

Bahrain advance into round two

SATURDAY
 JULY 2019
 210 FILS
 ISSUE NO. 8178

Bahrain continued their inspired play and barged into the second round of the FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship 2019 yesterday night at Shaikh Isa Sports City in Riffa. **P16**

Trump attacks US Fed, demands rate cut

THE DAILY **tribune**



Bradley Cooper, Irina Shayk parenting without "drama" after split

14 CELEBS

WORLD 5 Panic as strong quake shakes Athens

Teen student's body found on rooftop

Manama

A teenaged boy's body was found on rooftop near Zubara Avenue in Manama yesterday.

The deceased was identified as 16 years old Shreyas Manoj, who hailed from the Indian state of Kerala.

Shreyas, son of Manoj and Rose Manoj, was a Plus One student at the Indian School Bahrain, according to sources. Sources added that the family has been living in the Kingdom for 20 years now.

The parents had alerted the police after the boy went missing since yesterday morning. Sources added that the body of the boy was found later in the evening.

Police have begun a probe into the death.

Bahraini families affirm allegiance to His Majesty

Manama

Many Bahraini families including Al Romaihi, Al Thawawda and Al Kaabi have reiterated their absolute allegiance to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

They rapped Qatar's heinous attempts to erode Bahrain's community fabric and damage national gains.

"Such acts show the hostile agendas of Qatar regime towards Gulf Co-operation Countries and peoples," the Al Romaihi tribe said in a statement issued yesterday.

terday.

The tribe reiterated firm allegiance to the leadership of HM the King, paying tribute to all Bahrainis, hailing from different sects and segments, who reject the policies of the rogue state, adamantly targeting landmark national gains and success, achieved by the Kingdom in all fields.

Al Thawawda family strongly condemned the Qatari regime's targeting of Bahrain's security, and attempts to undermine its social fabric and cohesion.

The Qatari regime's continuous abuse of the Kingdom has



”

Qatari conspiracies would make the people of Bahrain much stronger and united under the leadership of HM the King.

MR AL KAABI

with lies and fallacies, which are the usual qualities of the regime, noting that such stances by the regime and its suspicious media channels run by mercenaries do not reflect those of the brotherly Qatari people and its tribes.

On behalf of Al Kaabi tribe, Juma Al Kaabi reiterated standing by His Majesty to defend the homeland's security and stability.

Mr Al Kaabi said the Qatari conspiracies would make the people of Bahrain much stronger and united under the leadership of HM the King.

placed it alongside the evil camp, whose agenda of terrorism and misinformation it has adopted, a statement by Al Thawawda Manoj said.

The statement added that the programmes aired by the Al Jazeera satellite channel are filled

Tanker tensions soar

UK government calls emergency meeting as Iran seizes British tanker in Strait of Hormuz

Netherlands liable for deaths

Amsterdam

The Netherlands' highest court has upheld a ruling holding the country partially liable for the deaths of Muslim men at Srebrenica in 1995, where 8,000 were massacred by Bosnian Serb forces.

The Dutch Supreme court said on Friday that Dutch troops, acting as UN peacekeepers, had a 10 per cent liability in the deaths of 350 Bosnian Muslims after they were expelled from a United Nations base nearby by the staging ground for the grisly massacre, the worst mass murder in Europe since World War Two.

The ruling could set a crucial precedent establishing the liability of national governments for the actions of their troops while in UN peacekeeping roles. The Associated Press reported that the ruling, the final chapter in years of legal wrangling and appeals, has been the longest running-legal battle by the families of the victims of Srebrenica.

● **UK government convened an emergency COBRA meeting to formulate its response.**

● **The Stena company responsible for the ship also released a statement.**

Tehran

Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps announced yesterday they had confiscated a British tanker in the strategic Strait of Hormuz for breaking "international maritime rules," while a US official told CNN that Iran had seized a second tanker, the British-owned, Liberian-flagged MV Mesdar, according to reports.

The Stena Impero tanker "was confiscated by the Revolutionary Guards at the request of Hormozgan Ports and Maritime Organisation when passing through the strait of Hormuz, for failing to respect international maritime rules," the Guards' official website Sepahnews announced.

The UK government convened an emergency COBRA meeting to formulate its response and a foreign ministry spokesperson said:



A file photo of the Stena Impero.

"We are urgently seeking further information and assessing the situation following reports of an incident in the Gulf."

Prime Minister Theresa May's office declined to comment.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office relayed a statement from foreign minister Jeremy Hunt, in which he appeared to confirm the seizure of a second vessel. He said: "I'm extremely concerned by the seizure of two vessels by Iranian authorities in the Strait of Hormuz."

"I will shortly attend a COBRA meeting to review what we know and what we can do to swiftly secure the release of the two vessels - a British-flagged vessel and a Liberian-flagged vessel"

"Their crews comprise a

”



I will shortly attend a COBRA meeting to review what we know and what we can do to swiftly secure the release of the two vessels.

HUNT

range of nationalities, but we understand there are no British

citizens on board either ship.

"Our Ambassador in Tehran is in contact with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to resolve the situation and we are working closely with international partners."

"These seizures are unacceptable. It is essential that freedom of navigation is maintained and that all ships can move safely and freely in the region."

Arab News contacted Col. Robert Stewart, Conservative MP and former UN commander in Bosnia, who said that the UK government would have to "look at all the options" in its response to Iran's behaviour, adding that Iran's actions were an escalation too far, "of course."

Refinitiv data showed the Stena Impero was a British-flagged

vessel owned by Stena Bulk. It showed the vessel's destination as the Saudi port of Jubail on the Gulf.

The map tracking the ship's course showed it veering off course with a sharp turn north at about 15:17 GMT on Friday and heading towards the Iranian coast.

Meanwhile, the head of the UK Chamber of Shipping said on Friday that further protection must be provided for merchant vessels after the seizure.

"We condemn unreservedly the capture of Stena Impero as she transited the Strait of Hormuz earlier today," the Chamber's chief executive, Bob Sanguinetti, said in a statement.

"This incident represents an escalation. Whilst we call for measured response, it is also clear that further protection for merchant vessels must be forthcoming to ensure enhanced security to guarantee free flow of trade in the region."

Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei earlier this month accused the UK of "piracy" after the Royal Marines and Gibraltar police seized a tanker believed to be carrying Iranian crude oil to Syria on July 5, and the Iranian government has demanded its immediate release. The ship was detained on suspicion it was breaking European sanctions by taking oil to Syria.

TROUBLE IN STRAIT

US Navy ship 'destroyed' an Iranian drone

Washington

President Donald Trump said Thursday that the USS Boxer downed an Iranian drone that came within 1,000 yards of the Navy ship and ignored "multiple calls to stand down" -- marking yet another escalation in the already tense situation playing out between Washington and Tehran.

Speaking at the White House, Trump said the drone was "threatening the safety of the ship and the ship's crew" in the Strait of Hormuz and was "immediately destroyed."

The drone was destroyed using electronic jamming, according to a US defence official.

The crew of the Boxer took de-

1,000 additional troops will be sent by the US to the Middle East as issues with Iran flared.

fensive action after the drone came within a threatening distance of the US ship, the official said.

A US Navy official told CNN that there were several other interactions between the US warship and Iranian military forces prior to the downing of the drone. An unarmed Iranian navy Bell 212 helicopter flew close to the Boxer, coming

close to the ship's deck before a US helicopter was able to "chase" it away, the official said.

Several Iranian speed boats were in the vicinity as well and maintained a safe distance, but a larger Iranian vessel came as close as 500 yards to the Boxer, a distance that typically merits a warning from US naval vessels, they added.



02 **Kabul blast condemned**

03 **A haven for all faiths**

04 **Qatari regime 'using students to run anti-Bahrain campaign'**

210 Fils (includes VAT)



Kabul blast condemned

Eight killed, scores injured in an explosion outside Kabul University campus

● The explosion occurred as students were waiting outside the university to attend exams.

● Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said that Taliban militants had carried out the attack.

Manama

Bahrain has strongly condemned the terrorist bombing that took place near Kabul University in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, resulting in the death and injury of a number of people including students.

In a statement, the Foreign Affairs Ministry expressed deep condolences to the families of the victims and wishes the injured speedy recovery.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed the solidarity of the Kingdom with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

It also reiterated the Kingdom's position that rejects all forms of violence, extremism and terrorism and calls for



Investigators carry out probe at the blast site.

concerted international efforts to eradicate this phenomenon that threatens international peace and security.

Afghanistan's Health Ministry said at least eight people have been killed when an explosion struck near the entrance to Kabul University.

Dr Wahidullah Mayar, a min-

istry spokesman, said on July 19 that 33 people had also been wounded and taken to hospital.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility and it was not clear if the attack was carried out by a suicide bomber or remotely detonated.

Ferdous Faramarz, a spokesman for the Kabul police chief,

said two vehicles caught fire after the blast.

Faramarz said police defused a second bomb that was placed close to the explosion site.

The explosion occurred as students were waiting outside the university to attend exams.

The blast came after at least 12 people were killed and almost 90

wounded on July 18 when Taliban militants detonated two car bombs at a gate outside police headquarters in the southern city of Kandahar.

After the car bombs, Taliban gunmen opened fire from nearby positions, triggering a battle with security forces, said Tadeen Khan, the city's police chief.

The attackers targeted the counter-narcotics wing of the police, Khan said.

Baheer Ahmadi, the spokesman for the Kandahar provincial governor, said 12 people had been killed, including nine civilians and three police officers.

Another 89 were wounded, he added.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said that Taliban militants had carried out the attack.

Afghan security forces across the country have been coming under nearly daily attacks by the Taliban.

The increase in violence comes despite reported progress in efforts by the United States to broker an end to Afghanistan's nearly 18-year war.

The US peace envoy for Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, has held eight rounds of peace talks with the Taliban in Qatar. He described the latest round that ended on July 9 as the "most productive" ever.

Taliban negotiators also reported good progress at the talks, but the deadly violence has continued as Kabul's Western-backed government struggles to fend off attacks across the country by Taliban fighters, Islamic State extremists, and other militant groups.

Maritime, air navigation security meeting set

Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has confirmed that the Kingdom of Bahrain is preparing to host a maritime and air navigation security meeting in the coming period in co-operation with the United States of America and the Republic of Poland.

More than 60 countries will participate in the event, which is one of the outcomes of the International Conference in Support of Security and Peace in the Middle East held in Warsaw last February.

This initiative comes within



the framework of the role played by the Kingdom of Bahrain to contribute to the establishment of security and stability in the region, raise awareness of the dangers that threaten the region in light of Iran's practices which pose a

great threat to maritime and air navigation, the ministry said.

"The initiative also reflects the policy of the Kingdom of Bahrain based on the need to strengthen international cooperation in the face of all problems and crises that threaten international peace and security."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed that the meeting would provide an opportunity for consultation and exchange of visions among many countries in the world, to find ways to deter the Iranian threat and ensure freedom of navigation in this strategic region to the world.

SPOKEN ARABIC

Duration : 30 Hrs.
Weekly 5 days - Evening Batches
Fees BD 180/- (with study material)

**OPEN REGISTRATION DAY
on 20th of July 2019
DISCOUNT 25%
(on advance full payment)**

GLOBAL INSTITUTE
for Management Science
المعهد العالمي للعلوم الإدارية
CALL : +973 36458340

Hall tickets of Annamalai University

All Students appearing for exams of Annamalai University in Bahrain July/August 2019 should collect their hall tickets from Uniglobal Education Centre, Bahrain and write the exam in the Centre (UGEC).

uni global
EDUCATION CENTRE WLL

Villa 80, Road 2802, Block 328, Sagaya
Ph: 17344972, 38395676

A haven for all faiths

Foreign Minister highlights the Kingdom's religious liberties

● He made the statement as he participated in the Ministerial Conference to Advance Religious Freedom, held in Washington, DC.

● Shaikh Khalid praises the role of the US in combatting terror activities.

Washington

Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, affirmed that religious freedom is an integral part of the history and identity of the Kingdom of Bahrain, adding that it is guaranteed by the Constitution and by the pioneering initiatives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

He cited the Bahraini Declaration which reflects Bahrain's experience in promoting religious freedom, in addition to the establishment of the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Co-existence and the inauguration of the King Hamad Chair for Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence at the University of Sapienza in Rome.

"This represents a global model of peaceful coexistence and religious freedom in which assures the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment in preserving the nature of Bahraini society, its variety, diversity, tolerance, coex-



Shaikh Khalid with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

istence, openness and respect for different societies and peoples," he said.

He made the statement as he participated in the Ministerial Conference to Advance Religious Freedom, held in Washington DC, organised by the US Department of State and attended by representatives of governments and civil society organisations from around the world.

He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Mike Pompeo, for hosting this important conference, which brings together a number of allies and friends from around the world to work to ensure religious freedom everywhere, and to protect this fundamental human right of all persons.

He stressed the need to redouble the efforts of the international community to eliminate the rhetoric of extremism, hatred and sectarianism and adopt a collec-

tive stance to curb the spread of extremist ideas in media and various social networks, and to confront terrorist organisations such as Da'ash, Al Nusra, Hizbollah and others, which threaten the region and impose their struggle to preserve religious diversity and peaceful coexistence.

He also praised the efforts of the United States in combating these terrorist organisations, including the recognition of the seriousness of Hizbollah's terrorist organisation and its keenness to work continuously with the allies in order to deter the party and all those who support or finance it.

Separately, Shaikh Khalid, met with the US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, in the framework of the Minister's official visit to the friendly United States of America.

Shaikh Khalid hailed the distinguished level of historic strategic bilateral relations between



Shaikh Khalid at the global ministerial conference.

“We need collective stances to eliminate the rhetoric of extremism, hatred and sectarianism.”

SHAIKH KHALID

Bahrain and the friendly United States of America, which are constantly developing and flourishing at all levels.

He added that this development reflects the priority given by both countries to these relations and their keenness on bolstering all means of bilateral cooperation, mainly in the fields of politics, security, military, economics, trade and other fields.

Shaikh Khalid also expressed his appreciation of the central role played by the US in strengthening international cooperation and working with the countries

in the region for their benefit, as well as solving all issues in a way that preserves their security and stability, wishing the US further progress and prosperity.

Pompeo expressed his pleasure to meet with Shaikh Khalid, stressing the keenness of the United States to enhance cooperation at all levels.

He also expressed his appreciation of Bahrain for hosting the Peace to Prosperity workshop and all its crucial outcomes, hailing the efforts exerted by the Kingdom to establish peace and security in the region.

Shaikh Khalid also held discussions with US President's Senior Adviser Jared Kushner, on the sidelines of his official visit to the United States of America.

The Minister affirmed that the close friendship and strategic alliance between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United States of America is witnessing continuous progress and broad diversifi-

cation covering the various fields of political, security, economic and trade co-operation, which reflects the great importance and fruitful results of this cooperation in the interests of both countries and peoples, which also reflect a long history of friendly relations, joint work, co-ordination and continuous efforts to move forward to a broader horizons at all levels.

He commended the concrete and outstanding efforts of the US administration and Kushner to promote security and peace in the region and his great efforts to organise the Peace to Prosperity Workshop recently hosted by the Kingdom in support of the economy of the brotherly Palestinian people and achieve its aspirations for development and prosperity, confirming the support of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the efforts exerted by the United States of America for the benefit of the peoples of the region.

Co-operation discussed



Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) Board Chairman, received Representatives Council member Ahmed Al Amer and discussed with him ways of boosting co-operation in the labour and social fields. He stressed the ministry's keenness on co-operation with the Representatives Council to serve citizens, lauding the council's role in supporting projects and legislation aimed at boosting citizens' welfare.

Three face trial for forcing housemaid into vice trade

TDI | Manama

Three Asians who "sold" a housemaid and forced her into prostitution will stand trial before the High Criminal Court on July 29, 2019, it has been confirmed. The trio, which involved two men and a woman, assisted the victim in escaping from her employer's house, after promising her a job with better pay.

Capital Governorate Prosecution Chief Prosecutor Isa Al Ajman confirmed in a statement that the female defendant contacted the victim through a social media network and helped her escape, in co-operation with one of the male defendants, then moved her to an apartment in Gudaibiya area in the Capital Governorate, where she was locked up.

Mr Al Ajman explained that the two defendants took the victim's mobile phone away from her and forced her to have sexual intercourse with different men, customers, in return for amounts they, the defendants, collected.

"The perpetrators then handed over the woman to an Asian man in return for a certain amount. She was also forced by the third suspect to

practise prostitution.

"The victim later managed to contact the embassy of her country seeking help. The embassy reported the matter to the police, which rescued the woman and apprehended the three suspects," Mr Al Ajman said in a statement posted by the Public Prosecution on its official Instagram page.

The Chief Prosecutor also clarified in the statement that the Public Prosecution immediately initiated its investigation into the case once it was reported.

He said the victim's statements were heard and she was shifted to the Expats Protection Centre (anti-human trafficking shelter) in Northern Sehla.

Mr Al Ajman confirmed that the suspects were interrogated and detained, adding that witnesses' testimonies and the results of police investigations were reviewed.

"The incident confirms that all the defendants were carrying out trafficking in persons after controlling the victim and her independence by forcing her into prostitution.

"The suspects were referred to court for trial while they remain in detention," he added.

Three sentenced for anti-national activities

TDI | Manama

The Fourth High Criminal Court has sentenced three Bahraini men for their involvement in the distribution of leaflets calling for civil disobedience, forcing shopkeepers to close their shops and resisting arrest in Malkiya village last year.

One of the defendants was sentenced to six months imprisonment for resisting arrest while two got two months for possessing the leaflets. Two others were acquitted by the court.

Court files show that the suspects apparently intimidated and forced commercial shops

owners and workers in Malkiya village near Hamad Town to shut down their shops on February 14 as part of a so-called "disobedience".

The details of the case show that Hamad Town Police was notified about the defendants distributing leaflets issued in different languages by "February 14 Coalition", which is a terrorist group responsible for numerous deadly attacks in Bahrain.

The defendants were attempting to force commercial shop workers in the village to shut their doors throughout the day.

When a team of police force

“The defendants assaulted on-duty policemen and resisted arrest.”

PUBLIC PROSECUTORS

arrived at the spot, the defendants tried to resist them and two of them were arrested while others fled the scene.

The arrestees were referred to the Public Prosecution, where they confessed to their crime.

The defendants told the interrogators that they had agreed on the previous day to force

shopkeepers to shut down their shops on February 14 last year and to prevent students from going to schools on the same day.

Despite that the leaflets they distributed were issued by February 14 Coalition, the defendants denied in the interrogation that they had any relation with the notorious terrorist group.

The Public Prosecution accused them of assaulting on-duty policemen while resisting arrest and causing the injuries mentioned in the official coroner's report, in addition to possessing publications that promote the change of the regime.

Qatari regime 'using students to run anti-Bahrain campaign'

Qatar blatantly attempting to interfere in Bahrain's internal affairs

● **The Qatari crisis will not be solved through targeting Bahrain and betting on sowing divide among its people, the source said.**

● **Qatar's repeated attempts to bring to light past events and conspiracies has become insidious, source added.**

Manama

An official source at the Information Affairs Ministry has stated that the Qatari regime and its rogue state have adopted new ways within their smear campaign against Bahrain and the boycotting countries, through involving the brotherly Qatari people in their

conspiracies after losing hope in the success of the mercenaries they have recruited to target such states.

The official source said that the Qatari regime has recruited postgraduate students to prepare academic theses aimed at attacking the Kingdom of Bahrain and disseminating fallacies and lies attributed to the 2011 events in Bahrain.

In this regard, the source cited the so-called "scientific" paper presented by a postgraduate student at the University of Qatar during an international academic conference, in which she totally adopted and reverberated the content included in the so-called documentary, "The Hidden Is Immense" aired by a Qatari satellite channel recently, even before it was aired.

The official source stressed that the recently-adopted ways by the Qatari regime are no more than desperate attempts

to cast doubt on the cohesion of Bahrain's social fabric, whose harmony is recognised by everyone, including those who have known the Kingdom very well.

The source indicated that the recent increase in the Qatari attempts to target Bahrain's social fabric is a strong evidence of the Qatari regime's loss of rationalism, noting that raising the same issues and keenness to broadcast the events again proves Qatar's involvement in the conspiracy against Bahrain in 2011, and its failure to achieve its goals.

The Information Ministry's source emphasised that the insistence on disseminating fallacies and lies and use of suspicious sources to talk about events that the Kingdom had already overcome reflects the real bankruptcy that rogue state of Qatar has reached while seeking to find other ways out for its real crisis with the four coun-

“**No space will be left for traitors who ignore authentic Arab values.**”

SOURCE

tries boycotting it because of its terrorist conduct.

"Thanks to the wisdom and statesmanship of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the Bahraini people's cohesion and awareness of the conspiracies and plots staged against the homeland."

The Qatari crisis will not be solved through targeting Bahrain and betting on sowing divide among its people, as Bahrain is immune against division and its gates are too high to be overcome, the source added, noting that under the leadership of HM King Hamad and thanks to the strength of the

Bahraini people, no loophole will be left for traitors, and those who ignore the authentic Arab values and provide a platform that spews poison into the body of the Nation.

The same source said that the Qatari regime's keenness to make Qatari postgraduates abroad prepare hatred-filled academic theses that dig up the past and distort its facts represents a malicious act aimed at expanding the scope of conspirators against Bahrain and the region, have been exposed.

The source stressed that Qatar's malignant conduct of using money to buy academic institutions and research centres to use them as a weapon to influence opinion leaders among academicians and intellectuals, as well as decision-makers to mislead the international public opinion and set goals that have nothing to do with the real path.

The Information Affairs Min-

istry's source affirmed that Qatar's repeated attempts to bring to light past events and conspiracies in the form of detective stories on different platforms has become insidious, and reflects the weakness of its position and bankruptcy.

"Such a provocative approach is a blatant interference in Bahrain's internal affairs, both in secret and public, thus distancing the Qatari rogue regime away from all the principles to which all peoples of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are committed and believe in.

"Such an approach also reveals Qatar's alliance with "evil" camps that seek division and chaos, and adoption of extremist ideology through supporting evil powers among militias and holders of extremist ideology, using the Qatari money as a fuel to spread its evil across the region and the world," the same source added.

Argentine terror tag for Hizbollah welcomed

Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom welcomed the decision of the Argentine Republic to designate Hizbollah as terrorist organisation and freeze its members' assets on its territory.

The Ministry highlighted the decision as a new step towards the international community's recognition of the danger of this terrorist group to international peace and security.

The Ministry expressed appreciation of the efforts of the friendly Republic of Argentina to combat terrorism.

It called for concerted regional and international efforts to eradicate all forms of violence, extremism and terrorism and taking the necessary measures to deter its sponsors.

Recently, the US has imposed sanctions on two Hizbollah members of the Lebanese parliament accused of being Iranian proxies, marking the first time Washington has targeted sitting MPs.

The US Treasury said it would freeze the assets of Muhammad Ra'd and Amin Sherri, both Hizbollah MPs, after accusing them of "leveraging their privileged positions to...do Iran's bidding".

A third high-ranking Hizbol-

lah security official, Wafiq Safa, was sanctioned as part of the same package.

Mr Safa is the head of Hizbollah's security apparatus. "This is a new kind of action because it is against Hizbollah MPs," said a senior US administration official, who added that Hizbollah was "embedded in the Lebanese political fabric".

"There is no distinction between Hizbollah's political and military wings, both of which take orders from Iran," the official said.

The US State Department has already designated Jawad Nasrallah, son of Lebanon's Iran-backed Hizbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, a terrorist and accused him of carrying out attacks against Israel in the West Bank.

The department also black-listed Al Mujahidin Brigades (AMB), which it said had links to Hizbollah and had plotted a number of attacks against Israeli targets from a base in the Palestinian Territories.

"The designations seek to deny Nasrallah and AMB the resources to plan and carry out terrorist attacks," the State Department said in a statement.

It said the actions denied Nasrallah and AMB access to the US financial system.

South-south co-operation 'vital for collective growth'

New York

The Undersecretary for International Affairs, Dr Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, met with the Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, Jorge Chediek, in New York City, United States of America, on the sidelines of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

During the meeting, Dr Shaikh Abdulla stressed the importance of South-South co-operation as a vital and distinctive mechanism to enhance knowledge capacity building and digital technology to make the desired progress, also there are many areas available to improve sustainable economic growth, infrastructure, the use of renewable energy resources, advanced training programmes, human development and others.

The Undersecretary pointed out that a broad framework of South-South co-operation in various fields would achieve mutual benefits and developmental sharing of knowledge, skills, experience and resources, in addition to the establishment of meaningful partnerships, skills and resources in line with the seventeenth objective of enhancing means of implementation and revitalising the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development 2030.

Dr Shaikh Abdulla praised the



Dr Shaikh Abdulla and the accompanying Bahraini delegation hold discussion with Mr Chediek and other UN officials.

contribution of the United Nations and its specialised agencies and programmes in maximising the benefits of South-South co-operation in order to create new and better opportunities for a better life, noting that the world recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries under the normative and operational principles of such co-operation.

The Undersecretary of International Affairs affirmed that the

in various fields and to strengthen capacity-building programmes.

"The Kingdom also believes in the importance of the close links between security and development and the advancement of collective action mechanisms to meet common challenges."

He reviewed the framework of co-operation between the Kingdom and the International Organisation, which produced an extended and influential partnership, pointing out to the signing of the strategic partnership framework between the two sides for the years 2018-2022.

He also commended the joint co-operation between the Kingdom and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in organising the High Level Forum for the Middle East and North Africa on Green Economy, held from 2 to 4 July, 2019 in Manama.

Mr Chediek said that South-South cooperation contributed in achieving higher rates of economic growth and sustainable development, praising Bahrain's pioneering development model and the Kingdom's keenness to build a distinct partnership with the United Nations in the context of supporting development strategies and indicators, valuing the outputs of the strategic partnership framework in order to achieve the goals of sustainable development 2030.

“**The Kingdom under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad is keen to promote positive co-operation with the United Nations in various fields.**”

DR SHAIKH ABDULLA

Kingdom with the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, at every opportunity, is keen to promote positive co-operation with the United Nations

Six mega water projects launched to serve Hajj pilgrims

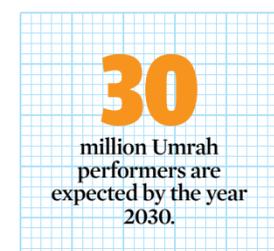
Jeddah

Under the auspices of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman, Prince Khaled Al Faisal, emir of Makkah Province, adviser to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and chairman of the Central Hajj Committee, the Saudi Min-

istry of Environment, Water and Agriculture inaugurated a number of water projects in Makkah and the holy sites worth over Saudi riyal 3.1 billion, coinciding with the Hajj season for this year, Saudi Press Agency reported.

Prince Badr Bin Sultan, deputy emir of Makkah Province, and Prince Mishal Bin Majed, govern-

nor of Jeddah, were also present at the launch. On this occasion, the Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Abdulrahman Bin Abdulmuhsen Al Fadhli said: "The inauguration of the six mega water projects carried out by the Saline Water Conversion Corporation (SWCC), National Water Company (NWC) and Saudi Water Partner-



ships Company (SWPC), is a confirmation of the continuing care and attention accorded by the Kingdom's wise leadership for the water sector and its services in Makkah and the holy sites."

He added: "The Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture has always been keen to ensure that its water projects and plans

are based on the National Strategic Goals for Water and the comprehensive water plans in the Kingdom, in an endeavour to reach a sustainable water sector that will develop and preserve the water resources, protect the environment and provide high quality and efficient services that will contribute to socio-economic development."

world

Tiangong 2 destroyed in controlled fall to earth

● **Tiangong-2 -- or "Heavenly Palace" -- was launched into orbit in 2016**

● **A space lab dubbed Tiangong-1 disintegrated as it plunged back to Earth in April 2018**

● **The International Space Station is due to be retired in 2024.**

Beijing, China

China's Tiangong-2 space lab successfully re-entered the Earth's atmosphere Friday under controlled conditions, completing the latest round of experiments in Beijing's ambitious space programme.



Xinhua said the space lab has worked in orbit for over 1,000 days, much longer than its 2-year designed lifespan

Tiangong-2 -- or "Heavenly Palace" -- was launched into orbit in 2016 and re-entered the earth's atmosphere under control at around 9:06 pm local time (1306 GMT) yesterday, China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said. A small amount of the space-

craft's debris fell into a "predetermined safe sea area in the South Pacific", according to the agency.

Xinhua said the space lab has worked in orbit for over 1,000 days, much longer than its 2-year designed lifespan.

Zhou Jianping, chief designer of China's manned space programme, told Xinhua that the controlled re-entry marked the successful completion of all the tasks in the space lab phase of the programme.

Efforts are now being made to step up preparations for constructing China's space station, Xinhua said, citing CMSA.

The controlled return represents a success in China's military-run space programme, which has encountered some glitches on its way.

A space lab dubbed Tiangong-1 disintegrated as it plunged back to Earth in April 2018, two years after it ceased functioning.

Tiangong-1 was placed in or-

bit in September 2011 to serve as a testing ground for China's efforts to build its own space station by 2022, but ceased functioning in 2016.

Chinese authorities denied that the lab was out of control.

The International Space Station -- a collaboration between the United States, Russia, Canada, Europe and Japan -- has been in operation since 1998 but is due to be retired in 2024.

Beijing will then have the only space station in orbit, though it will be much smaller than the ISS which weighs 400 tonnes and is as large as a football pitch.

China in 2003 also became the third country able to launch humans into space, following the former Soviet Union and the United States.

Beijing sees its space programme as symbolising the country's progress and a marker of its rising global stature.

Panic as strong quake shakes Athens

Athens, Greece

A strong 5.1-magnitude earthquake jolted Athens on Friday, knocking out phone connections, damaging buildings and causing power outages, as panicked residents rushed into the streets.

State TV ERT reported that at least two people were lightly hurt -- a pregnant tourist and a young boy -- and at least two abandoned buildings in the capital collapsed, while several more suffered damage.

"It was a very intense quake, we were terrified, everyone started coming out (of the building)," a young woman named Katerina told AFP outside the six-storey cosmetics store where she works.

The epicentre of the shallow quake was northwest of Athens, close to where a 5.9-magnitude quake in September 1999 left 143 people dead in and around the capital.

Friday's emergency was the second in just over a week for the new conservative administration of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, who took office



People stand outside buildings in central Athens after an earthquake

after a July 7 election.

In the city centre, the marble cupola cross of a historic 19th century church came loose and shattered onto the street below.

Another Athens church had its cupola cross snapped by the tremor, and a disused cargo conveyor belt at the port of Piraeus collapsed, TV footage showed.

'Like an explosion'

The culture ministry said the pregnant tourist was visiting the National Archaeological Museum and was struck by another

visitor rushing for the exit.

She was hospitalised as a precaution, the ministry said.

The boy was struck by a falling chimney, ERT said.

News channels broadcast images sent in by viewers which also showed parked cars in central Athens damaged by fallen masonry.

Cracks also appeared in some walls in Greece's 170-year-old parliament building.

"It was more like an explosion," another woman told ERT on the city's central Syntagma Square. "We were all very afraid,

so we'll stay here for a couple of hours."

Government spokesman Stelios Petsas said on television that there were no reports of serious injuries, while a small number of other buildings had suffered minor damage.

Petsas added that phone networks had become "overcharged" by the sheer number of users calling to check up on friends and family.

SKAI TV said there were 20,000 calls per second, more than on New Year's Eve.

US offers \$7 million to find Hezbollah agent

Washington, United States

The United States yesterday offered a \$7 million reward to find a Hezbollah operative accused of masterminding a deadly 1994 attack on a Jewish center in Buenos Aires, as it vowed to pursue the group worldwide.

The United States also imposed sanctions on the senior Hezbollah figure, Salman Raouf Salman, in tandem with his blacklisting by Argentina as it marks the 25th anniversary of the bombing, which killed 85 people.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was visiting Argentina on the anniversary of the attack, along with ministers from several Latin American nations visiting Buenos Aires for talks on counter-terrorism.

The State Department said



Picture courtesy of Infobae

it would give \$7 million to anyone who provides information that leads to the location of Salman, also known as Salman al-Reda.

The Treasury Department said that Salman masterminded the 1994 attack and "has directed terrorist operations in the Western Hemisphere for Hezbollah ever since."

Runaway truck kills 8 children in Philippines: officials

Manila, Philippines

Eight schoolchildren were among nine people killed yesterday aboard a runaway truck that crashed in central Philippines while transporting them to a sports activity, the authorities said.

The dump truck's brakes failed while it descended a mountain road outside Boljoon town centre with about 30 children and a few parents and teachers crammed on the truck bed, town mayor Merlou Derama told AFP.

"The driver tried to slow the vehicle by brushing its side against the mountain," Derama said, adding it fell on its side instead.

Three girls and five boys aged between 11 and 12 and a mother died immediately,



A relative mourns beside the covered body of a child

ly, while five other children were taken to hospital, he added.

The local government lent the vehicle to the remote school to transport its athletes to a competition in Boljoon because transport options are limited in the area, Mayor Derama said.

Kurds identify suspected shooter of Turkish diplomat

Arbil, Iraq

Iraqi Kurdish authorities Friday identified a Kurdish man from Turkey as the suspected shooter in the murder of a Turkish diplomat, as Turkish state media said he's the brother of an opposition lawmaker.

Mazloum Dag, 27, is "wanted" for Wednesday's murder of Turkish Vice Consul Osman and two Iraqis at a restaurant in the regional capital Arbil, the area's counterterrorism unit said.

A wanted notice released by the unit showed two photos of a black-haired young man with



Mazloum Dag. (Courtesy of kurdistan24)

a close-cut beard, with one image apparently taken from CCTV footage.

"We call on all citizens to

provide security services with information about this suspect as soon as possible," the counterterrorism unit said, adding that Dag is from Diyarbakir in Turkey.

It called the murder a "terrorist" act.

Turkey's Anadolu state news agency said the suspect is the brother of Dersim Dag, a member of Turkey's main pro-Kurdish party, the People's Democratic Party (HDP).

The HDP, the country's second largest opposition group, is regularly accused by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of links

to Turkey's outlawed separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

It "strongly" condemned the Arbil attack, calling it an "absolutely unacceptable provocation attempt". The HDP also slammed the accusation that one of its deputies was "designated as a target because of his brother", without mentioning any names.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack but Ankara on Thursday launched a "comprehensive air operation" against the PKK "terror organisation" in Iraqi Kurdistan's Qandil mountain area, defence minister Hulusi Akar said.



The hijab-wearing Malaysian wrestler known as Nor "Phoenix" Diana carrying her dinner in Kuala Lumpur

Breaking barriers



During a training session



Wrestling with a male opponent



With the Wrestlecon championship belt



Wrestling with a male opponent

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

A hijab-wearing, diminutive Malaysian wrestler known as "Phoenix" cuts an unusual figure in the ring, a female Muslim fighter taking on hulking opponents in a male-dominated world.

Dressed in flame-patterned trousers, a black and orange hijab and top, Nor Diana uses sophisticated moves to throw and pin down her larger rivals in front of hundreds of cheering spectators.

Standing just 155 centimetres (five foot, one inch) tall and weighing 43 kilograms (six stone, 10 pounds), her speed and agility make her a match for almost any opponent.

And far from being criticised by conservatives for throwing herself into wrestling, the 19-year-old has become a hit on social media

and spurred the interest of other headscarf-wearing women.

"Even though I am Muslim, and I wear the hijab, nothing can stop me from doing what I love," she said in the ring after winning a recent fight.

She takes part in local outfit Malaysia Pro Wrestling (Mypw), which has similarities with hugely popular World Wrestling Entertainment from the United States.

Like WWE, the Malaysian version is as much theatre as sport, as participants compete against one another with matches ending in a pre-determined outcome.

Nor Diana, a pseudonym as she prefers not to reveal her true

identity, seems an unlikely wrestler -- outside the ring, she is shy and soft-spoken, and her day job is working in a hospital.

But when she puts on her wrestling gear, she transforms into the fearsome Phoenix.

"As Phoenix, I'm a totally different person. She may be small, but she can do things that people can't imagine," Nor Diana told AFP at a wrestling gym in Puchong, outside Kuala Lumpur.

"When she's in the ring, she's fast and always wants to win," she ex-

plained.

Growing popularity

Nor Diana first started training as a wrestler in late 2015, following her teenage dream of becoming a fighter, and made her debut a few months later.

More than 60 percent of Malaysia's 32 million people are ethnic Malay Muslims and, while the form of Islam followed is generally moderate and tolerant, society can still be conservative.

ative.

Many Muslim women in the country wear the traditional headscarf and loose-fitting clothing in line with Islamic requirements for females to dress modestly.

"In the beginning it was always hard for me, because a lot of people said I can't wrestle because I'm a Muslim and I wear the hijab," she said.

But she has soldiered on, with her family's full support, and enjoyed her greatest success so far in early July, defeating four men to be crowned Malaysian wrestling champion.

Initially she competed wearing a mask, to reduce the chances people would recognise her. But after losing a match last year she removed it and has been competing without one ever since.

She remembered being fearful about the reaction -- but her popularity has only increased since,

with thousands now following her on social media, helping to boost wrestling's profile in Malaysia.

While it is growing in popularity, wrestling remains relatively small in the Southeast Asian country. There are about 30 fighters and matches take place every two to three months in front of a few hundred supporters.

Nor Diana is one of just two women wrestlers.

"As soon as she became popular, we received a lot of messages from fellow hijabis who inquired about joining wrestling as well," Ayez Shaikat Fonseka, her coach and fellow fighter, told AFP.

"She kind of broke the barrier and just proved to them that if she can do it, they can do it too."



A hijab-wearing, diminutive Malaysian wrestler known as "Phoenix" cuts an unusual figure in the ring, a female Muslim fighter taking on hulking opponents in a male-dominated world

Nor "Phoenix" Diana (L) holding the Wrestlecon championship belt after winning a match against male opponents organised by Malaysia Pro Wrestling in Kuala Lumpur

'Hell' of Japan fire that killed dozens



Firefighters inspect the scene where over 30 people died in a fire at an animation company building in Kyoto

● **Raging inferno left those outside unable to even help people**

● **A 41-year-old suspect is in custody**

● **The man believed the company had stolen his work**

● **An online fundraiser had raised over nearly \$1.3 million by Friday afternoon.**

Kyoto, Japan

Details emerged yesterday of the horrifying blaze that ripped through a Japanese anime firm, killing dozens including people who tried in vain to reach the roof, but the motive for the suspected arson remained unclear.

Eyewitnesses described a fire that was like "looking at hell", after a man apparently doused

the production company office in the city of Kyoto with flammable liquid and set it alight.

Experts and firefighters said the blaze would have raged uncontrollably throughout the structure almost instantly, leaving the dozens of people inside with almost no chance of escape.

That was borne out by the grim toll: 33 dead, with dozens more injured, including several in critical condition.

The attack appeared to be among the worst violent crimes in decades in famously safe Japan.

It sparked an outpouring of grief in Japan and beyond, as fans of the country's famed anime industry expressed horror at the enormous loss.

On Friday people were laid flowers and said prayers at the charred Kyoto Animation building.

"These young people were the age of my grandchildren," 78-year-old Sachiko Konishi said of those killed in the attack, most of whom are presumed to be young employees of the company.

"If my grandchildren died under circumstances like this, I

“**These young people were the age of my grandchildren. If my grandchildren died under circumstances like this, I wouldn't want to go on living**”

78-YEAR-OLD SACHIKO KONISHI SAID OF THOSE KILLED IN THE ATTACK

wouldn't want to go on living."

Yasuko Tomita, 59, was offering prayers near the building, which was still cordoned off.

"I'm praying to help the souls of those killed find release," she said.

'Like looking at hell'

Eyewitnesses described a raging inferno that left those outside unable to even approach to help people trying to escape.

"There was a person who jumped from the second floor... but we couldn't rush to help because the fire was so strong,"

one local woman told an online affiliate of the Asahi Shimbun daily.

"People with severe burns were crying uncontrollably, just completely dazed," she added.

"It was like I was looking at hell."

Police investigators were on the scene Friday taking pictures and examining the devastated building, but the motive for the attack remained unclear.

A 41-year-old suspect is in custody, but the investigation has been hampered by the fact that the man suffered serious burns. He has been hospitalised and was reportedly unconscious on Friday.

Only sketchy details have emerged about the man, who reportedly shouted "drop dead" before starting the fire.

Local media said he did not appear to have any ties to Kyoto Animation. He had reportedly also brought knives and a hammer to the building.

Some reports suggested the man believed the company had stolen his work, with the local Kyoto Shimbun newspaper reporting that he told police: "I set the fire because they stole



Residents pray for victims



People walk past images of anime characters in the Akihabara district in Tokyo

novels."

Public broadcaster NHK said the man, who suffers from a mental illness, had served three and a half years in prison after stealing cash from a convenience store.

On Thursday, Kyoto Animation president Hideaki Hatta said the firm had received emailed death threats in the past but gave no further details.

The company founded by a husband and wife couple is known for its skilful animations of manga works, and has a reputation as a generous employer in an industry rife with exploitation of artists.

There was still little information on the victims of the blaze. Local police said 12 men and 20 women were among the dead, with one victim not yet identified.

Local restaurant owner Tomoyo Kamada said company employees had often come to her "Cafe Lapin" for lunch.

"They were serious and polite women who gave the impression of loving their work and giving it their heart and soul," she said.

"I still can't believe it. I can't understand why people like them had to suffer such a fate."

'Incredibly dark time'

Many of the bodies were found on a stairwell leading to the roof, suggesting people were trying to escape the flames when they were overcome.

A local fire department official said the building was in compliance with fire safety rules.

But he said a gasoline-fuelled fire would have burned too quickly for people to outrun it, with a spiral staircase connecting the floors of the building likely helping the blaze spread faster.

"If a large quantity of gasoline was poured, it must have turned into gas very quickly, causing explosions," he said.

"Smoke and flames would have risen up instantaneously."

The blaze hit hard in Japan's anime industry, one of the country's best known cultural products.

An online fundraiser organised by an American anime licensing firm had raised over nearly \$1.3 million by Friday afternoon.

15 killed in dark day for Mumbai daily train commute

Mumbai, India

Fifteen people were killed in separate train accidents in a single day in Mumbai, police said yesterday.

Some of the victims were hit while trying to cross the tracks illegally while others fell from packed trains on Thursday, police spokesman S.R. Gandhi said. At least 13 others suffered injuries, with police blaming the deaths on people attempting to take short cuts in the monsoon rains battering India's financial capital.

"Too many people prefer to take shortcuts," said Gandhi.



Indian residents walk past a special train of 50 wagons carrying litres of water at Villivakkam railway station in Chennai (file)

About 7.5 million passengers use the overcrowded trains daily on Mumbai's colonial-era rail network, a lifeline for the city's 20 million residents.

Huge blast rocks gas plant in China, casualties unknown

Beijing, China

A huge explosion ripped through a gas plant in central China yesterday, shattering windows and doors of buildings in a three-kilometre (1.9-mile) radius, state media said.

The number of casualties was not immediately known following the blast in Sanmenxia city in Henan province, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

The explosion rocked the Yima gasification plant at 5:50 pm local time (0950 GMT).

"Many windows and doors

within a three-kilometre radius were shattered, and some interior doors were also blown out by the blast," CCTV said on its Twitter-like Weibo social media account.

In March, an explosion at a chemical plant in eastern Jiangsu province killed 78 people and injured hundreds, blowing out windows of nearby residential buildings.

In 2015, China suffered one of its worst industrial accidents when giant chemical blasts in the northern port city of Tianjin killed at least 165 people.

Russian plane evacuated due to 'smell', two hospitalised

Moscow, Russia

Two people were hospitalised yesterday after an Armenia-bound plane was evacuated in Moscow following a strange smell and smoke in the cabin, the airline and airport officials said.

The early morning flight operated by Russia's Nordwind Airlines had to be aborted during takeoff after a "foreign smell" on board the Boeing 737, the company said.

The crew used emergency slides to evacuate the passengers -- 162 adults and 11 children.



Representative picture

Citing the plane's commander, Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport where the incident took place, said there was smoke in the cabin but no fire.

Five passengers sought medical help and two were hospitalised, Sheremetyevo said.

The plane was replaced but 28 passengers refused to continue their journey.

SOCIETY



Minister of Interior General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa received new Tunisian Ambassador Salim Al Gheryani. He welcomed the new ambassador, praising the relations between the two countries and their level of co-operation and co-ordination, especially in the field of security. He also wished him the best in his new assignment.



The Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the United Kingdom held its annual ceremony for the Bahrain All-Party Parliamentary Group. Media figures, including the Minister of State for Middle East Affairs, Dr Andrew Morrison, Shadow Minister for Middle East Affairs, and other members of the group were present.



Chief of Public Security, Major-General Tariq Al Hassan received on Wednesday NYPD Liaison Officer in the United Arab Emirates, Andrew P Kamarchevakul. He welcomed the guest, hailing the security co-operation and co-ordination between Bahrain and the US. The meeting discussed topics of common interest and co-ordination between the Interior Ministry and the NYPD in security, police services and fighting crimes.



Chief of Public Security, Major-General Tariq Al Hassan received the President of the Bahrain Public Relations Society, Dr Fahad Al Shahabi on Wednesday. He handed him the fourth edition of his book about the history and achievements of Bahrain. The Chief hailed the efforts of the author and the rich contents of the book.



Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) members met with the President of the International Red Crescent Society. The meeting was held in the light of the increasing human suffering in various parts of the world.

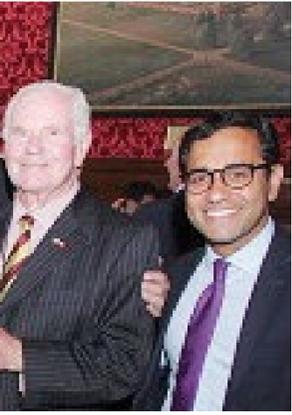


Rotary Club of Sulmaniya held its regular lunch meeting at the Golden Tulip Hotel. Guest speaker was fellow Rotary member from Lithuania Tomas Krisciunas who spoke about "Live an interesting life." He shared how adversities, life behind an "iron curtain" and how to overcome them.



The Arabian Gulf University (AGU) recently hosted the discussion of a study that called for collecting all university research and scholarly articles on mental disabilities and autism in one database. This was mentioned in a study conducted by researcher in Lebanon, Dr. Marwan Al-Hariri, and Professor at Jeddah University Dr Nayef Al Zarra'a as external examiners.

Society



...y Group and the Bahrain-British Friendship Society, under the patronage of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Kingdom, Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa. The ceremony was held in the presence of a number of Ministers, MPs and ...rs in the Labour Party, Fabian Hamilton, Shadow Minister for European Affairs, Khalid Mahmood, the former Minister of State for Middle East Affairs, Alistair Burt, as well as other politicians and MPs.



a number of its volunteers to participate in the "Youth Camp for Relief and Humanitarian Work", which was held recently in the Italian city of Sulfino, along with more than ten thousand volunteers from 140 countries. The Bahraini Red Crescent volunteers ...al Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Francesco Rocca, who visited the camp and talked with everyone about the importance of relief and humanitarian work in providing assistance to needy people, victims, refugees and victims, especially in ...n conflicts, conflicts and natural disasters across the world.



trauma and bankruptcy turned into advantages and an interesting life. He said his 15 months' stay in Bahrain and the Middle East have been one of the best experiences of his life.



The Interior Ministry Undersecretary, Shaikh Nasser bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa inaugurated on Monday two service centres at the Muharraq Security Complex and the General Directorate of Traffic. The move was part of the directives of Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa to open more services and provide further facilities for the citizens. The centres would issue good conduct certificates and other security-related certificates. Before visiting the centres, the required form should be printed from the Criminal Investigation Directorate www.cri.gov.bh.



arning difficulties and growth disability Ms Nawal Saleh Al Faqa'an as part of the ...logy and Special Education Professor Dr Saad Al Khumaisi and Special Education



Under the patronage of Northern Governor, Ali Al Asfoor, Al Malkiya Club held the final ceremony of its 2019 summer programme. It is part of the activities of the Northern Governorate summer programme. The summer activities of the governorate were organised in partnership with Tamkeen, the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC). The ceremony was held in the presence of members of the Council of Representatives MP Ahmad Al Dimistani and MP Mohammed Khalifa Bouhmond. Head of the Organising Committee of the Summer Programme, Mohammed Al Zayed, expressed thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Northern Governor and the residents. He highlighted His Excellency the Minister of Interior's keenness and continuous support to provide the best services to achieve the aspirations of youth. He added that the district has been keen to dedicate all its potentials to ensure the success of this year's summer programme which was held under the slogan "Our Country, Our King Bring Us Together". The achievements of the current programme were a result of successes and experiences gained over the last seven years of holding the previous programmes.

business

Stock markets wait on Fed rate cut

London, United Kingdom

European markets closed little changed yesterday while Wall Street was largely flat as investors waited on a widely expected US interest rate cut to give a clear lead.

Continued uncertainty about the US-China trade stand-off despite some positive commentary added to the sense of caution after interest rate speculation drove sharp gains in Asian trade.

The main focus initially was on comments by John Williams, the influential vice chairman of the Fed's policy-setting board, who said central banks should move quickly to support the economy even when borrowing costs were already low.

He pointed to studies suggesting that when there are few stimulus options available, officials should "move more quickly than you otherwise might," rather than waiting "for disaster to unfold".

While a spokesman later clarified that Williams was not outlining Fed policy and was not flagging a half-point cut, analysts said the remarks provided an insight into how officials were thinking.

Markets have been wavering this week over how big the Fed's expected reduction would be, with 25 basis points priced in but some traders hoping for 50.

Capital Economics said in a research commentary that central banks generally are signalling an easing in monetary policy so as to offset a slowing economy but that may not be enough for stocks.

"We have been here before... The assumption that central banks will prevent much economic damage has sometimes supported equities for a surprisingly long time, before a correction further down the line once it became clear that economic weakness would last," it said.

"Even though we are not forecasting a downturn anywhere close to the financial crisis, we do think that the likely scale of further weakness in the global economy is being widely underestimated."



Traders work after the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)

Key figures around 1600 GMT

London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.2pc at 7,508.70 points (close)
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▲ 0.3pc at 12,260.07 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	■ at 5,552.34 (close)
EURO STOXX 50:	■ at 3,482.97
New York - Dow:	■ at 27,251.07
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 2.0pc at 21,466.99 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▲ 1.1pc at 28,765.40 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.8pc at 2,924.20 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1221 from \$1.1277 at 2050 GMT
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.2504 from \$1.2548
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 107.70 yen from 107.30 yen
Brent North Sea crude:	▲ 0.2pc at \$62.07 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 0.2pc at \$55.30 per barrel

Trump attacks US Fed, demands rate cut

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump attacked the independent US Federal Reserve yesterday, demanding the central bank reverse course and cut interest rates -- something it is widely expected to do this month.

In another Twitter outburst, Trump called on the Fed to "Correct!" its overreach.

"We are in a World competition, & winning big... but it is no thanks to the Federal Reserve," he said.

"Had they not acted so fast and 'so much,' we would be doing even better than we are doing right now. This is our chance to build unparalleled wealth and success for the U.S., GROWTH... Don't blow it!"

The US central bank raised the benchmark borrowing rate four times last year but seems almost certain to pull back with the first cut in a decade at its policy meeting July 30-31.

Recent comments from Fed officials seemed to confirm the signal that policymakers are prepared to act to sustain US growth in the face of a



US President Donald Trump

slowing global economy and persistent trade tensions with China.

"You don't need to wait until things get so bad to have a dramatic series of rate cuts," Fed Vice Chairman Richard Clarida told Fox Business Network on Thursday.

That comment echoed a statement earlier Thursday from John Williams, the influential vice chairman of the Fed's policy committee, who talked about the need to vaccinate

when rates are very low.

"When you only have so much stimulus at your disposal, it pays to act quickly to lower rates at the first sign of economic distress," said Williams, who is president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank.

Following Williams' remarks, the New York Fed told media outlets the speech concerned decades of research and was not about what the central bank may decide at its next policy

meeting.

Trump said Friday he liked Williams "first statement much better than his second. His first statement is 100% correct in that the Fed 'raised' far too fast & too early."

The New York Fed had no comment on Trump's tweets, which were only the latest in long series of attacks which have flouted the recent tradition of protecting the independence of the central bank.

Oil rallies

Oil was firmer but then slipped back off early highs made as the United States and Iran continued to trade brickbats, with President Donald Trump saying a US navy vessel downed an Ira-

nian drone in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, a claimed strongly denied by Tehran.

"With the situation... turning into a powder keg again, Brent crude prices will remain propped up," noted Fiona Cincotta, an analyst at City Index

trading group.

On the corporate front, the world's leading brewer AB InBev said it was selling its Australian unit Carlton & United Breweries for 16 billion Australian dollars (US\$11.3 billion).

AB InBev, a Belgian-Brazil-

ian behemoth that owns brands such as Stella Artois and Budweiser, is saddled with more than \$100 billion in debt from previous acquisitions and so the news gave the shares a sharp boost of more than five per cent.

Coal-dependent Poland to compensate industry for carbon costs



Representative picture (Courtesy of BBC)

Warsaw, Poland

Poland's parliament yesterday adopted measures to compensate its industry struggling to cope with surging electricity bills triggered by higher EU carbon emission costs.

Heavily dependent on polluting coal, Poland's power stations have faced rising costs to purchase pollution rights under the EU's emissions trading scheme, costs which they have passed on to consumers including businesses.

Under the scheme Warsaw will spend around 900 million zloty (211 million euro, \$237 million) per year beginning in 2020 on payments to energy-intensive firms to help them remain competitive and preserve some 1.3 million jobs, the enterprise and technology ministry said in a Friday statement.

"Around 300 companies from energy-intensive industries, like the chemical, metal and paper sectors, will be entitled to compensation for the costs of purchasing CO2 emission rights included in the price of energy," it added.

The legislation by the right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) government was backed by 420 lawmakers in the 460-seat lower house, with one vote against and six abstentions.

This latest measures come after the government failed to implement a price cap for electricity last year.

India's Reliance Industries reports 6.8 per cent rise in profits

Mumbai, India

Indian conglomerate Reliance Industries yesterday reported a 6.8 per cent rise in consolidated net profit despite a slowdown in its oil refining business.

The Mumbai-based company owned by Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani said its consolidated net profit for the three months through June rose to 101.05 billion rupees (\$1.47 billion) from 94.59 billion rupees reported for the same quarter a year earlier.

"Our first-quarter earnings were strong despite weak global macro-economic environment and challenging hydrocarbon market conditions," Ambani said



in a statement.

He added that growth in the company's retail and telecoms operations helped boost overall revenues.

"Our digital services business continues to transform the mobility market in India while scaling newer milestones," he said. The firm has business inter-

ests in refining, retail, petrochemicals and telecommunications.

Reliance said in a statement that its gross refining margin,

“Our first-quarter earnings were strong despite weak global macro-economic environment and challenging hydrocarbon market conditions”

MUKESH AMBANI

the profit earned from each barrel of crude was down to \$8.1 per barrel in the June quarter as compared to \$10.5 per barrel for the same quarter last year.

Refining margins are a key profitability gauge for Reliance, one of the world's largest refiners.

The company was forced to cap its crude imports from sanction-hit Venezuela in March following pressure from the United States. It has also stopped exporting diluents to the crisis-hit South American country.

The company said that its telecom venture Jio signed up

24.5 million subscribers in the June quarter and reported a 45.6 per cent rise in its profits to 8.91 billion rupees.

Ambani had launched Reliance Jio with much fanfare in September 2016 offering free services up to March 2017, sparking intense price wars which saw consolidation in the Indian telecom sector.

He is currently engaged in fierce competition with Amazon and Walmart in an ongoing race to dominate India's retail market.

Reliance shares fell over a per cent Friday ahead of the earnings announcement, which came after the stock market closed.

Kenya launches Africa's biggest wind farm

● The turbines went up quicker than one a day, with the last raised in March 2017, ahead of schedule

● Difficulties in financing the transmission line, and problems acquiring land delayed the project

● The EU's lending facility loaned \$200 million for the project

Kenya

Kenya yesterday inaugurated Africa's biggest wind power plant, a mammoth project in a gusty stretch of remote wilderness that now provides nearly a fifth of the country's energy needs.

The \$680-million (600 million euro) project, a sprawling 365-turbine wind farm on the eastern shores of Lake Turkana, is delivering 310 megawatts of renewable power to the national grid

The \$680 million project, a sprawling 365-turbine wind farm on the eastern shores of Lake Turkana, is delivering 310 megawatts of renewable power to the national grid of East Africa's most dynamic economy.



“Today, we again raise the bar for the continent as we unveil the single largest wind farm”

PRESIDENT UHURU KENYATTA

of East Africa's most dynamic economy.

The largest private investment in Kenya's history, the Lake Turkana Wind Power project was beset with delays and took nearly a decade to rise from the arid landscape 600 kilometres (372 miles) north of Nairobi.

Today the windmills -- scattered across Turkana's stark lunar landscape and rocky hills -- deliver 15 percent of Kenya's entire installed capacity, connected to the national grid through a 428-kilometre power line.

“Today, we again raise the bar for the continent as we unveil the single largest wind farm,” said President Uhuru Kenyatta, after touring the project.

“Kenya

is without a doubt on course to become a world leader in renewable energy.”

Turkana Corridor

The project lies in a natural corridor dubbed “the windiest place on earth” and promises to harness this endless power at low cost.

The nearly-50 metre turbines were engineered to handle the fierce gusts that tear through the “Turkana Corridor”, a wind tunnel that generates optimal conditions, year round.

The winds howling near constantly through the barren valley deliver double the load capacity enjoyed by similar projects in America and Europe.

“It is unprecedented. This is one of the most consistently windiest places in the world,” said Rizwan Fazal, the executive director of the Lake Turkana Power Pro-

ject.

A Herculean effort was needed to construct the behemoth wind farm in Kenya's farthest extremes.

The windmills, manufactured by Danish company Vestas, had to be brought overland from the Kenyan port of Mombasa, some 1,200 kilometres away.

More than 2,000 trips were needed to bring all the materials from port to plant.

Some 200 kilometres of road leading to the site had to be upgraded to allow trucks through, shaving a journey that used to take days to several hours.

Another 100 kilometres of internal roads linking the turbines dotting the hot, desert horizons were also constructed.

‘Incredible journey’

The project, far more ambitious in scale than rivals elsewhere on the continent, has been closely watched as a case study of investing in renewables in Africa, where demand for energy is soaring as economies grow and populations swell.

In Kenya -- which relies heavily on hydropower and geothermal -- power is unreliable and costly, hindering business as energy-intensive sectors such as manufacturing look to take off.

Kenyatta has previously committed to 100 percent renewable energy for Kenya by 2020 -- a pledge the government has been accused of betraying with plans

to build a coal-fired power plant off the coast in Lamu.

That project -- deemed unnecessary by experts -- has been stalled by legal challenges.

The Turkana wind farm involved years of planning and construction but the turbines went up quicker than one a day, with the last raised in March 2017, ahead of schedule.

But difficulties in financing the transmission line, being laid by state-owned power company Ketraco, and problems acquiring land, meant this landmark project didn't connect to the grid for another 18 months -- in September 2018.

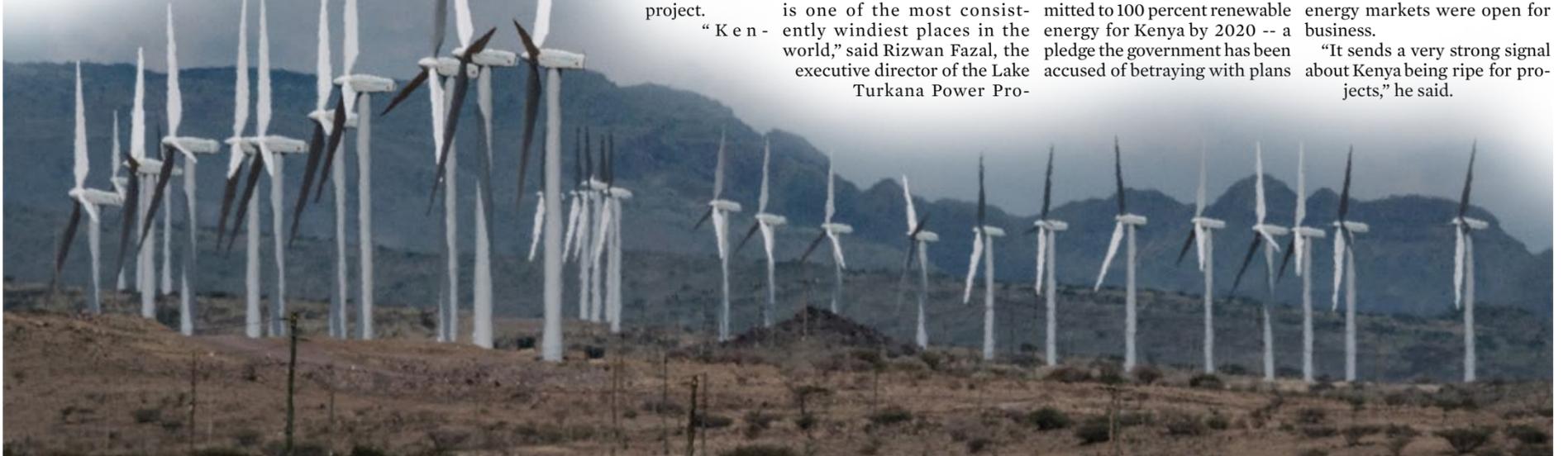
“The farm was built on time. But the project can only operate if you can bring power to the client,” said Catherine Collin, East Africa head of the European Investment Bank.

The EU's lending facility loaned \$200 million for the project, which received other finance from a consortium of European and African companies

“There was a delay, there was a few difficult moments, I have to say, for everybody, but in the end we all made it,” Collin said.

Fazal said it had been “an incredible journey” but more than anything it let the world know Kenya's untapped clean energy markets were open for business.

“It sends a very strong signal about Kenya being ripe for projects,” he said.



Israel spyware firm can mine data from social media: FT

● The London paper wrote that NSO group had “told buyers its technology can surreptitiously scrape all of an individual's data from the servers of Apple, Google, Facebook, Amazon and Microsoft

Jerusalem, Undefined

An Israeli spyware firm thought to have hacked WhatsApp in the past has told clients it can scoop user data from the world's top social media, the *Financial Times* reported Friday.

The London paper wrote that NSO group had “told buyers its technology can surreptitiously scrape all of an individual's data from the servers of Apple, Google, Facebook, Amazon and Microsoft, according to people familiar with its sales pitch”.

An NSO spokesperson, re-



Pegasus is a highly invasive tool that can reportedly switch on a target's cell phone camera and microphone, and access data on it, effectively turning the phone into a pocket spy.

sponding in a written statement to AFP's request for comment, denied the allegation.

“There is a fundamental mis-

understanding of NSO, its services and technology,” it said.

“NSO's products do not provide the type of collection ca-

pabilities and access to cloud applications, services, or infrastructure as listed and suggested in today's FT article.”

In May, Facebook-owned WhatsApp said it had released an update to plug a security hole in its messaging app that allowed insertion of sophisticated spyware that could be used to spy on journalists, activists and others.

It said the attack bore “all the hallmarks of a private company that works with a number of governments around the world”.

It did not name a suspect but Washington-based analyst Joseph Hall, chief technologist at the Center for Democracy and Technology, said at the time that the hack appeared related to the NSO's Pegasus software.

It is normally sold to law enforcement and intelligence services.

Friday's *FT* report, citing documents it had viewed and descriptions of a product demonstration, said the programme had “evolved to capture the much greater trove of information stored beyond the phone in the cloud, such as a full history of a target's location data, archived messages or photos”.

NSO says it does not operate

the Pegasus system, only licensing it to closely vetted government users “for the sole purpose of preventing or investigating serious crime including terrorism”.

The group came under the spotlight in 2016 when researchers accused it of helping spy on an activist in the United Arab Emirates.

NSO is based in the Israeli seaside hi-tech hub of Herzliya, near Tel Aviv. It says it employs 600 people in Israel and around the world.

Pegasus is a highly invasive tool that can reportedly switch on a target's cell phone camera and microphone, and access data on it, effectively turning the phone into a pocket spy.

“Increasingly sophisticated terrorists and criminals are taking advantage of encrypted technologies to plan and conceal their crimes, leaving intelligence and law enforcement agencies in the dark and putting public safety and national security at risk,” the company statement said.

Profit soars for Microsoft fueled by cloud, biz services

San Francisco, United States

Microsoft yesterday posted quarterly earnings that trounced expectations, citing growth in partnerships with companies on technology and cloud computing services.

The US technology titan, shifting in recent years to business services from consumer tech, reported its net income rose 49 per cent to \$13.2 billion on revenue that was up 12pc to \$33.7 billion.

Microsoft's profit in the fiscal fourth quarter that ended June 30 was helped by a \$2.6 billion tax benefit, according to the company.

The results showed the "strongest commercial quarter ever," for Microsoft, said chief financial officer Amy Hood.

Chief executive Satya Nadella said the results closed out a record fiscal year for the tech giant, which has the largest market value of any company at more than \$1 trillion.

"It was a record fiscal year for Microsoft, a result of our deep partnerships with leading companies in every industry," said Nadella.

"Every day, we work alongside our customers to help



Chief executive Satya Nadella (Courtesy of Hindustan Times)

them build their own digital capability...This commitment to our customers' success is resulting in larger, multi-year commercial cloud agreements and growing momentum across every layer of our technology stack."

Net income for the fiscal year more than doubled to \$39.2 billion on revenue that was up 14pc to \$125.8bn, according to the earnings report.

Microsoft shares rose 1.4pc to \$138.35 in after-market trading that followed release of the earnings figures.

Microsoft reported growth across all its businesses except Xbox gaming unit where revenue declined 10pc.

PepsiCo buys Pioneer Foods for \$1.8 bn in Africa push

Johannesburg, South Africa

US beverage and food giant PepsiCo has agreed to buy South Africa's Pioneer Foods for about 24.4 billion rand (\$1.8 billion), a company executive said yesterday, in a bold move into the African market.

"This transaction is all about growth. We are looking to expand our footprint," PepsiCo executive Eugene Willemsen, who will head up the operation from Cape Town, told Bloomberg News.

He said that the company was seeking to expand aggressively in sub-Saharan Africa, a region which is expected to double in population to 2.2 billion people by 2050.

The purchase will add local brands such as Weet-Bix breakfast cereal and Ceres fruit juice to the PepsiCo roster that includes Frito-Lay, Gatorade, Pepsi-Cola and Tropicana.

PepsiCo offered 110 rand a share for Pioneer, a premium of about 56 per cent.

A joint statement said that Pioneer Foods had "a ro-



PepsiCo offered 110 rand a share for Pioneer, a premium of about 56 per cent

bust, locally relevant product portfolio" to offer to PepsiCo, which would gain "a solid beachhead for expansion" over the deal.

Pretoria-based Pioneer Foods exports to 80 countries in Africa and beyond, and has joint ventures in Namibia, Botswana, Kenya and Nigeria.

It registered 20.2 billion rand in sales in 2018.

The deal builds on PepsiCo's \$3.2 billion buyout of Israel's SodaStream last year.

Pioneer has been struggling in South Africa's weak consumer market, but Willemsen said PepsiCo was "very positive" about the country's prospects.

Boeing sees more in MAX costs as grounding drags on



Boeing 737 MAX airplanes are stored in an area adjacent to Boeing Field in Seattle, Washington

- The company last month announced it would give \$100 million to communities and families affected by the 737 MAX disasters

- Boeing has been widely criticized over its development of the 737 MAX

- Pilots have said they were not adequately trained on the MCAS system and that it was not disclosed to them

New York, United States

Boeing announced Thursday some \$6.6 billion in additional costs because of the 737 MAX crisis, further pressuring profitability as the global grounding of the plane following two deadly crashes drags on.

Boeing said that second-quarter earnings would be hit by \$4.9 billion in one-time after-tax costs to compensate airlines for disruptions and plane delivery delays due to the MAX grounding.

Profits will also be weighed down by another \$1.7 billion in costs due to the 737 MAX's lower production rate, the company said in a statement after the stock market closed.



We remain focused on safely returning the 737 MAX to service. This is a defining moment for Boeing. "The MAX grounding presents significant headwinds and the financial impact recognized this quarter reflects the current challenges and helps to address future financial risks."

DENNIS MUILENBURG
BOEING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The MAX has been grounded since mid-March following two crashes that killed 346 people, dual disasters that have tarnished Boeing's reputation and sparked numerous lawsuits from the families of victims.

There is still no firm timetable to bring the planes back into service.

"We remain focused on safely returning the 737 MAX to service," said Boeing chief executive Dennis Muilenburg. "This is a defining moment for Boeing."

"The MAX grounding presents significant headwinds and the financial impact recognized this quarter reflects the current challenges and helps to address future financial risks."

Foggy timeline

Boeing also said Thursday it hopes to receive regulatory approval to return the aircraft to service early in the fourth quarter.

But this timeline was only the company's "best estimate" and actual timing could differ, Boeing said.

The company is due to report second-quarter earnings on July 24.

Earlier Thursday, Southwest Airlines pushed back its target date for the returning the MAX to service by about a month to November 2, saying the timeframe was "still uncertain."

The US Federal Aviation Administration late last month identified a fresh problem with the 737 MAX during simulator testing, further clouding the outlook for the plane's return to service.

The FAA "is following a thorough process, not a prescribed timeline, for returning the Boeing 737 MAX to passenger service," an agency spokesman said. "The FAA will lift the aircraft's prohibition order when we deem it is safe to do so."

Michel Merluzeau, an analyst at AIR Insight Research, said that it would be "good news" for Boeing if the planes do return to service in the first quarter of 2020.

Earlier MAX costs

The latest costs add to the overall financial hit from the crisis. In April, Boeing disclosed \$1 billion in additional costs due

to lowering the production level of the 737 MAX.

The company last month announced it would give \$100 million to communities and families affected by the 737 MAX disasters.

But those donations have not silenced critics of the company, including from Paul Njoroge who castigated the company as greedy and reckless before a congressional panel on Wednesday.

"Boeing should not be allowed to act like a mere investment company extracting wealth to super-charge shareholder returns at the expense of safety and quality," said Njoroge, whose wife, three children and mother-in-law died in the March 10 Ethiopian Airlines disaster.

Boeing has been widely criticized over its development of the 737 MAX, which included a flight handling system called the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System that has been seen as a factor in both crashes.

In both crashes, the MCAS pointed the plane sharply downward based on faulty sensor readings, hindering pilot control after takeoff, according to preliminary results from crash investigations.

Pilots have said they were not adequately trained on the MCAS system and that it was not disclosed to them. The FAA has said it was kept in the dark for more than a year about a problem with a sensor linked to the system.

BMW names new boss as it looks to speed up electric transition

Berlin, Germany

BMW said Thursday that Bits production chief Oliver Zipse will replace Harald Krueger as chief executive in August, as the German auto giant looks to accelerate its transition to electric cars.

Krueger, who had been criticized for not steering the group quickly enough towards electric technology, said earlier this month that he would not seek another term when his current office runs out next April.

However BMW's supervisory board said in a statement on Thursday that Zipse will take



chief Oliver Zipse

his place on August 16.

Zipse, 55, began as a trainee at BMW in 1991 and has since held various management positions.

As current head of the product division he supervised 31 factories worldwide as they were in the process of transitioning to electric car production.

Turing to appear on new UK bank note

London, United Kingdom

World War II code-breaker Alan Turing has been chosen to feature on Britain's new £50 note, the Bank of England announced, decades after his tragic death following a conviction for homosexuality.

Turing played a pivotal role in the development of early computers, but his career was cut short by his conviction in 1952 for gross indecency with a 19-year-old man.

He did not go to prison but was chemically castrated and died of cyanide poisoning in an apparent suicide in 1954, aged 41.

"Alan Turing was an outstand-



Mark Carney, governor of the Bank of England, is interviewed after attending a press conference announcing the concept design for the new Bank of England fifty pound banknote, featuring mathematician and scientist Alan Turing

ing mathematician whose work has had an enormous impact on how we live today," Bank of England governor Mark Carney said as he unveiled the note worth £50 (\$63, 56 euros).

"As the father of computer science and artificial intelligence, as well as war hero, Alan Turing's contributions were far ranging and path breaking," he said at the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester, north-west England.

"Turing is a giant on whose shoulders so many now stand."

Turing received a posthumous pardon from Queen Elizabeth II in 2013.

The note, which is due to

enter circulation by the end of 2021, shows a photo of Turing taken in 1951.

The Oscar-winning 2014 film "The Imitation Game" starring Benedict Cumberbatch brought belated acclaim for Turing's key wartime role when he helped crack German military communication codes, handing the allies a huge trove of intelligence.

The new £20 note, due to enter circulation next year, will feature artist J. M. W. Turner on its back.

The new polymer £5 and £10 notes already in circulation show wartime leader Winston Churchill and author Jane Austen respectively.

SHOW

THE LION KING (PG)(ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY) (NEW)

OASIS JUFFAIR (ATMOS): 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM
 OASIS JUFFAIR (VIP): 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
 OASIS JUFFAIR (KIDS CINEMA): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
 CITY CENTRE (ATMOS): 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 PM + 12.00 MN
 CITY CENTRE (3D): 12.00 + 2.30 + 5.00 + 7.30 + 10.00 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
 CITY CENTER (IMAX 2D): 10.30 AM + 3.30 + 8.30 PM
 CITY CENTER (IMAX 3D): 1.00 + 6.00 + 11.00 PM
 CITY CENTRE: VIP (II): 10.45 AM + 1.15 + 3.45 + 6.15 + 8.45 + 11.15 PM
 SEEF (I): 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.30 + 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
 SEEF (II): 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
 SEEF (II) (3D): 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 10.30 AM + 11.15 AM + 1.00 + 1.45 + 3.30 + 4.15 + 6.00 + 6.45 + 8.30 + 9.15 + 11.00 PM + 11.45 PM
 WADI AL SAIL (3D): 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM
 SAAR: 10.30 AM + 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 1.30 + 3.30 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 9.00 + 11.00 + 11.30 PM
 DONALD GLOVER, SETH ROGEN, CHIWETEL EJIOFOR

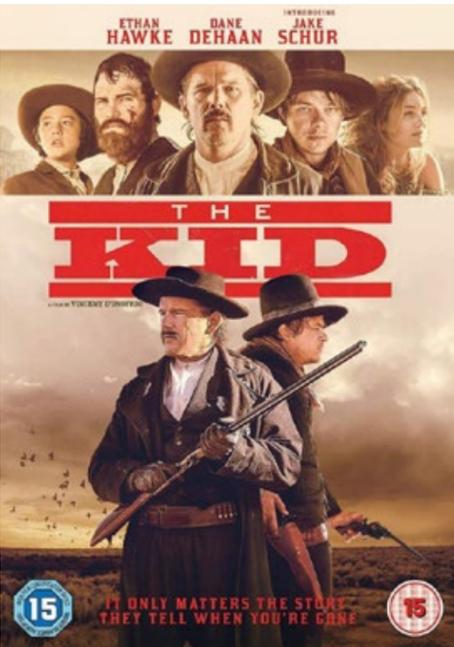


THE KID (15+)(CRIME/DRAMA) (NEW)

SEEF (II): 11.30 AM + 4.30 + 9.30 PM
 ETHAN HAWKE, DANE DEHAAN, CHRIS PRATT

THE SONATA (15+)(THRILLER/HORROR) (NEW)

SEEF (II): 2.00 + 7.00 + 12.00 MN
 RUTGER HAUER, JAMES FAULKNER, FREYA TINGLEY



FINDING STEVE MCQUEEN (15+)(CRIME/ROMANTIC)

SEEF (II): 12.45 + 4.45 + 8.45 PM
 RACHAEL TAYLOR, TRAVIS FIMMEL, WILLIAM FICHTNER
 AMI (18+)(THRILLER/HORROR) (NEW)

SEEF (II): 10.45 AM + 2.45 + 6.45 + 10.45 PM
 DEBS HOWARD, PHILIP GRANGER, SAM ROBERT MUIK

LOABA AL AMRICANNA (18+)(ARABIC/COMEDY)

SEEF (II): 12.30 + 4.30 + 8.30 PM
 AHMED FAHMY, NAHEH ELSEBAI, SHAIMAA SAIF

SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (PG-15)(ADVENTURE)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN + (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
 CITY CENTRE: VIP (I): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (I): 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 SAAR: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
 TOM HOLLAND, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, ZENDAYA

TOY STORY 4 (G)(ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.00 AM + 1.15 + 3.30 + 5.45 PM
 CITY CENTRE: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM
 SEEF (II): 11.00 AM + 1.15 + 3.30 + 5.45 + 8.00 + 10.15 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 11.15 AM + 4.00 + 8.45 PM
 TOM HANKS, TIM ALLEN, JOAN CUSACK

ALADDIN (PG)(ADVENTURE)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM.
 CITY CENTRE: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (II): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 1.30 + 6.15 + 11.00 PM
 WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD

CRAWL (18+)(THRILLER/HORROR)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN
 CITY CENTRE: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN

SEEF (II): 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM
 WADI AL SAIL: 10.30 AM + 3.00 + 7.30 + 12.00 MN

SAAR: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM
 KAYA SCODELARIO, BARRY PEPPER, ROSS ANDERSON

THE EXTRACTORS (15+)(ACTION/THRILLER)

CITY CENTRE: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 PM
 SEEF (II): 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN
 SYLVESTER STALLONE, DAVE BAUTISTA, 50 CENT

MOHAMMED HUSSAIN (PG-15)(ARABIC/COMEDY)

CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.30 + 2.30 + 4.30 + 6.30 + 8.30 + 10.30 PM + (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
 SEEF (I): 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 PM + 12.00 MN
 MOHAMED SAAD, MAI SALEEM, MOHAMED THARWAT



STUBER (15+)(ACTION/COMEDY)

CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 3.00 + 7.30 + 12.00 MN
 KAREN GILLAN, DAVE BAUTISTA, BETTY GILPIN

SUPER 30 (PG-13)(HINDI/DRAMA/BIOGRAPHY)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.15 AM + 2.15 + 5.15 + 8.15 + 11.15 PM
 SEEF (II): 11.00 AM + 4.00 + 9.00 PM
 HRITHIK ROSHAN, MRUNAL THAKUR, PANKAJ TRIPATHI

ANNABELLE COMES HOME (15+)(HORROR)

CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN
 VERA FARMIGA, MCKENNA GRACE, MADISON ISEMAN

JOHN WICK 3 PARABELLUM (15+)(ACTION/THRILLER/CRIME)

CITY CENTRE: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM
 KEANU REEVES, HALLE BERRY, IAN MCSHANE

THE HUSTLE (PG-15) (COMEDY/CRIME)

CITY CENTRE: 1.45 + 6.45 + 12.00 MN
 SEEF (II): 10.30 AM + 2.30 + 6.30 + 10.30 PM
 ANNE HATHAWAY, REBEL WILSON, ALEX SHARP

MEN IN BLACK INTERNATIONAL (PG-13)(ACTION/FANTASY)

CITY CENTRE: 12.30 + 5.00 + 9.30 PM
 TESSA THOMPSON, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, REBECCA FERGUSON

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

CITY CENTRE: 10.30 AM + 3.30 + 8.45 PM
 BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN

SHUBHA RATHRI (PG-13)(MALAYALAM)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 10.30 AM + 3.45 + 9.00 PM
 DILEEP, ANU SITHARA, SIDDIQUE

PATHINETTAM PADI (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)

OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (I): 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (II): (12.30 MN THURS/FRI)
 WADI AL SAIL: 2.45 + 8.15 PM
 AL HAMRA: 6.00 + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)
 MAMMOOTTY, PRITHVIRAJ SUKUMARAN, UNNI MUKUNDAN, AARYA

KADARAM KONDAN (PG-15) (TAMIL)

FROM THURSDAY 18th 9.00 PM ONWARDS
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (I): 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN
 SEEF (II): (12.45 MN THURS/FRI)
 WADI AL SAIL: 12.15 + 5.45 + 11.15 PM
 AL HAMRA: 12.00 + 3.00 + 9.00 PM
 VIKRAM, AKSHARA HAASAN, YOGI BABU

JHOOTHA KAHIN KA FOR () (HINDI/COMEDY)

FROM FRIDAY 19th
 OASIS JUFFAIR: 1.00 + 6.15 + 11.30 PM
 SEEF (I): 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
 RISHI KAPOOR, JIMMY SHEERGILL, LILLETE DUBEY

ARDAAS KARAAN () (PUNJABI/DRAMA)

SEEF (II): 1.45 + 6.45 + 11.45 PM
 GIPPY GREWAL, GUJRPREET GHUGGI, MEHER VIJ

MOVIE REVIEW

Unfocused 'The Kid' retells Billy the Kid tale

Ethan Hawke and Dane DeHaan star in scattered story about the notorious gunslinger

The Kid is a 2019 American semi-biographical western action film directed by Vincent D'Onofrio, from a screenplay by Andrew Lanham, and is executive produced by Carl Stubner, through Suretone Pictures.

The film stars Ethan Hawke, Dane DeHaan, Jake Schur, Leila George, Chris Pratt, Adam Baldwin, and D'Onofrio, and centers around Rio Cutler who forms an unlikely alliance with local sheriff Pat Garrett and infamous outlaw Billy the Kid in a mission to rescue his sister Sara from Grant Cutler, the boy's thuggish uncle and gang leader.

The Kid spins the classic Western tale forward by focusing on a child's role in the Billy the Kid saga, but its ingenuity begins and ends with the duality of its title.

We begin as young Rio (Jake Schur) kills his abusive father and makes off with his older sister Sara (Leila George), en route to Santa Fe.

Along the way, they wind up caught in a standoff between Billy the Kid (Dane DeHaan) and sheriff Pat Garrett (Ethan Hawke).

Rio is taken with the bad boy



Dane DeHaan and Ethan Hawke in 'The Kid'

gunslinger, already notorious, and he joins the caravan as the sheriff escorts Billy to New Mexico.

DeHaan, whose boyish looks

have always recalled Leonardo DiCaprio, has a grimy charisma as Billy, but Garrett is the far more interesting character here, thanks to the quiet nuance of

Hawke's portrayal. Schur's Rio is left behind by a script that is unsure where to put its focus.

Chris Pratt shows up as Rio's menacing uncle Grant, giving a

blank performance underneath a thick beard. (Both Pratt and Hawke co-starred with D'Onofrio in 2016's "The Magnificent Seven," where they probably



'The Kid' is a well-intentioned attempt to make a contemplative western, but ultimately mistakes gritty violence and broodiness for substance

made a regrettable pact to make this film together.)

"The Kid" manages some picturesque shots of Western landscapes, and Hawke, who has hit a career stride in recent years, wouldn't know how to turn in a bad performance if he tried. But there's not enough here to make this journey worth taking. There have been better stories of Billy the Kid, and there are likely better ones to come.

celebs

Travis Scott is totally into the idea of marrying Kylie Jenner

Los Angeles

American rapper Travis Scott is giving serious thoughts to marrying his longtime girlfriend Kylie Jenner. “Travis is definitely into it. Kylie hasn’t expressed a huge interest in getting married but they’ve talked about it a lot,” a source close to the rapper told Us Weekly.

The insider added that while marriage mightn’t be important to Jenner, but it definitely is for Scott.

“Marriage isn’t important to Kylie but it’s increasingly important to Travis,” the source added.

According to the source, this marriage is being considered significant by Jenner’s family members because they like the “structure of it.”

“Kim Kardashian and some friends are advocating for them to get married because they like the structure of it. [They] think it could be helpful for Kylie,” the insider added.

Recently, a source close to the makeup mogul revealed that she is also thinking about taking a step ahead with beau Scott.

“Kylie is very happy with her life. She and Travis are discussing marriage.”



Travis Scott



Kylie Jenner

Bradley Cooper, Irina Shayk parenting without “drama” after split

Los Angeles

Hollywood star Bradley Cooper and his ex Irina Shayk are peacefully sharing custody of their 2-year-old daughter, Lea De Seine.

“There is no drama at the moment. Irina travels a lot and is happy he wants to have joint custody,” Page Six quoted a source as saying.

According to a recent report by TMZ, the former couple has agreed to continue living in New York and share the custody.

Earlier this month, after dating for about four years, Cooper and Shayk decided to call it quits.

The actor, 44, and the 33-year-old supermodel started dating in April 2015 after their respective breakups from Suki Waterhouse and Cristiano Ronaldo.

Reportedly, even after the breakup, Shayk is staying at Cooper’s home. “They split but she is still staying at his house for now. It’s complicated because of the baby,” a source said.



Bradley Cooper and Irina Shayk

Gigi Hadid’ wins copyright lawsuit over Instagram picture

Los Angeles

A few months after Supermodel Gigi Hadid was slapped with a copyright infringement lawsuit for sharing paparazzi snap without the consent, a federal court now has tossed the lawsuit.

As per the documents procured by People, US District Judge Pamela Chen said that Xclusive-Lee Inc., an independent photo agency company that originally owned the photo of the supermodel could not sue for direct copyright infringement as it failed to demonstrate that “the defendant has actually copied the plaintiff’s work; and the copying is illegal because a substantial similarity exists between the defendant’s work and the protectable elements of the plaintiff’s work.”

“We are pleased that the Court granted our motion to dismiss this meritless case. The Court’s decision recognized this case for what it was an effort to extract a settlement from Ms. Hadid with little regard for the basic requirements of copyright law,” John Quinn, the attorney representing Gigi Hadid in the case, said in a statement to People.



Gigi Hadid

Jeremy Jordan to return for ‘Supergirl’ season 5

Los Angeles

Actor Jeremy Jordan is set to make a comeback to The CW’s “Supergirl”.

The Broadway actor, who left the show after third season, will be reprising his role of Winn Schott, Kara’s (Melissa Benoist) best friend and resident tech expert.

According to Entertainment Weekly, Jordan will appear in three episodes in the back half of season five.

“Supergirl” season five premieres on October 6.



Jeremy Jordan



Margot Robbie

Margot Robbie has never seen any ‘Star Wars’ films!

Los Angeles

American actor Margot Robbie recently made a revelation that she hasn’t watched a single ‘Star Wars’ movie till date. “I’ve never seen any Star Wars (films), and I kind of don’t watch it now just because it infuriates people so much. They’re like, ‘How?! How have you never watched any Star Wars?!’” People quoted the actor’s recent interview with MTV News.

Having not seen any of the films from the franchise, Robbie wishes to continue the same and said: “And now, I just want to see how long can I make it (without watching them).”

The 29-year old made another revelation about not watching ‘Gone With the Wind’.

Robbie, who was accompanied by her ‘Once Upon A Time in Hollywood’ co-stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Brad Pitt shocked them with her response.

Talking about the two actors, she added, “I remember when you (DiCaprio) and I did Wolf of Wall Street that you would get mad at me for anytime I’d mention a movie I hadn’t seen, he’d be like, ‘How have you not seen Citizen Kane?’”

How can you work in this industry and not see Citizen Kane?!”

Mariah Carey mocks FaceApp by posting meme

Los Angeles

FaceApp challenge? Mariah Carey isn’t interested! You might be familiar with the latest viral trend that has taken social media by storm but the singer has refused to join the bandwagon.

Twitter and Instagram are currently overloaded with edited gray-haired pictures of young people and celebrities.

However, unlike all the other stars, Carey, with an iconic meme, announced that she will not be taking part in the trend.

“FaceApp is not something I acknowledge,” the superstar wrote in a tweet. The 49-year-old singer also included a meme of herself during an interview, which is subtitled, “I don’t hear you, I don’t see you, you don’t exist to me.”

Several fans were quick to praise the singer for not participating in the viral trend, saying she doesn’t need the app because she has aged so gracefully. “Tea! Age? We don’t know her,” one fan said in response to Carey’s tweet. Added another fan, “doesn’t work on ageless queens anyway!”



Mariah Carey

AQUA COOL
Ultra Pure Bottled Drinking Water

35 YEARS

Easy & Secure Online Ordering of your favourite Aqua Cool Products

Download the AQUA COOL App Now

Free Home Delivery

Call Us Now-1787 5098

www.aquacool.bh

Jalal Ionics Co. W.L.L.
P.O. Box 1770, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
C.R. No. 14986, Public Health Registration No. 18/0006

Katy Perry wants to “emotionally strengthen” her bond with Orlando Bloom before wedding

Los Angeles

It’s been nearly five months since singer Katy Perry and actor Orlando Bloom got engaged, however, the couple is in no rush to get married. Perry admitted how her relationship with her fiancé needs to be emotionally strengthened before they tie the knot.

The 34-year-old singer was asked about her upcoming nuptials to the 42-year-old actor during an interview with Australia’s KIIS ‘Kylie



Orlando Bloom and Katy Perry

is working on strengthening their relationship, reported Us Weekly.

“I think we’re doing really great, and we’re really doing the hard work laying a beautiful foundation before we start to build a massive house,” she explained.

“I was saying it, like, emotionally. It’s important for us to do the work before we go and take this really big next step. We were both married before and it’s not the same in your 30s,” she added.

SPORTS
sports

Alaphilippe extends Tour lead

● Julian Alaphilippe stuns Geraint Thomas in Tour time-trial to extend his yellow jersey lead

● Alaphilippe extends lead over Thomas to 1min 26sec on stage 13

AFP | Pau, France

Julian Alaphilippe extended his overall lead at the Tour de France yesterday winning the 27.2km individual time-trial at Pau on stage 13 to keep the yellow jersey and send his home fans wild.

Defending champion Geraint Thomas was second while his Ineos co-captain Egan Bernal dropped down the overall standings and lost his best young rider's white jersey finishing way off the pace.

Thomas dropped 14 seconds on the French overall leader to slip to 1min 26sec adrift in the general classification after the baking hot race-against-the-clock around the Pyrenean town.

"If he carries on like this he'll win the Tour," the 33-year-old Thomas said at the finish line.

The Welshman then told British broadcaster ITV that Al-

“If he carries on like this he'll win the Tour. He's going incredibly well and is certainly the favourite or the one to watch at the moment. But there is a long way to go and a lot of hard stages to come

GERAINT THOMAS

aphilippe's barnstorming ride had taken him by surprise.

"He's going incredibly well and is certainly the favourite or the one to watch at the moment," he added.

"But there is a long way to go and a lot of hard stages to come."

"I just wanted to keep the jersey, but to win the stage, on this form, is just totally amazing," said Alaphilippe, the 27-year-old former soldier who is sending France wild with belief they can win a first Tour since 1985.

After the 80kph descent outside Pau with the sun making a strobe like flash effect as it flickered through the trees onto the blacktop, the packed holiday weekend crowds went wild as they realised Alaphilippe was



France's Julian Alaphilippe, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey rides during the thirteenth stage of Tour de France

keeping pace on the narrow hill roads outside the town.

As Alaphilippe made the 18 percent slope ahead of the home straight the noise was deafening as the victory over time-trial specialist Thomas unexpectedly materialised.

Bernal finished 1min 26sec off the pace to drop down the rankings and lose his white jersey to Alaphilippe's teammate Enric Mas.

France's Thibaut Pinot was just behind these riders at 49sec,

looking happy and relaxed.

It was also a good day for top five pretenders Richie Porte, Steven Kruijswijk and Rigoberto Uran.

There were gasps and cries of horror when Belgian rookie Wout van Aert fell in the home straight after getting caught up in the barriers and twisted his leg before being taken away in an ambulance.

Today's stage 14 is a short 117km run over two Category 1 mountains with a summit finish

at the fearsome classic Tour de France destination the Tourmalet, which some translate as 'bad trip' and which is the highest mountain pass in the Pyrenees.

Pinot and his FDJ manager Marc Madiot have vowed to gain revenge there for getting left behind in the crosswind at Albi.

"There's a rage in him, and when the rage is on him he's good, Saturday we roll," Madiot said this week.

West Ham's Wilshere opens up on 'devastating' injury-hit season

AFP | Shanghai, China

West Ham United midfielder Jack Wilshere said yesterday that missing most of last season with yet another injury was "devastating" -- but he hopes a better year is to come.

The 27-year-old is widely mentioned as one of the most gifted England players of his generation but he has been plagued by injury throughout his career.

He left his boyhood club Arsenal last summer for a fresh start at Manuel Pellegrini's West Ham.

But after a promising start, the former England midfielder suffered a serious ankle injury and made just eight Premier League appearances.

Wilshere, who has 34 caps for England, said: "I want to play a big part this season and play as many games as I can and help the team finish as high as we can."



Jack Wilshere

Dennis says quitting Tour was 'right decision'

AFP | Pau, France

Australian Rohan Dennis said his abrupt withdrawal from the Tour de France was the 'right decision' ahead of yesterday's time-trial, the discipline at which he is world champion.

Dennis won the 2018 world time trial road race at Innsbruck in November, beating Dutch ace Tom Dumoulin and world one-hour track record holder Belgian Victor Campenaerts in third.

The 29-year-old from Adelaide also won the time-trial in June's Tour de Suisse, finishing the race second overall behind Colombia's Egan Bernal.

The Bahrain Merida rider threw in the towel at the start of the Peyresourde, the first of two climbs on Thursday's 12th stage, after he had been busy trying to make the early breakaway.



Rohan Dennis of Australia and Team Bahrain-Merida rides during Stage 11 of Tour de France

Dennis released a statement overnight Thursday in which he did not address the reasons for his withdrawal during the 12th stage on Thursday but suggested they were not physical.

"I am very disappointed to leave the race at this point," said Dennis, who has won stages on all three Grand Tours.

"The individual time-trial tomorrow (Friday) had been a big goal for me and the team, but

given my current feeling it was the right decision to withdraw earlier today.

"I wish my teammates the very best for the remainder of the race and would like to thank all the Tour de France fans who cheered for me, at home and on the roadside, since Brussels."

"I will hopefully be back competing in this great race again over the coming seasons."

Gorazd Stangelj, the Bahrain Merida team's sports director, stopped his car during the race on Thursday and ran backwards to where Dennis had pulled up to try and persuade his rider to continue.

"He's the kind of guy who wants to have everything 100 percent and it's not easy to have everything 100 percent all the time," Stranjelj told reporters. "He's a special guy, let's say, all champions are."

Emery talks up leadership role for Holding amid Koscielny doubt

Reuters | Charlotte, North Carolina

Arsenal manager Unai Emery said on Thursday that he was planning for the potential departure of club captain Laurent Koscielny while mulling a leadership role for young defender Rob Holding.

Koscielny refused to join the Premier League club on their U.S. tour amid British media reports linking the 33-year-old French centre back with a move to Ligue 1 sides Girondins Bordeaux and Olympique Lyonnais.

Emery had labelled him an "important player" earlier this week but has now openly admitted Koscielny could leave.

However, the 23-year-old Holding could step up to be one of Emery's "five captains" -- all able to wear the armband when called upon, the manager said.

"I want

one English player in these five captains," Emery told a media conference in Los Angeles ahead of the International Champions Cup match against Fiorentina on Saturday.

"Last year (Granit) Xhaka, Mesut (Ozil) and Nacho (Monreal) were working as captains.

But after Aaron Ramsey and Petr Cech left - and possibly Laurent Koscielny - I will want more.

"An English player who grew up in our academy can understand the English spirit and Arsenal values. These are the qualities and more (we want).

"We are really happy with his (Holding's) progress. We need his performances as a centre back. (Before) he had his injury he was really playing with big performances."

The only other English senior players in the squad are Calum Chambers, who spent last season on loan at Fulham, and fringe right back Carl Jenkinson.



Rob Holding

Klopp committed to Liverpool as US tour kicks off

AFP | Chicago

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said he expects to remain at Anfield for at least three more years as the Premier League giants prepare to kick off their pre-season tour to North America.

Klopp, who successfully guided Liverpool to a sixth Champions League crown last month, was taken aback when asked to comment on reports suggest-

ing he may leave the club when his current contract expires in 2022.

"Wow! I don't think a lot of people get asked that question three years before the contract is expiring," Klopp said.

"We will see. Why should we think about this? At least three years - that's the answer. At least three years."

ESPN reported last month that Klopp was pondering



Jurgen Klopp talks to his team during a soccer practice session

a sabbatical when his Liverpool contract ends. Agent Mark Kocic meanwhile has hinted that Klopp may be interested in taking over as coach of the German national team.

Klopp however was solely focused on preparations for the coming season on Thursday as the Reds begin a three-game US tour against Borussia Dortmund in South Bend, Indiana.

Bahrain advance into round two

Brilliant Bahrain book historic second round berth in FIVB U21 World Championship

● Bahrain defeated Morocco for the second victory in the tournament

● Russia, China, Korea, Brazil and Italy also claimed their second successive wins

TDI | Manama

Bahrain continued their inspired play and barged into the second round of the FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship 2019 yesterday night at Shaikh Isa Sports City in Riffa.

The hosts enjoyed a heart-stopping 3-2 (25-14, 23-25, 25-21, 22-25, 15-12) win over a spirited Morocco for their second triumph in as many games in Pool A. The result made history for the Bahrainis as they advanced past the preliminary stage for the first time in this Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) competition.

Russia, China, Korea, Brazil and Italy also claimed their second successive wins and all five joined Bahrain in advancing to the tournament's second phase.

Russia took down Asian champions Iran in a five-set thriller, while the other four all had comfortable victories in straight sets. The Koreans defeated Egypt, China took care of Puerto Rico, Brazil ousted Canada and Italy eliminated defending champions Poland.

Meanwhile, bouncing back from losses in their first games were Cuba and the Czech Republic. Cuba overcame fellow-South Americans Argentina in a tightly contested five-setter, while the Czech Republic beat Tunisia. They both kept their hopes alive for a berth in round two.

Despite their losses yesterday, Argentina and Iran are also still with a chance to march through.

Tournament action continues today with the final day of the first round. Matches begin from 11.30am and continue until the



Bahrain's Mohamed Haroona looks to set up teammate Mohamed Jasim in attack

night. All are welcome to attend. Entrance is free of charge.

In Bahrain's win over Morocco, the two teams split the first two sets but the home side did well to respond in set three. Morocco halted their momentum in the fourth, however, and in a see-saw fifth, Bahrain were able to overcome a three-point deficit and secure the win in the end.

Hasan Mohamed top scored for Bahrain with 23 points, while skipper Mahmood Abdulhusain added 15. Abdulhusain said after the win: "We feel a little tired now, we have been working very hard, but we are happy because we achieved our goal of qualifying for the next round.

"We made some mistakes because we were a little nervous. But in the fifth set, we concentrated on our weaknesses and our mistakes, and that really helped us win."

Bahrain head coach Yousuf Khalifa added: "This is a big achievement for Bahrain. We are really happy. Morocco have a good team, and we can say that this five set match we enjoyed very much."

In Russia's hugely exciting match with Iran in Pool C, the victors fought back valiantly after twice going down a set. In the decisive fifth, they lost an

early lead and then from 12-all onwards, it was a see-saw affair. Things could have gone either way before the Russians finally closed things out for a 3-2 (21-25, 25-19, 23-25, 25-21, 16-14) result.

Maksim Sapozhkov top scored for Russia with an impressive 34 points. Ivan Kuznetsov added 14 in the win. For Iran, Porya Yali had 30 while Amirhossein Esfandiar had 18.

"It's a game; when you lose the first or second set, it is nothing; it is normal," said Russia team captain Konstantin Abaev. "I think Iran are one of the three or four strongest teams in the tournament and I think we will

see them again in the semi-final or final. I hope we will play well enough to reach these stages. It will be really good for us and I hope we play better and better."

On securing a berth in round two, Abaev added: "Yes, we are going to the next round but still we must play every match and do everything for the win and to get better."

The Iranians must now defeat the Czech Republic today to secure their place in the next stage.

The Czech bounced back from a loss on opening night in a 3-0 (25-21, 25-21, 25-21) sweep of Tunisia in the other Pool C encounter yesterday. Their triumph set up their do-or-die clash with their Iranian counterparts.

Marek Sotola had 12 points to pace the Czech side, while Yassine Abdelhedi led Tunisia with 10.

"It looks like an easy match but the truth is different," said Czech Republic team captain Ondrej Piskacek. "Tunisia played very well on service, especially on float service, so we had problems receiving."

"I also think we started a little bit nervous, but in the end of the sets we played with good defence and blocking. I think that was the key in winning the match."



This is a big achievement for Bahrain. We are really happy. Morocco have a good team, and we can say that this five set match we enjoyed very much

YOUSUF KHALIFA
BAHRAIN HEAD COACH

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Pool A

China bt Puerto Rico 3-0 (25-23, 25-22, 25-23)
Bahrain bt Morocco 3-2 (25-14, 23-25, 25-21, 22-25, 15-12)

Pool B

Korea bt Egypt 3-0 (25-22, 25-18, 25-21)
Cuba bt Argentina 3-2 (25-23, 25-23, 19-25, 22-25, 15-13)

Pool C

Czech Republic bt Tunisia 3-0 (25-21, 25-21, 25-21)
Russia bt Iran 3-2 (21-25, 25-19, 23-25, 25-21, 16-14)

Pool D

Brazil bt Canada 3-0 (25-15, 25-19, 25-13)
Italy bt Poland 3-0 (25-23, 25-21, 28-26)

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

11.30am: Korea vs Argentina, Tunisia vs Russia
2pm: Cuba vs Egypt, Iran vs Czech Republic
4.30pm: Puerto Rico vs Morocco, Brazil vs Italy
7pm: China vs Bahrain, Poland vs Canada

For Korea, they enjoyed a straightforward 3-0 (25-22, 25-18, 25-21) win over Egypt and have assured they advance from Pool B. They face Argentina today in their final game of this phase. Cuba still have an outside chance but must win against Egypt and hope Korea beat Argentina.

Korea captain Donghyeok Im had 19 points to pace the winners. Donghyeok later commented: "This is just the first stage of the competition. We are happy now and quite satisfied to win,

but we still have a lot of matches to play. We will go one step at a time and we can show more of our abilities."

In Pool D, Brazil cruised past Canada 3-0 (25-15, 25-19, 25-13), led by the 14 points of Victor Aleksander Almeida Cardoso.

Brazil captain Rhendrick Resley Rosa commented: "We came to play this match in a very decisive manner. We came in for the kill. We didn't really start in the best situations but towards the third set, we had it all figured out and we played a lot better."



Bahrain's Hasan Mohamed goes for a power smash

Solskjaer targets more signings

AFP | Singapore

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said yesterday the club is working on one or two more signings as he hopes to hit the ground running in the new campaign after stuttering badly towards the end of last season. Solskjaer enjoyed a stellar start after replacing Jose Mourinho in December, winning 10 and drawing two of his first 12 Premier League fixtures.

But a stunning slump in form saw the side finish sixth in the standings, 32 points behind champions Manchester City.

Aware that his imbalanced squad needed a major overhaul, Solskjaer has already recruited midfielder Daniel James and



Manchester United's Eric Bailly (C) takes part in a training session in Singapore

fullback Aaron Wan-Bissaka, with the club strongly linked to England central defender Harry Maguire and Portuguese playmaker Bruno Fernandes.

"We are working on one or two (signings). My objective here though is we have got to

get ready for the games and the training sessions," the Norwegian told reporters in Singapore on the eve of a pre-season friendly against Inter Milan.

"We are working on putting a squad together which can compete, we have lots of ways which

can play. The Premier League is a very competitive league. Our aim is to focus on ourselves, we have to be better and be our only focus. I am sure we will get closer to the top."

United have already seen midfielder Ander Herrera depart for Paris Saint-Germain and while question marks remain over the futures of Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku and the talismanic Paul Pogba, Solskjaer is continuing to prepare for the new season with the Frenchman central to his plans. "I am looking to get everyone to get their form back to when we first came in. It is not just about Pogba, it is about all of us as a team," he said, adding that Lukaku was not fit to face the Italian side today.

England's Stokes nominated for New Zealander of the Year award

Reuters | Wellington

After ripping the heart out of New Zealand's bleary-eyed cricket fans on Sunday with a man-of-the-match performance in the Cricket World Cup final, England all-rounder Ben Stokes has now been nominated for the New Zealander of the Year award.

The 28-year-old Stokes was born in New Zealand but grew up in England when his father Gerard moved there to take a rugby league coaching job.

Stokes remained in England when his parents returned home and carved out a successful cricketing career, scoring 84 not out in the final that helped his side to their maid-



England's Ben Stokes

en 50-over World Cup title at Lord's on Sunday. His exploits in the final earned some early nominations for the awards, as did New Zealand captain Kane Williamson, local media reported yesterday.

Nominations for the award only opened on July 1 and close on Sept. 15. A shortlist is confirmed in December with the winner named next February.