

‘First man’ to open Venice Film Festival

Oscar-winning director Damien Chazelles space race drama “First Man” will open the 75th annual Venice International Film Festival on August 29. **P16**

A thread of Bahrain in Michael Jackson’s wardrobe

# THE DAILY tribune



Thomas triumphs again

Russia meddled, whatever Putin, Trump say: FBI official

## Chinese President Jinping in UAE

Gulf News | Abu Dhabi

President Xi Jinping of the People’s Republic of China arrived here yesterday on a three-day state visit to the UAE accompanied by First Lady Peng Liyuan.

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, received the distinguished guests and his accompanying delegation at the Presidential Flight. Upon his arrival, President Xi Jinping was accorded an official reception ceremony including the playing of the national anthem of China and a 21-gun salute.

## Saudi signs deal for five warships

AFP | Riyadh

Saudi Arabia’s state-owned defence company has forged a deal with Spanish shipbuilder Navantia for a joint venture to build five warships, state media said yesterday.

The agreement with Saudi Arabian Military Industries for the design and construction of five Avante 2200 corvettes warships will start this autumn, with the last unit to be delivered by 2022, the official Saudi Press Agency reported. The agreement appears part of a framework agreed in April during Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s visit to Spain for Navantia to provide warships to the Gulf state for around two billion euros (\$2.3 billion).



Promoting Islamic way of life, Al Zayani style

Mangroves tours to Tubli Bay launched

Syria gets back Golan



# Israel adopts controversial Jewish nation-state law

AFP | Jerusalem

Israel’s parliament yesterday adopted a law defining the country as the nation state of the Jewish people, provoking fears it could lead to blatant discrimination against Arab citizens.

Arab lawmakers and Palestinians called the law “racist” and said it legalised “apartheid” following a tumultuous debate in parliament.

Others said it neglects to spec-

ify equality and Israel’s democratic character, implying that the country’s Jewish nature comes first.

The legislation, adopted by 62 votes to 55, makes Hebrew the country’s national language and defines the establishment of Jewish communities as being in the national interest.

Arabic, previously considered an official language, was granted only special status.

The law, passed in the early

hours of Thursday, speaks of Israel as the historic homeland of the Jews and says they have a “unique” right to self-determination there, according to copies of the final text quoted by Israeli media.

However, a deeply controversial clause that had been seen as more specifically legalising the establishment of Jewish-only communities was changed after it drew criticism, including from Israeli President Reuven Rivlin.

The legislation becomes part of the country’s basic laws, which serve as a de facto constitution.

“It is our state, the Jewish state, but in recent years some have tried to question that as well as the principles of our existence and our rights,” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said after the vote on the legislation, backed by his right-wing government.

He called its approval a “dec-

sive moment” in Israeli history.

### ‘Death of democracy’

A range of opposition politicians denounced the vote. The head of the mainly Arab Joint List alliance Ayman Odeh called it “the death of our democracy”.

Arab parliament members who called the legislation “racist” ripped up copies of the bill in the chamber of the Knesset, Israel’s parliament, after it was passed.

# Emergency rule ends in Turkey

● The opposition, however, fears the Emergency rule will be replaced by even more repressive legislative measures

AFP | Istanbul

Turkey’s state of emergency which was imposed after the failed 2016 coup came to an end yesterday, but the opposition fears it will be replaced by even more repressive legislative measures.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared the state of emergency on July 20, 2016, five days after warplanes bombed Ankara and bloody clashes broke out in Istanbul in a doomed putsch bid that claimed 249 lives.

The measure, which normally lasts three months but was extended seven times, ended at 1:00 am yesterday (2200 GMT



80,000 people were detained and about double that number sacked from jobs during the Emergency period

Wednesday), the state-run Anadolu news agency said, after the government decided not to ask that it be extended for an eighth time. The state of emergency saw the detention of some 80,000 people and about double that number sacked from jobs in public institutions. The biggest

purge of Turkey’s modern history has targeted not just alleged supporters of Fethullah Gulen, the US-based preacher blamed for the coup, but also Kurdish activists and leftists.

The former leaders of the opposition pro-Kurdish Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) -- Fi-

gen Yuksekdag and Selahattin Demirtas -- are still languishing in jail following their arrest in November 2016 on charges of links to Kurdish militants.

### Different name

During last month’s presidential election campaign, which he

With this bill, the state of emergency will not be extended for three months, but for 3 years. They make it look like they are lifting but in fact they are continuing it

OZGUR OZEL,  
HEAD, CHP PARLIAMENTARY FACTION

won, Erdogan pledged that the state of emergency would end.

But the opposition has been angered by the government’s submission of new legislation to parliament that apparently seeks to formalise some of the harshest aspects of the emergency.

The bill, dubbed “anti-terror” legislation by pro-government media, will be discussed at commission level on Thursday and then in plenary session on Monday.

# Facebook to remove bogus posts inciting violence

AFP | Menlo Park, US

Facebook has built on its campaign to prevent the platform from being used to spread dangerous misinformation, saying it will remove bogus posts likely to spark violence.

The new tactic being spread through the global social network was tested in Sri Lanka, which was recently rocked by inter-religious conflict over false information posted on the



world’s leading online social network. “There are certain forms of misinformation that have contributed to physical harm, and we are making a policy change which will enable us to take that type of content down,” a Facebook spokesman said after a briefing on the policy at its campus in Silicon Valley.

“We will begin implementing the policy during the coming months.” For example, Facebook may remove inaccurate or mis-

leading content, such as doctored photos, created or shared to stir up to ignite volatile situations in the real world.

The social network said it is partnering with local organisations and authorities adept at identifying when posts are false and likely to prompt violence.

Misinformation removed in Sri Lanka under the new policy included content falsely contending that Muslims were poisoning food given or sold to Bud-

dhist, according to Facebook.

Hate speech and threats deemed credible are violations of Facebook rules, and are removed. The new policy takes another step back, eliminating content that may not be explicitly violent but which seems likely to encourage such behavior. Facebook has been lambasted for allowing rumours or blatantly false information to circulate that may have contributed to violence.



# Improve competitiveness of telecom sector: HRH CP

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa yesterday stressed the need for telecommunications companies to prioritise service, product and infrastructure development to improve the sector's competitiveness.

This came as the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister received yesterday the newly appointed Chairman of the Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco), Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, at Gudaibiya Palace.

Highlighting the major role played by the sector in the economy, HRH CP underlined the ef-



HRH Crown Prince during his meeting yesterday with Batelco Chairman at the Gudaibiya Palace

fectiveness of the Kingdom's advanced regulatory framework.

"The work of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority and the Ministry of Telecom-

munications and Transport has been instrumental in ensuring that Bahrain's telecoms sector remains an example of international best practice," Prince

Salman told Shaikh Abdulla.

Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Board member of Batelco, also attended the meeting.



BDF Commander-in-Chief of Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa visiting a BDF unit, as part of an inspection visit to various unit to ensure the units combat and administrative readiness.



Interior Minister Lt-General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa with Director-General of King Fahad Causeway Organisation Fahad Mohammad Al Dawood yesterday. The meeting discussed most important projects of the organisations in the coming years, including increasing the capacity of the procedures areas, fee gates on both sides and green lanes for trucks on Bahrain's side. The Minister highlighted the importance to tackle traffic jams that occur on the causeway and the need to harness modern technology, including the solar energy.

## SDG: Bahrain's progress hailed

TDT | New York

Bahrain's keenness to strengthen international cooperation with the UN and specialised agencies in the field of Sustainable Development Goals was praised yesterday by the UN officials.

This came as the Cabinet Affairs Minister Mohamed Ibrahim Al Mutawa met with Liu Zhenmin the United Nation (UN)'s Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, in the presence of Housing Minister Bassim Al Hamer.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the presentation of the Kingdom of Bahrain's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Report, at the UN Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC)'s High-Level



The Cabinet Affairs Minister with UN's Liu Zhenmin during a meeting

Policy Forum in New York.

The UN official praised Bahrain's first voluntary report on its progress in this field, stressing the keenness of the Council to provide all the assistance and expertise to Bahrain in any way that would achieve further

progress in for Bahrain's goals in the field of SDGs. Separately, the minister also held meeting UN Under-secretary General and Executive Director of the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Maimuna Mohammed Sharif.

## Bahrain-UK for stronger ties



Shaikh Khalid and Alistair Burt during a meeting in London

TDT | London

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa yesterday hailed the strong historic relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Kingdom.

The minister, currently on a visit to the United Kingdom, was holding a meeting with the Minister of State for the Middle East at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Alistair Burt.

Shaikh Khalid commended the significant role played by the United Kingdom in countering terrorism in all its forms and highlighted the importance of the British Naval Support Facility in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the region in general.

The minister also stressed the importance of continued cooperation between international partners to protect stability and security for a safer environment for all.

Burt affirmed the keenness of the United Kingdom to develop its strong historical relations with Bahrain at all levels to serve the interests of the two friendly countries and peoples.

The two sides also discussed other issues of the region.

### Joint Working Group

Separately, the Bahraini-British Joint Working Group held its meeting yesterday under the co-chairmanship of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Alistair Burt.

The meeting discussed the progress of relations between

the two kingdoms and means of enhancing them and underscored the importance of the Bahraini-British Joint Working Group's meeting in pushing forward joint action.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on the occasion between the Supreme Council for Environment in Bahrain and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in the United Kingdom represented by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS).

Present at the meeting were the Transportation and Telecommunications Minister, Kamal Ahmed, Public Security Chief, Major General Tariq Al-Hassan and a number of senior officials

## More housing project on way in the Kingdom with private sector, says Housing Minister

TDT | New York

More housing projects will be launched in the kingdom in association with the private sector, said Housing Minister, Bassim Al-Hamar.

Speaking while participating in a panel discussion held within the Ministerial Meeting of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York, the minister also said that the ministry had signed a cooperation document with the UN Development

Programme to revise Bahrain's housing policy and develop an effective, efficient and sustainable housing and land sector in line with new economic realities.

The meeting held under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council was on the sidelines of the kingdom's presentation of its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Housing Minister during UN-Habitat's panel discussion in New York, yesterday

Themed 'Together for Inclusive Cities and Safe Human Settlements', the panel discussion was organised by the UN-Habitat to follow up on member countries' efforts to implement SDGs.

Al-Hamar stressed Housing Ministry's interest in implementing the 11th sustainable development goal (SDGs) highlighting the construction of Salman Town, Khalifa Town, East Hidd Town, East Sitra Town and the Al-Raml.



## big story

# Promoting Islamic way of life, Al Zayani style

*Yousif Al Zayani, a social activist and custodian of a mosque, organises programmes to encourage the visitors of his mosque to commit to the Islamic teachings and culture. 98 per cent of his visitors are Asian labourers as the mosque in Hamala is surrounded by hundreds of garages and workshops. Some of the programmes include redistributing used clothes, mainly Bahrain's traditional attire (Thobe), among the labourers*



The Asian labourers choosing Thobes donated by citizens

TDT | Manama

Muhannad Mansour

**Y**ousif Al Zayani, a social activist and the custodian of Yousif Sami Al Zayani Mosque in Hamala, has embarked on a mission to encourage Muslim foreign workers to adopt Islamic way of life, offering attractive rewards.

Al Zayani told *Tribune* yesterday that he organises numerous programmes to encourage the visitors of his mosque to commit to the Islamic teachings and culture, adding that 98 percent of his visitors are Asian labourers as the mosque is surrounded by hundreds of garages and workshops.

Some of the programmes include redistributing used clothes, mainly Bahrain's traditional attire (Thobe), among the labourers.

Al Zayani explained in an interview with *Tribune* that he has been implementing this idea since ten years, with the aim of benefiting from citizens' old clothes and encouraging low-income labourers to dress well while performing prayers and attending sermons at mosques.

"It has been noticed that many of the labourers come to the mosque wearing indecent clothing such as the lungi/wizar (a cloth wrapped on the waist extending to the ankles commonly worn by the people of the Indian subcontinent) or other undergarments. The mosque is the house of Allah, the almighty, and they must come here well-dressed. They wouldn't go to government authorities or formal visits in this attire. Hence, I thought that the Thobe is the

best replacement as it's the national dress of Bahrain and the Arabian Gulf, easy to wear and alter, could be donated by many citizens and is accepted by the Asian nationals," he clarified.

Al Zayani also said, "Since it has begun almost a decade ago, the campaign received a positive reaction from citizens who usually dispose of their old Thobes. I personally gather the clothes and distribute it among the worshippers and visitors of the mosque. This has left a great impact on the donors and receivers. I have also hired a tailor to alter the Thobes and refit them for their new owners."

Al Zayani explained that the mosque is established on top of an automobile workshop and that it's visited by hundreds of worshippers, especially on Fridays when the weekly Friday sermons and prayers are held.

"We have other programmes and initiatives to encourage the worshippers to perform prayers



Worshippers having an iftar meal near the mosque last Ramadan

on time and commit to attending the religious sermons and lessons. We distribute cards offering free meals from certain co-operating restaurants in the area among those who attend the Fajr (early morning) prayers," the activist told.

He elaborated more saying, "Those who are committed to

performing the Fajr prayers on time for at least five consecutive months are rewarded with Umrah (pilgrimage) trips. These trips are expensive and 90 pc of the labourers didn't expect to be granted an opportunity to visit the Holy Mosque in Mecca when they came here for employment. We pay an insurance

amount of BD2,500 for each labourer we send to perform Umrah as a guarantee to the Saudi authorities that the labourers will return to Bahrain after performing the rite. BD25, 000 is paid for every trip that consists of at least 10 labourers. A trip is organised every other month."

Al Zayani also confirmed that being active on social media networks, such as Instagram and YouTube, has contributed to attracting many donors and volunteers to implement such charity initiatives.

The activist added that the mosque frequently distributes gifts, rewards and free meals among the visitors of the mosque, adding that such initiatives even attracted non-Muslims to convert to Islam after seeing the unity and humanitarian values Islam introduces.

"Everything could be donated. We receive garments, plastic utensils, flatware and plates, meals, fruits and vegetables and a lot more. Giving is a noble human gesture and is the core of the Islamic teachings," Al Zayani said.



Queues of worshippers receiving free meals as a reward for their commitment



**I personally gather the clothes and distribute it among the worshippers and visitors of the mosque. This has left a great impact on the donors and receivers. I have also hired a tailor to alter the Thobes and refit them for their new owners**

YOUSIF AL ZAYANI



# Jailed for attacking Jau prison guards

Man gets one year in jail for attacking prison guards in Jau

● Guards said suspect resisted inspection

● Suspect said attacked as he was denied entry to cell

TDI | Manama

Ali Tarif

The High Criminal Court handed down a man a jail term of one-year for attacking two prison guards in the Jau Prison.

The suspect, during a hearing, told the court that he got provoked when the guards denied him entry into his cell as wanted to pray.

The incident, according to court files, took place in a pre-trial detention centre of the Ministry of Interior in Jau Prison, where the man was in custody. Prison guards, during



Picture for representation only

the trial, told the court that the 20-year-old suspect assaulted them as they tried to inspect for allowing entry to his cell.

"I told him I have to search him before allowing him to enter the cell, but he pushed me to the ground and tore my

colleague's clothes," One of the victims told prosecutors.

However, the defendant told prosecutors that he wanted to pray in his cell during his free time, but the guards didn't allow him, though he admitted to assaulting them.

"As I returned to my cell for prayers, the prison guards prevented me. I insisted and pushed one of them and punched the other," the suspect confessed in his statement.

He was charged with assaulting two police officers.



Prisons in Bahrain are run by 3 different security forces, including the National Security Agency (NSA), the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) and the Ministry of Interior (Moi)

## Man Jailed for forging medical certificate

TDI | Manama

Ali Tarif

Frustration over a 13-day waiting period to obtain a medical certificate has landed a Bahraini man in jail for three-years, as he instead resorted to creating a fake certificate.

The 30-year-old man, according to court files, decided to go for fake certificates as he grew impatient over the delay in receiving the original certificate.

The incident leading to the case occurred after the man suffered multiple injuries on his neck and right hand in an accident.

During his stay in the Salmaniya Medical Complex, he got acquainted with another person promised to get his report early.

The accomplice, the suspect told the court, claimed to work as a clearing agent.

"A medical committee reviewed my case, and during this process, I met the second defendant," the suspect told the court.

He told me he could get me

the ministry's verdict on my case quickly, instead of having to wait for 13 days. "And after a few days he gave me the fake report," the 30-year-old man told prosecutors, literally blaming the second man for the crime.

The suspect then submitted the document forged by the 50-year-old man to the insurance company. However, the company, after cross-checking with the ministry, found out the document as a forged one.

"We cross-checked the report by contacting the officials at the Ministry of Health directly, and we were told that it wasn't issued yet," a representative from the insurance company told prosecutors.

The Ministry of Health officials reported the incident to the police, which resulted in his arrest.

As per the fake document, the defendant suffered 40 per cent permanent disability. However, the real one showed 5pc less. The second man was also tried on forgery charges and sentenced to three years in prison.

# Factory selling expired chocolates shut-down

TDI | Manama

A private chocolate factory has been shut down for using expired ingredients in its product line, said the Public Prosecution in a statement.

The move followed a complaint received by the police following which the Public Prosecution notified the Public Health Department to inspect and seize the expired products.

During the inspection, offi-



Representative picture

cials found that the factory was using fake labels on its products.

"The products were found to be well past their expi-

ry and the factory was shut down," Public attorney Mamdooh Al Ma'awdah said in the statement.

He also said that those in charge of the factory were remanded to custody for seven days.

The suspects were charged with forgery and selling expired food.

"The Public Health Department was assigned to examine and seize all the products that violated the regulations," he added.

## Man sets car alight over missing BD50

TDI | Manama

A dispute over BD50 led to setting fire to a vehicle on fire, according to court files. The car, according to court files, was owned by the victim's father.

The whole episode began when one of the friends accused another of stealing BD50 after he stayed overnight with him.

The suspect told investigators that he committed the crime amidst a sudden burst of anger. "I was staying in his room overnight. That day when I woke up, I found him searching for something. He then questioned me about a missing BD50. That continued after we left his house, and he accused me of stealing it,

which shocked me," the man told prosecutors.

He told investigators that he then stole the car and drove it to an isolated area before setting it alight using fuel bought from the nearest fuel station.

The suspect was caught after the car's owner filed a complaint regarding missing car. He told the court that he got alerted after receiving a call from friends. "I went to the police station and reported the incident," the father told prosecutors. "After few hours, I received a call from the Civil Defence, informing me that it was gutted in the fire," he added. The defendant will stand trial before the High Criminal Court over accusations of arson and theft. His trial will begin on September 10, 2018.

# Paycheck impact on govt expenses dropped slightly

CSB's analysis of labour force expenditures of 47 government agencies

● Salaries dominate actual expense

● Spending on the rise for improving living standards

● Transportation, communication allowances unchanged

TDI | Manama

While salaries continue to dominate the actual expenditures of government entities in the Kingdom, a Civil Service Bureau report has said it has recorded a 3.5 per cent decline in this regard from 2016.

The report, based on inputs

from 47 government entities during the last two years, said the largest share of the actual expenditure was on basic items related to employees' salaries, which amounted to about 88pc of the total disbursement of the first section.

The actual expenditure of the labour force (section I) for the year 2016 amounted to approximately 680 million dinars, while the actual disbursement for 2017 amounted to about 656 million dinars, a reduction rate of 3.5pc of what was spent in 2016.

The actual expenditure of the labour force (section I) for the year 2016, the report said, amounted to approximately 680 million dinars, while the actual disbursement for 2017 amounted to about 656 million dinars, a reduction rate of 3.5pc of what was spent in 2016.



Representative picture

The CSB study, according to the bureau, reflects the actual needs of government entities, taking into account the commit-

ment of these entities to absorb the annual increase and the entitlements of employees within the limits set for the budget of

workforce expenditure.

Explaining further, Jamal Abdulaziz Al-Alawi, Director General of Organization and Position Budget said the report witnessed an increase in spending related to improving living standards, while spending on car, transportation and communication allowance remained the same.

The report, he said, analysed the labour force expenditure of government entities subject to the civil service umbrella for the fiscal year 2017.

**Transport expenses equal**

The report further reveals that the expenditure on car and transport were equal during the years 2016 and 2017. "It was around 13 million Dinars in 2016 and 2017."

As for expenditure on communication allowance, spending

amounted to two million dinars during the two years.

**Overtime declines**

The spending on overtime has decreased by 21pc, where the spending on this item was 14 million Dinars in 2016 and has decreased to 11 million Dinars in 2017. In addition, partial disbursement expenditure of 4 million Dinars in 2016 decreased to 5 million Dinars in 2017, an estimated reduction of 20pc.

These financial savings, the statement said, will be reallocated and monitored in favour of the employees.

**Living allowance rises**

Expenditure level on improvement of living allowance amounted to 23 million dinars, after it was 22 million dinars in 2016, an increase of 4.5pc.



# Mangroves tours to Tubli Bay launched



Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa

*BTEA in collaboration with the Supreme Council for Environment, announced the launch of mangrove tours to Tubli Bay yesterday*



The Tubli Bay is known for its unique ecological blend of mangroves, seagrass and corals



Tours will depart from Sitra Park between 8am and 4pm.



A view of the mangrove forest

TDT | Manama

Mohammed Zafran

Public can now visit and enjoy a view of the mangrove forest and marine biotope at Tubli Bay as Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) has launched tours to the eco-tourism spot. BTEA in collaboration with the Supreme Council for Environment, announced the launch of mangrove tours to Tubli Bay yesterday. According to the BTEA, the area offers exotic sights unlike anywhere else in Bahrain. “Tubli Bay features a beautiful mix of well-protected green mangrove forests and Bahrain skyline. It’s a one-of-a-kind eco-tour to explore Bahrain’s natural mangrove forest,” BTEA stated about the

area. The Tubli Bay is known for its unique ecological blend of mangroves, seagrass and corals. A variety of migratory and resident birds are also some of the attractions to the area. “Tours will depart from Sitra Park between 8 am and 4 pm. Participants can choose one of two locations, either a tour in Tubli Bay, which covers an area of 100 square kilometres and is priced at BD20 for 4 people or the mangrove tours which feature a beautiful mix of well-protected green mangrove forests and Bahrain’s skyline, priced at BD 5 per passenger. Both trips aim to provide visitors with the opportunity to discover the Kingdom’s nature offerings,” BTEA stated. The mangrove tour boat trip lasts 40 minutes and the Tubli sightseeing boat

**Tubli Bay features a beautiful mix of well-protected green mangrove forests and a unique skyline. It’s a one-of-a-kind eco tour to explore Bahrain’s natural mangrove forests**

BAHRAIN TOURISM AND EXHIBITIONS AUTHORITY

trip lasts 30 minutes. “This comes in line with the BTEA’s plans to attract visitors by offering unique and unfor-

gettable experiences, further developing the Kingdom’s tourism sector and strengthening its position as an ideal tourist destination “ the authority stated. “It gives us great pleasure to announce the launch of mangrove tours in Tubli Bay in collaboration with the Supreme Council for Environment. We aim to provide all visitors with unique experiences through the various attractions and activities offered in the Kingdom. This comes as part of the BTEA’s long-term strategy to further develop the Kingdom’s tourism sector under the slogan ‘Ours.Yours.’, which contributes towards the Kingdom’s economy and the Economic Vision 2030,” said the Chief Executive Officer of BTEA, Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa.

## Al Fateh Mosque need more staff to welcome tourists: Official

TDT| Manama

Mohammed Zafran

Bahrain’s largest mosque need facilities and more staff members to be able to welcome with the increasing number of tourists and guests visiting there, according to a senior Mosque official. The Al Fateh Grand Mosque has been receiving a huge number of tourists in recent years, up to 40,000 a year. The number of guests has increased dramatically since 1999 when only 2000 tourists visited. Ahmed Al-Fateh Islamic Centre coordinator Farahat Al-Kindy told The Tribune that the centre hopes that the authorities would grant it more facilities and staff to deal with the increasing number of visitors. “We are certainly happy to welcome so many people to the mosque. But our concern is about providing everyone with a smooth experience and not having to keep anyone waiting.



The Al Fateh Grand Mosque

Currently, we are managing with the existing staff and facilities, but when the crew ship season begins it becomes very difficult because we will be having a lot more visitors. This is why we hope more staff can be hired and

more facilities can be arranged,” said Al-Kindy. “The main issue is the lack of official staff, we have 100 volunteers but we only have six full-time employees. We are thankful to the volunteers but we still need more full-time staff.



**The Al Fateh Grand Mosque has been receiving a huge number of tourists in recent years, upto 40,000 a year. The number of guests have increased dramatically since 1999 when only 2000 tourists visited**

Even part-time staff would be helpful,” he said. “The crew ship season will begin in November and last year we struggled, many people had to wait in long queues, there were a lack of not only staff to deal with it but also resources



Farahat Al-Kindy

such as Abaya and traditional clothes the guests needed to wear,” he said. “We used to do a lot of advertising before but now we do not do much advertising anymore for many of our events because we do not want an overload. Also, when the tour agencies offer to send 50 to 60 buses of tourists a day, we have to decline because we are unable to deal with that. At current capacity we are only able to deal with about 30 buses a day,” he said

**Our concern is about providing everyone a smooth experience and not having to keep anyone waiting. Currently we are managing with the existing staff, but when the crew ship season begins it becomes very difficult because we will be having a lot more visitors**

FARAHAT AL-KINDY

“We want to expand our capacity so that we can welcome more visitors. Al Fateh mosque is one of the largest tourist attractions in Bahrain, expanding the facilities will help further boost the tourism of the country,” he added.



business

Alcoa trims profit outlook on tariff costs

New York | United States

Aluminum company Alcoa cut its full-year profit forecast yesterday, due in part to Trump administration tariffs, sending shares lower in after-hours trading.

Alcoa now expects operating earnings of between \$3 billion and \$3.2bn, \$500million below the prior range estimated.

The reduction in outlook is due to “current market prices, tariffs on imported aluminum, increased energy costs, and some operational impacts,” said Alcoa, which imports aluminum from Canada.

The Trump administration announced tariffs on imported steel and aluminum earlier this spring and later removed an exemption on Canada, Mexico and the European Union at the end of May. The tariffs on Canadian exports went into effect June 1.

The levies resulted in higher costs of \$15m in the second quarter, the company said. Earnings for Q2 came in at \$75m, unchanged from the year-ago period.

Xi arrives in Abu Dhabi

China, UAE sign trade, oil deals ahead of President Xi Jinping visit

● Abu Dhabi is the first stop on Xi's tour, which also includes Senegal, Rwanda and South Africa.

AFP | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

President Xi Jinping arrived in Abu Dhabi yesterday for a three-day visit, after the announcement of oil and trade deals between China and the UAE.

Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed said he was “delighted” to welcome Xi, posting photos on Twitter of the Chinese president receiving flowers on landing in the emirate.

“This is a historic visit and represents a new stage of cooperation in all fields, which will bring growth, development and prosperity to the people of our nations,” said the crown prince of the UAE capital.

Abu Dhabi is the first stop on Xi's tour, which also includes Senegal, Rwanda and South Af-



Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid and Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Abu Dhabi

rica.

The Chinese president's arrival followed the Gulf state earlier on Thursday publishing details of new deals clinched with Beijing.

State-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. said it had awarded two contracts worth \$1.6 billion (1.4 billion euros) to BGP Inc., a subsidiary of China National Petroleum Co., for a seismic survey in the emirate.

The survey is to search for oil and gas in onshore and offshore sites covering an area of 53,000 square kilometres (20,463 square miles), the statement

said.

State-run CNPC already has two concession rights contracts with ADNOC worth around \$3 billion.

The UAE's state-owned DP World also announced an agreement by the two countries to build a new trade zone in Dubai.

The deal between the global port operator and the Zhejiang China Commodities City Group will see a “traders' market” built at Dubai's Jebel Ali free zone.

The project is part of China's trillion-dollar “One Belt, One Road” infrastructure initiative, an ambitious plan to revive the

Trade zone facts

- ▶ The project is a part of China's trillion-dollar “One Belt, One Road” infrastructure initiative
- ▶ China and the UAE have signed an agreement to build a new trade zone in Dubai, the Emirates' state-owned port operator said yesterday ahead of President Xi Jinping arriving in Abu Dhabi.
- ▶ DP World, Zhejiang China Commodities City Group signed deal
- ▶ “Traders' market” at Dubai's Jebel Ali free zone.
- ▶ The new facility will cover three square kilometres (1.2 square miles)
- ▶ Will host a vast range of goods from food and cosmetics to building materials and technology

Aramco in talks to buy stake in SABIC

● Aramco said in a statement that it was in “very early-stage discussions”

Reuters | Dubai

Saudi Aramco said yesterday it is looking to buy a strategic stake in Saudi petrochemical maker SABIC, a move that could boost the state oil giant's market valuation ahead of a planned initial public offering.

Aramco said in a statement that it was in “very early-stage discussions” with the kingdom's Public Investment Fund (PIF) to acquire the stake in SABIC via a private transaction. It has no plans to acquire any publicly held shares, it said.

Riyadh-listed SABIC, the world's fourth-biggest petrochemicals company, is 70 percent owned by the PIF, Saudi Arabia's top sovereign wealth fund. It has a market capitalisation of 385.2 billion Saudi riyals (\$103 billion).

The size of the stake Aramco

is interested in acquiring is not known.

Aramco said it had been evaluating a number of acquisition opportunities, both local and global, in line with its strategy of rebalancing its portfolio by moving further into downstream, particularly the petrochemical sector.

In a separate statement, the PIF said that talks on a sale were in the early stages. “There is a possibility that no agreement will be reached in relation to this potential transaction,” the PIF said.

Aramco wants to develop its downstream business as the government prepares to sell up to 5 percent of the world's largest oil producer, possibly by next year. Boosting its petrochemicals portfolio further could help attract investors for the IPO.

Shares in SABIC, the largest listed company in the Gulf, were down by 0.3 per cent at 0945 GMT on Thursday.

Aramco invited the banks to pitch for a potential SABIC deal last month, the sources said, declining to be identified due to commercial sensitivities.

Russia exits biggest US govt debt holders list

New York | United States

Russia has exited the list of the biggest foreign holders of US government debt, according to Treasury Department data released this week.

In May, Russia held \$14.9 billion worth of Treasury notes and was no longer among the top 33 countries, according to the data.

That's well below the \$48.7 billion held by Russia in April, which made the country the 22nd biggest holder of US

notes. In April, Moscow held \$96 billion in US debt, placing 16th on the list.

“The Treasury market is the deepest and most liquid in the world, and demand remains robust,” a Treasury spokesman said. “We do not comment on individual investors or investments.”

Among the top 33 countries, China and Japan by far the leaders with more than \$1 trillion each, according to the data, which was released Tuesday.

Airbus fetes first flight of its new ‘whale in the sky’

Toulouse | France

European aerospace giant Airbus conducted yesterday the first test flight of the giant new Beluga XL, an even bigger version of the company's work-horse transport plane which has been in service since the mid 1990s.

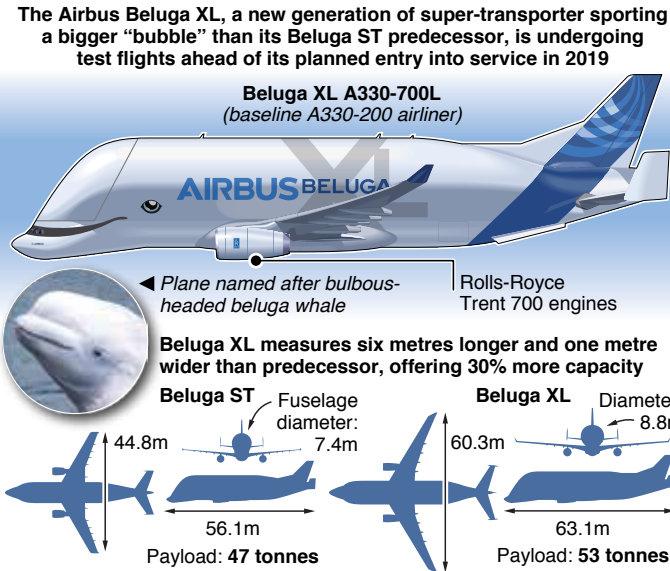
Decorated for the occasion as a “whale in the sky”, the plane's crew took off at exactly 10:30 am to a cheering crowd of 10,000 people at Airbus's facility in Toulouse, southern France.

The A330-743L Beluga XL has grown six meters (20 feet) longer and one metre wider from the Beluga ST, stretching its carrying capacity by 30 percent.

Airbus says that at 19 metres tall the plane is as big as a three-storey house and can carry up to 51 tonnes of cargo, the equivalent of seven adult male elephants -- though animals cannot be transported because the hold is not pressurised.

The five planes being developed will be used to ferry around parts for building Airbus's other range of planes at its production sites across Europe.

Two wings of the A350 long-haul passenger jet can now be carried, instead of just one previously, for a maximum distance of 4,000 kilometres (2,500 miles).



The crew of an Airbus ‘BelugaXL’ aircraft salute Airbus employees at Toulouse-Blagnac on July 19, 2018, after its maiden test flight of some four hours.



# Stock markets mostly fall

Wall Street stocks fell in early trading, with several companies tumbling after

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Stock markets mostly fell Thursday, as fears intensified over the escalating global trade war, analysts said. The dollar rose across the board, with the pound slumping under \$1.30 for the first time in 10 months as weak UK retail sales data dented the chances of an interest rate hike from the Bank of England in August, experts added.

“A drop in retail sales... has sent the pound sharply lower, continuing the general trend of the week,” noted Chris Beauchamp, market analyst at IG trading group.

Across the Atlantic, Wall Street stocks fell, with several companies tumbling after earnings.

But Comcast and Walt Disney Co. gained over 3 percent each, as Comcast said it was pulling out of the bidding war with Disney for film and television operations of Rupert Murdoch’s 21st Century Fox and would focus on acquiring the European TV operator Sky.

### Global trade under threat

On the macroeconomic front, the markets were still mulling Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell’s warning that the spiralling global trade war was having a negative impact on companies in the US.

President Donald Trump has imposed steep tariffs on products from China worth tens of billions of dollars, and has threatened to target hundreds of billions more, on top of import taxes on steel and aluminium.

The Fed chief said US businesses were already being hurt



People walk past a stock indicator showing share prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo

### Key figures at 1540 GMT

New York - Dow	▼ 0.2% at 25,137.97
London - FTSE 100	▲ 0.1% at 7,683.97
Frankfurt - DAX 30	▼ 0.6% at 12,686.29 (close)
Paris - CAC 40	▼ 0.6% at 5,417.07 (close)
EURO STOXX 50	▼ 0.1% at 3,099.41
Tokyo - Nikkei 225	▼ 0.1% at 22,764.68 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng	▼ 0.4% at 28,010.86 (close)
Shanghai - Composite	▼ 0.5% at 2,772.55 (close)
Pound/dollar	▼ at \$1.2990 from \$1.3069 at 2030 GMT
Euro/dollar	▼ at \$1.1609 from \$1.1639
Dollar/yen	▲ at 112.97 yen from 112.86 yen

by reciprocal tariffs on key products, pointing out: “The bottom line is a more protectionist economy is less competitive, less productive.”

He also said that if Trump’s trade policy ultimately resulted in lower tariffs, that could be good for the US economy. For now, however, analysts

fear that any further tariffs could put a dent in a trend of global economic growth -- and cause a headache for US businesses. “Increased trade tensions have raised the risk that new measures may be taken that would have a much greater impact on global economic growth than those enacted so far,” Fitch Ratings analysts said in a note.

“So far the scale of tariffs imposed has been too small to materially affect our forecasts for world growth,” they wrote.

“However, further measures mooted by the US would mark a significant escalation,” they added, warning that in the worst-case scenario, supply chains could be disrupted, consumers’ wages could fall and job creation could be hit.



US President Donald Trump

## Trump slams record EU fine against Google

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump lashed out yesterday after Brussels hit US tech giant Google with a record fine, and warned he would no longer allow Europe to take “advantage” of the United States.

“I told you so! The European Union just slapped a Five Billion Dollar fine on one of our great companies, Google,” Trump tweeted in reaction to the 4.34 billion euro penalty imposed on Google for abusing the dominance of its mobile operating system.

“They truly have taken advantage of the US, but not for long!” he said.

In announcing the fine on Wednesday, EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager accused Google of using the Android system’s near-stranglehold on smartphones and tablets to promote the use of its own Google search engine while shutting out rivals.

The decision, which followed a three-year EU inves-

**“I told you so! The European Union just slapped a Five Billion Dollar fine on one of our great companies, Google**

DONALD TRUMP

tigation, comes as fears of a transatlantic trade war mount because of President Donald Trump’s decision to impose tariffs on European steel and aluminum exports.

The new sanction nearly doubles the previous record EU antitrust fine of 2.4 billion euros, which also targeted Google, in that case for the Silicon Valley titan’s shopping comparison service in 2017.

Google chief Sundar Pichai immediately said the firm would appeal. “Today’s decision rejects the business model that supports Android, which has created more choice for everyone, not less. We intend to appeal,” he said.

## Putin says forces in US trying to derail summit

Reuters | Moscow

President Vladimir Putin yesterday accused forces in the United States of trying to undermine the success of his first summit with U.S. President Donald Trump, and said the two leaders had managed to begin to improve U.S.-Russia ties anyway.

Putin and Trump sat down for their first summit in Helsinki on Monday, an event that sparked a storm of criticism in the United States after Trump refused to blame the Russian leader for meddling in the 2016 U.S. election, comments he later appeared to backtrack on.

Putin, speaking to Russian diplomats from around the world assembled in Moscow, said on Thursday that the summit had been a success overall, but complained about what he described as “powerful” U.S. efforts to sabotage it.

“We see that there are forces in the United States that are



Putin

prepared to casually sacrifice Russian-U.S. relations, to sacrifice them for their ambitions in the course of an internal political battle in the United States,” said Putin.

The Russian leader said those forces appeared ready to sacrifice US jobs and hurt the US economy while waging their political battle.

He said it would have been naive to expect that the summit could have resolved problems that had built up over many years in the space of a few hours, but that a start had been made.

“... The path to positive changes has all the same begun,” said Putin. “It’s important that a full-scale meeting has finally taken place allowing us to talk directly.”

Putin warned however of the dangers of Moscow and Washington failing to continue to mend ties, saying the New START strategic arms reduction treaty would expire in a year and a half unless work on extending it started now.

## Women fly against cockpit prejudices

Farnborough, United Kingdom

When a stricken Southwest Airlines jet was expertly landed after an emergency descent in April, saving 148 lives, it was a surprise to some that a woman was at the controls.

Role models remain few and far between for women wanting to enter the cockpit, rather than serve the onboard drinks, despite a huge shortage of pilots worldwide.

“So often we’re shown men as pilots, and women as cabin crew. This could be sending a

message to young girls that if they want to work in aviation, it can’t be as a pilot,” according to the British Airline Pilots’ Association.

But things are finally starting to change and a few airlines are trying to redress the gender imbalance.

Europe’s biggest budget carrier easyJet, under an initiative named after pioneer aviator Amy Johnson, wants 20 percent of its new cadet pilots to be women by 2020.

Today, just three percent of professional pilots worldwide

are women, according to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The UN agency estimates that passenger numbers will double over the next 20 years, and that airlines will need to recruit 620,000 pilots to keep up with the demand.

Tammie Jo Shults is one of those few women. Shults, one of the first female fighter pilots for the US Navy, performed heroics in safely bringing down her Southwest Boeing 737 after an engine blowout. One passenger died in the incident.

### ‘Top Gun’ machismo

According to retired captain Kathy McCullough, “having someone in the spotlight who’s a lady who does a great job just points out that it can happen and does happen and isn’t really that much of a surprise”.

Nevertheless, McCullough said after Shults hit the headlines that her generation of female pilots were still waiting to pass the baton to another.

“Until we reach a tipping point, which is supposedly 20 percent, I don’t think we’ll see much in the way of a change,” she told National Public Radio.

The “Top Gun” machismo attached to aviation runs deep.

Neither does commercial flying lend itself to a work-family balance, giving organisations such as the ICAO and the International Society of Women Airline Pilots an uphill challenge to entice more women into the profession. The society says just over 7,400 pilots flying for commercial airlines are female, or 5.2 percent of the global total.

United ranks best with 7.4 percent. Ironically Southwest, Shults’s employer, has just 3.6 percent. It is not just employment practices that the International Society of Women Airline Pilots has to confront but passenger prejudices as well, according to former chairwoman Liz Jennings Clark.



Female pilots pose in the window of EasyJet’s new Airbus A321neo passenger aircraft at the Farnborough Airshow, south west of London,



**CIA assessment shows that the Russians may have sought to damage Clinton and help Trump**



AirAsia announces \$30bn deal for 100 Airbus planes

Sepang, Malaysia

Malaysian budget airline AirAsia announced a \$30 billion order for 100 Airbus A330neo long-haul planes on Thursday as it sets its sights on European routes.

The first delivery of the passenger jets will arrive towards the end of 2019 and will allow the airline to take on longer non-stop routes to Europe, AirAsia boss Tony Fernandes said at a media event.

“We can now start the London route... This plane allows us to fly to Brazil, Namibia and anywhere we want,” he said.

Greece to extend ‘golden visa’ scheme

Athens, Greece

Greece yesterday said it will extend its “golden visa” programme to include those investing a minimum of 400,000 euros in the country.

In return, recipients will get five-year Greek residency permits which also allow non-European Union citizens to travel freely throughout the bloc.

The scheme was previously reserved for those investing at least 250,000 euros (\$290,000) in real estate in Greece.

Thirteen European union countries have similar programmes.

UK shops pay penalty for World Cup fever

London, United Kingdom

British retail sales surprisingly fell in June as World Cup fever fuelled by England’s strong start in Russia kept fans away from stores, official data showed yesterday.

Sales by volume dropped 0.5 per cent in June from May, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said. Analysts’ consensus had been for a rise of 0.2pc in June.

Sales jumped 2.1pc in the quarter to June.

“Retail sales grew strongly across the three months to June 2018 as the warm weather encouraged shoppers to buy food and drink for their BBQs,” noted ONS senior statistician Rhian Murphy.

“However, in June retail sales actually fell back slightly, with continued growth in food sales offset by declining spending in many other shops as consumers stayed away from stores and instead enjoyed the World Cup and the heat-wave.”

Sterling slumped on the data, falling below \$1.30 for the first time in ten months, with analysts saying that it lessened the prospect of an August interest rate hike from the Bank of England.

EU-US tussle worsens

Warns retaliation if us imposes ‘disastrous’ auto tariffs

● Trump imposed duties of 25 percent on steel imports and 10 percent on aluminium in March

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The European Union will retaliate if US President Donald Trump imposes “disastrous” tariffs on automobiles, EU trade commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom warned Thursday.

“We are preparing a list of rebalancing measures,” Malmstrom said, as Washington studies imposing duties on cars following its tariffs on aluminium and steel.

“Similar moves on cars would be disastrous,” the Swedish commissioner told a conference in Brussels.

Her warning comes before her boss, European Commission



European Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom

chief Jean-Claude Juncker, travels to Washington next Wednesday to try to persuade Trump to drop tariffs on metals and avoid duties on cars.

“Tariff measures on cars are neither wanted or warranted,” Malmstrom said.

“They are at best a solution in search of a problem. At worst



The trade dispute dates back to May, when the US imposed a 25pc tariff on steel and a 15pc tariff on aluminium imports from the EU

they are an illegal move to gain leverage in trade negotiations.”

Trump imposed duties of 25 percent on steel imports and 10 percent on aluminium in March, but had given temporary exemptions to the EU and some other close trading partners as talks continued.

But those exemptions were lifted in early June, prompting

a raft of retaliatory tariffs by the EU, and Trump is now considering whether to impose hefty levies on European vehicles.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said last week that she would back opening talks with trading partners on lowering automobile duties, in what appeared to be an olive branch to Trump.

But Washington has shown no sign of compromise as it pursues its “America First” policies across a range of issues, even if it means alienating traditional allies.

Besides the tariffs, the US has threatened European companies with huge fines if they continue to operate in Iran, after Trump reimposed far-reaching sanctions while pulling out of the landmark 2015 deal on curbing Tehran’s nuclear programme.

Earlier this month Trump implemented tariffs on \$34 billion worth of Chinese imports, drawing a tit-for-tat response from Beijing.

Boeing, Airbus duel over orders

Airbus led anonymous aircraft sales with 186 orders worth \$24 billion at list prices, while Boeing signed deals with four unnamed buyers for 94 planes worth \$11bn.

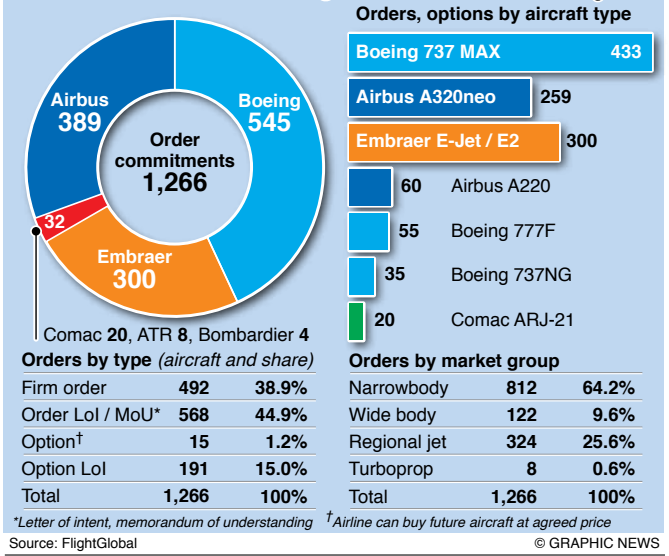
Undisclosed customers, believed to be Chinese-linked leasing companies, signed orders for 280 Airbus A320neo and Boeing 737 Max planes. Airbus declined to discuss the identity of the buyers, but industry sources said current

global trade tensions had spooked buyers.

Orders for 80 A320neo narrowbody jets came from China’s ICBC Leasing, according to Reuters. A deal for 100 A320neo family aircraft -- worth about \$11.5 billion at list prices -- was also placed by Chinese-owned leasing giant Avalon, according to industry sources.



Undisclosed customers: 280 Airbus A320neo and Boeing 737 Max planes sold to Chinese-linked leasing companies



Alphabet to deploy balloon Internet in Kenya

Reuters | Nairobi

Alphabet Inc’s Loon said yesterday it would deploy its system of balloons to beam high-speed Internet access with Telkom Kenya from next year to cover rural and suburban populations, marking its first commercial deal in Africa.

Known as Project Loon, the technology was developed by Alphabet’s X, the company’s innovation lab. It has since become Loon, a subsidiary of Alphabet, which is the parent



A Google Project Loon internet balloon

company of Google.

The technology was used by US telecom operators to pro-

vide connectivity to more than 250,000 people in Puerto Rico after a hurricane last year.

Comcast drops bid for Fox, letting Disney win

Washington | AFP

Cable and media giant Comcast said yesterday it is pulling out of the bidding war with Walt Disney Co. for film and television operations of Rupert Murdoch’s 21st Century Fox.

Comcast said in a statement

it would instead focus on acquiring the European pay TV operator Sky, shifting its stand on how it approaches the latest round of consolidation in the media-entertainment sector.

The move by Comcast effectively ensures that Disney will

be able to complete its \$71.3 billion tie-up with Fox that creates a new powerhouse in the sector as Murdoch slims down his media empire.

“Comcast does not intend to pursue further the acquisition of the Twenty-First Century

Fox assets and, instead, will focus on our recommended offer for Sky,” said a statement from group which is the leading US cable operator and also owns NBCUniversal.

Both Comcast and Disney had been coveting the prized

assets being sold by Murdoch, which include the Fox studios in Hollywood and important film and television production operations. At the same time, the two giants have been aiming to take control of Sky, the British-based pay TV operator.



Japan trade balance returns to surplus

Tokyo | Japan | AFP

Japan logged a trade surplus in June, after booking a deficit the previous month, official data showed, with exports rising despite ongoing international trade tensions. Finance ministry data showed a surplus of 721.4 billion yen (\$6.4 billion), up 66.5 per cent from a year earlier.

The jump was driven by growing exports of power generating equipment including turbines for power plants and airplanes, as well as electronic parts and auto parts.

Hyperloop project goes to China

Beijing | China

Hyperloop Transportation Technologies said it will team up with a southwestern Chinese city to build a new 10-kilometre (six-mile) test track for its high speed hyperloop transportation system. California-based HyperloopTT is one of several ventures to take Elon Musk’s idea for propelling capsules through vacuum-sealed tunnels and attempt to make it a reality.

Gulf stock markets muted

SABIC) little changed in after Saudi Aramco said it was in early talks to acquire a stake

● Emaar Properties was the biggest weight on Dubai’s index

● Biggest drag on Saudi index was provided by Al Rajhi Bank

● SABIC closed up by 0.2 per cent

Reuters | Dubai

Gulf stock markets were muted yesterday, with Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) little changed in Saudi Arabia after Saudi Aramco said it was in early talks to acquire a stake in the petrochemical giant.

SABIC, the largest listed company in the Gulf and the world’s fourth-biggest petrochemicals company, closed up by 0.2 per cent after edging between positive and negative territory earlier in the trading session.

Aramco said in a statement on Thursday that it was in “very early-stage discussions” with the kingdom’s Public Invest-



A man walks past the headquarters of Saudi Basic Industries Corp (SABIC) in Riyadh

ment Fund (PIF) to acquire the stake in SABIC via a private transaction. It has no plans to acquire any publicly held shares, it said. Reuters reported on Wednesday

that the government was considering a plan for Aramco to buy a stake in the petrochemical maker.

In Saudi Arabia, the index was

flat, closing down 0.03pc.

The biggest drag was provided by Al Rajhi Bank, which closed down 2pc. Al Rajhi and some of the other large banks are still

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▼ 0.03% » 8,450
DUBAI	▼ 0.2% » 2,926
ABU DHABI	▲ 0.3% » 4,770
QATAR	0.3% ▼ at 9,421
KUWAIT	was 0.1% ▲ at 5,353
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.3% » 1,355
OMAN	▼ 0.2% » 4,448
EGYPT	▼ 1.0% » 15,416

to report their second quarter results.

In Abu Dhabi, First Abu Dhabi Bank, the largest bank in the United Arab Emirates, was the biggest gainer, rising by 1.5pc. The lender is expected to report its earnings next week.

The Abu Dhabi index rose 0.3pc, with thin trading on many shares.

Emaar Properties was the biggest weight on Dubai’s index, falling 1.2pc. The developer has put \$1.4 billion in non-core assets up for sale amid an economic downturn, the Financial Times reported on Tuesday, citing sources.

The Dubai index edged 0.2pc lower.

India charges former finmin with corruption

AFP | New Delhi

Indian police yesterday charged a top opposition leader P. Chidambaram with abuse of power in a multi-billion dollar scandal when he was finance minister.

Chidambaram confirmed the charge and said he would “vigorously” contest the case filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) anti-corruption watchdog.

The CBI accused the former minister of abusing power in allowing foreign investment by Malaysian group Maxis in telecom company Aircel in 2006.

Chidambaram, a senior leader of the opposition Congress party, said in a tweet, “CBI has been pressured to file a charge sheet to support a preposterous allegation against me and officers with a sterling reputation.”



Former finance minister P. Chidambaram

“The case is now before the Hon’ble Court and it will be contested vigorously. I shall make no more public comment.” The CBI has alleged that Chidambaram approved the half-billion dollar Aircel-Maxis deal when it should have been referred to a cabinet committee.

Oil prices rise as Saudi expects export decline

Saudi output at a near record, up 700,000 bpd at 10.70m bpd

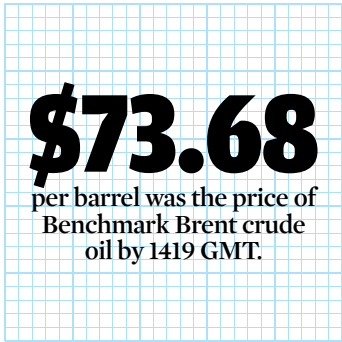
Reuters | New York

Oil prices rose yesterday after Saudi Arabia’s OPEC governor said the kingdom’s crude exports will fall by about 100,000 barrels per day in August, overshadowing market pressure from a rising dollar and record high US crude production.

Brent crude oil LCOc1 rose 78 cents to \$73.68 per barrel by 10:19 a.m. EDT (1419 GMT), reaching a session high of \$73.79. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) CLc1 was \$1.18 higher at \$69.94.

Saudi Arabia expects its crude exports to drop by roughly 100,000 bpd in August as the kingdom limits excess production, Saudi Arabia’s OPEC Governor Adeeb Al-Aama said in a statement.

He said Saudi Arabia’s crude oil exports in July would be roughly equal to June levels.



Despite international oil markets being well balanced in the third quarter, he said there would still be substantial stock draws due to robust demand.

Crude also strengthened on forecasts that inventories at the US oil delivery hub in Cushing, Oklahoma fell 1.8 million barrels, or 6.2pc, through Tuesday, traders said, citing energy information provider Genscape.

Prices had fallen earlier in the

trading session as a strengthening dollar and talk of supply increases put downward pressure on prices.

The US dollar hit its highest level against a basket of other currencies .DXY since July 2017, up half a percent on the day.

Brent has fallen almost 9pc from last week’s high above \$79 on emerging evidence of higher production from Saudi Arabia and other members of the Organization of the Petroleum

Exporting Countries, as well as Russia and

the United States.

The US Energy Information Administration said on Wednesday domestic crude production had reached a record 11 million bpd last week. The US has added nearly 1 million bpd in production since November, thanks to rapid increases in shale drilling.

A sharp jump in US crude oil inventories also added to the bearish tone in the market. They rose 5.8m barrels last week, compared with a forecast for a decline of 3.6m barrels.

Meanwhile, OPEC and non-OPEC producers cut oil output in June by 20 percent more than agreed levels, compared with 47pc in May, two sources said.



Gold prices slip to one-year low as dollar powered higher

● Spot gold fell 0.7pc to \$1,217 per ounce

● Platinum was 2.2 pc lower at \$795 an ounce

● Palladium fell 1.6 pc to \$893 per ounce

Reuters | London

Gold sank to a one-year low yesterday as the dollar powered higher after comments from US Federal Reserve chairman Jerome Powell which reaffirmed expectations for more

interest rate rises in the world’s largest economy.

Powell, in a closely watched two-day congressional testimony, said he believed the United States was on course for years more of steady growth, and carefully played down the risks to the US economy of an escalating trade conflict.

The Fed raised rates in June and policymakers indicated they expect two more rate increases this year. Powell said nothing in his testimony this week to undermine that, and said the economy was poised for several more years of growth.

Gold is highly exposed to interest rates, particularly in the United States, as higher rates



Representative picture (Courtesy of Arab news)

lift the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding assets and boost the dollar, in which gold is priced.

Spot gold fell 0.7 per cent to

\$1,217 per ounce by 1140 GMT, having earlier touched its lowest since July 2017 at \$1,214.45. US gold futures for August delivery were 0.9pc lower at \$1,216.56

an ounce.

“It’s a tough environment for gold,” said ETF Securities associate director Annika Gupta, adding that growth in the U.S economy and stronger corporate earnings undermined the yellow metal.

“Gold is not being used as a safe haven right now despite the ongoing trade war, and the stronger dollar is dominating the story amidst the rate-rising environment.”

Gold is generally regarded as a safe and stable store of value during times of global uncertainty.

The dollar held firm against its peers, supported by bullish comments from Powell, which

affirmed expectations for more interest rate increases this year.

“Gold should find first support at yesterday’s low of \$1,221, with the psychological \$1,200 level to follow. Resistance (is) at \$1,229, with this week’s high of \$1,245 above that,” MKS PAMP Group said in a note.

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday the United States may hammer out a trade deal with Mexico, and then do a separate one with Canada later, sowing fresh doubts about the future of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Among other precious metals, silver was down 1.6pc at \$15.27 an ounce, its lowest since last July.



A TAILOR'S TALE

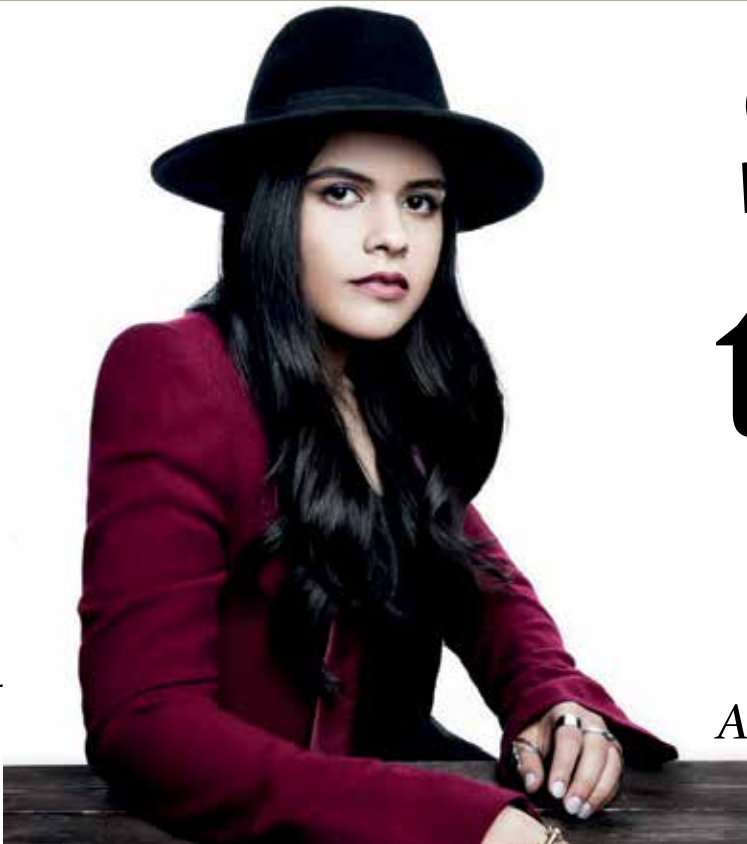
# A thread of Bahrain in Michael Jackson's wardrobe

*A modest tailor shop 'Babu Choice' in Bab al Bahrain has a story to tell. It was here Babu, a local tailor and owner of the shop, created more than 80 suits worth BD100,000 for 'King of Pop' Michael Jackson during the music legend's sojourn in Bahrain. Michael Jackson had visited the Land of Pearls for the very first time in 2002 alongside his brother Jermaine Jackson*



Babu

FASHION



Najd Al Taher

# Shaking up the region's art scene

*At the tender age of 24, Kuwaiti visual artist, Najd AlTaher is gathering pace as an influencer of a different kind*

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1941

British PM Winston Churchill launches his “V for Victory” campaign

1913

Billboard publishes earliest known “Last Week’s 10 Best Sellers among Popular Songs” Malinda’s Wedding Day is #1

1866

Tennessee is 1st to ratify 14th Amendment to the US constitution, guaranteeing civil rights

1848

1st US women’s rights convention held in Seneca Falls NY, organised by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott



Bahraini tailor designed special garbs for the King of Pop



SCAN THE QR  
CODE TO WATCH  
THE INTERVIEW



Special designs signifying Michael’s signature jackets



Sketches given by Jermaine to Babu

TDT| Manama

Mehr Jan

If you look hard enough and decide to explore the quiet alleys and unpretentious corridors, you would be able to discover stories of sheer amusement. This is one of those accounts that managed to affiliate a global icon to a Bahraini tailor.

With a larger than life persona, the ‘King of Pop’ Michael Jackson remains one of the most well-known musicians to have ever existed. Everything about him was distinctive and shone of his individuality-be it his dance, his music or what he wore...everything had to stand out. Which is why it comes as no surprise that his immaculate wardrobe reflected sleek tailoring craftsmanship from around the world and interestingly some of the attire in which he strutted his stuff in the final years before his death, come from a quaint shop located in Bahrain’s very first

traditional souq ‘Bab Al Bahrain.’

Michael Jackson had visited the Land of Pearls for the very first time in 2002 alongside his brother Jermaine Jackson. Due to his high profile and security concerns, the musical legend wasn’t able to roam around freely, but that didn’t stop Jermaine from enjoying the island’s hustle and bustle, especially the rush of excitement you get from exploring the many shops situated in Bab al Bahrain, also known as the Gateway to Bahrain. Roaming around in a plaid shirt, baggy jeans and dark shades, he was hardly recognizable and during his exploration stride, a small shop with men’s suits on display caught his eye. Impressed by what he saw, Jermaine walked into the modest tailor shop ‘Babu Choice’ and asked the owner ‘Babu’ to create a suit for him in a day. If he liked what he saw, he will place a sizeable order.

Unbeknownst to who Jermaine was, Babu was pledged to his work ethics and got to work.

The fourth sibling in the Jackson clan kept true to his word when he was left utterly satisfied by the final product. He ended up ordering more than 80 suits of a net worth of BD100,000, many of which were for Michael Jackson and Babu was left flabbergasted knowing Jermaine’s association with the King of Pop.

The shop and its crewmen worked continuously for 2 months straight on this prodigious order. “He was certain on what he liked and quickly chose the materials from the shop to work upon,” Babu shared with the Tribune. Specific in his style and keen to make his and his brother’s wardrobe standout, Jermaine brought sketches and drawings to show Babu how the clothes were to be designed, including creating a special outfit for Michael for stage performances, consisting of his signature ‘jacket and pants’ look. Determined to keep the designs exclusive and to ensure they won’t be repeated, Jermaine would tear up the pictures or take

them back once the design was discussed. However, a few sketches got left behind at the shop which Babu has filed now as souvenirs to this once in a lifetime experience. Spending hours at the shop, Jermaine told Babu he felt welcomed here. “He was very humble and liked the warm ambience; he even invited me to attend Michael Jackson’s upcoming concerts in India and Malaysia,” Babu reminisced.

One of his Michael Jackson’s remaining suits was picked up in 2009 by his close friend, the very same day Michael’s death was announced to the world. Shocked, Babu managed to get a phone call made to a heartbroken Jermaine that fateful day. “He started crying as soon as I spoke; we may have had the language barrier but I felt for him as a brother, for all those great memories of him coming to my store and appreciating my work, came running back to me. We haven’t spoken ever since, but I hope to meet Jermaine again,” Babu said.

## REVAMP

I Kuwait City

ou’ve experienced even a slight, fleeting inter- in the burgeoning Middle Eastern art scene, ances are you’ve already come across Najd er. Her work is distinguished by the eerily xical; sometimes with jarring balaclavas in pink tones, and other times, abaya-clad ladies lly lit by fluorescent LED lights. With an affin- ‘mixing things up and challenging [herself]’, uxtapose preciously manicured nails against y of struggle and aggression and vibrant florals an cemented roadsides.

at could this also be?” Najd Al Taher says, s the unrelenting question in the back of my any space. What inspires me most is the archi- of a space, the lines, and the concrete blocks.” y, then, that the visual artist, videographer and is found fully immersed in the varying dust- concrete tones of the Kuwaiti metropolis, her city, in her latest campaign with PUMA.

heard us. While Najd has been deftly tight-rop- fine line between striking and unnerving for he two-time Crossway Foundation award-win- unterculturist has just partnered with athlei- rtuosos, PUMA, on a conceptual youth collec- tly named ‘Suede Guerrillas’.



A work by Najd Al Taher

“Suede represents PUMA and its classic sneaker, iconic in sub-cultures like hip hop, and ‘Guerrillas’ represents the grassroots nature of the Suede Guer-

rillas - young creatives authentically creating and curating to disrupt the norm,” says Najd.

As an organic, self-styled, boundary-stretching

crew of creative youths from the Middle East, Najd tells us, “The Suede Guerrillas are a resounding message to the younger generation that everything is possible. Never change yourself or what you believe in. Never give up on your dreams.”

With this never-before-seen space for youth collaboration, especially at the hands of a sportswear behemoth such as PUMA, Najd comments, “It’s absolutely admirable of PUMA. There are so many young, striving creatives out there like myself who are giving it their all trying to make a difference, and what PUMA is doing is helping achieve that.” She continues, “Suede Guerrillas is a chance to inspire and be inspired, to grow as artists and creatives alike, and that, to me, is priceless.”

With a satisfyingly geometric (and literally edgy) video teaser already under her belt, Najd tells us, “The content I’m creating for this campaign carries an important message; everything around us matters. It’s all about channelling power from the things around us that we might take for granted.” And the gleaming piece of wisdom, “If you really look, you can always create something out of nothing.”

Najd is currently working on not one, but two new series that “combine conceptual photography, installations and performance art” which are due to be released soon. Needless to say, we’re excited.



world

UK police identify Novichok suspects as Russians

London, United Kingdom

British police believe they have identified the suspects who carried out the Novichok nerve agent attack on a former Moscow double agent and his daughter and that they are Russian, the Press Association news agency reported Thursday.

“Investigators believe they have identified the suspected perpetrators of the Novichok attack through CCTV and have cross-checked this with records of people who entered the country around that time,” a source with knowledge of the probe told the British agency.

“They (investigators) are sure they (suspects) are Russian,” the source added.

Death toll from India building collapse hits nine

New Delhi, India

The death toll from a collapsed apartment block outside Delhi rose to nine on Thursday as emergency workers pulled four more bodies from a huge pile of rubble and metal, India’s fire brigade said.

The six-storey building caved in late Tuesday and crashed into a neighbouring building, trapping more than a dozen people, including labourers and two families in Greater Noida, a satellite city east of Indian capital. Five bodies were pulled out on Wednesday.

Bus plunges into Indian gorge, 14 dead

Dehradun, India

A bus plunged into a gorge in a Himalayan state of northern India on Thursday, killing 14 people and injuring 17 others, a disaster official said.

The driver lost control of the vehicle as he tried to negotiate a narrow bend in the picturesque Tehri district.

“Thirty-one people had boarded the bus. Rescue workers have pulled out 14 bodies. Seventeen others are injured, nine of them have serious injuries,” disaster official Piyush Rautela said.

Those nine have been flown by helicopter to a hospital in the nearby city of Rishikesh, he told AFP.

India has some of the world’s deadliest roads, claiming the lives of more than 150,000 people each year.

Earlier this month, 44 people were killed in Uttarakhand when a bus crashed into a gorge.

Walter Carr gets a new car!

Man walks 20 miles for first day of work, gets big reward



Alabama college student Walter Carr, left, is given keys to a car by Bellhops

Miami, United States

Young Walter Carr did not want to miss his first day of work as a mover. So when his car broke down and he was unable to find a ride, he set off walking -- a distance of 20 miles (32 kilometers).

A long night and two very sore feet later, things turned out OK for the 20-year-old Carr: his new boss found out what Carr had done and gave him the keys to his own car, a Ford Escape.

The story went viral on social media after the Alabama woman who had called boss Luke Marklin’s company for help moving, Jenny Lamey, posted about it over the weekend on Facebook.

Lamey learned from Carr that his family, originally from New Orleans, had lost their home in Hurricane Katrina and had then moved to Alabama.

He left his place in Homewood, Alabama, shortly before midnight on Friday, figuring that as a former high school cross-country runner he could manage the 20 miles on foot.

Four hours later, as he was taking a breather, a police officer stopped to check on him.

Impressed by Carr’s sincerity -- and learning that the young man had had little to eat -- the officer bought him breakfast, then drove him a few miles farther before wishing him well.



“This is my car,” Carr’s boss said, handing his newest employee the keys, “and I’d like it to be your car”

ing him well.

After Carr had walked as far as the town of Pelham, another policeman -- alerted to Carr’s plight by the first officer -- stopped and gave him a ride the rest of the way.

Later, when Marklin heard the story, he decided to give the young man his car.

“This is my car,” he said, handing his newest employee the keys, “and I’d like it to be your car.” “Seriously?” the young man asked in amazement.

Lamey started a “Thank You Walter” account at the GoFundMe.com site to raise money to help Carr, and by Wednesday afternoon it had raised over \$60,000.

In a video posted by the Pelham police, a clearly emotional Carr expressed his gratitude.

Syria gets back Golan

Rebels have agreed to surrender the sensitive area bordering the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights



Busses transporting residents and fighters from the towns of Fuua and Kefraya arrive in the Syrian regime-held territory of the al-Eis crossing point south of Aleppo

Beirut, Lebanon

Syrian rebels have agreed to surrender a sensitive area bordering the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, a monitor and opposition source said yesterday, the latest in a series of deals expanding regime control over key territory.

The agreement follows another deal that saw thousands of residents evacuated Thursday morning from two pro-regime towns in northern Syria long besieged by hardline rebels.

Both deals, negotiated by regime ally Russia, will be seen as victories for President Bashar al-Assad over the seven-year uprising that once threatened his rule.

With a mix of military force and negotiated surrenders, his forces this month captured more than 90 percent of Daraa, the southern province where

protests against him first erupted in 2011.

They then began intensely bombing rebels in Quneitra, a crescent-shaped province wedged between Daraa and the buffer zone with the Israel-occupied Golan to the west.

Under pressure, rebels have agreed to hand over Quneitra and the buffer to government forces, an opposition negotiator and a monitoring group said.

“The deal provides for a ceasefire, the handover of heavy and medium weapons, and the return of government institutions to the area,” said Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group.

Syrian forces would take over opposition territory in the buffer zone.

Carrot-and-stick

The agreement, according to

the Observatory, does not include Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, a jihadist-led alliance that holds territory straddling Quneitra and Daraa.

State news agency SANA said it had information on a deal for the army to return to its pre-2011 positions in the area, but did not provide more details.

A member of the rebel delegation to the talks said that a preliminary ceasefire agreement on Quneitra had been reached with Moscow but said it was unclear when it would be implemented.

As part of it, he told AFP, Syrian government forces accompanied by Russian military police would enter the buffer zone with the Golan.

Israel seized 1,200 square kilometres (460 square miles) of the Golan from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War and later annexed it, in a move never recognised internationally.

Thai boys wake up in home for first time in weeks

● Officials have advised families of the youngsters to avoid interviews with the media

Mae Sai, Thailand

Members of the “Wild Boars” football team rescued from a cave in northern Thailand prayed for good luck at a Buddhist temple on Thursday morning after spending their first night back home with family.



Some of the 12 Thai boys who were dramatically rescued from deep inside a cave after being trapped for more than a fortnight attend a religious ceremony at a Buddhist temple in Chiang Rai

The teammates and coach were discharged from hospital Wednesday after recuperating for a week from their 18-day ordeal inside Tham Luang cave with no food and only rainwater to drink.

After spending a night at home many of the boys attended a ceremony the next morning at Wat Pha That Doi Wao in Mae Sai near the Myanmar border where they prayed for longevity and a good life.

They also paid tribute to a former Thai Navy SEAL diver Saman Kunan, who ran out of oxygen and died while helping resupply air tanks along the

cave’s narrow passageways.

Wearing threads of white string tied around their wrists and holding hands together in prayer, the boys sat together in the temple while chants of Buddhist monks filled the room.

“They will live with their families first,” Punnawitch Thepsurin, the director of a school in the area, said, adding that they will not resume their studies immediately.

They walked into the cave on June 23 after football practice, thinking they would only be there for an hour to explore, and then vanished for days until they were finally found.



Ethiopia names  
envoy to Eritrea  
as ties thaw

Nairobi | Kenya

Ethiopia has appointed an ambassador to Eritrea for the first time in 20 years, state-affiliated media reported Thursday, the latest in a series of dizzying peace moves between the neighbours.

The announcement follows a flurry of diplomacy between the former enemies that included visits between their leaders and the first commercial flights between their capitals in two decades.

Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki reopened his country's embassy in Ethiopia on Monday during a three-day official visit to Addis Ababa.

China seizes 156  
mammoth tusks

Beijing | China

Chinese customs authorities said they seized 156 prehistoric mammoth tusks from a truck entering from Russia in one of the country's largest such hauls.

The contraband was seized in late April at a border crossing in northeastern China's Heilongjiang province bordering on Siberia, but the find was only announced this week by Chinese customs, state media said.

The haul, which also included two elephant tusks and a range of other animal parts, was hidden under a shipment of soybeans.

Eight suspects, including Russians and Chinese, have been arrested, the People's Daily said.

China banned the sale and processing of elephant ivory last year after having banned its import in 2015.

US troop remains  
to be repatriated  
from N Korea

Washington | United States

The repatriation of remains of US troops killed during the Korean War should begin shortly, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday, starting a process agreed by President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

"I think in the next couple weeks we will have the first remains returned," Pompeo said during a meeting at the White House.

Repatriating remains of US soldiers who perished during the 1950-53 conflict was part of a written agreement signed by Kim and Trump during their landmark summit in Singapore last month.

Pompeo did not confirm media reports that the first repatriations would be on July 27, and that about 50-55 sets of remains would be returned. North Korean and US military officials met Sunday at the truce village of Panmunjom on the inter-Korean border to discuss the repatriation.

Russia meddled, whatever  
Putin, Trump say: FBI Dir

Trump appeared to accept Putin's denial in a press conference after their meeting in Helsinki

Washington | United States

FBI director Christopher Wray said Wednesday that the US intelligence community stands by its view that Russia interfered in the 2016 US election, despite Vladimir Putin's denial this week to President Donald Trump.

"He's got his view, he has expressed his view," Wray said when asked about Putin's denial to Trump at their summit in Helsinki on Monday.

"The intelligence community's assessment has not changed. My view has not changed, which is that Russia attempted to interfere with the last election and that it continues to engage in malign influence operations to this day." Those acts "aimed at sowing discord and divisiveness in this country," he added.

On Monday, Trump appeared to accept Putin's denial in a press conference after their meeting in Helsinki, sparking outrage in Washington and a rare statement of disagreement by the head of the US intelligence community, Director of National In-



US President Donald Trump (L) and Russian President Vladimir Putin arrive for a meeting in Helsinki.

telligence, Dan Coats.

On Tuesday Trump walked back his comments, saying he accepted the view of US spies that Moscow had in fact meddled. "I accept our intelligence community's conclusion that Russia's meddling in the 2016 election took place," Trump said, reading a statement from the White House. Yet Trump contin-

ued to suggest doubts, adding: It "could be other people also; there's a lot of people out there."

Wray, who was speaking at the Aspen Security Forum in Colorado, also took issue with Trump's suggestion on Wednesday that Russia has not continued to interfere this year as the United State prepares for congressional elections in No-



FBI Director Christopher Wray

The intelligence community's assessment has not changed. My view has not changed, which is that Russia attempted to interfere with the last election and that it continues to engage in malign influence operations to this day

CHRISTOPHER WRAY  
FBI DIRECTOR

member.

Wray said that the FBI has not yet seen any specific actions targeting US election infrastructure -- compared to 2016, when Russian hackers targeted voter registration and voting management computers across the country, according to US intelligence. "But certainly other efforts, what I would call malign influence operations, are very active. And we could be just a moment away from going to the next level," he said.

"For me, it's a threat that we need to take extremely seriously and respond to with fierce determination and focus."

Wray also took issue with Trump's repeated condemnations of the investigation by Special Counsel Robert Mueller into possible collusion with Russia's election meddling as groundless and politically motivated.

"It's not a witch hunt," he said, using Trump's words.

Asked if, amid intense criticism of the FBI by Trump, he had threatened to resign in recent months, Wray declined to answer directly.

US arrests Russian 'agent' for infiltrating govt

Washington | United States

A Russian gun rights enthusiast who built a network of powerful Republican contacts under the direction of a Kremlin power-broker was ordered held without bond Wednesday after FBI counterintelligence agents accused her of conspiring to infiltrate the US government.

US prosecutors said Maria Butina, 29, exploited her close links with the powerful NRA gun lobby while posing as a visiting graduate student to endear herself with senior Republicans, guided by one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's major political supporters, Alexander Torshin.

Butina was charged in the Washington federal court with acting illegally as an unregistered agent for the Russian government while she lived in Washington over the past three years with her boyfriend, a vet-

Moscow  
condemns

On Wednesday Moscow said the arrest was a political move seeking undermine the gains of the Helsinki summit.

"This happened with the obvious task of minimizing the positive effect," of the Trump-Putin meeting, said foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova.

"There is an impression the FBI is simply carrying out a clearly political order," she said.

eran Republican operative.

They called Butina a "covert Russian agent" who maintained contacts with Russian spies and pursued a mission "to penetrate

the US national decision-making apparatus to advance the agenda of the Russian Federation."

That included offering sex to get a job in a US lobbying group, according to documents filed in court by the DoJ.

Butina pleaded not guilty to two criminal charges of conspiring to act as a foreign agent without registering, and acting as a foreign agent. The first charge brings a maximum five years in prison, while the second carries a maximum 10 years.

"This is not a spy case," her lawyer Robert Driscoll said after Butina appeared in court in an orange jumpsuit.

"The government is speculating that someone is a Russian spy, but thousands of Russians met intelligence operatives" in the United States, he said.

'Direct line to Putin'

Butina began visiting the United States and was regularly hosted



Maria Butina poses with a gun. (Picture Facebook)

by the NRA and other groups, and became a "life member" of the American gun rights lobby.

In July 2015, Butina was selected to ask Trump a question about his plans for ties with Russia at a rally in Las Vegas.

Her activities ramped up af-

ter she moved to the US capital on a student visa in 2016, attending American University graduate school while she lived with Erickson. Hardly masking her networking efforts, she told colleagues at the school that she had a nearly direct line to Putin.

Japan start-up plans meteor shower by 2020

● First satellite to be launched by March 2019

● Each satellite will be able to carry 400 tiny balls

Tokyo, Japan

A Japanese start-up developing "shooting stars on demand" says it will be ready to deliver the world's first artificial meteor shower in a spectacular show over Hiroshima in early 2020.

ALE, based in Tokyo, is in the



Representative picture (Courtesys of NDTV)

final stages of developing two micro-satellites that will release tiny balls that glow brightly as they enter the atmosphere, simulating a meteor shower.

The first satellite will hitch a

ride into space on a rocket being launched by Japan's space agency by March 2019. The second will be launched in mid-2019 on a private-sector rocket.

Each satellite will be able



The 400 balls will be enough for 20-30 events, according to the company, and the satellites will be able to stay in space for around two years

o carry 400 tiny balls whose chemical formula is a closely-guarded secret.

Ejected from the satellite, the balls will glow as they plunge through the atmosphere.

The 400 balls will be enough for 20-30 events, according to the company, and the satellites will be able to stay in space for around two years.

ALE's two satellites will start orbiting the Earth by February 2020.

It has not disclosed the price but it may not come so cheap, with the company spending about \$20 million for the development, production, launch and operation of the two satellites.



# WORLD

## features

# Saving the last wild horses

*Long way home as Przewalski's horses fly to Mongolia*



Wild Przewalski horses are released in the Takhin Tal reserve

**AFP | Mongolia**

**T**heir violent kicks rattle the small army plane flying over Siberia as it transports the four rare horses from Prague to the vast Mongolian steppe where the once near-extinct species is slowly recovering.

Known as Przewalski's horses, the ancient species has narrowly avoided extinction thanks to breeding programmes at zoos worldwide and is now gradually being re-introduced to a wildlife reserve in its original homeland.

But confined to wooden boxes, Finnish sisters Helmi and Hanna, German mare Spes and Yanja from a Swiss zoo are not enjoying the 30-hour trip to get to their new home one bit.

"The plane trip is the toughest part," Prague Zoo chief vet Roman Vodicka told AFP over the constant drone of the twin-engine propeller plane.

"The horse might make a wrong move, get stuck and lie down, stopping the blood flow to the legs. If this happened on the truck, we might release them for a run in nature, but you can't do that on the plane," he said.

Prague Zoo, which has bred Przewalski's horses since 1932 and keeps the world genealogy book for the endangered species tracking all new births, launched a project to reintroduce the animals to Mongolia in 2011.

The four round-bellied, short-legged, sandy-beige mares are set to join wild herds in Takhin Tal (meaning the wild

horse steppe), where 220 Przewalski's horses now gallop free.

In 1969, there was just one.

### Whistles and hay

"These horses are getting a chance others won't have. They'll return home," said Jan Marek, a Prague Zoo curator in charge of ungulates.

But, for the moment, they are restless after a busy day, which started at an acclimatisation centre on a farm belonging to Prague Zoo, south of the Czech capital.

Before being enclosed in the transport boxes, they were put to sleep, tested and treated by vets.

Then they were taken by truck to a military airbase on Prague's outskirts and loaded onto the plane.

Marek and Vodicka monitor the horses throughout the trip, trying to calm them by talking and whistling, or with hay and pheromones.

Keeping them cool also helps and the plane is air-conditioned to 15-19 degrees C (59-66 F).

After landing on the dirt runway in the western Mongolian town of Bulgan Sum, the mares take a bumpy truck journey to the remote Takhin Tal reserve, where they are finally able to gallop into an enclosure to find

their hooves in their new home.

In the first half of next year, they will be released into the wild to join either a lone stallion, or be part of a harem -- a group of around a dozen horses led by a dominant stallion -- in Takhin Tal, which is part of the Great Gobi B protected area spanning over 9,000 square kilometres (3,600 square miles).

"Harem organisation is a very nice social structure, everybody has his own role," Ganbaatar Oyunsai Khan, Great Gobi B director, told AFP.

Rangers able to discern a stallion or harem at a distance when it is barely visible to the



**Przewalski's horses are named after Col. Nikolai Przewalski, who was the first Western scientist to describe the species in writing in 1878. Very few in captivity made it through WWII and the last wild individual was spotted in 1969.**

in 1881, the species was nearly extinct in the 1960s and is still listed as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Bobek said the current population stands at around 2,400 horses, with 800 in the wild including in other parts of Mongolia and in China.

"All the living Przewalski's horses come from a genetic bottleneck of about 10 animals," he told AFP.

### Genes matter

Zoologists hope the four new mares from different zoos will improve the genetic mix of the Mongolian herd.

"If we only brought Czech horses, it would be the same blood. We're trying to make the population as diverse as possible," says curator Marek.

New genetic research has suggested that the stocky horses that inspired dreamy pre-historic cave paintings are not the world's last remaining wild horse as had been thought.

The journal Science reported in February that, despite their pre-historic looks, Przewalski's horses were actually domesticated animals that escaped their human owner in the Botai area of northern Kazakhstan around 5,500 years ago.

Bobek described the study as "very interesting", but is cautious.

"It could have been the other way round; the wild Przewalski's horse could have been the source for Botai breeders," he said.



Zookeepers control the blood pressure of a Przewalski horse mare prior her transport to Mongolia

untrained eye, even with binoculars, will monitor the mares as they explore their new home.

### Dzud

Prague Zoo has released a total 31 Przewalski's horses into the Mongolian wilderness, with funding for the project provided by zoos from across the globe.

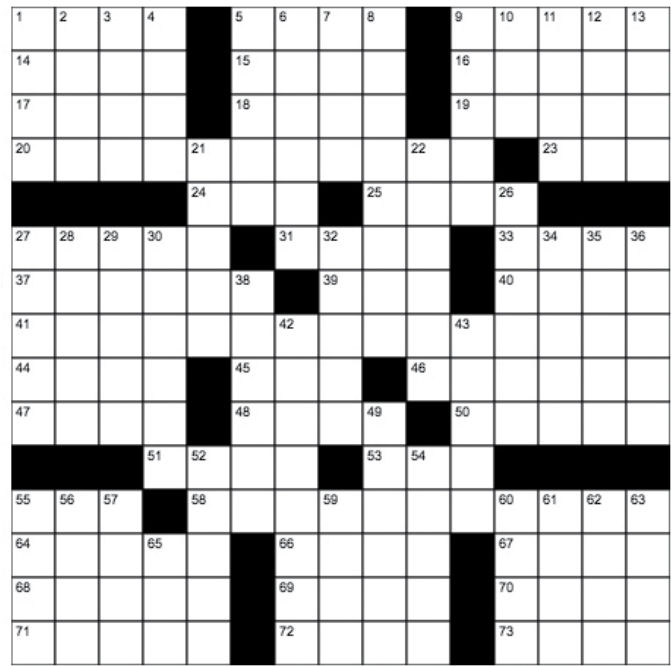
"I decided to do this after the 'dzud', or very severe winter of 2009-2010, which had cut local (Przewalski's) horse numbers by two thirds to about 50," said Prague Zoo director Miroslav Bobek, standing outside a yurt in the Mongolian steppe.

First documented by Russian scientist Nikolai Przhevalsky



# entertainment

## CROSSWORD



### Across

1- Actress Dunaway; 5- Indigo source; 9- Gaiety; 14- Prayer ender; 15- Lethargic; 16- Bring forth from the egg; 17- Prefix with drama; 18- \_\_\_ about (roughly); 19- Spud state; 20- Something that explains; 23- \_\_\_ Angeles; 24- Sleep stage; 25- Tax experts: Abbr.; 27- Bluegrass instrument; 31- Writer Wiesel; 33- Dull pain; 37- 1986 sci-fi sequel; 39- Syr. neighbor; 40- \_\_\_ Scott Decision; 41- In spite of; 44- Amos or Spelling; 45- “You’ve got mail” co.; 46- Greek goddess of the moon; 47- ET transports; 48- Afrikaner; 50- Aromatic wood; 51- Auditorium; 53- Antlered

### YESTERDAY’S SOLUTION



animal; 55- Possess, to Burns; 58- Sinking more money into; 64- Sleep disorder; 66- Turned right; 67- On a single occasion; 68- Artist Matisse; 69- Amo, amas, \_\_\_; 70- Penn name; 71- Let’s Make \_\_\_; 72- Court plea, for short; 73- Show to a table;

### Down

1- Renown; 2- U.S. trading place; 3- Quick sharp bark; 4- Hydroxyl compound; 5- Unaccompanied; 6- Generic; 7- \_\_\_ Rhythm; 8- Lyric poet; 9- Porcelain tableware; 10- Possessed; 11- Bibliography abbr.; 12- Canyon sound; 13- Pi followers; 21- Rice-\_\_\_; 22- Musical dramas; 26- Bicycle seat; 27- African language group; 28- Standoffish; 29- Part of TNT; 30- Pertaining to Jews; 32- Cotton thread used for hosiery; 34- Wept; 35- Reddish brown; 36- Gardener’s tool; 38- Building for horses; 42- Hoodlum; 43- Head supporters; 49- Uncover; 52- Thin as \_\_\_; 54- Resulted in; 55- Very funny!; 56- Imitated; 57- Feminine ending; 59- Verne captain; 60- Chuck; 61- Arrow poison; 62- Final Four org.; 63- Lady’s escort; 65- Notable period;

## BEETLE BAILEY



## WORD OF THE DAY

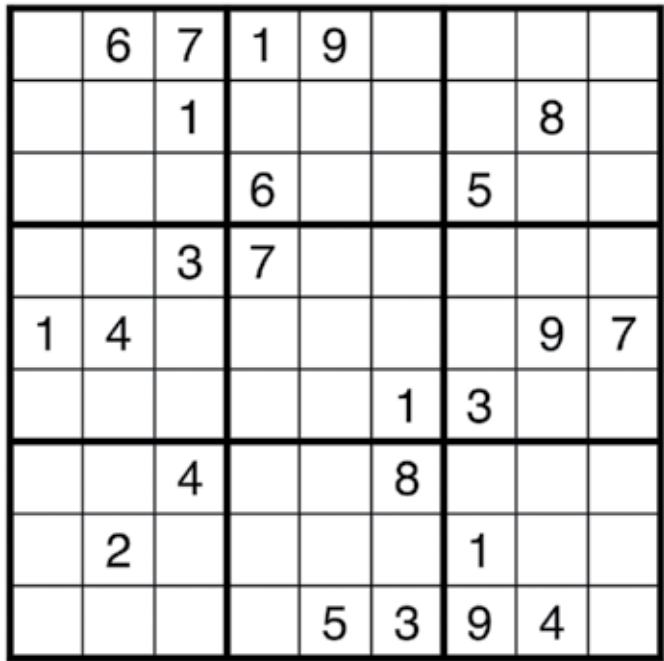
### Halcyon

**Definition:**  
1 : calm, peaceful  
2 : happy, golden  
3 : prosperous, affluent

**Did You Know?**  
According to Greek mythology, Alkyone, they so charmed the wind god that he cre-

ated a period of unusual calm that lasted until the birds’ eggs hatched. This legend prompted people to use halcyon both as a noun naming a genus of kingfisher and as an adjective meaning either “of or relating to the kingfisher or its nesting period” or “calm.”

## SUDOKU



### YESTERDAY’S SOLUTION



### How to play

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

## YOUR STAR TODAY



### Aries

Your incredible passion and creativity are taking centre stage. It’s also quite possible that there’s a great restlessness within you egging you on to take things to the next level. Combine your powers of dedication with your flair for the dramatic to accomplish whatever it is your heart desires.



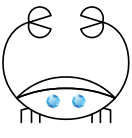
### Taurus

You may be feeling a bit reserved today, especially when it comes to issues involving love and romance. Follow your instincts and know that your hesitation isn’t unfounded. Sometimes it’s good to slow down and question the road you’re on.



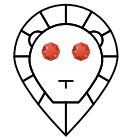
### Gemini

Reclaim control of things that might be holding you back now. You may find that there’s an element of restriction to the day that’s keeping you from getting where you want to be. Try the best you can to relax and stabilize your emotions.



### Cancer

Be selective when it comes to expressing your passion today. Remember that less is more. You don’t have to use a tremendous number of bells and whistles in order to get your point across. Let your actions be minimal but meaningful. You can say a great deal with few words.



### Leo

In general, your spirit is upbeat, freedom loving, and adventurous. Today, however, you might find that it’s a bit more intense and possibly sombre, especially when it comes to romantic issues. This approach to matters of the heart isn’t exactly your normal style, but you’re apt to find that it’s appropriate for your situation now.



### Virgo

It’s important for you not to overanalyze every little detail of your situation now, especially when it comes to love and romance issues. You could be jumping to ridiculous conclusions based purely on circumstantial evidence. Don’t lose sleep over things that you don’t even know to be true.



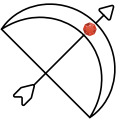
### Libra

When it comes to love and romance, you may find yourself in a bit of a pickle. There’s a request for greater commitment now. You may be unsure about how to respond. You may hesitate to give up the sense of freedom that you hold so dear. Recognize the importance of a close connection with one other person.



### Scorpio

Your romantic, sensitive nature comes alive today, and you may find yourself searching for the security of a close lover. You’re apt to be pickier than usual - not just anyone will do anymore. There is a longing within you for the company of someone who shares your deep intuitive understanding of people, emotions, and life in general. Don’t settle for anything less.



### Sagittarius

Tension in your romantic life is apt to well up today. More than likely, there are certain responsibilities that you feel you have to attend to that take you away from your intimate experience with another. Whether or not you’re currently involved in a romantic partnership, the day’s energy is likely to stir up issues regarding love and romance.



### Capricorn

You could be feeling the pressure of time now. At this point in your life you may be more aware than ever of your limited time left on this planet. Perhaps you’re thinking more about love and romance and how much they mean to you.



### Aquarius

Situations regarding love and romance are likely to get much heavier and more intense now. Are you ready to make a deeper commitment to the one you love? It may be quite hard for you to make a solid commitment because you could be wary of the freedom you’ll lose.



### Pisces

The love and romance department should be going pretty well for you now. This is the time to probe more deeply into your current affair with that person who catches your eye. There’s a greater sensitivity to your emotions today, and you could find yourself holding back a bit more than usual. An air of mystery and intrigue will surround you, drawing others toward you like a moth to a candle.



show

**MAMMA MIA: HERE WE GO AGAIN**  
(ROMANTIC/COMEDY/DRAMA/MUSICAL) NEW  
Ⓢ LILY JAMES, AMANDA SEYFRIED, MERYL STREEP  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN + (12.45 MN. THURS/FRI)  
DAILY AT (VIP I): 10.30 AM. + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM.  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: (1.00 AM THURS/FRI)  
**SEEF (I)** DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM.  
**SAAR** DAILY AT: 10.45 AM. + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15+ 8.45 + 11.15 PM.  
**WADI AL SAIL** DAILY AT: 11.00AM. + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM.

**DHADAK**  
(HINDI/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW  
Ⓢ ISHAAN KHATTAR, JHANVI KAPOOR, ASHUTOSH  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: FROM FRIDAY 20TH: 10.30 AM. + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN.  
**SEEF (I)** DAILY AT: FROM FRIDAY 20TH: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM.  
**SAAR** DAILY AT: FROM FRIDAY 20TH: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM.  
**WADI AL SAIL** DAILY AT: FROM FRIDAY 20TH: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM.

**GOTTI**  
(15+) (CRIME/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY) NEW  
Ⓢ JOHN TRAVOLTA, SPENCER ROCCO LOFRANCO,  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM.  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 1.45 + 4.00 + 6.15 + 8.30 + 10.45 PM  
**SAAR** DAILY AT: 9.15 + 11.30 PM.

**THE DOMESTICS**  
(ACTION/CRIME/HORROR) NEW  
Ⓢ KATE BOSWORTH, TYLER HOECHLIN  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 10.45AM. + 3.00 + 7.15 + 11.30 PM.  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 2.30 + 7.00 + 11.30 PM.  
**WADI AL SAIL** DAILY AT: 2.30 + 7.00 + 11.30 PM.

**A PRAYER BEFORE DAWN**  
(ACTION/CRIME/BIOGRAPHY) NEW  
Ⓢ JOE COLE (VII), VITHAYA PANSRINGARM  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 12.45 + 5.00 + 9.15 PM.  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM.

**IN DARKNESS**  
(18+) (THRILLER/CRIME) NEW  
Ⓢ NATALIE DORMER, EMILY RATAJKOWSKI  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 12.30 + 4.30 + 8.30 PM. + (12.30 MN. THURS/FRI.)  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 11.00 AM. + 1.00 + 6.00 + 11.00 PM. + (1.00 AM. THURS/FRI)  
**WADI AL SAIL** DAILY AT: 1.45 + 5.45 + 9.45 PM.

**7-STILL/BORN**  
(15+) (HORROR/THRILLER) NEW  
\* CHRISTIE BURKE, JESSE MOSS, REBECCA OLSON  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 2.30 + 6.30 + 10.30 PM.  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 2.15 + 6.45 + 11.15 PM.  
**WADI AL SAIL** DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 3.45 + 7.45 + 11.45 PM.

**BILLIONAIRE BOYS CLUB**  
(15+) (THRILLER/CRIME/BIOGRAPY) NEW  
Ⓢ TARON EGERTON, EMMA ROBERTS  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 2.45 + 7.15 + 11.45 PM.  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 6.45 + 12.00 MN.

**SKYSCRAPER**  
(PG-13) (ACTION/THRILLER/DRAMA)  
Ⓢ DWAYNE JOHNSON, NEVE CAMPBELL  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM.  
DAILY AT (VIP II): 11.45 AM. + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM.

DAILY AT (ATMOS) : 10.30 AM. + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN.  
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 PM + 12.00 MN + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)

**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: (1.00 AM THURS./FRI.)  
**SEEF (I)** DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 + 9.15 + 11.30 PM.  
**SAAR** DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM.  
**WADI AL SAIL** DAILY AT: 12.30 + 2.45 + 5.00 + 7.15 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM.

**HOTELTRANSYLVANIA 3: SUMMER**  
(PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/DRAMA)  
Ⓢ ADAM SANDLER, ANDY SAMBERG  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 1.30 + 3.45 + 6.00 + 8.15 + 10.30 PM.  
DAILY AT (DUBBED IN ARABIC): 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM.

**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM.  
**SAAR** DAILY AT: 12.15 + 2.30 + 4.45 + 7.00 PM.  
**WADI AL SAIL** DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM

**ANT-MAN AND THE WASP**  
(PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)  
Ⓢ PAUL RUDD, EVANGELINE LILLY, MICHAEL PENA  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM. + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN.  
**WADI AL SAIL** DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.30 + 9.00 PM.

**OCEAN'S EIGHT**  
(PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME)  
Ⓢ SANDRA BULLOCK, CATE BLANCHETT  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM.  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM.

**THE FIRST PURGE**  
(18+) (ACTION/CRIME/HORROR)  
Ⓢ MARISA TOMEI, LEX SCOTT DAVIS  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM.  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 11.00 AM. +1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM.

**THE ESCAPE PLAN 2: HADES**  
(PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER)  
Ⓢ SYLVESTER STALLONE, DAVE BAUTISTA  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN.

**JURRASIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM**  
(ACTION/ADVENTURE/THRILLER/SCI-FICTION)  
Ⓢ BRYCE DALLAS HOWARD, CHRIS PRATT  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 11.00 AM. + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM.  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.30 + 9.00 PM.

**THE INCREDIBLES 2**  
(PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)  
Ⓢ CRAIG T. NELSON, SAMUEL L. JACKSON  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 11.15 AM. + 3.45 + 8.15 PM.

**DEADPOOL 2**  
(15+) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)  
Ⓢ RYAN REYNOLDS, JOSH BROLIN, MORENA  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 10.45 AM. + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM.

**AL ABLA TAMTAM**  
(PG-13) (ARABIC/COMEDY)  
Ⓢ YASMIN ABDULAZIZ, HAMDI ALMIRGHANI,  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 1.45 + 6.15 + 10.45 PM.

**TAXI 5**  
(PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)  
Ⓢ MALIK BENTALHA, BERNARD FARCY, RAMZY  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM.

**AVENGERS: INFINTY WAR**  
(PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)  
Ⓢ KAREN GILLAN, ROBERT DOWNEY JR.  
**CINECO (20)** DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 3.30 + 8.30 PM.

**AMERICAN ANIMALS**  
(PG-15) (CRIME/DRAMA/COMEDY) NEW  
Ⓢ ANN DOWN, EVAN PETERS, BARRY KEOGHAN  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 2.45 + 7.15 + 11.45 PM.

**THE SHONKU DIARIES: A UNICORN ADVENTURE**  
(PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY) NEW  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 10.30 AM. + 12.15 + 2.00 PM.

**TEEFA IN TROUBLE**  
(PG-15) (URDU/ACTION/COMEDY/ROMANTIC) NEW  
Ⓢ ALI ZAFAR, MAYA ALI, MEHMOOD ASLAM  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 3.45 + 9.00 PM.

**17-SANJU**  
(PG-15) (HINDI/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY)  
Ⓢ RANBIR KAPOOR, SONAM KAPOOR  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 3.00 + 8.00 PM.

**THE INCREDIBLES 2**  
(PG) (ANIMATION/ACTION/ADVENTURE)  
Ⓢ CRAIG T. NELSON, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, CATHE- RINE KEENER  
**SEEF (II)** DAILY AT: 11.45 AM. + 4.15 + 8.45 PM.

**NIRAAALI**  
(MALAYALAM) NEW  
Ⓢ MOHANLAL, PARVATI NAIR, SURAJ  
**SEEF (I)** DAILY AT: 11.00 AM. + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM.  
**AL HAMRA** DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)

**TAMIZH PADAM 2**  
(TAMIL)  
Ⓢ SHIVA ISHWARYA MENON, DISHA PANDEY  
**SEEF (I)** DAILY AT: 11.30 AM. + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM.

‘First man’ to open Venice Film Festival

IAN S | Los Angeles

Oscar-winning director Damien Chazelles space race drama “First Man” will open the 75th annual Venice International Film Festival on August 29.

This will mark the second opening-night Venice bow for Chazelle. His previous film, “La La Land,” kicked off the fest in 2016 before cruising into the awards season and tying the all-time Oscar nominations record, reports variety.com.

Chazelle ultimately won the best-director prize at the Academy Awards, while Barry Jenkins’ “Moonlight” walked away with best picture.

A Universal Pictures release, “First Man” stars Ryan Gosling



Ryan Gosling

as astronaut Neil Armstrong in the years leading up to the Apollo 11 moon-landing mission of 1969.

Claire Foy also stars as Armstrong’s wife, Janet Shearon. Kyle Chandler, Jason Clarke, Corey Stoll, Ciaran Hinds,



In 1999, Ryan Gosling starred along with Steve Carrell in a pilot for a show called ‘The Unbelievables’. Twelve years later they would star in ‘Crazy Stupid Love’

Christopher Abbott, and Patrick Fugit fill out the rest of the cast, reports varoety.com.

Other recent Venice openers have included “Downsizing,” “Everest,” and “Birdman.”

Russell Brand, Patton join Michael Caine

Variety | London

Russell Brand and Paula Patton have signed on for “Four Kids and It,” and will star alongside the previously cast Matthew Goode (“The Crown”) in the family adventure movie. Michael Caine is already on board to voice the It of the title.

The movie is an adaptation of Jacqueline Wilson’s children’s book, which in turn was inspired by E. Nesbit’s 1902 novel “Five Children and It.” It follows four kids who are horrified to learn that their beach vacation is in fact a bonding trip with their potential future step-siblings. The kids then accidentally stumble upon a



Russell Brand

Psammead, a magical, grumpy and sandy creature, in this case called It, who can grant them one wish a day. Brand will play the oddball villain Tristan, who is bent on capturing It. Bill Nighy was previously cast in the role, but has been replaced by comedian and actor Brand, whose film credits include “Get Him to the Greek.” Patton, who was in “Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol” will play work-aholic American mum Alice.

The teenage kids in the picture are played by Ashley Aufderheide and Teddie Malleson-Allen. Billy Jenkins and theatrical performer Ellie-Mae Siame play their young-er siblings.

MISSING PETS



FLASH - Male Yorkshire Terrier, 2 years, microchipped (done in Ukraine), very friendly, ran out gate, wearing collar w name and driver mobile number, Awali, 11/7/18. WhatsApp or SMS 39966666



PAULA - Female Chocolate Labrador, 4.5 yrs, green collar w no ID tag, garage left open, may have been STOLEN, Budaiya (near Budaiya beach and the Sheikh’s Palace), 18/7/18. 33328321 39966666



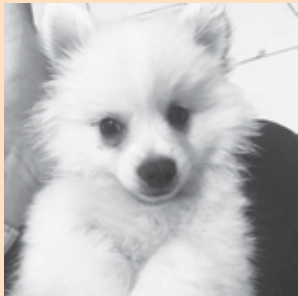
ZOE - Female Persian mix, 2 yrs, spayed, microchipped, all white, wearing collar w bell - no ID tag, disappeared from garden, Awali (near Awali Church), BD100 REWARD for safe return, 6/2/18. 39609175



PERSIK - Female, 7 yrs, spayed, microchipped, responds to name, not wearing collar or ID tag, Hamala (Lagoon Garden and near Hamala Hills new mall), 16/5/18, BD50 REWARD for safe return. 38135952



BLACKIE - Male Saluki/Greyhound mix, 1.5 yrs, very distinctive look, cropped ears, wearing red collar/no ID tag, Saar (close to Cappuchino Cafe), 2/5/18. 39773776



LUCY - Male ( yes male), 2 months, not wearing collar or ID tag, escaped from home - strongly believes he was STOLEN, uwaidrat (Road 2617), 12/6/18. Whatsapp 34341298

**NAME CHANGE**  
I JITHIN KUMAR, S/O JAYARAM SHETTY HOLDING INDIAN PASSPORT NO. K7153723 ISSUED AT BANGLORE, 03/10/2012, HAVING PERMANENT RESIDENCE AT 1-43B, SRI GANESH , HERIKUDRU KUNDAPURE, UDUPI PIN: 576230, KARNATAKA, INDIA PRESENTLY RESIDING AT FLAT/VILLA 0 BLDG 36 ROAD : 6003 ROAD NAME : WEST EKER AVENUE/ BLOCK , 624 BLOCK , AL AKR AL GHARBI/GOV, KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN WILL HENCEFORTH BE KNOW AS (GIVEN NAME) JITHIN KUMAR (SUR NAME) SHETTY OBJECTION(S), IF ANY, MAY BE FORWARDED TO EMBASSY OF INDIA, P.O.BOX 26106. ADLIYA, KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN.

Cyrus, Liam Hemsworth ‘split’  
  
Miley Cyrus with Liam Hemsworth  
IAN S | Los Angeles  
Singer, actress Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth have ‘called off their wedding following fights over when they should have children, according to an insider.  
The couple had first got engaged in 2012 and then split. They then got back together, but a source told OK! Australia that the Hollywood power cou-

ple could not agree on when they should have children, reports dailymail.co.uk.  
The insider claimed “Hunger Games” Hemsworth, 28, was eager to settle down and become a father, but the 25-year-old “Hannah Montana” star isn’t yet ready.  
“He wants kids and doesn’t want to keep putting it off but it’s not quite the timeline Miley had in mind” the source added.



SPORTS

sports

BOC to celebrate  
2018 Olympic Day

TDt | Manama

The 2018 Olympic Day, which is celebrated all over the world, will be staged in Bahrain today, the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) announced yesterday.

This year's event, scheduled to tip off at 5.30pm near the Bahrain Football Association premises in Riffa, is organized by the BOC in cooperation with the Bahrain Road Runners (BRR), which is under the Bahrain Athletics Association.

BRR will be conducting 3km walk-run races around the BFA football pitches' dedicated track to celebrate the occasion.

It is open to everyone and registration will take place from 4pm onwards at the venue today.

Anti-doping  
committee organise  
symposium

TDt | Manama

The Bahrain Olympic Committee's (BOC) anti-doping committee organized a symposium on anti-doping for national sports federations that will take part at the Asian Games, to be held in Jakarta, from August 18 to September 2. The symposium, presented by Dr Hussain Al Haddad, aimed to spread awareness among sports federations representatives before sending their teams for the games.

Bahrain will be introducing 13 teams to the games, in addition to three sports that will take place in Jakarta.

Brave CF secures  
broadcast deal  
with FloCombat for  
Northern America

TDt | Manama

Brave Combat Federation found by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa announced the latest broadcast deal with FloCombat to stream the events live across North America.

FloCombat is based in the United States of America and the partnership marks the next stage of expansion by the promotion found under the leadership of HH Shaikh Khalid.

Brave 14 hosted in the Omnisports indoor club of Tangier, Morocco on 18th August 2018 will be the first event that will be streamed live through FloCombat. FloCombat is an innovator in live streaming of combat sports and original content.

FloCombat is part of the verticals under the FloSports.

Kisner leads British Open

Jordan Spieth starts British Open title defence with a splutter at Carnoustie

AFP | Carnoustie

Kevin Kisner of the United States surged to the top of the early British Open leaderboard yesterday as Jordan Spieth's defence of the Claret Jug got off to an inauspicious start at Carnoustie. Kisner went out in one of the first groups just before 8am (0700 GMT) and had an eagle and four birdies in his five-under-par round of 66 on a perfect summer's morning on Scotland's east coast.

"The golf course is great for me. The conditions have been fine," said the 34-year-old, who led going into the final round of last year's US PGA Championship before dropping away to finish tied for seventh.

"Going forward, you never know what you're going to have in Scotland. I know the rain is coming in tomorrow. I don't think the rain is going to affect how the golf course is playing in one day, but I have to just keep doing what I'm doing."

Americans have won the last five majors and will take some beating this week, with Spieth,



US golfer Kevin Kisner watches his iron shot from the 17th tee during his first round -AFP

world number one Dustin Johnson and Tiger Woods all hoping to be in contention.

However, a poor end to his first round saw Spieth finish the

day one over par after a 72. He went to the 15th tee three-under, only to drop three shots on the next two holes. He then drove into the Barry Burn on the 18th,

and ended with another bogey.

"It felt like a missed opportunity. I felt like I was really going well," said the Texan, who hopes that a turn for the worse in the

weather forecast for Friday will spark an upturn in his fortunes.

"I think I'm certainly in a recoverable situation. I mean, I imagine this is as easy as the course could play. So I don't see the winning score being any better than it was in 2007 with tomorrow's forecasted tough conditions and Sunday's forecasted heavy winds."

South Africans start strongly Trailing Kisner by one shot in the clubhouse were his compatriot Tony Finau and South African duo Zander Lombard and Erik van Rooyen, with the latter taking advantage of the ideal summer weather on his Open debut.

Van Rooyen went out in the second group of the day at 6:46am and shot 67, the only flaw on his scorecard coming with a bogey at the last, the hole that was the scene of Frenchman Jean Van de Velde's infamous final-day meltdown in 1999.

However, it was still a fine start for the 28-year-old, who qualified for his first British Open by coming second at the Joburg Open.

Kazakh Olympic figure  
skater stabbed to death



Denis Ten

AFP | Astana

Kazakh figure skater Denis Ten, who won bronze at the Sochi Olympics in 2014, died yesterday aged 25 after being stabbed, Kazakhstan's culture and sports ministry said.

Ten died in hospital after medics fought to save his life following the attack in which he lost three litres of blood, the ministry's press service said.

Kazakhstan's Vesti.kz news website reported that Ten died of stab wounds after being attacked by would-be car thieves.

He was reportedly stabbed in the right thigh, causing severe blood loss.

City police said that he was stabbed by two unidentified attackers who were trying to steal mirrors from his car, RIA Novosti news agency reported.

The International Skating Union said in a tweet it was "deeply saddened" by the

news.

"Our heartfelt condolences go out to Denis' family, friends and fans across the world," it said.

Social media erupted in sorrow and anger at the news of his death amid demands for an investigation.

Ten was of Korean origin and his great-great-grandfather was a Korean-born independence fighter, General Min Keung Ho.

He was trained by American coach Frank Carroll following a spell with Russia's most renowned coach, Tatiana Tarasova. Tarasova told RIA Novosti news agency in Russia that she had spoken to his mother while he was still alive in hospital.

"What a nightmare! What a tragedy!" she said.

Ten won silver at the World Figure Skating Championships in 2013 and bronze in 2015. He won the 2015 Four Continents title in Seoul.

Vettel fears for future  
of Hockenheim race

BBC | London

Sebastian Vettel is "afraid" the 2018 German Grand Prix will be the country's last for the foreseeable future.

The Hockenheim track is out of contract after this season and it is asking for a new deal that would see it pay a smaller fee. No agreement with Formula 1 is in sight. The German said: "It would be a shame to lose one of the classic races."

Ferrari's Vettel said the problem was the cost of hosting a race and the lack of financial support from the state.

It is the same issue threatening the future of the British Grand Prix, which was staged at Silverstone earlier this month.

Only France, Italy and Belgium have longer histories of hosting grands prix than Germany, which held its first in 1926, the same year as Britain.

F1's owner, the US group Lib-



Sebastian Vettel

erty Media, has said it wants to protect the historic European races, saying they play an irreplaceable role in the sport's appeal. But F1 has not been able to agree a fee with Germany and Britain that the events' organisers believe is sustainable.

Silverstone's contract to host its race runs out after 2019.

Races such as Britain and Germany are competing with other venues backed by governments prepared to pay vast sums to use an F1 as a global promotional event.

Alonso just like Neymar - but  
not in good way: Magnussen

AFP | Hockenheim

Fernando Alonso has been compared to Brazilian soccer star Neymar because of his habit of exaggerating his complaints about his rivals on McLaren's team radio.

The Haas team's Kevin Magnussen yesterday told reporters that the two-time world champion had a tendency to exaggerate and claimed he had made a particular effort to undermine him during the British Grand Prix earlier this month. "He

does complain a lot on the radio," he said. "But, I mean, we see it in other sports as well. Even great athletes like Neymar and stuff, they exaggerate a bit."

During the British Grand Prix, Alonso called for the stewards to penalise Magnussen.



# Hamilton staying with Mercedes

The four-time F1 champion signed a new two-year deal keeping him at the team until 2020

Reuters | Hockenheim, Germany

Four-times Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton ended months of speculation about his future yesterday by signing a new two-year deal keeping him at his Mercedes team until the end of 2020.

The 33-year-old Briton would have been out of contract at the end of this season and the negotiations have been a major talking point in the paddock.

No financial details were given in a Mercedes statement but British media reports have suggested the new deal could be worth up to 40 million pounds (\$52 million) a year and was likely to make Hamilton the sport's top earner.

Yesterday's announcement

is now likely to trigger other driver decisions, with Australian Daniel Ricciardo set to remain with Red Bull but waiting for Mercedes to set out their plans.

Hamilton's current team mate Valtteri Bottas is also out of contract at the end of the year and there was no mention of the Finn in yesterday's statement.

"This contract extension has basically been a formality since (team chief) Toto (Wolff) and I sat down during the winter, so it's good to put pen to paper, announce it and then get on with business as usual," Hamilton said ahead of Sunday's German Grand Prix.

"I have been part of the Mercedes racing family for 20 years and I have never been happier inside a team than I am right now," he added.

"I'm very confident that Mercedes is the right place to be over the coming years."

### Lingering doubts

While Hamilton had been expected to stay with the team that has won both the drivers' and constructors' titles for the past four years, there had still been some lingering doubts about his commitment to the sport.

Former team mate Nico Ros-



Lewis Hamilton poses with Mercedes F1 car at Silverstone

berg stunned the team in 2016 when he won the title and then announced his retirement only days later.

Hamilton, who won his first title with McLaren, enjoys a celebrity lifestyle with plenty of interests — mainly in music and fashion — outside of Formula One and there have been ques-

tions about how long he will race on for.

The Briton, winner of 65 grands prix and with a record 76 career pole positions from 218 races, said yesterday that he was still hungry for success.

"The competitive passion that burns bright inside me is shared by every single member of this

group — always chasing the next improvement and digging even deeper to make sure we come out on top," he said.

"I can't wait to see what we can achieve together in the next two-and-a-half seasons."

The Briton is currently eight points adrift of Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, also a four-times

world champion, at the halfway point in the season. Vettel has won four races this year to his rival's three.

Wolff recognised there had been plenty of speculation in recent months and was happy to put it to bed.

"It's good to put all of that to rest and get this thing announced," he said. "We signed the final documents this week and didn't want to keep people waiting any longer."



In 2014, He changed his helmet colour since his karting days from Yellow to White with red stripes. His father had painted his helmet yellow to identify him during the karting days

## Miami voters will have say on Beckham MLS stadium plan



Soccer mogul David Beckham (center) with MLS Commissioner Don Garber (left) and Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez

AFP | Miami

Miami voters will have their say in November on David Beckham's latest plan for a Major League Soccer stadium development in the city, after a vote by city commissioners on Wednesday.

The Miami City Commission voted 3-2 to place a referendum on the November 6 ballot

that would open the door for the complex on city-owned land that is now occupied by a municipal golf course.

The proposal by retired England star Beckham and his business partners includes a 25,000-seat stadium for an expansion MLS club, along with 23 acres of youth football pitches with artificial turf, a 750-room hotel, restaurant, retail and of-

fice space plus a 58-acre public park.

The commission delayed a vote last week after a presentation by the investment group was followed by hours of public comment both for and against the plan.

Those opposed included a group from the First Tee Miami youth golf program based at the Melreese Country Club site.

## Arsenal youngster Nwakali joins Porto on loan

AFP | London

Arsenal's Nigeria midfielder Kelechi Nwakali joined Portuguese champions Porto on a season-long loan yesterday.

Nwakali, 20, has yet to break into the Arsenal team since moving to the Premier League club in 2016.

He was sent on loan to Dutch side MVV Maastricht for the 2016-17 season and returned to Holland for a loan spell at VVV Venlo last term.

"Kelechi Nwakali will spend next season on loan with Portuguese side FC Porto. The deal is subject to the completion of regulatory processes," Arsenal said on Thursday.

Nwakali has played once for Nigeria's senior team after captaining his country to victory at the Under-17 World Cup in 2015.

Speaking to the Porto website, Nwakali added: "My main goal is to develop, improve my qualities and the other aspects I know I need to correct to grow in the way I play," he said.

## 'Wonderful start' for Talisca in China

AFP | Shanghai, China

Anderson Talisca revelled in a "wonderful start" after the Brazilian hit a dazzling debut hat-trick for Guangzhou Evergrande as they try to resurrect their challenge for an eighth straight Chinese Super League crown.

Talisca, who arrived on loan from Portuguese side Benfica during the summer transfer window, set up Guangzhou's first goal and added three of his own in a 4-0 thrashing of bottom-dwellers Guizhou Zhicheng as the season resumed Wednesday after a two-month summer and World Cup break.

"God's plans are wonderful! Great match by the whole team!" Talisca, 24, said in an Instagram post.

"Wonderful debut: 3 goals, 1 assist," he added.

## Brace for yet more spin, Sri Lanka warns South Africa

AFP | Colombo

Rangana Herath warned South Africa yesterday to expect yet more spin in the second Test after the visitors were skittled for their lowest total since the Proteas' readmission to international cricket.

Sri Lanka are chasing their first Test series win against the Proteas since 2006 and need just a draw to clinch the honours against the world's second ranked Test side.

South Africa lost the opening Test in Galle inside three days after being dispatched for 126 in the first innings and 73 in the second.

Herath said pitch conditions were ripe for a repeat of last week's drubbing, in which the left-arm spinner took five wickets and off-spinner Dilruwan Perera returned overall match figures of 10-78.

"If you see the surface, it's dry. It will be more of a spin friendly surface," the 40-year-old veteran spinner said ahead of the final Test starting Friday in Colombo.

"We have Dilruwan (Perera) and if we require we also have Dhananjaya (de Silva). He couldn't bowl in Galle, but he is certainly ready to bowl during games," Herath told reporters.

Proteas skipper Faf du Plessis top-scored with a gritty 49 while paceman Kagiso Rabada impressed with four wickets in Sri Lanka's first innings.

Rabada, who returned figures of 4-50, was ably supported by Dale Steyn and Vernon Philander in their first innings to bowl out the hosts for 287 runs, more than half of which were notched up by Sri Lankan opener Dimuth Karunaratne.

Du Plessis said his team will



Sri Lanka are chasing their first Test series win against the Proteas since 2006 and need just a draw to clinch the honours against the world's second ranked Test side

rely on their pace bowlers to come back hard at the hosts.

"If it doesn't rain, then we will have a dangerous weapon in our fast bowlers. Once again we have to make a call as to whether we are playing three seamers or two spinners," Du Plessis said.

Du Plessis added that South Africa was aiming to conquer local conditions in their bid to overtake India -- about to embark on a five-Test series in England -- and become the number one side.

"It is never easy winning away from home. When you are coming to the sub-continent, drawing a series is as good as winning a series," he said.

"It's tough and that's what the best teams do. We need to get to that number one position in Test cricket."

The next visitors to Sri Lanka will be England in October.

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# Tevez begs Messi not to retire

Soccerladuma | Buenos Aires

FC Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi is believed to be considering international retirement, but former Argentina striker Carlos Tevez has begged his countryman not to hang up his national team boots just yet.

After yet another disappointing international tournament in Russia, Argentina's record goalscorer is said to be weighing up whether or not he should retire from international football.

Messi has helped guide the Albiceleste to three major finals since 2014, but unfortunately for the 31-year-old, he is yet to lift major silverware with his country.

Asked about the possibility of Messi making himself unavailable for Argentina, Tevez urged the Blaugrana forward to take all the time he needs to recover from the 2018 FIFA World Cup disappointment, and then return to the fold as his national team needs him.



Lionel Messi and Carlos Tevez

"I think Leo has to think about himself," he told ESPN.

"He has to think that, if there is not a project that makes him happy and in which he feels comfortable, it is very difficult to take the responsibility of leading Argentina to become champions by himself.

"We are wasting a lot of time not having him happy and not being able to give him a hand to achieve that target. I think we are wrong in not being able to

help him feel comfortable.

"As a player and as an Argentine, I tell him that we need him, that he tries to rest, that he keeps a cool head and that we need him.

"We need him because he is

I think Leo has to think about himself. He has to think that, if there is not a project that makes him happy and in which he feels comfortable, it is very difficult to take the responsibility of leading Argentina to become champions by himself

CARLOS TEVEZ

the soul of Argentina and, as long as he continues playing football, it has to be that way because he is Argentina's biggest idol and he has to take that responsibility.

"Now (I tell him) to rest, keep a cool head and try to be well, then we need him to take charge and on the pitch."



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho

## Mourinho worried by Man United's 'very bad' pre-season

Reuters | Manchester

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho is worried by the absence of key players from the club's pre-season training camp in the United States, saying that the situation was "very bad" ahead of the Premier League campaign.

United are without several World Cup participants, including France's Paul Pogba, Belgium's Romelu Lukaku and Marouane Fellaini, and England's Jesse Lingard and Marcus Rashford among others, as they rest following a gruelling tournament.

Chilean forward Alexis Sanchez was also absent from the camp due to visa issues.

"The pre-season is very bad, the positive thing of the pre-season is only for the young boys that have a fantastic opportunity to train with us," Mourinho told reporters.

"I'm worried because I'm not training (with everyone) and then I go to the Premier League without lots of players, but it is what it is and we have to try and make the best out of it with the players we have here.

"I'm not worried about playing Liverpool here or Real Madrid or Milan... I'm not worried if we lose badly."

# Sanchez gets visa to join United's US tour

AFP | Manchester

Alexis Sanchez is set to join Manchester United's pre-season tour of the United States after the club confirmed the Chile forward's visa issue has been resolved.

Sanchez was absent from United's flight to Los Angeles on Sunday due to what the Premier League side said was an "administrative issue".



Alexis Sanchez's nickname as a boy was 'Dilla', meaning squirrel. Sanchez earned the name because it only took him seconds to climb trees or scale buildings to retrieve lost footballs during street games

It later emerged American authorities hadn't granted Sanchez a visa, reportedly because the former Arsenal star accepted a

16-month suspended prison sentence in Spain over a tax issue.

Speaking about the Sanchez's absence at a press conference on Wednesday, United manager Jose Mourinho said: "It's really bad and he's really sad. It's not good for him and not good for me, or for the team.

"There is no-one to blame. I know the club is making the effort but the US authorities have their processes."

But Sanchez has now been given visa after all and can link up with Mourinho's squad as they start their build-up to the new Premier League season.

"Sanchez's issue is all sorted and he will fly out to the USA very shortly," a United spokesperson told the Guardian.

Sanchez posted a picture on Instagram yesterday accompanied by caption: "The last training in Manchester, soon" followed by a picture of the US flag.

# French World Cup ace Pavard may join Bayern

AFP | Berlin

The France World Cup defender Benjamin Pavard, who shot to fame with a brilliant goal against Argentina, has signed a contract to join Bayern Munich in 2019 but reports in Germany suggested yesterday the 22-year-old may make the switch even sooner.

Bayern reportedly agreed a deal with Stuttgart before the World Cup, to join the German champions in 2019.

German regional television SWR said, however, that Stuttgart were locked in talks with Bayern over releasing Pavard early, after already agreeing a 35-million euros transfer fee.

The player was keeping his cards close to his chest on Wednesday when asked in his hometown where his future lay.

"Let's see, for now I'm at Stuttgart and I don't know yet where I'll be this season," he said.

"I'm very happy at Stuttgart however," said the man whose stunning right-foot strike flew from wide into the

Argentina net to bring France level at 2-2 in a match they eventually won.

Pavard, who joined Stuttgart in 2016 when they had been relegated to the German second flight.

Stuttgart won promotion in his first season and the player himself won his first cap for France in late 2017.

He was absent from the team's official photo yesterday.



Benjamin Pavard

# 'We have to collect their bones': Klopp

AFP | London

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp fears the gruelling demands of international football are putting players at such risk that "we have to collect their bones" during the coming season.

Klopp is preparing for the start of the new Premier League campaign without a number of Liverpool stars who are on holiday following international duty at the World Cup.

But there is little time for players who featured in Russia to rest and then



Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp

get back to peak fitness because the Premier League kicks off on August 10.

Adding to the problem is the presence of UEFA's new Nations League, which replaces the usual rounds of international friendlies and begins on Sep-

tember 6.

Klopp feels Liverpool, and every other club with a host of internationals, are in danger of paying a heavy price for the demands placed on their stars, with injuries certain to be caused by the lack of quality recovery time.

"I don't want to get too football political but if they don't stop with these games -- they are now making it the Nations Cup to make it more important -- then all these players who played at the World Cup have to go there again," Klopp said.



Alexis Sanchez



# Thomas triumphs again

Geraint Thomas became the first Briton, and first yellow jersey wearer, to win on the Alpe d’Huez after a brutal stage



Great Britain's Geraint Thomas (R), wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, and Great Britain's Christopher Froome (C) rides through the so-called “Dutch Corner” in the ascent to l’Alpe d’Huez during the twelfth stage

AFP | L’Alpe d’Huez, France

Geraint Thomas became the first yellow jersey wearer since disgraced Lance Armstrong to triumph on the legendary Alpe d’Huez after a thrilling finale to a punishing Tour de France 12th stage yesterday.

But the Welshman, along with teammate Chris Froome, was met by a chorus of boos and jeers at the finish as Team Sky’s domination of the race continued.

Thomas took the lead of the race on Wednesday with an impressive victory atop La Rosiere on what was the second day in the Alps.

In a thrilling finale to the 175.5 km race from Bourg Saint Maurice, the former track rider beat Dutchman Tom Dumoulin (Sunweb) by two seconds in a sprint to the line, with French climbing specialist Romain Bardet (AG2R) narrowly avoided disaster when he was struck by a fan at the roadside.

Italian rival Vincenzo Nibali also crashed due to a collision with a fan but finished the stage.

Team Sky’s brutal domination of the race is not sitting well with some fans, but Thomas

in third.

“Not even in my wildest dreams did I believe I would win at Alpe d’Huez, in the yellow jersey,” said Thomas, who now leads four-time champion Froome by 1min 39sec in the overall standings. Dumoulin, the 2017 Giro d’Italia champion, is third at 1:50.

“It’s just mental. I just can’t believe I won the stage. It was just a case of following (teammate) Egan (Bernal),” added Thomas.

Yet hopes of soaking up their success were dashed when fans booed the Team Sky riders as they crossed the finish line.

Earlier, Froome narrowly avoided disaster when he was struck by a fan at the roadside.

Italian rival Vincenzo Nibali also crashed due to a collision with a fan but finished the stage.

Team Sky’s brutal domination of the race is not sitting well with some fans, but Thomas

## Gallopin pulls out, adds to Bardet’s Tour woes

AFP | Bourg-Saint-Maurice, France

The Tour de France hopes of Frenchman Romain Bardet suffered another setback after AG2R teammate Tony Gallopin pulled out during the gruelling 12th stage to Alpe d’Huez.

Bardet, who finished runner-up to Chris Froome in 2016 and in third place last year when the Briton took his fourth crown, saw his yellow jersey ambitions dented when teammate Alexis Vuill-



Tony Gallopin dropped out of the Tour yesterday reducing AG2R to five riders

A short statement by Tour organisers said: “Tony Gallopin is the third AG2R-La Mondiale rider to pull out of the Tour de France after Axel Domont (stage 4) and Alexis Vuillermoz (stage 9).”

With teams restricted to eight riders on this 105th edition of the race, AG2R are now down to five riders -- leaving Bardet with comparatively scant support for the remaining mountain stages in the Pyrenees next week.



Bahrain-Merida’s Vincenzo Nibali finished 7th 13 seconds behind the winner Geraint Thomas

Wednesday, Sky’s rivals were intent on redressing the balance on the third and final day in the Alps.

And for a long while, it looked like Thomas’s lead was in danger when Dutchman Steven Kruijswijk launched an audacious attack after he had squeezed into an early breakaway.

Kruijswijk’s bid was ultimately futile, and he said: “It’s painful. This was one of the stages that was high on my list.

“I didn’t plan to go in the breakaway, but once I did, I just had to go for it.

“It’s a big disappointment for me, but I’ll keep on fighting.”

The Lotto Jumbo rider, the highest-placed of the breakaway riders in sixth overall at 2:40 be-

Stage 12		
Thursday July 19 175.5 km		
1	G. Thomas (GBR/Sky)	5h18:37
2	T. Dumoulin (NED/Sunweb)	at 0:02
3	R. Bardet (FRA/AG2R)	at 0:03
4	C. Froome (GBR/Sky)	at 0:04
5	M. Landa (ESP/Movistar)	at 0:07
GENERAL		
1	G. Thomas (GBR/Sky)	49h24:43
2	C. Froome (GBR/Sky)	at 1:39
3	T. Dumoulin (NED/Sunweb)	at 1:50
4	V. Nibali (ITA/Bahrain-Merida)	at 2:37
5	P. Roglic (SVN/Lotto-Jumbo)	at 2:46
POINTS		
1	P. Sagan (SVK/Bora-Hansgrohe)	339 pts
MOUNTAIN		
1	J. Alaphilippe (FRA/Quick-Step)	84 pts

Source: letour.fr

“I did not think that I was going to happen, even on the climb. The plan was for Froome to have a go, and for me to follow. I knew round that last corner we had to be first, with Froome on my wheel. I thought, just go round. If anyone’s going to go round me, it’ll be him. With 50m to go, I thought, no way is this actually happening

GERAINT THOMAS

hind Thomas, became the virtual race leader on the long descent of the Col de la Madeleine.

But, as expected, the Sky train ripped into Kruijswijk’s lead over the remainder.

Only young Colombian Egan Bernal, on his race debut, was left to pace Thomas and Froome on their pursuit of the Dutchman after the opening kilometres of the 13.8 km climb to the summit.

But the pace was furious.

Spanish veteran Alejandro Valverde’s slim hopes of fighting for a podium place ended when he was spat out the back.

With 7km remaining for Kruijswijk, his lead had been halved to two minutes and he was left with slim hopes when Thomas and Froome countered attempts by Dumoulin and Bardet in the closing few kilometres to shake them off.

When Thomas negotiated the final bend with tactical perfection, it gave the Welshman the extra metres required to forge ahead and claim the win.

The last Tour de France race leader to triumph on the Alpe was Armstrong, who was wearing the yellow jersey when he won a time trial in 2004.



Great Britain's Team Sky cycling team riders (R) leads the ascent of the Montvernier bends