of Xi's signature Belt and Road Initiative.

Bangladesh's journey of hope under the leader

The country's vibrant leadership is leaving no stone unturned to achieve goals of economic growth



SALAH UDDIN SHOAIB CHOUDHURY

Exactly eleven years back, in the eyes of the international community, Bangladesh was seen as a poor, corruption-plagued struggling nation. Ruling elites were busy in rampant loot of public wealth while former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's son was behaving like a mafia king, who had formed a band of culprits and criminals not only to help him in robbing off hundreds of millions of dollars through numerous forms of crimes and corruption but also in treating the people of this country as slaves of his desire. Thanks to the popular masses of the country for giving a landslide victory to Bangladesh Awami League under the leadership of Shaikh Hasina during the 2008-general election. Should it not happen, pro-Islamist and anti-Semitic Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its political darling Jamaat e Islami Bangladesh (JIB) would already have turned this country into another Afghanistan – if not even worst!

Founder of BNP, Maj Gen Ziaur Rahman was a notoriously radical Muslim with extreme anti-Semitic mindset. Few of his top allies were Saddam Hussein and Muammar Al Gaddafi. From the list of his allies, it can be easily understood, Zia was an anti-West and fully Islamist individual, who was having the dream of turning Bangladesh into an Islamic republic.

Following the death of Zia, his wife Khaleda Zia came to power twice – in 1991 and 2001 – and during each of her tenures, she had shown Bangladesh the ugliest example of state-patronised corruption, nepotism and of course appeasing of

radical Islam. Members of her family became filthily wealthy through corruption, while her own younger brother Maj (Retired) Sayeed Iskander established a business company with Khaleda's sons and made tonnes of money not only through corruption but also by taking hundreds of millions of Taka from the banks. During those two tenures of BNP, Sayeed Iskander and Tarique Rahman emerged as the mightiest figures in Bangladesh. They were making money by receiving bribes and kickbacks from each of the purchase contracts, while they did not hesitate in taking part in some extremely nasty business – such as dealing in drugs and money laundering.

For years, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party was having China as its best friend. But, soon after it came to power for the second term in 2001, BNP tried to back-stab China by letting Taiwan open its economic office in Bangladesh, which clearly went against Beijing. Furthermore, Khaleda Zia had no problem in letting the Islamist forces hold rallies and processions in various cities and towns in the country – chant anti-America and anti-Israel slogan and most disturbingly – burn American and Israeli flags in broad-daylight. Law enforcing agencies did not interrupt such notoriety of those Islamists as they too knew, the hearts of the ruling elites were filled with anti-US and anti-Semitic poison.

At the request of Yaseer Arafat, BNP's founding father Maj Gen Zia had sent hundreds of Bangladeshis to 'Palestine' to take part in the war against the Jewish State – kill Jews and Christians.

In 2003, the then BNP government named a bridge after the notorious jihadist group Hizbollah. The bridge is located in the southern part of Bangladesh, spanning the Batakhali River in



Sheikh Hasina addresses an election rally.

an area known as Cox's Bazaar. Justifying naming of the bridge, Salauddin Ahmed, state minister for communication told French news agency AFP, "I named the bridge Hizbollah because of our love for the Lebanese resistance group."

"Hizbollah is the only group which is fighting Israel and the bridge is named after the group as a mark of honour," he added.

The United States has identified Hizbollah as a terrorist group, meaning, BNP has a track record of not only of appeasing terrorists and militants but also of encouraging such notoriety.

After postponement and obstruction of trials into a number of corruption cases, in 2018, a court in Dhaka sentenced Khaleda Zia and her son with rigorous imprisonment in just one corruption case, while several cases already are under trial. Her son, Tarique Rahman faces conviction in a number of criminal cases as well. Although Khaleda

was sent to prison on February 18, 2018, directly from the trial court, her son Tarique Rahman remains as an absconder. It was learnt from media reports that Tarique Rahman, his wife and daughter had sought political asylum in the United Kingdom and surrendered their Bangladeshi passport. Sitting in London, Tarique has been plotting and coordinating terrorist activities in Bangladesh. He played key-role behind series of arson attacks, the murder of innocent people, rape of Hindus and Buddhists, vandalising of public and private properties during January-April, 2014. During the subsequent years, Tarique had hands behind several terrorist activities, including plots of assassinating Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and abducting her only son, Sajeb Wajed Joy.

Despite such extreme notoriety of Tarique Rahman, British authorities neither had initiated any investigation into his activi-

As Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina remains committed in the BRI initiatives, it is the responsibility of China to help Bangladesh in smoothly implementing the infrastructural projects.

ties nor had ever warned him of consequences of using British soil for terror-plotting.

Ever since Sheikh Hasina became Prime Minister in 2009, she had dedicated rescuing Bangladesh's economy from mere bankruptcy. She also had focused on combating radical Islam and militancy, which was extremely essential for saving

the country from becoming a rogue nation. After ten years Bangladesh now has emerged into one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Massive infrastructural development works have been continuing, while by 2030, Bangladesh economy is all set to emerge as the strongest economy in South Asia. Sheikh Hasina has also ensured the rule of law and by showing zero tolerance toward militancy and terrorism.

Although she is yet to attain success in combating corruption and the culture of nepotism.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is one of the most prominent partners in Chinese President Xi Jinping's signature Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) programme. While several countries that have earlier agreed to Belt and Road Initiative projects had suspended or scaled back or terminated it, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina remains firm on her commit-

Building connections through cultural



JUSTIN SIBERELL

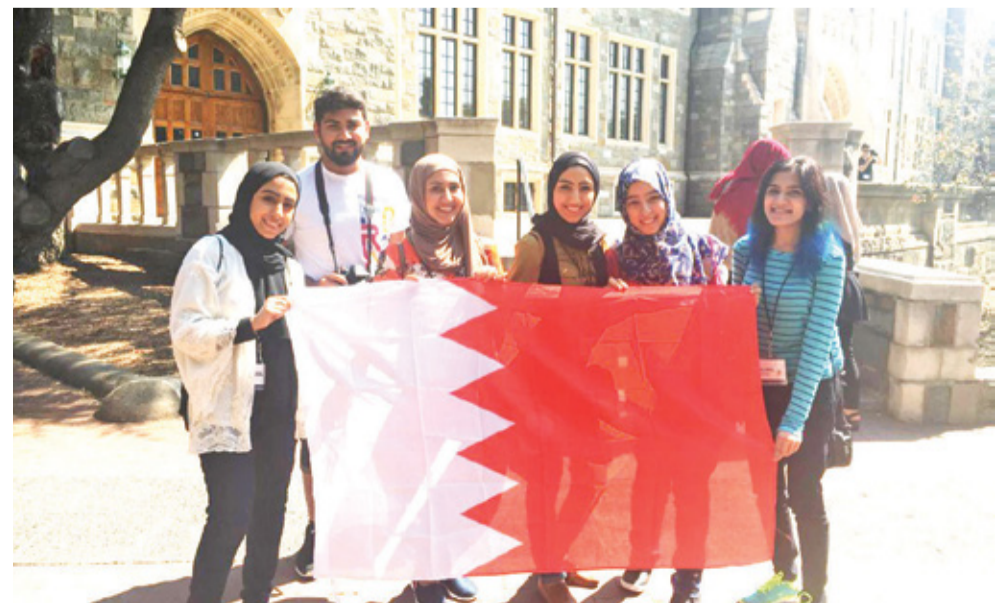
The ties between the United States and Bahrain are strong and deep. Our shared commitment to regional security and economic prosperity has been a lynchpin for the development of our two societies. In 2018, our bilateral trade in goods exceeded \$3 billion dollars, a new record and a tangible representation of the benefits of our partnership. Yet, the most meaningful link between us is the friendship we enjoy through personal and

professional relationships between the American and Bahraini people. One way that we work to expand such relationships is through cultural exchange programs. Cultural exchange fosters mutual understanding and shows the very best of what each society has to offer.

The US Embassy in Manama arranges dozens of exchanges each year, bringing artists, speakers, and performance groups to Bahrain to highlight unique aspects of American culture – beyond what Hollywood screens project and entertainment magazines highlight. Over the long arc of the US-Bahrain relationship, cultural and educational exchange programs have created common understanding and a mutual ap-

preciation. The success of these programs can often be attributed to the keen support of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), whose partnership we very much appreciate.

In fact, from June 26-28 another very exciting cultural outreach program will begin. The "Step Afrika" dance group will arrive from the US to participate in BACA's Summer Festival. This talented group blends the percussive dance styles historically embraced by African-American social clubs in the US with traditional African dancing, while at the same time incorporating music, storytelling, and audience participation. It makes for a uniquely American experience



A group of Bahraini students pursuing education in the US.

1877

Alexander Graham Bell installs the world's first commercial telephone service in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.



1893

Lizzie Borden is acquitted of the murders of her father and stepmother.

1895

The Kiel Canal, crossing the base of the Jutland peninsula and the busiest artificial waterway in the world, is officially opened.

1900

Boxer Rebellion: The Imperial Chinese Army begins a 55-day siege of the Legation Quarter in Beijing, China.

Partnership of Sheikh Hasina

Economic development and social progress



for road and rail transportation, called the 'Silk Road Economic Belt', whereas 'road' refers to the sea routes or the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

To support the BRI, Beijing has injected massive amounts of capital into Chinese public financial institutions, such as the Chinese Development Bank (CDB) and the Export-Import Bank of China (EXIM). These banks enjoy very low borrowing costs as their bonds are treated like Chinese government debt with very low interest rates and they have access to lending from the People's Bank of China's (PBOC), allowing them to lend cheaply to Chinese companies working on BRI projects.

This easy financing enables China's state-owned enterprises (SOEs) to offer highly competitive bids for projects against foreign companies that might be more financially constrained. For instance, in 2015 Japanese construction companies lost out to their Chinese counterparts in a bid to build a high-speed rail project in Indonesia.

That means Bangladesh will be able to undertake massive infrastructural development project by availing the special benefit of getting a much softer loan in comparing to the World Bank, Asian Development Bank etc.

Critics and opponents of BRI say dependence of Chinese funding for implementing massive infrastructural projects might help Beijing in significantly gaining political and other gains. Others say it would actually place China into a much stronger position.

But, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is not willing to buy such arguments for just one particular reason - to her, Bangladesh is the priority and for the best interest of her country, Sheikh Hasina will always do the right thing defying all criticism or opposition.

As Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina remains committed in the BRI initiatives, it is the responsibility of China not only to help the Bangladeshi counterpart in smoothly implementing the infrastructural projects but also encourage Chinese investors and entrepreneurs in giving priority to Bangladesh while either relocating their industrial projects from China or making investments in newer projects. Chinese readymade garment manufacturers already have found Bangladesh as the most suitable country for relocation or newer investment, which is helping Bangladesh's export of textile products increase significantly. Similarly, China should consider investment in hi-tech industries in Bangladesh. There should also be scope for the Bangladeshi exporters and importers in much smoothly transacting business deals. Bangladesh definitely expects wholehearted cooperation and support from the Chinese leadership, especially President Xi Jinping.

After Chinese President Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already emerged as the important politician and statesman. Moreover, she also is gradually becoming a prominent voice in the Muslim world. Diplomatic analysts say, Sheikh Hasina now needs to reshuffle the decade-old policy of Bangladesh and open the window of economic, agricultural, technological and defence co-operation with the Western world. It is also high-time for the Bangladeshi Prime Minister to further strengthen relations with President Donald Trump as well as the European nations. This will place Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's image into a newer height.

(Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury is the editor of Blitz. Follow him on Twitter @Salah_Shoaib)

exchange

that we are excited to share with our Bahraini friends.

In July, we will welcome the Missoula Children's Theatre back to Bahrain to participate in the BACA Summer Festival for the third time. The theatre group will be bringing the classic story Rapunzel to Bahrain, which should delight audiences young and old. With substantial support from BACA, children in Bahrain will have an opportunity to shine on stage in this classic fairy tale that children around the world know and love.

At the same time, Americans are eager to learn more about Bahraini culture. Indeed, our colleagues at Bahrain's Embassy in Washington, DC maintain an active calendar of cultural of-

Cultural exchanges expose participants and spectators to the more human side of diplomacy and international relations.

ferings aimed at the American public. During Ramadan, the Embassy hosted the INTRAfaith Iftar, introducing Americans to

important aspects of Bahrain's rich and dynamic culture.

Cultural exchanges expose participants and spectators to the more human side of diplomacy and international relations. Fundamentally, however, the success of relationships and partnerships depend on the people who enter into them. In the case of the US-Bahrain relationship, both peoples embrace these opportunities to learn about each other and thereby strengthen yet further our long-standing friendship. We look forward to building on this history through exploring opportunities for cultural exchange throughout the year.

(Justin Siberell is the us Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain.)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



My grandpa's entire family was murdered in the Holocaust. I'm 100% comfortable with @AOC and anyone else referring to the current situation as concentration camps. The Holocaust didn't come out of nowhere—it was a slow build, like now. People who understand history know this.

@MarisaKabas

02



Sanskrit is not just a human language but emulates the mantric sounds of the cosmic mind that govern all natural processes in the universe. Sanskrit is the language of Veda and Yoga and facilitates the unfolding of higher awareness.

@davidfrawleyved

03



When we look at Auschwitz we see the end of the process. It's important to remember that the Holocaust actually did not start from gas chambers. This hatred gradually developed from words, stereotypes & prejudice through legal exclusion, dehumanisation & escalating violence.

@AuschwitzMuseum

04



If Boris Johnson does make it to 10 Downing Street, he will become the first UK Prime Minister of part-Turkish descent. Lord Liverpool from the 19th century remains the only UK PM of part-Indian descent. Fascinating how long multiculturalism and multiethnicity have been around.

@MalikAshok

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

Let's explore latest technologies to attain SDGs



ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

New technologies offer monumental opportunities to turbocharge the work of the United Nations for peace, sustainable development and human rights. Scientific progress is helping to cure deadly diseases, feed growing populations, drive economic growth and connect businesses, communities, families and friends across the world like never before. Rapidly developing fields such as artificial intelligence, blockchain and biotechnology hold great potential to improve well-being and generate innovative solutions for global challenges.

The pace of change is remarkable. New technologies are leaping from the lab to global use at an unprecedented pace. More than 90 per cent of all the data that exists today was produced in the last two years.

As a tech leader said to me recently, even though the field already advances at lightning speed, future developments will never again be as slow as they are today.

We must make full use of these life-saving and life-enhancing capacities. As the world strives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals -- the internationally agreed blueprint for building a better world for all -- digital technologies can be especially helpful in those areas where the world is most lagging behind. We must pursue inclusive approaches that bring together all stakeholders. And we must take serious steps to promote the meaningful participation of women and to train young girls in science, technology, engineering and math.

While many of us struggle to recall how we lived without the Internet, a gaping digital divide remains. For more than half the world's population, access is expensive, slow or simply nonexistent. This divide is exacerbating inequalities in other key areas such as education, health and wealth. Digital opportunities must reach all, for the benefit of all.

We must also recognise the threats posed by new technologies. Weapons systems that can identify and kill on their own are closer to becoming a reality -- a morally repugnant development. Social media is being used to spread hatred and lies. Technology is being exploited by terrorists, and organised criminal networks lurk on the dark web, profiting from encryption and near-anonymous cryptocurrency

payments to traffic in people and illegal drugs. While innovation continues to open up new fields of employment, many workers fear their jobs will fall victim to automation, underscoring the need for large-scale re-training, expanded social protection schemes and education from the earliest grades that emphasises lifelong learning.

We can and must do more to ensure that digital technologies are a force for good. That is why I established a High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, which has just issued its report (<https://digitalcooperation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/DigitalCooperation-report-for-web.pdf>).

Led by Melinda Gates of the Gates Foundation and Jack Ma of Alibaba, the panel brought together diverse experts who consulted globally, debated vigorously and examined a wide spectrum of challenges, and put forward detailed recommendations for eliciting the best of new technologies.

The panel has recommended ways to close the digital divide,

increase cooperation, and better govern digital technology development through open, agile, and multi-stakeholder models. Classical forms of governance do not apply. Technology moves so fast that by the time decision makers gather to prepare, discuss, approve, ratify and implement a convention or new agreement, the landscape has changed entirely. Analogue policymaking won't work in a digital world.

I welcome the High-Level Panel's recognition of the United Nations as a uniquely legitimate and dynamic plat-

form where Governments, civil society, academia, the scientific community and the tech industry itself can come together to discuss the way forward. Beyond the UN's convening power, our standard-setting, capacity-building and data-gathering efforts are also well-placed to contribute. I will devise a roadmap for the UN role going forward, and host any discussions that stakeholders would find useful.

That conversation cannot wait. The age of digital interdependence deepens with each livestream, on-line transaction and path-breaking platform. As with other quintessential global phenomena -- trade, communications, climate change and human mobility -- international cooperation can be the difference between progress and chaos. We need to move now to build trust, stay ahead of emerging issues and shape a peaceful, prosperous and positive digital future for all.

(António Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations.)

business

Batelco Gold Sponsor of 100 years of Formal Education Forum



Batelco General Manager of Corporate Communications and CSR, Shaikh Bader Bin Rashid Al Khalifa, being presented with an award in recognition of Batelco's sponsorship by Dr Majid Al Nuaimi, the Minister of Education

TDT | Manama

A management team from Batelco has attended the "100 Years of Formal Education Forum", organised by the Ministry of Education in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the Company's capacity as Gold Sponsor.

The two-day event took place from June 11 - 12 was held at Art Rotana, Amwaj.

Attending the event on behalf of Batelco was General Manager of Corporate Communications and CSR, Shaikh Bader Al Khalifa, who was presented with an award in recognition of Batelco's sponsorship by Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi, Minister of Education

Commenting on the occasion, Shaikh Bader said, "Batelco will continue to embrace its role as a national entity and support the Kingdom of Bahrain through its youth and education programmes."

Registration opens for "MicroShabab" forum

TDT | Manama

Future Society for Youth will organise the second edition of "MicroShabab" Forum at Crowne Plaza Bahrain, which will focus on "opportunities and challenges of electronic applications and stores".

The two-day event from 6-7 July 2019 will be held under the patronage of Zayed bin Rashid Alzayani Minister of Industry, Commerce & Tourism and in strategic partnership with Tamkeen Labor Fund.

Public and private institutions and SME entrepreneurs will participate.

The event is paralleled to the 2018 Youth Summit organised by the National Programme for the development of Youth and Sports Sector - Estijabah under the supervision of HM the King's Representative for Charity Work and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Supreme Council for



Zayed bin Rashid Alzayani

Youth and Sports (SCYS), HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The Forum will focus on exploring the prospects, opportunities and challenges of electronic applications and stores, their impact on the various aspects of work and life.

It will also discuss e-commerce, and main obstacles to its growth among young entrepreneurs, and the role of the government in supporting and encouraging its growth.

To register log on to www.microshabab.com

BCCI-Thai biz delegation meet today

TDT | Manama

A high-profile Thai business delegation, comprising top entrepreneurs, has reached Bahrain for a three-day business visit.

A special session will be held today between 10 am and 12 pm at the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI).

"The delegation consists of

12 Thai companies and will have business meetings with representatives of BCCI," said Panot Punyahotra, Executive Director of the Department of International Trade Promotion, Thai Ministry of Commerce.

The delegation is the first official team representing the Thai Ministry of Commerce to visit the Kingdom in many years.

Manama Dialogue in November

Top IISS official discusses the relevance of strategic studies at BBBF meeting



Keynote speaker Sir Tom Beckett KCB CBE (3rd from left) with BBBF Chairman Khalid Al Zayani OBE (4th from left), British Ambassador Simon Martin CMG (5th from left) and BBBF Deputy Chair Paula Boast (6th from left) with BBBF Executive Committee members

TDT | Manama

The next Manama Dialogue will be held in Kingdom from 22 to 24 November this year, said a top IISS official.

Lt. Gen. (Retd) Sir Tom Beckett, Executive Director of International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) was speaking during a monthly networking meeting hosted by the Bahrain British Business Forum (BBBF).

The last Manama Dialogue in October 2018 attracted over 500 delegates from 49 countries comprising senior ministers, military and intelligence chiefs, top diplomats, CEOs, opinion-formers, analysts and leading journalists.

In his address, Sir Tom dis-

cussed the relevance of strategic studies for governments and businesses and how IISS data and analysis has benefited businesses across the globe. Now in its 61st year, the IISS is an international research institute that provides objective information on military, geopolitical and geo-economic developments that could lead to a conflict.

"What makes our Dialogues extremely useful is that apart from the senior delegates from various governments there is a significant board level representation from multinational businesses, who listens, contributes and conducts meetings on the sidelines of the summit."

The IISS is a registered charity based in London with three regional offices. The Washington office covers the Americas,

Singapore office covers the Indo-Pacific and Manama office covers the Middle East.

"In a world where everyone and everything is connected, IISS research can help shine a light into the fog of strategic competition to help regional business leaders and decision-makers navigate a con-

gested, cluttered and contested world," said Tom.

The event was held in the presence of the Chairman of the BBBF, Khalid Al Zayani, Simon Martin, the British Ambassador to Bahrain, 100 forum members and their guests at the Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel yesterday.



Selection of the audience

Grooming Bahrain's future leaders

CBB receives Al Salam Bank Capacity Building Programme candidates



Rasheed Mohammed Al Maraj, the CBB Governor with Al Salam Bank Capacity Building Programme candidates

TDT | Manama

A top Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) official has assured his support to all efforts that back the development of Bahraini employees.

"Future leaders must prepare themselves to deal with the rapid developments in the sector including the introduction of financial technology in banking operations," said Rasheed

Mohammed Al Maraj, the CBB Governor.

Al Maraj was receiving employees, preparing for the final stages of an Executive Capacity Building Programme organised by Al Salam Bank and Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF), at CBB.

Al Salam Bank Group CEO Rafik Nayed, BIBF Director Dr Ahmed Al Shaikh and other CBB and Al Salam Bank officials

were present. The customized one-year course is designed to prepare high-calibre executives to take on leadership positions within Al Salam Bank.

Participants are set to travel to London next week for the final part of the programme, which includes industry visits and lectures at CASS Business School. This will be followed by six months of coaching sessions with executive coaches from

global accounting and consulting firm, Grant Thornton.

The programme will assist Al Salam Bank to identify potential candidates for key leadership positions and provide them with development opportunities.

Rafik Nayed said: "We are working to create a dynamic, future-ready talent pool which can make significant contributions to the financial sector and the economy as a whole."

Gulf Air official carrier of Airshow 2020/22

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, was named as the official carrier of the Bahrain International Airshow in its 6th and 7th editions in 2020 and 2022.

This was announced following a deal signing with the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications' Civil Aviation Affairs during the Paris International Airshow at Le Bourget, Paris in France.

The signing ceremony was attended by Kamal bin Ahmed Mohammed, the Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications and Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Organising Committee for Bahrain International Airshow and Gulf Air's CEO Krešimir Kucko at the Paris Air Show.



Kamal Ahmed, the Minister of Transportation with Gulf Air's CEO Krešimir Kucko at the Paris Air Show.

Gulf Air has been the official carrier since the pilot edition of the Bahrain International Airshow in 2010.

Commenting on the renewal of the official carrier deal, the Minister said, "The Bahrain International Airshow 2020 marks a decade of success since it first launched in 2010 and we are very pleased to have had Gulf Air as the official carrier of each of the airshow's editions and a contributor to its success. We look forward to continuing on this success leveraging our partnership with Gulf Air, as the airline helps us to bring the leaders of the global aerospace industry to Bahrain."

"This is a fantastic platform to promote Bahrain along with our evolving airline and it continues to be a great international forum to network with key industry players," said Krešimir Kucko.

BBK, Orchid Developers announce mortgage deal



Officials following the deal signing

TDT | Manama

BBK announced yesterday the signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Orchid Developers to provide mortgage financing to the customers of "Spiral Orchid Residence".

Under the terms of the agreement, customers of the Spiral Orchid Residence who require funding in the form of mortgage loans will be advised to consider BBK being the end user funding partner.

The deal is yet another strategic partnership agreement with Orchid Developers, a Real-Estate and Development Company. Orchid is one of the first in Bahrain to offer freehold commercial and residential projects with more than 175 units of residential and commercial properties already delivered to its customers in addition to the res-

idential units at the Orchid Plaza project.

Announcing the deal, Reyadh Sater, BBK's Chief Executive, said: "We are pleased to enter into another strategic partnership with Orchid Developers, an esteemed real estate company that has been offering modern residential solutions which customers from all nationalities residing in the GCC can benefit from. In return, BBK offers excellent interest rates and loan terms to customers who wish to own a property in the Spiral Orchid Residence.

Dr Bashar Ahmadi, Orchid Developer's Managing Director, said: "We are delighted to enter yet another partnership agreement with BBK which paves the way towards a future of convenience for our customers in the field of purchasing properties all the while strengthening our relationship with the Bank."

Tamkeen named strategic partner of "Smart Investor" programme

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Bourse has announced Tamkeen (Labour Fund), as a Strategic Partner for the "Smart Investor" Programme in its 2nd edition for the academic year 2019-2020.

The Smart Investor programme is a national awareness programme organised in collaboration with INJAZ Bahrain and aims at promoting financial and investment literacy among elementary school students in Bahrain.

Commenting, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al-Khalifa, the Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Bourse commented, "We are thankful to Tamkeen's sup-



Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al-Khalifa

Dr Ebrahim Mohammed Janahi

port to the programme for the past two years."

On his part, Dr Ebrahim Mohammed Janahi, Chief Exec-

utive of Labour Fund Tamkeen said, "The Smart Investor Programme is a good opportunity to increase the sharing of prac-

tical experiences in the world of business among students." The programme launched in 2018 in collaboration with INJAZ Bahrain consists of seven-themed sessions designed to equip students with the following concepts: Thinking, Specifying, Planning, Execution, Saving, Progression, and Evaluation.

During the 2018-2019 academic year, the Smart Investor programme has been implemented across 76 schools, 212 classes, with the support extended from educators and volunteers targeting more than 5500 students within Grade 4 elementary level.

PIE in deal with Zain Bahrain to launch 'Smart Branch'

TDT | Manama

Payment International Enterprise (PIE), a leading Fin-Tech company in the Kingdom, has joined hands with Zain Bahrain to roll out a new "Smart Branch" service in Kingdom.

The launch, according to Zain Bahrain, makes it the first in Bahrain to offer such an interactive system.

The "Smart Branch" was developed by PIE in collaboration with KeyBS DMCC, a Fintech Dynamic Solution Provider & Systems Integrator based in Du-



bai-UAE. "Smart Branch", Zain said, allows to purchase a new line, replace SIM cards, generate an eSIM (QR), pay bills, top-up lines and view Zain Bahrain latest available devices all through the interactive screen which supports reading Smart ID cards and passports with validating fingerprint feature.

All relevant information about Zain services such as pre-paid, post-paid and home broadband plans, bill payments and recharge can be accessed through the self-service machine.

The "Smart Branch" accepts

cash payments using Bahraini Dinars and Saudi Riyals, gives cash back, accepts debit and credit cards as payment options as well as payments by vouchers.

Ammar Al Ketbi, Acting Director, Consumer Marketing and Sales stated: "We are pleased, and proud to collaborate with PIE to launch the first "Smart Branch" in Bahrain."

CEO of PIE, Fawaz Ghazal stated: "I look forward to the next steps of our partnership and continue to contribute to the digital economy collectively."

Stock markets hold their breath before Fed update

London, United Kingdom

Stock markets on both sides of the Atlantic paused yesterday after the previous session's strong rally, as investors awaited a key monetary policy update from the Federal Reserve.

The dollar was downbeat against its main rivals, while oil prices were volatile after strong gains Tuesday.

Major crude-producing countries, including Saudi Arabia and non-OPEC members like Russia, on Wednesday said they would meet in Vienna at the beginning of July to decide on whether to prolong output cuts.

US and European equity mar-

kets had rallied Tuesday -- and Asian indices playing catch-up jumped Wednesday -- on two investor-friendly developments: upbeat comments from the US and China on trade before the G20 Summit, and an ECB statement hinting at a eurozone interest-rate cut.

"European markets are taking a breather in the wake of yesterday's huge gains across the globe," noted Joshua Mahony, senior market analyst at IG trading group.

Wall Street was "near the flatline amid palpable caution" ahead of the Fed meeting's outcome. Mahony added that the

Key figures around 1540 GMT

London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.5pc at 7,403.54 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▼ 0.2pc at 12,308.53 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.2pc at 5,518.45 (close)
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ 0.1pc at 3,454.70
New York - Dow:	▲ 0.2pc at 26,512.16
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 1.7pc at 21,333.87 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▲ 2.6pc at 28,202.14 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 1.0pc at 2,917.80 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ AT \$1.1217 from \$1.1202 at 2040 GMT
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.2634 from \$1.2558
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 108.36 yen from 108.43 yen
Brent North Sea:	■ at \$62.14 per barrel
Oil - West Texas Inter:	▼ 4 cents at \$54.05

Fed's rate decision Wednesday "is widely heralded as the most notable event of the week, with the recent decline in US data highlighting a shift towards another phase of easing".

Most Fed watchers do not expect the US central bank to move interest rates at this meeting but they do see it signalling that the next move would be downward -- and possibly soon.

European Central Bank head Mario Draghi on Tuesday hinted at a cut in interest rates to support the stuttering eurozone economy.

Expectations that the Bank of England will maintain its key

interest rate at 0.75pc on Thursday increased as official data released Wednesday showed that British annual inflation dipped in May.

"While we may get some hawkish noises from tomorrow's Bank of England rate decision, there is unlikely to be a consensus for raising rates any time soon," said Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets UK.

He added that "today's Fed meeting will be all the more important in how... officials spin the narrative on how they see the path for US interest rates over the rest of 2019.

Johnson wins key Brexit backing

Votes obtained as of June 18

London

British leadership favourite Boris Johnson won the endorsement of a key Brexit-backing rival yesterday despite accusations he was softening his rhetoric on leaving the EU.

Ahead of another round of voting among Conservative MPs, former Brexit secretary Dominic Raab said Johnson was the "only candidate" who would take Britain out of the European Union as planned on October 31.

On Tuesday, Raab was eliminated from the contest to replace Theresa May as the leader of the governing Conservative Party and therefore as prime minister, leaving five candidates standing.

One of them will be eliminated in another ballot later Wednesday, before further votes on Thursday to whittle the field down to a final pair.

Former foreign minister Johnson is leading the pack after securing the support of 126 of the 313 Conservative MPs in Tuesday's ballot.

A figurehead of the 2016 referendum campaign for Brexit, he insists there must be no more delays to Britain's EU exit, after May postponed it twice.

During a television debate on Tuesday, watched by an average 5.3 million viewers, Johnson said further delay would cause a "catastrophic loss of confidence in politics".

But he declined to guarantee this would happen -- and one of his main rivals, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, suggested afterwards that his position was not clear.

"I am not entirely sure what he believes on this," Hunt told BBC radio.

Johnson keeps low profile

Hunt came second in Tuesday's ballot with 46 votes, followed by Environment Secretary Michael Gove -- another leader of the 2016 Brexit campaign -- on 41.

International Development Secretary Rory Stewart, the only candidate to rule out leaving the EU with no deal, continued his unlikely progress with 37 votes.

Sajid Javid, Britain's first Muslim interior minister, scraped through with 33 votes -- the minimum to avoid elimination -- while Raab fell short with 30.

Raab was viewed as the can-

Since 1987 Eurosceptic journalist and commentator

2001-08, 2015-to date Conservative member of parliament

2008-16 Mayor of London

2015-16 Key figure in the Vote Leave (Brexit) campaign

2016 Ditches bid to become prime minister after chief ally Michael Gove withdraws support

2016-2018 Theresa May's foreign minister



BORIS JOHNSON

2019 CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP PLEDGES

- Leave the EU on Oct 31, with or without a deal
- Withdraw the £39-billion EU divorce bill as a negotiating tactic
- Cut taxes for Britain's richest 3 million people



On his party
"We are facing an existential crisis and will not be forgiven if we do not deliver Brexit on 31 October" -2019

On Brexit
"I am not aiming for a no-deal outcome... but it is only responsible to prepare vigorously and seriously for no-deal" -2019

IN HIS OWN WORDS



Vote Leave campaign slogan
Let's give our National Health Service the £350 million the EU takes every week -2016
claim challenged by UK Statistics Authority

Source: AFP, UK media © AFP

didate with the most hardline policy on Brexit, even suggesting he could suspend the session of parliament if it tried to block "no deal".

Stewart said Wednesday that he was in talks with Gove about joining forces.

Tuesday's BBC debate was the first of the campaign to feature Johnson, who dodged a previous one on Sunday and has kept his public and media appearances to a minimum.

But none of the candidates made any major headway or gaffes, and Johnson remains the runaway favourite.

Opposition leaders on Wednesday targeted the front-runner's past comments, with the Scottish National Party's leader in parliament Ian Blackford telling MPs: "not only is the member racist, he is stoking division in communities."

Johnson's most uncomfortable moment in Tuesday's debate came when, following up a question from a British imam, he was challenged over his description of Muslim women wearing burkas as looking like "letter boxes",

in a 2018 article against banning the full face veil.

But the BBC was later forced to explain its vetting process after the imam was found to have posted allegedly anti-Semitic messages on his Twitter page.

'None of us want no deal'

After Conservative MPs whittle them down to two candidates by the end of Thursday, the final pair will be put to a ballot of 160,000 party members, with the winner taking over in Downing Street likely in late July.

May stepped down last month over her failure to deliver Brexit on time, although she remains prime minister until her successor is chosen.

She struck an exit deal with Brussels last November, but failed three times to get it through parliament's lower House of Commons.

All the candidates except Stewart insist they can renegotiate the text with the EU -- despite repeated warnings from Brussels that it will not do this.

Stewart wants to try again to

get the deal agreed with Brussels through parliament, but the others warn that without a change, Britain must be ready to leave with no deal at all.

Johnson said in Tuesday's debate: "None of us wants a no-deal outcome."

"We are going to make sure we come out on terms that protect the UK and protect the EU as well."

Both Hunt and Gove repeated that a further delay might be required if a Brexit deal was within reach.

But Javid said it was "fundamental" to get out by the new deadline no matter what.

- Position on Brexit**
- Open to no-deal on Oct 31
 - Dislikes no-deal but doesn't rule it out
 - Opposes no-deal

BORIS JOHNSON
Former Foreign Secretary
Votes: 126

JEREMY HUNT
Foreign Secretary
Votes: 46

MICHAEL GOVE
Environment Secretary
Votes: 41

RORY STEWART
International Development Secretary
Votes: 37

SAJID JAVID
Home Secretary
Votes: 33



Donald Trump-Xi meeting at G20 raises hope for trade truce

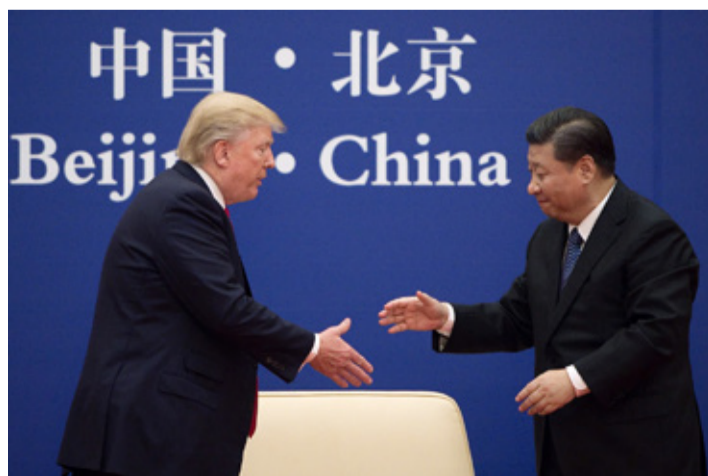
Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping have agreed to meet at the G20 summit in Japan next week, raising hopes for a truce in the bruising trade war between the world's top two economies.

The two leaders spoke on the phone on Tuesday, weeks after negotiations broke down when Trump accused Beijing of renegeing on its commitments, hiked tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods and then blacklisted Chinese telecom giant Huawei.

The US president took a conciliatory approach this time.

"Had a very good telephone conversation with President Xi of China. We will be having an extended meeting next week at the G-20 in Japan," Trump said



China's President Xi Jinping shakes hands with US President Donald Trump (L) during a business leaders event at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

on Twitter.

"Our respective teams will begin talks prior to our meeting,"

he said ahead of the June 28-29 summit.

Xi noted that bilateral rela-

tions had encountered difficulties that were "not in the interest of either side" but he warned that dialogue must be conducted on "an equal footing."

"China and the US will both gain by cooperating and lose by fighting," Xi told Trump, according to state media.

Global shares were buoyed by the announcement, with Wall Street rallying on Tuesday and Asian stock markets surging on Wednesday.

The White House readout of the call said the leaders "discussed the importance of leveling the playing field for US farmers, workers, and businesses through a fair and reciprocal economic relationship."

"I think we have a chance. China wants a deal. They don't

like the tariffs," Trump told reporters at the White House. "I have a very good relationship with president Xi. We'll see what happens."

North Korean 'bargaining chip'

The White House repeated that the focus of the talks will be to address "structural barriers to trade with China and achieving meaningful reforms that are enforceable and verifiable."

The United States and China seemed close to an agreement when talks collapsed last month.

Beijing retaliated to Trump's tariffs and moves against Huawei by increasing custom taxes on \$60 billion in US goods, creating its own list of "unreliable" companies and individuals and threatening to ban exports of

rare earths to the United States.

Xi told Trump that the two countries must "accommodate each other's legitimate concerns" and that "China hopes the US side can treat Chinese firms in a fair manner," according to the official Xinhua news agency.

Trump had requested the call between the two leaders, according to Xinhua.

A week before the G20, Xi will visit North Korea on Thursday and Friday, his first trip there as president.

China is North Korea's sole major ally, and analysts say Xi could use any leverage Beijing may have in the nuclear stand-off between Washington and Pyongyang as a "bargaining chip" in his talks with Trump.

show

OASIS JUFFAIR

1-MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY) NEW
 *- TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN.
 DAILY AT (VIP): 11.45 AM. + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM.

2-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW
 *-TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK
 DAILY AT: 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 PM.
 DAILY AT: (KIDS CINEMA): 10.30 AM. + 12.30 + 2.45 + 7.15 PM.

3-MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY) NEW
 *-MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHHAMED THARWAT
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM.



11-VIRUS (PG-13) (MALAYALAM)
 *KUNCHACKO BOBAN, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS
 DAILY AT: 3.00 + 8.30 PM.

CITYCENTRE

1-MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY) NEW
 *- TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON
 DAILY AT: 12.00 MN
 DAILY AT (ATMOS): 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN
 DAILY AT (MAX3D): 12.45 + 7.45 + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
 DAILY AT (VIP I): 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

2-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW
 *-TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM
 DAILY AT (MAX 2D): 10.30 AM + 3.15 + 5.30 + 10.15 PM
 DAILY AT (3D): 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

3-MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY) NEW
 *-MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHHAMED THARWAT
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

4-CHILD'S PLAY (18+) (HORROR) NEW
 *AUBREY PLAZA, GABRIEL BATEMAN, BRIAN TYREE
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

5-KABIR SINGH (15+) (HINDI/ROMANTIC) NEW
 *SHAHID KAPOOR, KIARA ADVANI, ARJUN BAJWA
 DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 2.00 + 5.15 + 8.30 + 11.45 PM

6-UNDA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW
 MAMMOOTTY, ASIF ALI, ARJUN ASOKAN
 DAILY AT: (9.30 AM + 10.00 AM. + 10.15 AM. THURS/FRI/SAT)

7-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)
 *WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.00 + 3.15 + 4.30 + 6.00 + 7.00 + 8.45 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM + 12.00 MN
 DAILY AT (VIP II): 12.00 NOON + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM

8-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME)
 *KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
 DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

9-POKEMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU (PG) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY)
 *RYAN REYNOLDS, JUSTICE SMITH, KATHRYN NEWTON
 DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

10-THE HUSTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME)
 *ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)

11-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY)
 *VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
 DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM

12-THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)
 *PATTON OSWALT, KEVIN HART, HARRISON FORD
 DAILY AT: 1.00 + 5.15 + 9.30 PM

13-THE POISON ROSE (PG-15) (DRAMA/THRILLER) NEW
 *MORGAN FREEMAN, JOHN TRAVOLTA, BRENDAN FRASER
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 4.30 + 10.00 PM

14-SABIE AL BOROMBA (PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY)
 *RAMEZ GALAL, BAYOUMI FOUAD, JAMEELA AWAD
 DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM

15-X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION)
 *SOPHIE TURNER, JENNIFER LAWRENCE, JESSICA CHASTAIN
 DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM

16-CASABLANCA (PG-15) (ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)
 *AMIR KARARA, GHADA ADEL, EYAD NASSAR
 DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 PM

17-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)
 *BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
 DAILY AT: 1.00 + 6.30 PM

MOVIE REVIEW

In 'Norm of the North,' a polar bear takes a stand

'Norm of the North' ploddingly follows in footsteps of 'Happy Feet'

Norm of the North is an Indian-American-Irish computer-animated comedy adventure film directed by Trevor Wall and written by Daniel R. Altieri, Steven M. Altieri, and Malcolm T. Goldman.

It features the voices of Rob Schneider, Heather Graham, Ken Jeong, Colm Meaney, Loretta Devine, Gabriel Iglesias, Michael McElhatton, and Bill Nighy. The UK version features the voice of James Corden.

It was produced by Assemblage Entertainment, Splash Entertainment and Telegael, and distributed by Lionsgate. Norm of the North was critically panned.

On Rotten Tomatoes, the film currently holds a rating of 9%, based on 69 reviews, with an average rating of 3/10. The site's critical consensus read, "A pioneering feat in the field of twerking polar bear animation but blearily retrograde in every other respect, Norm of the North should only be screened in case of parental emergency."

On Metacritic, the film has a score of



"Norm of the North" is an adventure about a gentle polar bear who rises to the occasion when his frozen habitat is threatened by a greedy land developer

21 out of 100, based on 18 critics, indicating "generally unfavorable reviews".

On CinemaScore, audiences gave the film an average grade of "B-" on an A+ to F scale.

Critic Mark Dujsik gave the film 1 out of 4 possible stars, writing that "Norm of the North doesn't care about the environment, the animals of the Arctic, or even kids for that matter. It wants to



be 'cute and marketable' as cheaply as possible".

James White of Empire gave the film 1 out of 5 possible stars, writing that "we wouldn't recommend you watch it even after you've burned through every

other possibility – and that includes a blank screen".

Mark Kermode of The Observer called the film a "dull ... below-par Ice Age-style tale in which the highlight is a group of vulgar lemmings".

Michael Rechtshaffen of The Los Angeles Times called the film "blandly uninspired", and Soren Andersen of The Seattle Times called the film an "idiotic animated comedy", writing that "No child should be exposed to this".

3-CHILD'S PLAY (18+) (HORROR) (NEW)
 *AUBREY PLAZA, GABRIEL BATEMAN, BRIAN TYREE
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)

4-THE SUN IS ALSO A STAR (PG-15) (ROMANTIC/DRAMA) (NEW)
 *YARA SHAHIDI, CHARLES MELTON, JOHN LEGUIZAMO
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 4.00 + 9.00 PM

5-THE DEAD DON'T DIE (15+) (COMEDY/ HORROR) (NEW)
 *BILL MURRAY, ADAM DRIVER, TILDA SWINTON
 DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.30 + 11.00 PM

6-ABOVE SUSPENSION (18+) (CRIME/DRAMA) (NEW)
 *EMILIA CLARKE, THORA BIRCH, JACK HUSTON
 DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 4.15 + 8.45 PM

7-JOHN WICK 3 - PARABELLUM (15+) (ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME)
 *KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE
 DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

8-POKEMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU (PG) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/FANTASY) NEW
 *RYAN REYNOLDS, JUSTICE SMITH, KATHRYN NEWTON
 DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

9-THE HUSTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME)
 *ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP
 DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.45 + 11.30 PM

10-GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/FANTASY)
 *VERA FARMIGA, KEN WATANABE, SALLY HAWKINS
 DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 4.00 + 8.45 PM

11-BHARAT (PG-13) (HINDI/ROMANTIC)
 *SALMAN KHAN, KATRINA KAIF, DISHA PATANI
 DAILY AT: 1.00 + 6.00 + 11.00 PM

12-SABIE AL BOROMBA (PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY)
 *RAMEZ GALAL, BAYOUMI FOUAD, JAMEELA AWAD
 DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM

13-CASABLANCA (PG-15) (ARABIC/ACTION/CRIME/THRILLER)
 *AMIR KARARA, GHADA ADEL, EYAD NASSAR
 DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 PM

SEEF (I)

1-MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY) NEW
 *- TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN

2-KABIR SINGH (15+) (HINDI/ROMANTIC) (NEW)
 *SHAHID KAPOOR, KIARA ADVANI, ARJUN BAJWA
 DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 2.00 + 5.15 + 8.30 + 11.45 PM

3-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)
 *WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
 DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM

4-UNDA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW
 MAMMOOTTY, ASIF ALI, ARJUN ASOKAN
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

5-SINDHUBAADH (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW
 *VIJAY SETHUPATHI, ANJALI, VIVEK PRASANNA
 DAILY AT: 1.15 + 6.30 + 11.45 PM

6-SHADDA (PG-15) (PUNJABI) NEW
 *DILJIT DOSANJH, NEERU BAJWA

SEEF (II)

1-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COMEDY) (NEW)
 *TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK
 DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM

2-MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY) (NEW)
 *MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHHAMED THARWAT
 DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN

DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 4.00 + 9.15 PM

SAAR

1-MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY) NEW
 *- TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON
 DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

2-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COMEDY) (NEW)
 *TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK
 DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

3-MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY) (NEW)
 *MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHHAMED THARWAT
 DAILY AT: 5.00 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

4-CHILD'S PLAY (18+) (HORROR) (NEW)
 *AUBREY PLAZA, GABRIEL BATEMAN, BRIAN TYREE
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 4.00 + 9.30 PM

5-KABIR SINGH (15+) (HINDI/ROMANTIC) (NEW)
 *SHAHID KAPOOR, KIARA ADVANI, ARJUN BAJWA
 DAILY AT: 12.30 + 6.00 PM

6-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)
 *WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
 DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.30 + 7.00 + 11.30 PM

AL HAMRA

1-UNDA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW
 MAMMOOTTY, ASIF ALI, ARJUN ASOKAN
 DAILY AT: 3.00 + 9.00 + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)

2-SINDHUBAADH (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW
 *VIJAY SETHUPATHI, ANJALI, VIVEK PRASANNA
 DAILY AT: 12.00 + 6.00 PM

WADI AL SAIL

1-MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY/FANTASY) NEW
 *- TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON
 DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN

2-TOY STORY 4 (G) (ANIMATION/ DVENTURE/COMEDY) (NEW)
 *TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK
 DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM

3-MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15) (ARABIC/COMEDY) (NEW)
 *MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHHAMED THARWAT
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM + 12.00 MN

4-CHILD'S PLAY (18+) (HORROR) (NEW)
 *AUBREY PLAZA, GABRIEL BATEMAN, BRIAN TYREE
 DAILY AT: 11.30 PM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM

5-KABIR SINGH (15+) (HINDI/ROMANTIC) (NEW)
 *SHAHID KAPOOR, KIARA ADVANI, ARJUN BAJWA
 DAILY AT: 10.45 PM + 2.00 + 5.15 + 8.30 + 11.45 PM

6-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE)
 *WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
 DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM

celebs

Jessica Simpson



Jessica Simpson shares picture of postpartum ankles post pregnancy

Los Angeles

Jessica Simpson recently showed off her postpartum ankles after her swollen feet during pregnancy in January.

"I spy... my ankles!!!!" the 38-year-old fashion designer captioned the picture. The picture was clicked while she was in bed, featuring her bare legs.

Many celebs came in support of the actor. Married at First Sight's Jamie Otis wrote, "Killer [legs] mama! #inspiration," while Real Housewives of Beverly Hills' Kylie Richards added,

"They're back!" When she was pregnant in January, Simpson asked her Instagram followers to help her with swollen feet.

"Any remedies?" she captioned an upload of her left foot then.

The actor even shared a throwback shot of her legs in denim shorts and wedge sandals as part of the "ten-year challenge."

Simpson and her husband, Eric Johnson, who already share Maxwell, 7, and Ace, 5, welcomed their newborn Birdie in March. "We are so happy and proud to announce the birth of our perfect daughter, Birdie Mae Johnson,"

She honoured the former professional football player with a sweet Father's Day tribute. "Anyone that knows my husband Eric would agree that he is hands down the best Father in the world," Simpson captioned a monochrome picture of the athlete.



'Its me writing about things happening in real time': Camila Cabello on her new album

Los Angeles

Camila Cabello, who will be seen next in musical 'Cinderella', is working hard on her new record.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the actor spoke about her upcoming album at the Cannes Lions festival. She said that her new music is nearly finished and will be a lot more intimate than her Grammy-nominated pop album 'Camila.'

"When I was going into that album I was kind of in my little bubble of life, I had far away crushed on people and would write about them and didn't really have any experience with being in love. I only wrote about it from afar," said the pop singer.

Adding further, she said, "For the first time on this album, it's not my imagination, it's me writing about things that are happening in real time, and I think that there's a level of detail and emotion that you get from that's kind of irreplaceable."

"It's captured my essence of who I am right now. There are a lot of stories to tell this time around," she said. "I've been in my studio cave, and I'm ready to bare my soul," she concluded.

The singer is spending much of her time listening to podcasts like 'The Goop' or Oprah Winfrey's 'Super Soul Sunday.' The new-age ideas have changed her life, and the singer has started practising mindfulness and meditation after listening to Eckhart Tolle.

Camila Cabello



Kate Hudson shares first family picture

Los Angeles

American actor Kate Hudson seems all happy as she shares a picture of the love of life in the recent post.

Following the Father's Day, the 40-year-old actor shares a picture of her three children and boyfriend Danny Fujikawa on Instagram, reported E-News.

Squeezing her entire family in one frame, the actor can be seen with her kids Ryder Robinson, Bingham Hawn Bellamy, and Rani Rose Hudson Fujikawa.

"My loves of my life," she wrote.

The sweet candid picture shows Kate shying away from the camera while her two sons and partner are ready for their close-up.



Michael Fassbender to star in spy thriller 'Malko'

Los Angeles

Actor Michael Fassbender is all set to star in and produce Lionsgate's spy thriller "Malko".

According to Variety, the film is based on Gerard de Villiers' action-spy novel series "S.A.S" and studio intends to launch a franchise with it.

The 42-year-old actor, who most recently reprised his role of Magneto in "X-Men: Dark Phoenix", will portray Malko Linge, an Austrian nobleman and freelance CIA operative who spent his formative years in a special Nazi work camp for captured spies.



Michael Fassbender

Ed sheeran shares tracklist from new album

Los Angeles

Singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran on Wednesday shared the tracklist for his upcoming fourth album, 'No. 6 Collaborations Project'.

Two songs from the album, "I Don't Care", featuring Justin Bieber, and "Cross Me", with Chance the Rapper and PnB Rock, were released as singles recently.

The concept of the album is that every song is a collaboration.



Ed Sheeran

Handling Bradley Cooper, Lady Gaga's romance rumours was difficult for Irina Shayk: Source

Los Angeles

Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga's romance rumours from the sets of 'A Star Is Born' were difficult for Irina Shayk to handle. Cooper's demanding schedule did not help, a source claims.

According to the source, Cooper's directorial debut, which also featured him alongside Gaga, demanded a lot of his time which gradually created distance between him and Shayk. Meanwhile, the romance speculation about Cooper and Gaga were hard to ignore.

"The movie had a major impact on Bradley and Irina's relationship. Even though there was nothing romantic between Cooper and Gaga, the noise was difficult for Irina to deal with," the source told Us Weekly.

Earlier this month, after dating for about four years, Cooper and Shayk decided to call it quits. The two share a 2-year-old daughter Lea.



Irina Shayk



Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga

Jennifer Morrison joins cast of 'This Is Us'

Los Angeles

"Once Upon a Time" star Jennifer Morrison is set to star in the fourth season of "This Is Us".

According to Deadline, the actor will have a recurring role in the NBC show.

However, the details of her character are currently under wraps.

"This Is Us", created by Dan Fogelman, follows the lives and families of two parents, and their three children, in different time frames.

It features an ensemble cast of Milo Ventimiglia, Mandy Moore, Sterling K. Brown, Chrissy Metz, Justin Hartley, Susan Kelechi Watson and Chris Sullivan, among others.

The Emmy-nominated show was renewed for three additional seasons earlier this year.

Jennifer Morrison



Marilyn Monroe statue stolen from popular tourist landmark in Hollywood

Los Angeles

A small statue of Marilyn Monroe, in her iconic pose from her 1955 hit film "The Seven Year Itch", has been stolen from the top of the Ladies of Hollywood Gazebo, a popular landmark at Hollywood Boulevard.

The gazebo, created in 1993 and dedicated to the late actor in 1994, celebrates women in films from

different cultures who brought a change to the film industry.

The statues of Dolores Del Rio, Dorothy Dandridge, Mae West, and Anna May Wong hold up the gazebo while a small statue of Marilyn Monroe is on top of it.

Located at the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and La Brea Avenue, the statue was reported to be stolen at around 3 am on



Marilyn Monroe

Monday, according to The Los Angeles Times.

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) had initially received a call from a citizen who reported seeing someone on top of the gazebo late Sunday night, but the statue was still there when the police had arrived to investigate. The statue was later discovered to be missing on Monday.

SPORTS

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's reception for national athletics team

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa with the national athletics team, who recently won 22 medals in total, including 11 gold, seven silver and four bronze at the 23rd Asian Athletics Championship in Doha. Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) secretary general Mohammed Al Nusuf thanked His Majesty for his support during HM the King's reception for the members of the Bahrain national athletics team

Shaikha Hayat to attend GCC women panel meeting

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) board member and Women's Sport Commission chairwoman Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa will head for Kuwait today to attend the 26th meeting of the GCC Women's Sports Organising Committee.

The meeting, to be chaired by GCC Women's Sports Organising Committee chairwoman Shaikha Naema Al Ahmed Al Subah of Kuwait, will bring a busy programme on its agenda, including dates for Sixth GCC Women's Sport Games.

VAR denies Brazil

● Brazil have three goals disallowed in disappointing draw with Venezuela at 2019 Copa America

● Firmino's first-half effort chalked off for a foul while VAR comes to visitors' rescue in Group A match in Salvador

AFP | Salvador, Brazil

Brazil were held to a 0-0 draw against Venezuela in the Copa America on Tuesday after a dramatic finale which saw a late Philippe Coutinho strike ruled out by VAR.

Coutinho thought he had fired Brazil into the quarter-finals in the 87th minute when he bundled home a finish from Everton Soares' driving run down the left wing at Salvador's Arena Fonte Nova.

But for the second time in the match, Chilean referee Julio Bascunan ruled out a Brazilian goal after being alerted to an infringement by the video assistant referee.

The goal appeared to have been disallowed due to a touch by Liverpool striker Roberto Firmino, although it was not clear that Firmino had been offside as the ball grazed him on the way into the net.

Brazil left the field to boos but remain top of Group A with four points from two games, and one game to play.



Venezuela striker Salomon Rondon, second left, vies for the ball with Brazil players Dani Alves, Casemiro, and Marquinhos

Murray's comeback delayed after Queen's washout

AFP | London

Andy Murray's comeback from hip surgery has been delayed until today after rain washed out the day's play at Queen's Club on Tuesday.

Murray is due to play dou-

bles at Queen's with Spain's Feliciano Lopez as the former world number one returns to action five months after hip surgery.

Murray and Lopez were scheduled to play their first round match at the grass-court event yesterday against top

seeds Juan Sebastian Cabal and Jean-Julian Rojer.

But the tie had to be put back until Thursday after Lopez's singles match against Marton Fucsovics was one of those which fell foul of Tuesday's weather.

As Lopez was due to play yes-

terday, Murray will have to wait another 24 hours to get back in competitive action.

When the 32-year-old Scot does eventually step back onto a tennis court it will be just 143 days after he underwent the operation in a bid to salvage his career.

Bahrain IMMAF medallist Hussein Ayyad to fight at BRAVE London

TDT | Manama

Flyweight contender and Bahrain hero Hussein Ayyad is the first official addition to the BRAVE 24 card, which will take the fastest-growing promotion in the world and Middle East's biggest sports property to London on July 25th, at the Copper Box Arena, inside the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Ayyad will take on Mitchell Johnson, who makes his BRAVE debut inside his home country. Hussein is coming off two straight victories for the promotion, taking out Mohammed Abo Ali by technical knockout at last year's BRAVE 18, and beat Jason Vergara by submission at BRAVE 22, which took place in the Philippines.

Hussein became known in the mixed martial arts world for his performances in the



Hussein Ayyad

amateur scene, where he took the flag of Bahrain to the highest place in several competitions, also earning a bronze medal in the first edition of the IMMAF World Championships to take place in the Kingdom.

BRAVE 24 will take place for the first time in English soil, as the Bahraini promotion will put on an unforgettable show for everyone involved.

Team Aldwin cruise to division one finals

The team of Efren and Leo with the team of Mohanad and Abdulrahman

TDT | Manama

Team Aldwin defeated Team Fuad in Division One Semi-Finals of the 15th FCTG Team Tennis Tournament held at Bahrain Tennis Federation courts in Isa Town.

Team Aldwin scored 3-2 against Team Fuad when Ashraf and Jenny scored 3-6, 6-4, 11-9 hard earned victory against Mohd Sanad and Hisham, Reniel and Abdulrahman beat Adnan and Riad 6-1, 6-3 while Simon and David overcame Yousif and Khalid 6-1, 6-2.

Team Fuad won two consolation matches when Fuad and Mohd Salman overpowered Aldwin and Janey 6-0, 6-0 and Mohanad and Abdulrahman defeated Leo and Efren 6-2, 6-1

In another division one semi-finals, Team Mundeng defeated Team Randy 3-2. Team Mundeng took the semi-finals victory with three straight wins when Cocoy and Manny defeated Randy and Khalid 6-4, 6-3, Gierome and Nile eased past Norman and August 6-1, 6-1 then Romy and James overcame Andrew and Ramzi 6-2, 7-5.

Kiwis compound Proteas woes

Kane Williamson rides luck to guide New Zealand to narrow World Cup win over South Africa

● **Williamson leads from front in tight run chase at Edgbaston as Proteas edge even closer to World Cup exit door**

AFP | Birmingham

Kane Williamson anchored New Zealand to a tense four-wicket victory at Edgbaston yesterday after an astonishing stroke of luck when South Africa failed to review an edge from the Kiwi captain.

The Black Caps' skipper was on 76 when he got a faint edge to a ball by leg-spinner Imran Tahir that Quinton de Kock took behind the stumps but South Africa took no action.

That decision could prove fatal to their tournament hopes, with the Proteas now needing a miracle to progress to the semi-finals after just one win from six matches, while New Zealand now top the 10-team table.

Earlier, Martin Guptill, who had been guiding New Zealand towards their target of 242 off a rain-reduced 49 overs with a minimum of fuss, trod on his stumps to spark a mini collapse.

The batsman, on 35, pulled Andile Phehlukwayo and ended up swivelling, only to lose his balance and clip his leg stump with his foot.

Two overs later New Zealand slipped to 74-3 when Ross Taylor tickled a Chris



Kane Williamson plays a shot

Morris leg-side delivery and De Kock took the catch behind the stumps. Tom Latham's dismissal left them struggling at 80-4.

Jimmy Neesham (23) steadied the

ship with his skipper but when he was out, New Zealand were back in trouble at 137-5.

Colin de Grandhomme came to New Zealand's rescue, batting positively and

bringing up his fifty off 39 balls but when he was caught in the deep for 60 by Du Plessis off Lungi Ngidi, Kiwi nerves were jangling again.

Eight were still needed off the final over.

But Mitchell Santner pinched a single and Williamson kept his nerve, bringing up his century with a huge six off the next ball and then a four sealed the victory.

Earlier, Rassie van der Dussen gave South Africa something to bowl at as the Proteas struggled to 241-6 after losing the toss.

Hashim Amla made a sluggish 55 off 83 balls but Van der Dussen's 67 not out came at better than a run a ball.

During his innings, Amla became the

South Africa

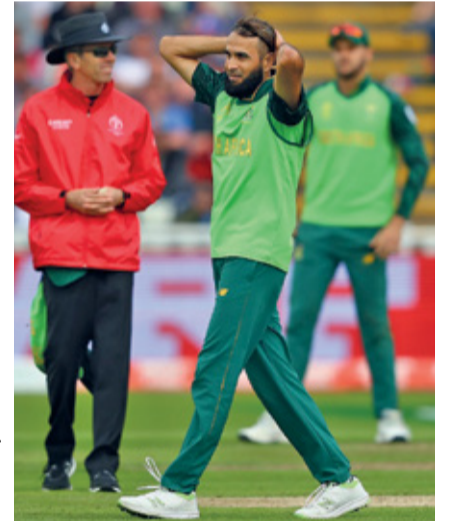
Q. de Kock b Boult	5
H. Amla b Santner	55
F. du Plessis b Ferguson	23
A. Markram c Munro b De Grandhomme	38
R. van der Dussen not out	67
D. Miller c Boult b Ferguson	36
A. Phehlukwayo c Williamson b Ferguson	0
C. Morris not out	6
Extras 11 (lb7, 4w)	
Total (six wickets, 49.0 overs)	241

New Zealand

M. Guptill hit wicket b Phehlukwayo	35
C. Munro c & b Rabada	9
K. Williamson not out	106
R. Taylor c De Kock b Morris	1
T. Latham c De Kock b Morris	1
J. Neesham c Amla b Morris	23
C. de Grandhomme c Du Plessis b Ngidi	60
M. Santner not out	2
Extras 8 (lb1, nb1, w6)	
Total (six wickets, 48.3 overs)	245

fourth South African to reach 8,000 runs in one-day internationals.

He is the second-fastest player (176 innings) from any side to reach the milestone after India's Virat Kohli (175 innings).



Imran Tahir reacts during the match



Cricket World Cup 2019 standings

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	No result	Run rate	Points
New Zealand	5	4	0	0	1	1.591	7
England	4	3	1	0	0	1.862	6
Australia	5	4	1	0	0	0.812	8
India	4	3	0	0	1	1.029	7
Bangladesh	5	2	2	0	1	-0.270	5
Sri Lanka	5	1	2	0	2	-1.778	4
West Indies	5	1	3	0	1	0.272	3
South Africa	6	1	4	0	1	-0.193	3
Pakistan	5	1	3	0	1	-1.933	3
Afghanistan	4	0	4	0	0	-2.089	0



Hashim Amla became the fourth South African to reach 8,000 runs in one-day internationals

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Today's match

Australia vs Bangladesh

Trent Bridge - Nottingham 12:30pm




Australia

Aaron Finch

Australia have won four of their five matches at the World Cup so far, bouncing back from defeat to India by beating Pakistan and Sri Lanka in their last two games. Bangladesh have won two matches so far and lost two others, with one match rained off - they chased 322 to beat West Indies by seven wickets last time out. The Tigers boast the World Cup's leading run-scorer so far - Shakib Al Hasan having scored two centuries and two 50s on his way to 384 runs in four innings.

Bangladesh

Shakib Al Hasan

Bangladesh won their opening match of the tournament against South Africa, posting 330/6 and holding on to win by 21 runs. The Tigers lost their next two, posting 244 in a two-wicket loss to New Zealand, before then falling for 280 in reply to England's 386/6 in Cardiff. They bounced back in style, however, as Shakib Al Hasan's second consecutive century led a huge chase of 322 to beat West Indies by seven wickets in just 41.3 overs last time out.

Probable XI

Australia: Aaron Finch (c), David Warner, Usman Khawaja, Steve Smith, Glenn Maxwell, Shaun Marsh, Alex Carey (wk), Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Kane Richardson, Jason Behrendorff

Bangladesh: Tamim Iqbal, Soumya Sarkar, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Liton Das, Mahmudullah, Mossadek Hossain, Mohammad Saifuddin, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Mashrafe Mortaza (c), Mustafizur Rahman

PITCH REPORT

The weather forecast for the match is quite good. We should be able to get a full match in without any rain interruptions. The pitch at Trent Bridge is flat and perfect for batting. The boundaries of the ground are also quite small and can be cleared quite easily. The bowlers from both sides will need to be at their best otherwise it could be a tough day for them.