

Ariana steps out with friends as she heals

Singer Ariana Grande, who has kept a low profile following the death of her former boyfriend Mac Miller earlier this month, stepped out to enjoy a day with friends a day after she chose not to attend the Emmy Awards. **P16**

OP-ED **8** Being in Bahrain was a major eye-opener

THE DAILY **tribune**

India rout Pakistan by eight wickets **16** SPORTS



WORLD **7** North Korea's pledge to scrap military sites

Import ban on Julphar drugs

Manama

Bahrain has stopped importing all drugs produced by the Gulf Pharmaceutical Industries (Julphar).

The National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) has directed government departments and the main supplier of Julphar drugs to enforce the ban.

In a statement issued yesterday, the authority said that the ban does not apply to Julphar drugs which are currently available in the market in Bahrain.

"The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) has already temporarily suspended imports of a number of drugs produced by Julphar, over remarks related to the principles of pharmaceutical manufacturing."



Peace, a common goal

'Peace capable of opening up endless horizons of cooperation between nations'

● **The process of building and development requires the provision of essential and indispensable elements, mainly the appropriate environment for peace, observes HRH the Premier.**

Manama

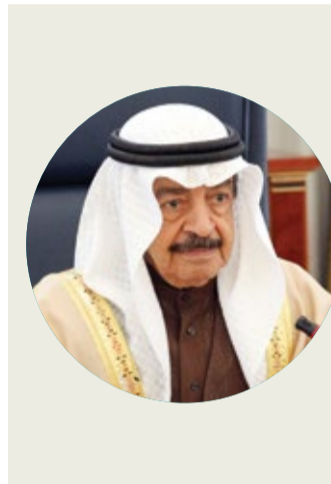
His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has stressed that the primary and most urgent responsibility of the international community at the present time is to develop an international collective action system and to put in place more effective mechanisms to

achieve a comprehensive and mutually acceptable peace.

In a message to the international community on the International Day of Peace 2018, HRH Prince Khalifa pointed out that the achievement of global and regional peace is a necessity for which every effort should be made.

"The Kingdom, under the wise vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, has embodied the human values of peaceful coexistence between different cultures and beliefs. Bahrain will continue to be an active partner in serving the just causes of the world and in contributing to the spread of security, peace and stability around the globe," HRH the Premier said.

Peace, cooperation and co-existence are lofty human values whenever they are achieved and



The observance of the International Day of Peace is an important occasion to remind the international community that peace is a common responsibility because the challenges and dangers affect everyone.

HRH THE PREMIER

international community that peace is a common responsibility because the challenges and dangers affect everyone."

Bahrain supports any partnerships that promote the conditions of people everywhere and achieve balanced development for all, the Premier pointed out.

"The Kingdom believes that peace is capable of opening up endless horizons of cooperation between nations and peoples."

HRH the Prime Minister lauded the efforts made by the UN in stimulating countries to move forward on the path of peace. He expressed hope that the determination of the international community would take courageous steps to achieve peace in various parts of the world and open up new horizons for cooperation in the development of efforts to build a more prosperous future for mankind.

provide humankind with the elements that will help it achieve the development that will ensure a secure and prosperous life for its people, HRH Prince Khalifa added in the message marking the International Day

of Peace celebrated this year under the theme "The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70". "The observance of the International Day of Peace is an important occasion to remind the



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Uproar over university 'expelling students' who scored low marks

UoB decision follows recommendations by a special committee to improve educational standards

TDT | Manama
Thamer Tayfoor

The students' council has rapped the University of Bahrain's (UoB) decision to reject the pleas submitted by the students who were reportedly expelled for scoring low annual Grade Points Average (GPA).

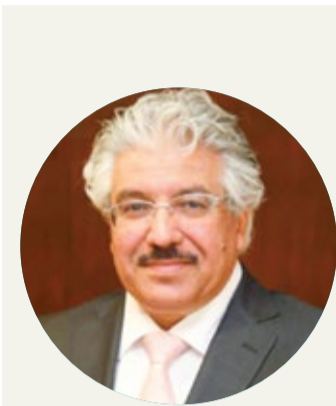
The university's decision follows the recommendations by a special committee to study the cases of students whose scores remained below average and had requested a second chance to continue their classes.

Speaking to Tribune, council member Muath Al Kailani said the decision would do more harm than good.

"Earlier, students were granted five opportunities to enhance their scores before warnings were issued. The new regulations are being implemented against the students who joined after 2017.

"We have learnt that the committee has completed responding to most students' requests to be granted a second chance, and the majority of the requests were rejected.

"A few were allowed to resume classes, while some appli-



” The university has set a variety of bylaws related to students' GPAs. These regulations were a result of long years of studying students' conditions, circumstances and their ability to continue their education.

DR HAMZA



Many students have reportedly submitted their pleas against expelling from courses.

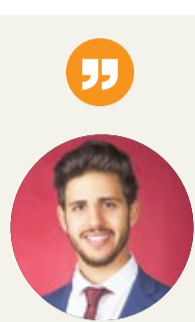
cations are being studied. Some of the accepted excuses that were provided by the students include deaths of relatives and medical conditions."

Echoing a similar view, Abdulaziz Al Homri, another council member said, "The majority of the submitted requests were rejected by the committee. We demand the committee to take students' excuses into consideration and understand their conditions. These students deserve a second chance. More assistance and understanding is required from the committee's part."

On the flip side, UoB President Dr Riyadh Hamza said that the university will allow students who have submitted 'acceptable excuses' to be enrolled in the next academic year and this move reflects the university's concern for the academic future of these students.

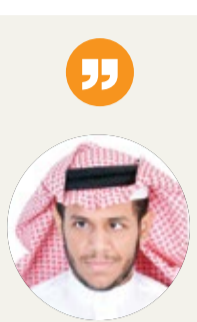
"The university has set a variety of bylaws related to students' GPAs. These regulations were a result of long years of studying students' conditions, circumstances and their ability to continue their education in the university.

"The UoB has also taken several steps to ensure that stu-



” We have learnt that the committee has completed responding to most students' requests to be granted a second chance, and the majority of the requests were rejected.

MR AL KAILANI



” The majority of the submitted requests were rejected by the committee. We demand the committee to take students' excuses into consideration and understand their conditions.

MR AL HOMRI

dents have fully understood the university's norms, rules and regulations before they register," Dr Hamza stated.

When asked about the students whose pleas were re-

jected, Dr Hamza said, "They should visit the registration department in the university and provide the required documents, if any, to substantiate their claims."

Women's collective on a rare cooking mission

● 'Muharram kitchen' has been part of Malkiya traditions for a long time now.

TDT | Manama
Amani Al Maskati

More than 60 women gather every day in a small village on the western coast of the island for a special mission - cooking food for those who take part in mourning processions as part of the Ashoora rituals.

They prepare about 750 kg of food every day before distributing them to mourners and visitors to the village.

'Muharram kitchen' has been part of Malkiya traditions for a long time now. Speaking to Tribune, Alawi Habeeb, a Malkiya resident, who is in charge of these kitchens, said that preparations to serve food begin well in advance.



A woman is seen cooking food for the mourners and visitors to Malkiya village.

”

We have been collectively working to serve food to mourners and visitors while making sure that no food gets wasted. This is one tradition we inherited from our ancestors.

MR HABEEB

These kitchens are known as Mudheef and have been part of the Ashoora season since 2003.

"We have been collectively working to serve food to mourners and visitors while making sure that no food gets wasted. This is one tradition we inherited from our ancestors. Every year we work hard to preserve this tradition."

"The team begins their work early morning. We use wood and palm tree branches for cooking, which lasts for over seven hours. But, we ensure that the food is well cooked."

750

kg of food is prepared every day by the groups of women marking the Ashoora season.

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Call to explore technologies to tackle fake degree crisis

Technology could be the answer to prevent fraud in the education sector, says expert

● The Kingdom has launched a large-scale investigation into fake degrees after a massive scam hit the country regarding professional hiring and promotions.

● Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has ordered the Higher Educational Council and its academic accreditation committees to verify the information on certificates awarded by fake or unrecognised universities outside the Kingdom.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Upgrading the existing technologies utilised in the education sector would solve the fake degree crisis that has engulfed Bahrain while preventing similar scandals in the future, it was proposed.

Technology could be the answer to prevent fraud in the education sector; however, this would need the educational authority as well as the colleges and universities making use of the blockchain technology, said Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH) blockchain committee Head Fawaz Shakrallah.

He told Tribune that the certain advantages offered by the technology allows for verifying authenticity, to protect against corruption as well in bringing down the costs.

"The biggest problem we faced with educational qualification is the certificates, that we get fake PhD certificates from fake univer-

sities and master's certificates that are fake as well. With blockchain, the university will issue the certificate and issue transactions on the blockchain network.

"That way it is authenticated, anybody can go on the system and check and confirm that this is actually original and authenticated by and issued by a respected university so it avoids fraud and counterfeit and malicious attackers and hackers."

"When issuing an educational certificate there would be a transaction stamp on the certificate to confirm that this is original, anyone can go and scan it and open the universities original app on the mobile and it will tell them that this certificate is original.

"On the other hand if you need to check if the university is fake or not, the Ministry of Education and the educational authorities would need to be involved. For example if a new university opens up, they have to register their information with the Ministry of Education,



”

When issuing an educational certificate there would be a transaction stamp on the certificate to confirm that this is original. Anyone can go and scan it and open the universities original app on the mobile and it will tell them that this certificate is original.

MR SHAKRALLAH

and the ministry would have to tell them that they need to put their records on a blockchain to confirm that this is authentic and clear and the university has to go and submit their documents on the application which the ministry of education has.

"This way you can confirm if it is original and approved by the ministry of education. If the min-

istry approves a fake university then that is a different problem," he said.

He said that this is much better than the current system. "This is better than the Ministry of Education using the current technology because in the current system there are chances for corruption activities, for example if a department head is corrupt or he knows

he can actually approve fake universities and stamp them, he may be able to do it.

"But they can actually protect against this using blockchain by telling the departments to make sure new universities being created must submit their documents on a blockchain application, this way those people who are corrupted don't have a chance."

Bahrain has launched a large-scale investigation into fake degrees after a massive scam hit the country regarding professional hiring and promotions.

Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has ordered the Higher Educational Council and its academic accreditation committees to verify the information on certificates awarded by fake or unrecognised universities outside Bahrain.

The committee will investigate false or forged certificates owned by private and public sector employees.

Imam Hussain Blood Donation Drive 'a big success'



Hundreds of donors made the event a big success.



Many healthcare professionals volunteered for the event.

TDT | Manama

Hundreds of people donated blood during the past two days in what was termed the largest blood donation drive in the Kingdom.

Imam Hussain Campaign for Blood Donation, the largest blood donation drive in Bahrain was held in the past two days in Manama.

Blood was collected from hundreds of people, which will be stored at the blood bank.

Women donated blood at the camp

”

People from all over Bahrain participated in this event. This was not only for Bahrainis, many expatriates have also come and donated blood.

MR AL SEKRI

from 4pm to 9pm on the first day and men donated on the second day from 1pm to 11pm. Naim Charity Society collaborated with the Ministry of Health to organise the event. Bahrain Society of Sickle Cell Anaemia Patient Care also participated in the event.

The organising committee Vice President Ahmed Al Sekri told Tribune that the drive, which is in its 20th edition, has been a major success.

"Thousands of people have expressed interest in donating blood, but we had to limit the number. But still hundreds of people have turned up. Around 235 of those who attended were women. The first day of the event was dedicated to women so that they have a comfortable environment. The second day is dedicated to men."

"People from all over Bahrain participated in this event; people come from various villages, cities and governorates. This is not only for Bahrainis, many expatriates have also come and donated



blood. People from churches also participated in the camp."

"The whole camp is being held in collaboration with Ministry of Health and Salmaniya Medical Center, so all the units goes back to Salmaniya Medical Centre."

Making online appointments was also possible, although online booking was limited to just 200 people. Organisers said that the online quota filled up within minutes. Over 200 people, including healthcare workers, volunteered to

organise the event and 20 beds were arranged.

Imam Hussain Campaign for Blood Donation is one of the oldest and most well-known blood donation drives to be held in Bahrain. The drive has consistently seen a high turnout since its inception.



A donor poses for a photo

Woman earns court order to rejoin husband

TDT | Manama
Ali Tarif

The Court of Urgent Matters ruled in favour of a Bahraini woman who wanted to rejoin her husband.

According to court details, the woman left her husband a few months ago and since then she had been staying with her father.

"Although she expected her husband to reconcile with her, it did not happen despite staying at father's home for a few months. The husband did not make any attempts to bring her back to his house," sources say.

”

Although she expected her husband to reconcile with her, it did not happen despite staying at father's home for a few months. The husband did not make any attempts to bring her back to his house.

SOURCES

It is learnt that the woman made many attempts to rejoin her husband but the man blocked all of them.

She also sought help from the police before taking the matter to the Court of Urgent Matters, sources added.

The judges at the Court of Urgent Matters who heard the petition ruled in the woman's favour, directing the husband to allow her back at his home apart from fulfilling her other demands.

Verdict date set for man accused of killing father

31-year-old man allegedly stabbed his 59-year-old father to death last October

● **Accused had earlier pleaded not guilty in the court, blaming his brother for the violent episode.**

● **The brother told court that problems existed in the family because the accused was a drug addict and their father was an alcoholic.**

TDI | Manama
Ali Tarif

A Bahraini drug-addict on trial for killing his father will learn his

fate on October 31, 2018, announced the High Criminal Court yesterday.

This came after a mental report to determine his psychological state deemed him responsible for his actions.

The report showed that the defendant was under the influence of drugs and he wasn't under misconceptions or any mental disease.

The incident that led to the case occurred in last October when the 31-year-old became violent after sniffing an aerosol cleaning product called Stop and penetrated a knife twice into his father's body at their home in Muharraq.

He has gone on trial at the High Criminal Court for murder and using drugs. It's said

”
I wanted to stab my brother and my father came in between and I ended up stabbing him.

ACCUSED

that the man also held the same knife to his mother's neck during a heated argument before running after his father and killing the 59-year-old man.

However, he said in his statement before the Public Prose-

cution that his brother was the one who ignited him to commit the crime. "I didn't mean to kill my father, but my brother provoked me. I have been a drug addict for the past five years, and I was under treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital.

"On the day of the incident, I was under the influence of this substance, and when I left my room I found my father reprimanding me for consuming drugs. He was blasting me while my brother was standing behind him making some provocative acts. I lost control over my temper and pushed my father away as I wanted to attack my brother," he said.

"I went to the kitchen and took a chilli powder can which I threw at my father. Then I

went back to the kitchen and took two knives. I wanted to stab my brother and my father came in between and ended up stabbing him."

The brother had told court that it was not the first time the accused tried to attack members of the family.

He said problems existed because the accused was a drug addict and their father was an alcoholic.

He actually described the defendant as "a nice person" when he was not on high on drugs.

Meanwhile, the defendant's sister, aged 19, told prosecutors during questioning that she made unsuccessful attempts to stop her brother from attacking their parents.

GCC national in the dock for using illegal weapon

● **The defendant was referred for trial over accusations of using a gun illegally.**

TDI | Manama
Ali Tarif

A drunken GCC national fired bullets into the air to break up a fight started by him, it is learnt.

The action landed him in police net as he is accused of using an illegal weapon.

He was arrested after a police complaint was filed against him.

The GCC man had initially denied using the gun, stating that he forgot to remove it from his car before travelling to the Kingdom.

However, the Criminal Investigation Directorate confirmed that the weapon was used and that a bullet case was found at the scene after the incident.

The defendant was referred for trial over accusations of using a gun illegally.

Legal action taken against female inmate

● **She was allowed all rights relating to visits and making phone calls as per the Reformation and Rehabilitation Institutions law and its regulations, the official pointed out.**

Manama

The Director-General of Reformation and Rehabilitation announced yesterday that the reports be-

ing circulated on social media networks about female inmate Hajer Mansoor Hassan were false and baseless.

The reports claimed that Hajer, who has been sentenced to three years in jail in a terrorism case, had "suffered bruises on her hand and was not being allowed to make calls to her family".

He said Hajer intended to meet other inmates and tried to hurt herself by hitting her body against the wall.

Since her actions were in violation of the Reformation and Rehabilitation Institutions law and its regulations, legal steps

were taken against her under the rules applicable to all inmates without exception, the official said.

Later, she was taken to the hospital to ensure her safety and turned out to be in good health, he added.

The Director-General said Hajer Mansoor Hassan's medical records showed she had visited the Reformation and Rehabilitation Centre clinic 77 times.

She was allowed all rights relating to visits and making phone calls as per the Reformation and Rehabilitation Institutions law and its regulations, the official pointed out.

Spotlight on human rights



Head of the Shura Council Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee Dalal Al Zayed took part in the 11th meeting of the Arab government experts in enforcing the International Humanitarian Law. The meeting is organised by Egypt's Ministry of Justice under the patronage of Egyptian Justice Minister Chancellor Hussam Abdelrahim and in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Delegations from more than ten Arab countries are taking part in the two-day event in the presence of representatives of national committees of the International Humanitarian Law.

SCW Secy General to attend leading global forum on women

St Petersburg

The Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Women, Hala Al Ansari and her delegation will participate in the second Eurasian Women's Forum, which opens today in St Petersburg, Russia.

The forum aims to consolidate and develop cooperation among women leaders in order to address the urgent challenges and enhance the atmosphere of trust and understanding.

Ms Al Ansari represents the Kingdom at this international forum alongside representatives from over 100 countries. They include world's leading women personalities, women parliamentarians, members of executive authorities, representatives of international organisations, business circles and the scientific community, representatives of civil society organisations and philanthropic leaders.

This high-level representation comes as a recognition to the participants' activities and contributions within the international women's community.

Ms Al Ansari held a meeting yesterday with Amal Al Qubaisi, Chairperson of the Federal National Council in the United Arab Emirates.

They discussed aspects of enhancing cooperation between the Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates in various women's issues and taking



Ms Al Ansari and Ms Al Qubaisi with other members of the delegation.

measures to promote the principle of equal opportunity in various fields

The meeting stressed the importance of building on the achievements of Bahraini women and the UAE women and promoting success stories regionally and internationally through highlighting the contribution of women to the national prosperity of the two countries.

The second Eurasian Women's Forum addresses five key themes: "Women for the Sustainable Development of a World", "Women for Balanced Economic Development", "Women for Social Progress", "Women in the Development of a Global Health Strategy" and "Women for Future Energy".

Ms Al Ansari also held a joint work meeting with Galina Karelova, Deputy Speaker of the Federation

Council, Head of the EAWF Working Group, and outlined Bahraini women's strides as well as political and economic participation.

Ms Karelova also highlighted the EAWF agenda, which highlighting the growing role of women in finding solutions to key social, economic and humanitarian issues so as to bolster global security and peace.

Best foot forward

Walkathon to be organised as part of Smile Initiative to support children suffering from cancer

● The event puts Bahrain on the list of countries that participate annually in highlighting achievements in health and medical services for children suffering from cancer.

TDT | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

The Future Society for Youth will host a walkathon as part of its 'Smile Initiative' to support children suffering from cancer.

Kids 'R' Golden Walk-A-Thon will be held on Friday, September 28, 2018, at Prince Khalifa bin Salman Park, Hidd and the event comes in line with the society's initiative to spread awareness on cancer among children.

The event puts Bahrain on the list of countries that participate annually in highlighting achievements in health and medical services for children suffering from cancer.

Adnan Aljaber, event director, told Tribune, "On behalf of the members of 'Smile Initiative' to support children with cancer and their parents, we are pleased to inform you that the Fifth Annual Kids 'R' Golden Walk-A-Thon" will be at Prince Khalifa bin Salman Park, Hidd.

"The walk-a-thon comes as one of our programmes in Childhood Cancer September events that come in line with Childhood Cancer Awareness Month every September.

"The walkathon which is held under the banner of 'Kids 'R' Golden Walk-A-



Many events are held all-round the year as part of the 'Smile Initiative' to support children suffering from cancer.



The walkathon which is held under the banner of 'Kids 'R' Golden Walk-A-Thon' will include many entertainment and awareness activities which aim to spread awareness on children with cancer.

MR ADNAN

Thon' will include many entertainment and awareness activities which aim to spread awareness on children with cancer and mobilise the community support for our heroes and their parents."

"The proceeds from the event will go to children suffering from cancer in Bahrain. The walkathon distance is a 3.2 km walk, where the entry fee is BD 3 for each participant, who will receive a finishing certificate."

"All the participants can register online or at the Premises of Future Society for

Youth in Adliya before the 26th of September as registrations will be closed and no registrations will be accepted on the day of the event.

"Moreover, we are further calling out for volunteers to be a part of the event as the event is entirely organised by volunteers.

"We are proud to host the Kids 'R' Golden Campaign for the fifth year and look forward to a successful campaign, raising more awareness for the courageous children who are fighting cancer," he added.

Leading life coach to deliver talk

TDT | Manama

For the first time in Bahrain, IECC will present a free seminar on 'Life Management and Mind Power'.

The seminar, which will be conducted by Certified Mind Trainer and Life Coach, Crawford Wilson D'souza, will be held at the Indian Excellent Education Centre today from 7:00 pm onwards.

Mr D'souza is a motivational speaker, certified mind-trainer and corporate coach. He was trained under Dr Jitendra Adhia, (who is an internationally renowned Mind Trainer, Motivational Speaker).

He is also a Certified Yoga Trainer from QCI and a Certified NLP Practitioner from NLP Center, New York, USA. He is also the author of the book titled "Life Management with Colours



Mr D'souza

The questions to be addressed

at the seminar include: Are you living a stressful life? Are you struggling to convert your dreams into reality? Are you struggling to develop work and family life balance? Do you want to know the purpose of your life?

According to organisers, the seminar will help people programme mind for success, will unlock the power of your mind, discover the beautiful landscape

called life through colours of life, master your mind and achieve all your goals and understand the purpose of your life.

"This will help you to lead a fulfilling life by understanding how your mind works and to achieve all your desires in life."

"Through this seminar one can know about Visualization, Vision Board, Memory Improvisation, Achieve Life's Goals and Mind Programming."



Mr Joseph

"Mr Joseph was an outstanding leader for Indian community for over four decades in Bahrain. He has tremendously contributed to the Indian community and served in various positions such as Chairman of Coordination Council for Indian Associations, President of Indian Club, President and Patron for Kerala Catholic Association, Chairman for World Malayali Council, Chairman for Kerala Christian Ecumenical Council, Chairman and Bahrain Expatriate Football League," the association said in a release issued yesterday.

During 1970s and 80s he was in the forefront of charity activities, especially repatriation of mortal remains of Indians from Bahrain. His services and contributions have tremendously helped and inspired the community in so many ways, it added.

Mr Joseph was conferred with Chevalier honour by Pope John Paul II for his consistent services to the community.

The KCA will hold a condolence meeting today at 7:00pm on its premises.

Bahrain lagging behind others in securing intellectual properties

● The 2018 version of the Intellectual Property Rights Index brought out by US-based Property Rights Alliance pinned Bahrain at 45th, while not impressive on a global scale it was also worse than neighboring countries including Oman, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Bahrain is lagging behind globally and even in the GCC region when it comes to protecting the intel-

lectual property of its people, it emerged.

The 2018 version of the Intellectual Property Rights Index brought out by US-based Property Rights Alliance pinned Bahrain at 45th, while not impressive on a global scale it was also worse than neighboring countries including Oman, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Only Kuwait marked a worse ranking than Bahrain this year. Bahrain's ranking at 45 is below its previous ranking when it was ranked 42nd worldwide.

According to economist Ammar Awachi, this could be due to a number of factors. He said that the main reason for the Kingdom to lag behind is because its ecosystem has not been mature enough to help the use of patents and intellectual properties thrive. Speaking to Tribune, he said



Our enterprises compete here within the economy; we need to support them to penetrate new markets so that they can be competing at a regional or international level. The need for intellectual property laws will follow.

MR AMMAR

that gaining Intellectual properties and patents is a vital part of any economy. "Bahrain needs advancement in this area; we always look forward to improve-

ments when it comes to Intellectual property. Our issue is with the eco-system that surrounds it. Enterprises in Bahrain lack the environment to prosper in a

way that they can become more creative."

He said that there aren't many intellectual property coming out from Bahrain to begin with, "We need those enterprises to be more creative and advanced when it comes to inventions, trademarks, industrial designs etc. Our enterprises compete here within the economy; we need to support them to penetrate new markets so that they can be competing at a regional or international level. The need for intellectual property laws will follow."

Property Rights Alliance produced the report in cooperation with 113 think tanks across the world. "Intellectual property rights are a dimension of the competitive economy whose objective is the benefit of the consumer," the report stated.

Best tips for job interviews

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) job cell will conduct a presentation in association with BKS Toastmasters Club at BKS Baburaj Hall in Segaya at 8pm on September 22.

The topic, "How to prepare for a job interview" will be presented by Toastmaster Vibhish Lakshmanan, who works for the Human Resources department of the Nass Corporation.

The event is part of the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam's initiative to notify its unemployed members about job openings in companies partnered with them. The event also plans for an interactive session with job-seekers after the presentation. For more details and registration, send emails to bksjobcell@gmail.com.

Condolences over death of long-time expat

TDT | Manama

The Kerala Catholic Association (KCA) offered its condolences over the death of Francis Joseph, KCA founder member and former president.

Mr Joseph passed away yesterday and his funeral will be held today at the Holy Cross Church in Mutata, Trivandrum.

world

**Iraq condemns
'deputy of IS leader'
to death**

Baghdad, Iraq

An Iraqi court yesterday sentenced a prominent jihadist described as a deputy of Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi to death on terrorism charges.

"The Karkh criminal court in Baghdad sentenced to death by hanging one of the most prominent leaders of IS, who served as a deputy of Baghdadi," judicial spokesman Abdel Sattar Bayraqdar said.

Ismail Alwan Salman al-Ithawi was extradited from Turkey earlier this year having fled Syria as the group's self-proclaimed "caliphate" crumbled.

He was tracked and detained through cooperation between Turkish, Iraqi and US intelligence agencies, a senior Iraqi official told AFP in February.

**Seven die in Brazil
prison riot**

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Seven inmates died Tuesday after a riot at an overcrowded prison in the northern Brazilian state of Para following a failed escape attempt, authorities said.

After 16 prisoners tried but failed to escape through an air duct during the early hours of the morning, after they were detected by security cameras, a riot broke out.

Some 120 prisoners took part in the violence, setting light to a room housing generators, leading to "a part of the cells, infirmary and prison secretariat being destroyed," the prison source said.

Six prisoners were killed by fellow inmates while a seventh died from burns.

**Microplastics may
enter foodchain,
says study**

AFP | Paris, France

Mosquito larvae have been observed ingesting microplastics that can be passed up the food chain, researchers said, potentially uncovering a new way that the polluting particles could damage the environment.

Microplastics -- tiny plastic shards broken down from man-made products such as synthetic clothing, car tyres and contact lenses -- litter much of the world's oceans.

Now researchers of the University of Reading believe they have proof for the first time that microplastics can enter our ecosystem by air via mosquitoes and other flying insects.

Court orders release of Nawaz Sharif on bail

● Sharif, now 68, has been prime minister three times

● He was expelled from office in 1993 on suspicion of corruption

● He won an election in 1997, only to be ousted and exiled after a military coup in 1999

AFP | Islamabad, Pakistan

A Pakistani court yesterday ordered the release of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his daughter, suspending their prison sentences for corruption pending an appeal hearing, his lawyer said.



Jailed former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (C) arrives to attend the funeral prayer of his late wife Kulsoom Nawaz in Lahore on September 14, 2018

"Today, the Islamabad High Court has suspended the verdict against Nawaz Sharif, his daughter Maryam Nawaz and his son-in-law Captain Safdar

and ordered to release them on bail until a final decision," lawyer Khawaja Haris said.

They will be released after the payment of sureties of 500,000

rupees (\$4,024), he said.

It was not clear when the appeal will be heard. The anti-graft watchdog has the right to go to the Supreme Court to contest

Wednesday's bail ruling.

Dozens of jubilant supporters chanted "Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif!" outside the court after the decision was announced.

The Supreme Court ousted Sharif from office last year for alleged corruption.

An anti-corruption court in July this year sentenced them in absentia to 10 and seven years respectively over properties they allegedly owned in Britain, following revelations in the Panama Papers.

Sharif and his daughter were arrested on their return to the country that month to campaign in elections.

Sharif claims he is being targeted by the country's powerful security establishment. His Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party lost the election on July 25 to the rival Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf led by former cricket hero Imran Khan.

North Korea's pledge to scrap military sites

North Korea has agreed to abolish its missile engine testing facilities in the presence of international experts, and "expressed readiness" to close its main nuclear complex if the US takes "reciprocal action."

Speaking at a joint news conference in Pyongyang, South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said they agreed to turn the Korean peninsula into a "land of peace without nuclear weapons and nuclear threats."

Among the steps toward that goal, Kim pledged to shut down the Yongbyon Nuclear Complex which is home to a 5-megawatt reactor, centrifuges, uranium and plutonium used to build bombs, a radiochemical laboratory and nuclear fuel rod production facility.

Kim also said he would abolish facilities at the Dongchang-ri rocket motor test centre which is also the launch pad for Hwasong-15 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) which can



Sources: 38 North, Reuters, Voice of America © GRAPHIC NEWS

reach the United States.

Guard posts and minefields in the demilitarised zone (DMZ) would be removed to transform the world's most heavily fortified border into a no-weapons zone.

Other joint projects include plans to reopen the Kaesong Industrial Complex and the construction of an inter-Korean railway, which Moon has publicly backed, and resuming tours to Mount Kumgang, a landmark considered sacred by many Koreans.

However, former U.S. Treasury official, William Newcomb, who is on the United Nations Security Council's Panel of Experts on North Korea, has warned that joint economic projects with Pyongyang would need exemptions on sanctions from the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee on North Korea. If South Korea does not ask for exemptions, Seoul could violate sanctions and fracture the U.S.-South Korean alliance.

French court upholds fine over Kate topless photos

Paris, France

A French court yesterday dismissed an appeal by editors of gossip magazine Closer, and upheld two 45,000-euro (\$53,000) fines for publishing pictures of the Duchess of Cambridge sunbathing topless.

The court upheld the maximum fines imposed by a lower court for invading the privacy of Prince William's wife Kate with its 2012 publication.

Closer published the grainy snaps of Kate wearing only bikini bottoms while on holiday with the prince at a chateau in the Luberon region of southeastern France in September 2012.

The pictures caused outrage among the British royal family and public.

Anger at Singapore ads offering Indonesian maids

AFP | Singapore, Singapore

Online ads in Singapore offering Indonesian maids for sale were yesterday condemned as "unjust and demeaning", in a rare flare-up of tensions between the neighbours over domestic helpers.

Singapore is home to almost 250,000 maids, mostly from poor parts of Indonesia or the Philippines, who head to the wealthy city-state to earn higher salaries than they can back home.

While Indonesia regularly protests about abuse and exploitation of helpers in Malaysia and parts of the Middle East, complaints about treatment of maids in tightly-regulated Singapore are less common.

However reports that Indonesian helpers were being offered for sale in the city-state on online marketplace Carousell quickly drew condemnation from rights groups.

The adverts under the user name "maid.recruitment" reportedly offered the services of

The adverts under the user name "maid.recruitment" reportedly offered the services of several helpers from Indonesia, while some ads indicated maids had been "sold"

several helpers from Indonesia, while some ads indicated maids had been "sold".

The posts on the e-commerce site, which operates in several Asian countries and describes itself as "a simple way to sell the clutter in your life", have now been removed.

Wahyu Susilo, executive director of Indonesian NGO Migrant Care, said the group "strongly condemned" the adverts and called for those behind them to be brought to justice.

"This is very unjust and demeaning to the migrant workers' dignity," he told AFP.

Singapore's labour minis-

try said it was aware of cases where maids were being "marketed inappropriately" on Singapore-headquartered Carousell, and had got the adverts taken down and launched an investigation.

"Advertising (foreign domestic workers) like commodities is unacceptable and an offence" under local laws, a statement from the ministry said. Employment agencies found guilty of such practices will have their licences revoked or suspended, it said.

Being in Bahrain was a

It is interesting that the Bahrainis probably commenced the idea of setting up



BABAFEMI A BADEJO

The opportunity of another diplomatic travel will always, hopefully for some time to come, be an allure for me. So, an invitation to Manama, Bahrain, from September 9-13, as senior adviser to H.E. José Ramos-Horta, former president of East Timor and Nobel Peace Laureate was a very welcomed development. José Ramos-Horta had rallied the entire world to support freedom for his country and was recognised by the Nobel Committee in 1996 for this role. At independence, he served as foreign minister, subsequently as prime minister and finally as president of his country.

Part of my excitement for participation in the visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain was the fact that two other former presidents and Nobel Peace Laureates: F. W. De Klerk of South Africa, who had joined hands with Nelson Mandela's African National Congress to dismantle apartheid, and Lech Walesa, who led the Solidarity movement – a trade union in Poland that signaled the trend towards the crumbling of the former Soviet Union, and then became president of Poland, were also going to be in Bahrain.

I had met F.W. De Klerk in 1991 when I accompanied General Olusegun Obasanjo on a peace venture sponsored by President Babangida, to explore what Nigeria could do to help the difficult negotiations that

were ongoing at the time to end apartheid. September 10, 2018 was my first meeting with the revolutionary President Lech Walesa.

Another Nobel Peace Laureate, Kailash Satyarthi, an Indian child welfare activist of over 30 years, especially on eradicating the keeping of children in slavery, who shared the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize with Malala Yousafzai was also in Bahrain for the same visit. Professor Anna Tibaijuka, the former Head of UN-Habitat and former Tanzanian minister and a leader in her own rights, was the fifth principal during the visit to Bahrain.

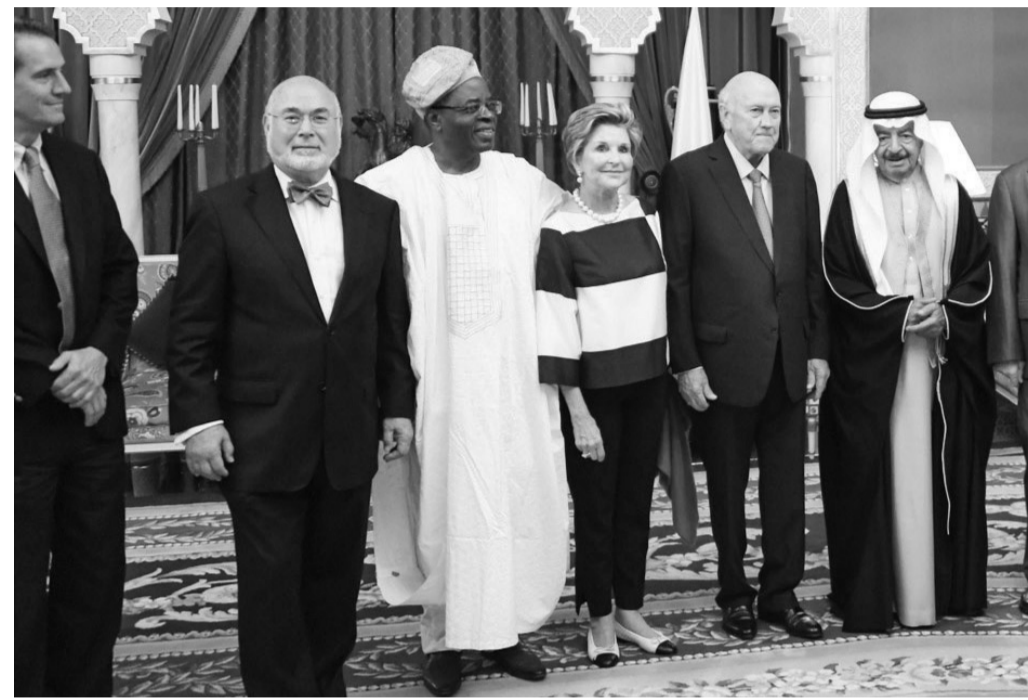
Africa has only produced nine Peace Laureates, out of some 100 individuals (aside from institutional winners), since the beginning of the awards in 1901. Europe, with 50, has the bulk of the Laureates for peace and United States alone accounts for 10, including three who are of African descent: Ralph Bunche; Martin Luther King Jr. and President Barack Obama. On the African continent, South Africa has provided four Laureates, starting with Chief Albert Jacob Luthuli, then president of the banned ANC, who won the prize in 1960 for his Ghandist non-violent effort towards ending apartheid; Archbishop Desmond Tutu defending human rights from the pulpit won his prize in 1984. Of course, Nelson Mandela/F.W. De Klerk shared the prize that recognised their joint and respective roles towards ending apartheid in 1993.

Earlier, beyond the duo of Mandela/De Klerk, Anwar Sadat, as president of Egypt had pursued the peace option with Menachem Begin, one time prime minister of Israel. Both

shared the Nobel in 1978, as a result of the Camp David Accord that President Jimmy Carter had facilitated. The signing of that Accord did not go down well with many Arabs and was given as a possible reason, for the subsequent assassination of President Anwar Sadat.

Kofi Annan from Ghana shared the honour of the prize with the United Nations that he led in 2001. In addition, Africa had late Wangari Maathai from Kenya who is on record as the first female – affording the Nobel Committee the opportunity of a wider definition of peace – to win the prize in 2004 for her struggles for the protection of the environment in Kenya. She not only planted thousands of trees and organised others to do the same for decades, she went to jail in protecting green spaces from encroachment by powerful individuals/institutions in Kenya.

Leymah Gbowee and President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (both Liberians) shared the prize in 2011. This sharing turned out to be very controversial. It did appear that the Nobel Committee became partisan and interfered in the Liberian elections by giving an incumbent president the prize on the eve of an election in which she was seeking mandate renewal. Furthermore, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was criticised as not deserving the prize for being the “mother” of the initial round of civil war in Liberia and for which the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Liberia had recommended that she be banned from politics for quite a while. That the Nobel Committee ignored this development was of concern to many, especially



HRH the Premier with the delegation of former Nobel Peace Prize winners.

Liberians.

Well, it appears the Nobel Committee may be easily forgiving on past misdeeds and President Sirleaf may not be unique in this respect. Or else how does one explain Menachem Begin being awarded the Peace Prize in 1978. And some may even argue that the same should be said of Nelson Mandela, whose strive for freedom by any means necessary has my respect. But then, he had been classified as a terrorist not only by the apartheid governments of South Africa but also by Western leaders like President Ronald Reagan of the U.S.

Important, however, was the criticism of President Ellen Johnson

Sirleaf by her compatriot and 2011 co-winner, Leymah Gbowee. According to her, President Sirleaf failed to speak up against ills perpetrated under her rulership, including nepotism. Leymah Gbowee was reported to have said: “you are as bad as being an accomplice for things that are happening in the country if you don't speak up.”

There is yet to be any Nigerian winner arising from dedication to any issue that bothers on peace, even using the larger definition like the case for Wangari Maatahi or Kailash Satyarthi. Consistency in being at the fore-front of handling many conflicts must not be vitiated by other behaviours that suggest a lack of respect

for the rule of law effect, one cannot of conflict on one fuel into potential conflicts elsewhere o

In effect, being that included fo Laureates is of i is more so when respective exper

recommendations strive for peace an our world. This t well articulated o meeting and at t given by His Roya Prime Minister E Salman Al Khalif spirited efforts to

Kofi Annan rewarded the



ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

Kofi Annan could say everything, sometimes without uttering a word

Since the shock of former United Nations' Secretary-General Kofi Annan's death, I have been reflecting on what made him so special.

To my mind, it is simply this: Kofi Annan was both one-of-a-kind and one of us.

He was an exceptional global leader — and he was also someone virtually anyone in the world could see themselves in: those on the far reaches of poverty, conflict and despair who found in him an ally; the junior UN staffer following in his footsteps; the young person to whom he said until his dying breath “always remember, you are never too young to lead — and we are never too old to learn.”

Like few in our time, Kofi An-

nan could bring people together, put them at ease, and unite them towards a common goal for our common humanity.

There is an old joke: The art of diplomacy is to say nothing especially when you are speaking!

Kofi Annan could say everything, sometimes without uttering a word. It came from the dignity and the moral conviction and the humanity that was so deep in him.

He had that gentle voice, that lilt that made people smile and think of music. But his words were tough and wise. And sometimes the graver a situation, the lower that voice would get.

We would lean in to listen. And the world would lean in. And we were rewarded by his wisdom.

Kofi Annan was courageous, speaking truth to power while subjecting himself to intense self-scrutiny. And like his predecessor as UN Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld, he had an almost mystical sense of the role

of the United Nations as a force for good in a world of ills.

All of this added up to a remarkable record of achievement.

He pioneered new ideas and initiatives, including the Millennium Development Goals and the landmark reforms in his report, “In Larger Freedom”.

He opened the doors of the United Nations, bringing the Organization closer to the world's people and engaging new partners in protecting the environment, defending human rights and combating HIV/AIDS and other killer diseases.

Kofi Annan was the United Nations and the United Nations was him.

He was also my good friend. We marched through life together in many ways.

When the people of Timor-Leste were seeking self-determination, we worked together -- he from the United Nations, and I as Prime Minister of Portugal -- to support the peaceful resolution of their plight.



Family members at Kofi Annan's funeral.

1961

Greek general **Konstantinos Dovas** becomes Prime Minister of Greece.



1967

RMS **Queen Elizabeth 2** is launched Clydebank, Scotland.

1979

A French-supported coup d'état in the Central African Empire overthrows **Emperor Bokassa**

1990

South Ossetia declares its independence from Georgia.

major eye-opener

up a sovereign wealth fund from oil proceeds in the 1930s



from the Philippines, Catholicism is being overtly practiced unlike in other countries where this would be a major problem. Indians probably constitute the largest expatriate community. So, Hindu temples and Synagogues, for the few remaining Jewish families, exist.

The more recent divide in the Gulf that saw Qatar blockaded by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, UAE and Bahrain remains. The US as the major power that should help on this problem, given its having bases in both Qatar and Bahrain and strong relations with Saudi Arabia, appear to have thrown up its arms as its leadership responsibility in the world is abandoned for tweets on whether there was collusion or not in the 2016 American elections. Maybe some Nobel Peace Laureates could summon up the courage and make facilitation/mediation moves that could address a complex problem of regional dimension that is bigger than little Bahrain.

One of the surprises of my visit was an evening at a private/civil society centre, the Shaikh Ebrahim Bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Centre for Culture and Research. The Centre was particularly interesting, beyond hosting an assembly of the diplomatic community in Manama, in listening to two major world leaders – President José Ramos-Horta and Professor Anna Tibaijuka – share the respective experiences. This Centre, led by a visionary lady, Shaikha Mai Bint Mohammad Al Khalifa, houses a centre for high energy physics that is dealing with the issue of “what is our universe made of and why?” This involves exploring the basic particles of our universe and the forces that

It is not often that individuals so recognised for peace in the world find time to come together to share their experiences in the Arab world. So, it was great for Bahrainis to be exposed to ideas on making the world a better place with respect to peace.

bind them together. This effort, in collaboration with the University of Bahrain, is part of the 25 projects being funded by the Centre from family resources and additional support from the private sector over the last 15 years.

I am a novice in this area, having run away from physics in the secondary school. I was, however, enthused that this exploratory effort into our universe is not left alone to the European Centre for Nuclear Research. Bahrain is showing that we should not only be consumers of products from major research centres of the world but we, in the developing countries like Nigeria and Bahrain, can be activists in making contributions. It was pleasing to listen to plans that are afoot in collaboration with the European Centre.

It is interesting that the Bahrainis probably commenced the idea of setting up a sovereign wealth fund from oil proceeds in the 1930s, when a third of earnings went into external investments, a third for

development of Bahrain and another third for governance. I did not have the opportunity to learn more about the current size of the sovereign wealth fund but thought that Nigeria and Angola could have benefitted if leadership in my part of the world had pursued such visionary approach to the common patrimony, as opposed to being a means for corruptly enriching those who had the luck of receiving the mantle to lead. I now know that Norway did not teach the world on this. Ramos-Horta, who used to think East Timor was second, following the example of Norway, now knows that Bahrain honorably set aside a sovereign wealth fund, a long while before Norway did.

It is not often that individuals so recognised for peace in the world find time to come together to share their experiences in the Arab world. So, it was great for Bahrainis to be exposed to ideas on making the world a better place with respect to peace. I personally hope that the Nobel Laureates would push further on the need for a peaceful Gulf, even if the major powers and the United Nations are currently not doing enough to ensure this. There is no conflict that cannot be subjected to dialogue. Facilitation of such may not appear easy, but formal and informal efforts at facilitation/mediation could help when a positive outcome was not anticipated. It may be difficult to have the immediate resolution or improved management. But striving to help must continue with some vigour.

(Babafemi A Badejo, Ph.D. is former head of Political Affairs at UNAMID, Darfur, Sudan.)

on other issues. In be dousing the fire front and pouring l creation of con- on other issues.

s in the delegation our Nobel Peace importance. This they shared their iences and made s on improving the d development in theme was equally during the arrival the state banquet l Highness (HRH) Prince Khalifa bin a. HRH argued for address root caus-

es of conflicts in order to advance development in the world. He equally stressed the desire of Bahrain for tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

In addition, being in Bahrain, aside from the opportunity to meet and interact with many interesting Bahraini leaders and others from the world at large, was a major eye opener on the positive achievements of the Bahraini leadership in deploying the relatively small oil wealth and material support from Saudi Arabia into development in spite of challenges.

President Lech Walesa found time to attend a Catholic mass, thus confirming religious tolerance in Bahrain. With a large labour population

e world with his wisdom



When the UN Refugee Agency needed new leadership, Kofi blessed me with his trust in asking me to fill that role – and then provided unwavering support to protect and shelter the most vulnerable of the vulnerable.

Now that I occupy the office Kofi once held, I am continually inspired by his integrity, dynamism and dedication.

To him, indifference was the world's worst poison.

Even after finishing his term as Secretary-General, he never stopped battling on the frontlines of diplomacy.

He helped to ease post-election tensions in Kenya, gave his all to find a political solution to the brutal war in Syria and set out a path for ensuring justice and rights for the Rohingya people of Myanmar.

Kofi straddled many worlds, North and South, East and West. But he found his surest anchor in his African roots and identity.

The great Nelson Mandela, accustomed to being called Madi-

When the UN Refugee Agency needed new leadership, Kofi blessed me with his trust in asking me to fill that role – and then provided unwavering support to protect and shelter the most vulnerable of the vulnerable.

ba, had his own nickname for Kofi, and called him “my leader”. This was no jest. Kofi was our leader, too.

When I last saw him not long ago at the UN, his bearing was how I will always remember him: calm yet determined, ready to laugh but always filled with the gravity of the work we do.

He is gone now and we will miss him immensely. But I am

sure of this – if we continue to lean in and listen hard, we will still hear the words and wise counsel of Kofi Annan.

“Please carry on,” I hear him saying. “You know what to do: Take care of each other. Take care of our planet. Recognize the humanity in all people. And support the United Nations -- the place where we can all come together to solve problems and build a better future for all”.

Let us continue to heed that voice of grace and reason – that voice of morality and solidarity.

Our world needs it now more than ever.

As we face the headwinds of our troubled and turbulent times, let us always be inspired by the legacy of Kofi Annan -- and guided by the knowledge that he will continue speaking to us, urging us on towards the goals to which he dedicated his life and truly moved our world.

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



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



During every step of this process, I've found every single piece of information from Dr. Christine Blasey Ford eminently credible, sincere and believable. She knew this would have a huge effect on her life and she was incredibly brave to come forward.

@SenFeinstein

02



Animals are one of the greatest gifts this earth offers, and humanity's treatment of them could barely be worse even if the overt goal were to make it as sadistic, torturous and cruel as possible.

@ggreenwald

03



Brett Kavanaugh talking about his high school in 2015: “What happens at Georgetown Prep, stays at Georgetown Prep.” I can't imagine any parent accepting this view. Is this really what America wants in its next Supreme Court Justice?

@SenWarren

04



It's not crazy to think Kavanaugh is innocent, and in an impossible situation because of Feinstein. It's also not crazy to think the accusation is true and disqualifying. Everybody acting like it's 100% obvious one way or the other is a reckless partisan.

@robbysoave

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

business

Amazon, Samara buy India's 'More'

Reuters | New Delhi

Amazon.com Inc and Indian private equity firm Samara Capital have bought Aditya Birla Group-owned 'More' retail chain for an enterprise value of 42 billion rupees (\$580.35 million), CNBC TV18 reported yesterday, citing sources.

Amazon's latest acquisition adds more heat to the US e-commerce giant's battle with Walmart Inc in the Indian market, after Walmart acquired Indian firm Flipkart for \$16 billion earlier this year.

Samara will buy 51 per cent, while Amazon will have the rest, CNBC TV18 reported.

Pranab Barua, who heads the retail and apparel vertical of the Aditya Birla Group, is likely to head the operations of the entity, the report added.

Aditya Birla Group confirmed the development to Reuters, but did not elaborate further.

Criminal probe against Musk

San Francisco

Tesla confirmed yesterday that US Justice Department officials were looking into possible criminal aspects of a seemingly spontaneous, and later aborted, announcement by chief executive Elon Musk on taking automaker private. Shares skidded as word spread of a criminal investigation triggered by Musk's Twitter comments. Tesla shares ended the formal Nasdaq trading day down 3.35 percent to \$284.96. Tesla said it was confident the matter would be resolved with Justice Department.

"Following Elon's announcement that he was considering taking the company private, Tesla received a voluntary request for documents from the DOJ and has been cooperative in responding to it," Tesla said.

US current account deficit decreases

Reuters | Washington

The US current account deficit decreased in the second quarter as goods exports rose, the Commerce Department said yesterday in a report that also showed US firms paid about \$169 billion in dividends from repatriated earnings.

The Commerce Department said the current account deficit, which measures the flow of goods, services and investments into and out of the country, narrowed by \$20.3bn to \$101.5bn, or 2.0 per cent of national economic output, in the April-June period.

Cyprus, Egypt in gas pipeline deal

The agreement, the first of its kind in the region, is crucial for channelling gas from the island's "Aphrodite" offshore field to Egypt and to attract multi-billion-dollar infrastructure investments

AFP | Nicosia, Cyprus

Cyprus and Egypt yesterday signed an agreement paving the way for the Mediterranean's first subsea pipeline to carry Cypriot natural gas to the Arab country for re-export to Europe.

"Today's signing is an important milestone, not only for Cyprus but also the entire eastern Mediterranean region," said Energy Minister George Lakkotrypis after he signed alongside visiting Egyptian Oil Minister Tarek el-Molla.

He said the agreement, "the first of its kind in our shared region", was crucial for channelling gas from the island's "Aphrodite" offshore field to Egypt and to attract multi-billion-dollar infrastructure investments.

A joint committee would be set up in 30 days to oversee the



Cyprus aims for natural gas to start flowing to Egypt's LNG facilities in 2022

project.

Texas-based Noble Energy in 2011 made the first discovery off Cyprus in the Aphrodite block estimated to contain 4.5 trillion cubic feet (130 billion cubic

feet) of gas but it has yet to be extracted.

The Aphrodite consortium, which also includes Israel's Delek and Royal Dutch Shell, seeks to renegotiate terms before it

taps the gas.

It is currently in talks with the Cypriot government over a bigger share of profits to make the project viable.

The discovery of near-



Wednesday's agreement is backed by the European Union in its search to diversify energy sources

by Egypt's huge Zohr offshore reservoir in 2015 has stoked interest that Cypriot waters could hold the same riches.

Wednesday's agreement is backed by the European Union in its search to diversify energy sources.

"We are essentially talking about a European pipeline, intended to transport Cypriot natural gas to Egypt for re-export to Europe in the form of liquefied natural gas (LNG)," said Lakkotrypis.

Cyprus aims for natural gas to start flowing to Egypt's LNG facilities in 2022, thus generating its first revenue from natural gas.

The island has also issued exploration licenses to ENI of Italy, the US firm ExxonMobil and France's Total.

Bahrain-British Business Forum held



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr Abdulhussain Mirza during the Bahrain-British Business Forum held at the Diplomat Hotel

TDI | Manama

Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr Abdulhussain Mirza delivered the keynote speech at the Bahrain-British Business Forum held at the Diplomat Hotel. British Ambassador to Bahrain Simon Mar-

tin, Forum Chairman Khalid Al Zayani, Bahraini and British businessmen from various sectors, were present. The minister spoke of the 200-year old historical relations between Bahrain and the UK, especially in the field of electricity, water and renewable energy. Dr.

Mirza thanked Bahrain's leadership for their keen interest in encouraging investment in clean energy in their pursuit of sustainable development. He thanked the event's organizing committee and said the forum strengthened the relations of the two countries.

Danske Bank CEO resigns over money laundering scandal



Thomas Borgen

AFP | Copenhagen

The chief executive of Denmark's largest lender Danske Bank announced his resignation yesterday as the institution said it was unable to determine how much money was laundered through its Estonian branch.

The announcements came days after the Wall Street Journal reported that Danish investigators were probing transactions of up to \$150 billion "from companies with ties to Russia and the former Soviet Union" that transited Danske Bank's Estonian branch between 2007 and 2015. In early August, the state prosecutor's office for serious economic and international crime said the bank was being investigated and prosecutors would decide whether to press charges.

"It is clear that Danske Bank has failed to live up to its responsibility in the case of possible money laundering in Estonia," chief executive Thomas Borgen said in a statement following the conclusion of the bank's internal probe.

"Even though the investigation conducted by the external law firm concludes that I have lived up to my legal obligations, I believe that it is best for all parties that I resign," Borgen said. The bank said it was "not able to provide an accurate estimate of the amount of suspicious transactions made by non-resident customers in Estonia during the period."

The bank said it would "donate the gross income from the customers in the period from 2007 to 2015, estimated at 1.5 billion kroner to an independent foundation.



Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) employee Elham Asad receiving the Employee of the Month (for July) award from the company's Managing Director Ibrahim Al-Musaitir in the presence of GPIC President, Dr. Abdulrahman Jawahery, the Executive Management and the Deputy Chairman of the Labour Union. Asad joined the company in 2011 and holds an Executive Office Administrator position.

China rejects US claims, demands to show respect

Trump wrote on twitter that China is actively trying to impact and change election by attacking farmers, ranchers and industrial workers

AFP | Beijing, China

China yesterday called on the United States to show "respect" in their trade dispute and rejected President Donald Trump's claims that it was meddling in the US midterm elections by taking aim at his political base.

The comments follow a combative series of tweets claiming Beijing's retaliatory tariffs on US goods were seeking to influence knife-edge midterm congressional elections in November.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang rejected the claims, saying: "Anyone who has some knowledge of China's diplomacy will know that we will not interfere in other countries' domestic affairs."

"We don't want others to interfere in our domestic politics, and we will not interfere in the domestic politics of others," Geng said at a regular press briefing. "On the one hand the US is making contact for dialogue and extending invitations but on the other hand it is threatening with sanctions, with pressures," Geng said on Wednesday.



In this file photo taken on November 9, 2017 shows US President Donald Trump (L) and China's President Xi Jinping leaving a business leaders event at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

"These little actions by the US have become the routine, and we are prepared for them," he said, calling on Washington to show "mutual respect", "sincerity" and "good faith".

Accusations of election meddling are especially sensitive in the US, given the political maelstrom over Russia's alleged intervention to support Trump in the 2016 presidential vote.

China separately also rejected

claims -- made by Trump in the past -- that it has manipulated the value of the yuan downwards to compensate for the effect of US tariffs on its exports.

"China will never rely on the depreciation of the renminbi (yuan) to stimulate exports, because a one-way depreciation of the renminbi exchange rate will have more disadvantages than advantages," Premier Li Keqiang told an economic forum.



Accusations of election meddling are especially sensitive in the US, given the political maelstrom over Russia's alleged intervention to support Trump in the 2016 presidential vote

'Great and fast' retaliation

"China has openly stated that they are actively trying to impact and change our election by attacking our farmers, ranchers and industrial workers because of their loyalty to me," Trump wrote on Twitter.

"China has been taking advantage of the United States on Trade for many years. They also know that I am the one that knows how to stop it," he added, warning of a "great and fast economic retaliation" if China targets American farmers and industrial workers.

Some of the items included in the new tariffs announced Tuesday include daily necessities like diapers and furniture -- which would hit US consumers hard -- as well as solar panels and liquefied natural gas.

Beijing had in July announced a 25 percent increase in tariffs on soybeans, dealing a blow to Trump's rural base in the soy-growing American heartland.

Despite the escalating trade tensions, Washington last week asked China for a new round of trade talks led by US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

The US announced Monday that it would push ahead with tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods, on top of \$50 billion already targeted. This means the additional levies will hit more than half of US goods from China -- its largest source of imports.

After China retaliated on Tuesday with duties on \$60 billion of American products, Trump accused China of trying to sway the elections.

EU weighs new anti-trust offensive against Amazon

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The EU's powerful anti-trust authority launched a preliminary investigation Wednesday into Amazon's use of data it collects from other retailers on its platform, which could give it an unfair advantage.

Amazon is best known as an online retailer, but it also serves as host or platform for smaller sellers, offering an online shopping presence for more modest companies.

The probe comes as calls for closer scrutiny of Amazon and other US tech platforms -- such as Facebook and Google -- increases worldwide.

"We are gathering information on the issue and we

have sent quite a number of questionnaires to market participants in order to understand this issue in full," said EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager.

The EU's concern, shared by many critics of Amazon, is that the company can use retailer data on its platform service to gain an unfair for its own retail sales.

"If you as Amazon get the data from the smaller merchant that you host ... do you then also use this data to do your own calculations, (on) what is the new big thing, what is what people want.?" Vestager said.

The investigation is at a very early stage and the commission could choose not to move forward with the case.

Turkey eases citizenship norms

Ankara, Turkey

Turkey yesterday made it easier for foreigners to become Turkish citizens by cutting the financial and investment criteria required for citizenship, according to a decree from President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Foreigners now need only to have \$500,000 deposits in Turkish banks, down from \$3 million before while fixed capital investment was reduced from \$2 million to \$500,000 dollars, the decree published in the Official Gazette said.

Meanwhile individuals can obtain citizenship if they employ 50 people, down from the previous 100, while those who own property worth \$250,000 can become Turkish citizens, compared to the previous value



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

necessary of \$1 million.

The decree is the latest in a series by Erdogan in what appears to be a bid to prop up the embattled Turkish lira and the economy which slowed down

The lower limit of fixed capital investments to acquire Turkish citizenship for foreigners has been reduced to \$500,000 from \$2 million.

in the second quarter.

Last week, the president ordered that contracts for the sale, rent and leasing of property in or indexed to foreign currencies would not be allowed.

New blockchain platform launched for oil, gas deals

● Dubbed komgo SA, the platform is the latest to use the cutting-edge blockchain technology driving cryptocurrencies like bitcoin

Paris, France

Fifteen multinationals including energy behemoth Royal Dutch Shell and banking giant Citi yesterday announced the launch of a new blockchain platform to facilitate oil and gas

deals.

French banking giant BNP Paribas, Dutch banks ABN Amro and ING, as well as Swiss energy traders Mercuria were among the groups to join forces in creating the new company.

"Fifteen of the world's largest institutions, including banks, trading companies, an inspection company and an energy major have formed a new venture known as komgo SA, that will seek to digitalise the trade and commodities finance sector through a blockchain based open platform," the consortium said in a statement.

The launch of komgo SA highlights a shared vision for industry innovation and underlines the ongoing commitment among members to build a truly open and more efficient network within commodity trading

SOULEIMA BADDI

"The launch of komgo SA highlights a shared vision for industry innovation and underlines the ongoing commitment among members to build a truly open and more efficient network within commodity trading," said Souleima Baddi, CEO of the komgo SA.

Komgo will launch two products by the end of the year, the statement said.

The first seeks to facilitate the "exchange of documents... in an encrypted way over the blockchain technology on a need to know basis".

The second will allow "com-

modity houses or other platforms to submit digital trade data and documents to komgo SA customer banks of their choice".

Long regarded with mistrust, blockchain has over time come to be used far beyond the confines of the world of cryptocurrency -- with banks, luxury firms, sports clubs, entertainment giants and the World Bank embracing the technology over the years.

Blockchain works by allowing digital data to be shared in a highly protected, decentralised ledger of transactions.

Sony to release 'classic' PlayStation

Paris, France

Sony announced Wednesday it plans to launch a miniature games console designed like the original PlayStation pre-loaded with 20 vintage games as it joins the retro gaming craze just in time for Christmas.

Dubbed the PlayStation Classic, the new console comes with a considerably smaller price tag than the full-feature PlayStation with a recommended retail price of just under \$100 dollars and 100 euros.

The console comes pre-loaded with 20 classic PlayStation games such as the 1997 role-playing game Final Fantasy VII and 1998-1999 racing game R4: Ridge Racer Type 4. The console is set to arrive in stores in early December.

McDonald's spared in EU tax probe

Brussels, Belgium

The European Union on Wednesday ended a long-running investigation into the tax arrangements between US fast food giant McDonald's and Luxembourg, finding the setup did not amount to illegal state aid.

With the decision, the maker of Big Mac and McNuggets escapes the fate of US giants Apple, Starbucks and Amazon, which were ordered by the EU to repay big amounts in back taxes, angering Washington.

The case stemmed from a complaint by trade unions and the charity War on Want accusing McDonald's of avoiding around one billion euros (\$1.2 billion) in taxes between 2009 and 2013 by shifting profits from one corporate division to another.

Malaysia ex-PM arrested

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Malaysia's toppled leader Najib Razak was arrested yesterday and will be charged over allegations that \$628 million linked to state investment fund IMDB ended up in his personal bank accounts, officials said.

Allegations that Najib and his cronies looted huge sums from the investment vehicle were a major factor in the shock defeat of his long-ruling coalition in elections in May, at the hands of a reformist alliance headed by Mahathir Mohamad.

Since losing power, Najib has already been arrested and hit with seven charges related to claims he pocketed some \$10 million from a former unit of IMDB.

However his arrest Wednesday was more significant as it related to a central allegation in the long-running scandal -- that huge sums from the fund flowed into his bank accounts before a hotly contested election in 2013.

Amazon digital ad share on the rise

San Francisco, United States

Online retail colossus Amazon is gaining ground in the US digital advertising market as the dominance of Google and Facebook erodes, according to an eMarketer forecast released on Wednesday.

The market tracker predicted that Amazon will take in \$4.61 billion in on-line advertising revenue as its share of the US market grows to 4.15 percent, for the first time surpassing Microsoft and Oath, a subsidiary of Verizon Communications.

First-place Google and second-place Facebook will control a combined 57.7 percent of US digital ad revenues with 37.1 percent and 20.6 percent respectively, collectively down slightly more than a percent from last year, eMarketer forecast.

An accounting change by the company was given by eMarketer as one of the reasons for raising its prediction of how Amazon would do against rivals in the US digital ad market.

British inflation at 6-mnt high

London, United Kingdom

Britain's annual inflation rate unexpectedly hit a six-month high in August, official data showed yesterday, catapulting the pound as markets eyed higher UK interest rates to tame rising prices.

The Consumer Prices Index 12-month rate jumped to 2.7 per cent last month from 2.5pc in July, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement.

Analysts' consensus forecast had been for a dip in the CPI rate to 2.4pc in August.

The Bank of England earlier this month voted to leave its main interest rate unchanged, as it noted "greater uncertainty" surrounding Britain's departure from the European Union set for March next year.

Yemen raises interest rates

Aden, Yemen

The central bank of war-torn Yemen has raised interest rates on deposits to an all-time high of 27 percent in a bid to stabilise the plunging rial that caused food prices to soar.

The bank also raised interest rates on government bonds to 17 percent from 12 percent and banned taking out of Yemen more than \$10,000 without a prior permit, the official Saba news agency reported.

Previously the interest rate on deposits was 17 percent, according to the Facebook account of the central bank run by the internationally recognised government.

The move is aimed at strengthening the rial and reducing inflation.

Egypt plunges as liquidity tightens

● **Biggest index drop in Egypt since mid-2016**

● **Emerging market jitters, currency and interest rate fears cited**

● **IPOs now under way may also be draining liquidity**

● **Saudi Arabia outperforms in Gulf**

● **High oil prices, currency pegs sustaining region**

Reuters | Dubai

Egypt's stock market plunged to its lowest close this year yesterday as liquidity tightened, while most Gulf markets were little changed and Saudi Arabia continued to rebound from six-month lows.

The Egyptian stock index tumbled 3.8 per cent, its biggest drop since mid-2016. On Sunday



A trader on the floor of a stock exchange (Courtesy of Daily News Egypt)

it had plunged 3.6pc after an Egyptian criminal court ordered the arrest of ousted president Hosni Mubarak's two sons on charges of stock market manipulation.

Fund managers said Egypt's slide was at least partly due to jitters in emerging markets globally, although MSCI's emerging market equity index rose on Wednesday, and credit default swaps and currency forwards do not so far show heavy pressure on the Egyptian pound.

"Our channel checks suggest the sell-off in the Egyptian market is local retail and institutions driven, on currency fears and speculation over a further round of devaluation," said Vrajesh Bhandari, portfolio manager at Al Mal in Dubai.

"Selling is further intensified as margin calls are triggered and technical support levels break down. The country cancelled three consecutive Treasury auctions, citing investors' unrealistic yield demands."

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 1.1pc	» 7,730
DUBAI	▼ 0.1pc	» 2,741
ABU DHABI	▲ 0.2pc	» 4,884
QATAR	▼ 0.2pc	» 9,805
KUWAIT	▼ 0.3pc	» 5,322
OMAN	▼ 0.2pc	» 4,485
EGYPT	▼ 3.8pc	» 14,099

Rania Yacoub at 3Way Finance in Cairo cited a "severe lack of liquidity in the market and investor worries about the emerging markets crisis".

Allen Sandeep, head of research at Naeem Brokerage, said nobody completely understood the reasons for the market's losses but they probably included fallout from the arrests of the Mubarak sons, liquidity being drained by two initial public offers now under way, and margin calls.

Qalaa Holdings, which has said its investor relations head Amr El-Kadi was detained in connection with the manipulation case, plummeted 8.9pc on Wednesday.

But investment bank EFG-

Hermes, which has said its non-executive vice chairman Yasser El Mallawany was also detained in connection with the case, closed up 0.3pc.

In Saudi Arabia, the index climbed 1.1pc. High oil prices and the Gulf's currency pegs to the dollar have protected the region from some though not all of the emerging market turmoil.

Riyadh exchange data released early this week showed foreign money continuing to enter the market, although in much-reduced volumes.

Telecommunications firm Mobily climbed 2.2pc while petrochemical producer Saudi Kayan added 2.0pc. United Electronics was up 1.7pc after shareholders approved a capital boost via a bonus share issue.

Rights to a share issue by insurer MedGulf, were heavily traded, rebounding 2.7pc after falling in their first two days of trade. The underlying stock climbed 3.1pc.

Dubai's index shed 0.1pc in narrow trade, with decliners outnumbering gainers by 20 to 11. Qatar's index edged down 0.2pc but Qatar Insurance jumped 5.9pc.

Thousands protest UN job cuts in Gaza

Gaza City, Palestinian Territories

Thousands of employees of the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees protested in Gaza on Wednesday against forced redundancies as a result of US funding cuts, announcing a one-day strike next week.

More than 5,000 people attended the march that began at the Gaza headquarters of UNRWA, including senior figures from the enclave's Islamist rulers Hamas and other

political factions.

The agency announced it would cut more than 250 jobs in Gaza and the West Bank and make over 500 other positions part-time, as it seeks to survive crippling financial shortfalls caused by US aid cuts.

Washington has provided more than \$350 million a year for the agency, but US President Donald Trump pulled all funding earlier this year.

More than five million Palestinians are eligible for UNRWA support, while around three million access its services.

Oil hovers near \$80

Reuters | London

Oil eased yesterday, but held near its highest level this year, as concerns that producers may fail to cover a supply shortfall once US sanctions on Iran come into force outweighed an increase in US inventories.

Brent crude futures LCOc1 were down 15 cents at \$78.88 a barrel by 1116 GMT, having gained 1.3 per cent on Tuesday following media reports that Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, was comfortable with prices above \$80.



US crude futures CLC1 were down 6 cents at \$69.79, after gaining 1.4pc the day before.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other producers including Russia meet on Sept. 23 in Algeria to discuss how to allocate supply increases within their quota framework to offset the loss of Iranian supply.

US crude stockpiles rose by 1.2 million barrels to 397.1 million in the week to Sept. 14, the American Petroleum Institute said.

Official inventory data from the US Energy Information Administration will be released on Wednesday.

Markets ride positive wave on hopes of trade resolution

London, United Kingdom

Global stocks mostly pushed higher on Wednesday as investors looked past the latest tit-for-tat tariffs by China and the United States.

US President Donald Trump said this week that he would press ahead with 10 per cent levies on another \$200 billion of imports, prompting Beijing to target \$60 billion of US goods with five to 10pc taxes.

China rejected US President Donald Trump's claim that it was tailoring retaliatory tariffs goods with an eye towards hitting the US president in the upcoming midterm elections.

It called on the United States to show "respect" to China a day after both countries announced new tariffs on each other.

The developments were a

Key figures around 1540 GMT

New York - Dow Jones:	▲ 0.7pc	at 26,439.16 points
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.4pc	at 7,331.12 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▲ 0.5pc	at 12,219.02 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.6pc	at 5,393.74 (close)
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ 0.3pc	at 3,369.13
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 1.1pc	at 23,672.52 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▲ 1.2pc	at 27,407.37 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 1.1pc	at 2,730.85 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ \$1.1673	from \$1.1667 at 2100 GMT
Pound/dollar:	▲ \$1.3153	from \$1.3148
Dollar/yen:	▼ 112.24 yen	from 112.36 yen

clear escalation in the months-long standoff between the world's top two economies.

However, analysts said the retaliatory measures were not as painful as they could have been. "Now that Washington DC and

Beijing have stepped up their tactics, there is a feeling in the markets that a weight has been lifted as we have gotten over a hump," said market analyst David Madden at CMC Markets UK. "The trade dispute may have

taken a turn for the worse, but traders aren't expecting another escalation in the near-term," he said.

"The markets managed a spirited open on Wednesday, despite Beijing's tariff response to Donald Trump's \$200 billion attack on Chinese imports and the nearing of a Brexit 'moment of truth' in Salzburg," said Spreadex analyst Connor Campbell.

Europe's main markets followed Asian markets higher.

Meanwhile on Wall Street, the Dow was up 0.7pc in late morning trading, but the broader S&P 500 and tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite were narrowly mixed. Investors were also tracking a meeting of European leaders in Salzburg, Austria, for a summit to set up the last stretch of talks for a Brexit deal. The leaders will then meet

without British Prime Minister Theresa May on Thursday to discuss the hurdles to a deal and a parallel statement on future relations with Britain, following its departure from the European Union at the end of March.

The pound initially leapt on news that Britain's annual inflation rate unexpectedly hit a six-month high in August, but it later gave up those gains on the latest snags in the Brexit talks.

But the pound then retreated after EU President Donald Tusk told Britain that it needed to rethink its negotiating position on the Irish border and on future trade ties with the European Union as part of Brexit negotiations. "The British economy is ticking along nicely, but the political uncertainty is holding the pound back," said Madden at CMC Markets.

SHOW



Emma Thompson and Rowan Atkinson

Atkinson is our modern day Chaplin: Thompson

IANAS | Los Angeles

Actress Emma Thompson says English actor-comedian Rowan Atkinson is our modern-day Charlie Chaplin.

The actors have worked together in



I've worked with him on and off for years, and I've admired him for years. I really do think he's a remarkable presence in our cultural pantheon. I've worked with him on and off for years, and I've admired him for years. I really do think he's a remarkable presence in our cultural pantheon

EMMA THOMPSON

films "The Tall Guy", "Love Actually" and most recently "Johnny English Strikes Again".

Speaking of Atkinson, Thompson said in a statement: "I've worked with him on and off for years, and I've admired him for years. I really do think he's a remarkable presence in our cultural pantheon."

"He's our Buster Keaton (late actor-comedian), our modern-day Charlie Chaplin really. You don't need to hear him speak, he's just funny," she added.

Thompson plays the role of a Prime Minister in "Johnny English Strikes Again".

"She's a real mix. She's (Margaret) Thatcher and (Theresa) May. She is the darkest version of those politicians who use their office because the power appeals. By the time we get to meet her, she is desperate," she said.

"She is making quite catastrophic decisions. Even though this is a comedy and is silly, it has been interesting to think, well what if you did hold that kind of power. This PM feels herself to be very important, and as she senses that slipping away, it makes her desperate, like a caged animal."

"Johnny English Strikes Again" is the third instalment of the "Johnny English" comedy series, with Atkinson returning as the accidental secret agent.

Ariana steps out with friends as she heals

IANAS | New York

Singer Ariana Grande, who has kept a low profile following the death of her former boyfriend Mac Miller earlier this month, stepped out to enjoy a day out with friends a day after she chose not to attend the Emmy Awards.

The 25-year-old "No Tears Left to Cry" singer chose not to attend the Emmy Awards as planned to "take some much-needed time to heal".

She and her friends strolled through the streets of New York City and stopped for a coffee before getting caught in a heavy rainstorm sans umbrellas, reports people.com.

A preliminary seating chart for the 2018 Emmy Awards show, which took place on Monday, had indicated that the



Ariana Grande

"Sweetener" singer was expected to attend the show with her fiancé, "Saturday Night Live" star Pete Davidson.

Both of them did not attend

the show in Los Angeles.

"Given the events of the past couple of years, Ariana is going to take some much needed time to heal and mend. She will be staying close to home and using this period to spend time with her loved ones and work on new music without deadline. She thanks her fans for their understanding," Grande's team told People.

The award show aired just 10 days after Miller's death from an apparent overdose. He was 26 years old.

Following his death, the Grammy-nominated singer shared her sadness on Instagram, first with an uncaptioned black-and-white photo of the rapper, and later with an emotional tribute alongside a video of Miller.

Kanye West moving back to Chicago

IANAS | Chicago

Rapper Kanye West told a crowd at his hometown here that he plans to move to Chicago for good.

Addressing a crowd at OpenMike, an event for Chicago high schoolers hosted by Chance the Rapper, West said that he planned to return to make a permanent return to the windy city.

"I've got to let you all know, that I'm moving back to Chicago," he said in a video obtained by TMZ, reports people.com.

"And I'm never leaving again," he said as the audience erupted into a spontaneous cheer of "Kanye! Kanye! Kanye! Kanye!"

Seeger hangs up guitar after half-century career

AFP | Los Angeles

Heartland rocker Bob Seeger said Tuesday that he was retiring from touring, announcing final dates after a half-century career.

The 73-year-old songwriter -- best known for his hit "Old



Bob Seeger (R) performs with Jason Aldean (L) in 2014

Time Rock and Roll," his 1979 tribute to what then already seemed like a retro musical style -- will tour across North America starting in November with a final date on May 2 in Houston.

Seeger's representative said in a statement that the concerts would be his "final tour" but did not elaborate on the reasons.

But Seeger has repeatedly hinted at retirement and last year underwent surgery for a ruptured disc in his back.

"I hope this pain goes away, 'cause they can never really guarantee it -- and if it doesn't, then I'm done, dude," Seeger told the music site Loud-er earlier this year.

Table listing movie titles, genres, ratings, and showtimes for various theaters. Movies include Johnny English Strikes Again, The Equalizer 2, Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer, Reprisal, Christopher Robin, Batti Gul Meter Chalu, The Nun, The Meg, El Badlah, The Predator, Peppermint, A Simple Favor, Alpha, Mission: Impossible Fallout, The Yellow Birds, Monsters Busters, Farkish, Padayottam, Saamy 2, and Kinavally.

SPORTS

Naomi Osaka blazes into Tokyo quarters

AFP | Tokyo

Japan's Naomi Osaka pulverised Slovak Dominika Cibulkova 6-2, 6-1 to reach the Pan Pacific Open quarter-finals yesterday in her first match since her historic US Open triumph.

The 20-year-old, who earlier this month stunned Serena Williams to become Japan's first grand slam singles champion, fired down 10 aces in a fearsome display of wham-bam tennis in Tokyo.

Third seed Osaka came out with guns blazing and ripped a fizzing forehand down the line on the first point, racing away to close out the first set with a pair of thundering aces.

A dazed Cibulkova, the 2014 Australian Open runner-up, had no answer to Osaka's firepower as the world number seven wrapped up a comfortable victory with a ferocious cross-court backhand after just 59 minutes.

"I didn't really feel any pressure -- I felt it was more fun," said Osaka, who reached the Tokyo final in 2016.

"I'm not really thinking about winning the US Open," added Japan's latest sporting celebrity, who has a Japanese



Osaka hits a return against Cibulkova

mother and a Haitian father and was raised in the United States.

"I'm not sure what will happen when things calm down. But (today) as a whole I played at maybe 80 percent -- I never know the limit of what level I can go to."

Earlier, sixth seed Garbine Muguruza was upset by Amer-

ican qualifier Alison Riske 6-1, 6-2 in an abject performance from the Spanish former world number one, who looked a shadow of the player who captured the 2016 French Open and 2017 Wimbledon titles.

Riske advances to face fourth seed Karolina Pliskova, another player to have previously held the women's top ranking.

The Czech recovered from a set down to beat Australia's Daria Gavrilova 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 and avenge her opponent's defeat of twin sister Kristyna earlier this week.

But she made hard work of it, trashing a racquet in frustration as she slipped behind 4-1 in the deciding set before clawing her way back.

Bahrain set to host top skydiving event

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has stepped up its preparations to host the 3rd FAI World Cup of Indoor Skydiving for the first time next month. The event is organized by the Bahrain Air Sport Federation (BASF) in co-operation with Gravity Indoor Skydiving.

It will feature the best flyers from around the world, with five different disciplines in bodyflight that brings a remarkable airborne experience in one of the tallest glass wind tunnels in the world.

As a build up to the upcoming event, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports assistant secretary general and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) sec-

retary general Abdulrahman Askar received at the committee offices in Seef president of the BASF Shaikh Salman bin Abdulla Al Khalifa and his general secretary Meshari Al Hanafi and executive director Mohammed Al Balooshi.

Askar asserted the committee's willingness to harness all its capabilities to support the federation in bringing one of the world's most prestigious skydiving championships next month.

On his part, Shaikh Salman presented a report on the federation's latest arrangements in preparations for the championship, and thanked BOC for its continues support to in an attempt to make this event a great success.

Azaitar stripped off title

TDT | Manama

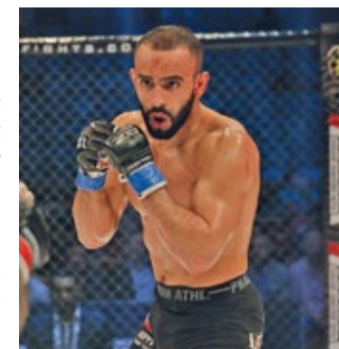
Mohammed Shahid, President of Brave Combat Federation announced that Ottman Azaitar is no longer the champion of the lightweight division of Brave Combat Federation.

The lightweight champion who has an undefeated career record have not defended the championship since November 2017, after winning the title during Brave 9: The Kingdom of Champions.

Azaitar returned at Brave 14 hosted in Morocco, however the champion faced Danijel Kokora in a non-title bout at the welterweight division scoring a 31 second knockout.

"Ottman Azaitar had a great career with the Brave Combat Federation he fought a really good fight in Morocco which is not for the title. If you look at the lightweight division today keeping the Ottman's fight at Morocco apart, we did not had a title defence almost for an year at this point. Which is something that is very unfair for the division as a whole. And we have to make a decision on that", said Mohammed Shahid.

Lightweight division witnessed growth over the year with multiple global athletes signing in to the division. With the welterweight title being contested during Brave 16 by



Ottman Azaitar

the champion Carlston Harris against Jarrah Al Selawe, the lightweight championship remains the only title to be defended.

The athlete relations of Brave Combat Federation was informed that Azaitar will not be competing again in 2018 which had led to take the step.

"We are confirming in November in Bahrain, we will have the 70 Kg title fight and we are trying to make that fight happen for a while now. If we don't have that caliber of fighters willing to fight against the best in the world that fighter doesn't have a place in the Brave Combat Federation. Officially we will be in a position to say that if he is not accepting the fight so will have to make sure that we don't make it unfair for rest of the athletes at 70 kg", added the President of Brave Combat Federation.

Athletes visit embassy of Philippines ahead of Brave 16

TDT | Manama

Athletes from Philippines competing in Brave Combat Federation were welcomed to the Embassy of Philippines in the United Arab Emirates. Vaughn Donayre from Cebu will be up against Brazil's Flavio Serafin in a catchweight bout.

Crisanto Pitpitunge from Benguet will be fighting Bahrain's Hamza Kooheji in a bantamweight bout and Jonathan Corton from Benguet will fight Bahrain's Hussain Ayyad in the Flyweight bout.

The three fighters, together with their coaches were invited to the Embassy and met the Ambassador of Philippines to



Athletes visit Philippines Embassy in UAE

the UAE, Hjayceelyn Quintana. "This is part of our people to people diplomacy to make sure that our Emirati friends know

that we are one with them in terms of promoting solidarity through sports. We are very proud that they are represent-

ing the Philippines here and hopefully we can also mobilise our people to see the event on Friday," said Quintana.

Brave Combat Federation announces weigh-ins for Abu Dhabi event

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation has announced to host the public weigh-ins on 20th September at the Hudayriat Beach, Al Hudayriat Island, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Brave 16 marks the second time the event is hosted in Abu Dhabi. The event which is open for the public will feature fighters representing 16 nations clearing the weigh-ins to compete in the biggest fight night in

the history of mixed martial arts in Abu Dhabi.

The fight night features two championship title fights in the welterweight and featherweight division. In the main event, the first and only champion who is crowned out of Guyana, Carlston Harris will defend the championship against Jarrah Al Selawe from Jordan.

In the co-main event, Elias Bouedzame from Algeria will face Bubba Jenkins from the United States. Also

featured in the fight card are fan favourites including Team Lakay fighters Crisanto Pitpitunge and Jonathan Corton, Bruno Malfacine, Mounir Lazzez, Chad Hanekom, Mohammad Fakhreddine. Bahrain's professional fighters Hamza Kooheji and Hussain Ayyad will fight representing KHK MMA Fight team.

The weigh-ins will be followed by face-offs and athlete interviews. The athletes will also interact with fans and public after the public weigh-ins.

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'Kane can't shoulder Spurs goalscoring burden alone'

AFP | London

Harry Kane is not a "machine" and it is only a matter of time before he is back among the goals, according to Tottenham teammate Erik Lamela.

The under-fire England striker endured another frustrating game on Tuesday as Spurs slumped to a late 2-1 Champions League defeat at Inter Milan.

The England captain has now gone five games for club and country without scoring.

He missed a good opportunity at the San Siro, but Lamela insists Kane should not be the only player to carry the scoring burden for Spurs.

"Harry is not a machine. He scores a lot. He always scores," Lamela said, in comments car-



Harry Kane rounds Samir Handanovic but fails to hit the target against Inter Milan

ried by the British press yesterday.

"Here he didn't and for two or three games he didn't. But he will score again.

"It's not like Harry needs to score every single game. Christian (Eriksen) scored, I scored in the last game. Sonny (Son Heung-min) will score. Lucas (Moura) will score. All the pressure is not on Harry.

"All the attacking players need to score."

Lamela says there is no crisis of confidence at Tottenham, even though the defeat by Inter means they have lost three games in a row for the first time under Mauricio Pochettino.

"I don't think we're losing our confidence," he said. "We believe in each other in this team. That's why we always fight until the end of the season."

Ethan Ampadu signs long-term Chelsea deal

AFP | London

Wales international Ethan Ampadu has signed a new five-year contract with Chelsea, the Premier League club announced yesterday.

Ampadu, who signed from Exeter in 2017 with the fee agreed by tribunal, has impressed since moving to Stamford Bridge.

"I'm really proud and happy, I'm looking forward to the next five years," said the 18-year-old, who can play in defence or midfield.

Ampadu has made seven Chelsea appearances so far and could be involved in Thursday's Europa League clash at PAOK in Greece.

Kyrgios 'pep talk' umpire suspended

AFP | New York

The US Open umpire criticised for giving Australia's Nick Kyrgios a pep talk has been hit with a two-week suspension, reports said Tuesday.

Swedish official Mohamed Lahyani triggered controversy last month after coming down from his chair to give advice to Kyrgios during his second round game against Pierre-Hugues Herbert.

The US Open later said Lahyani "went beyond protocol" with his conduct.

"I want to help you," Lahyani could be heard telling Kyrgios, who was a set and 3-0 down at the time.

"This isn't you. I know that. I have seen your matches. You are great for tennis."

Kyrgios subsequently captured 19 of the next 25 games, claiming a 4-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-3, 6-0 win.

Wawrinka on song in Saint Petersburg

AFP | Saint Petersburg

Three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka advanced to the quarter-finals of the St Petersburg Open yesterday with a win over Russian fourth seed Karen Khachanov in two tie-break sets.

The 33-year-old Swiss star Wawrinka, a wildcard entry, knocked off world number 24 Khachanov 7-6 (12/10), 7-6 (7/1) and awaits the winner between defending champion Damir Dzumhur and Guido Pella.

"I'm really happy as the level of my play was really good today," Wawrinka said. "We both played really well, really aggressive."

"I was expecting a tough match and it was really tough. My level was great and I'm really happy with everything that took place on the court today."

Wawrinka, the former world number three, who is now down at 88 after a battle with injury, started confidently breaking his rival's serve early.

Boateng wants clear-the-air talks with Bayern bosses

AFP | Berlin

Germany defender Jerome Boateng wants clear-the-air talks with Bayern Munich bosses Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Uli Hoeness after his off-season transfer to Paris Saint-Germain fell through.

"I think we should talk again in the near future - that's what we have set out to do - it's important for me to make it clear once again that I'm fully focused on FC Bayern," Boateng told the Munich-based newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung.

"And on the other hand, I don't think it's nice when things are said about me everywhere and then you do not get any public support from the club."

In the off season, both Rummenigge and Hoeness said Boateng could leave for the right price.

The burly centre-back was annoyed when Bayern chairman Rummenigge first fuelled rumours of a possible switch



Jerome Boateng

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JEROME BOATENG

has a market value of around 45 million euros (\$52.6m).

Instead, PSG last month signed Germany Under-21 centre-back Thilo Kehrer from Schalke for a reported 37m euros.

The 30-year-old, set to play at Benfica in Bayern's opening Champions League group match, has also bemoaned a lack of support from the club's senior bosses in the wake of Germany's World Cup disaster.

to PSG on the eve of the World Cup, where Germany crashed out after the group stages.

The defender admits a switch to Paris was "a concrete option" and even talked with PSG's head coach Thomas Tuchel about a move, but the deal reportedly collapsed because of Bayern's asking price for Boateng, who

Stokes, Hales picked for England ODI series against Sri Lanka

AFP | London

Ben Stokes and Alex Hales were named in England's one-day squad to tour Sri Lanka yesterday despite being charged with bringing cricket into disrepute.

The pair face a disciplinary panel hearing in London in December following a brawl outside a nightclub in the southwestern city of Bristol in September 2017.

Stokes, 27, was last month cleared of affray following a seven-day trial related to the incident. Hales, 29, was with his England teammate during the altercation but was not charged.

Warwickshire fast bowler Olly Stone, 24, has been called



Stokes was last month cleared of affray following a seven-day trial related to the incident while Hales was with his teammate during the altercation



Ben Stokes

ried, will be available again for the last two ODIs of the five-match series.

Stone, who has struggled with injury problems in recent years, has impressed selectors with his consistent performances this season.

into the 16-man squad for the first time as a replacement for Yorkshire's Liam Plunkett.

Plunkett, who is getting mar-

Indian players visit Hong Kong dressing room after close game



Indian players visit Hong Kong team's dressing room

Cricketnext | Dubai

India survived a mighty scare before recording a 26-run win over Hong Kong in their opening match of the Asia Cup on Tuesday. Chasing a stiff 286-run target on a slow wicket, Hong Kong's opening pair of Nizakat Khan (92) and skipper Anshuman Rath (73) stitched a record 174-run partnership to raise the hopes of a major upset before both their dismissals resulted in a collapse of the batting order, eventually managing just 259 for eight at the end of 50 overs.

After the game, members of the Indian team visited the Hong Kong dressing room and met the promising cricketers. They posed for pictures and

some of them also talked to the players, sharing their knowledge about the game.

While clicking a picture with Indian captain Rohit Sharma and former Indian captain MS Dhoni, Ehsan Khan, who dismissed the Indian wicketkeeper for a duck in the innings, said, "I have been waiting for this moment for the last ten years. It is a dream come true moment for me."

After meeting with the players, Bhuvneshwar Kumar said, "We got together with the Hong Kong players and shared our experience with them - DK (Dinesh Karthik), (KL) Rahul, me and Dhoni. We loved talking to them, and I wish them well for the future matches."

Nadal to miss tournaments in Asia due to knee injury

AFP | Paris

World number one Rafael Nadal has announced his withdrawal from upcoming tournaments in Beijing and Shanghai due to the right knee injury that forced him to retire from the US Open earlier this month.

Nadal had to pull out during his semi-final against Juan Martin del Potro in New York and also missed Spain's Davis Cup defeat by France last weekend.

The 32-year-old said he visited doctors in Barcelona on Monday and has subsequently made the decision to play neither the ATP 500 event in Beijing nor the Masters 1000 in Shanghai.

"While the annoyances on my knee are nothing new, we have decided together with my medical and technical team not to participate in the Asian tour to recover the knee the way we have always done," Rafael Nadal said yesterday.

Firmino good enough with one eye, says Liverpool's Mane



Roberto Firmino (centre) scored the decisive goal for Liverpool in their 3-2 Champions League win against Paris Saint-Germain

AFP | London

Sadio Mane said he had urged Liverpool match-winner Roberto Firmino to declare himself fit for the Champions League opener against Paris Saint-Germain, insisting he didn't "need his eye to play".

Firmino sustained an abrasion to the cornea in his left eye in the weekend win at Tottenham after a clash with Jan Vertonghen and did not train on Sunday or Monday.

Even manager Jurgen Klopp admitted he thought the 26-year-old had "no chance" of playing when he saw him on Monday, but Mane was not prepared to give up on his teammate.

"I think Bobby doesn't need his eye to play so I told him," said Senegal international Mane after the thrilling 3-2 win over PSG at Anfield.

"I sent him a message on Monday saying, 'Hey Bobby, come on, we need you'.

"You've all seen the 'no look' goals so I think he doesn't need his eye to play. I texted him saying, 'You don't need your eye'."

I think Bobby doesn't need his eye to play so I told him. I sent him a message on Monday saying, 'Hey Bobby, come on, we need you'

SADIO MANE

Klopp put Firmino on the bench but brought him on with about 20 minutes to go and he scored the added-time winner to extend Liverpool's 100 percent record to six matches.

"It's a great start. It is too early to speak about anything, but it is very important for us to focus more because we are Liverpool, we are a stronger team, and we will try to do our best every game," said Mane.

Firmino's rare absence from the team gave Daniel Sturridge the chance for his first Champions League start for the club more than five years after joining them and he repaid Klopp's faith with the opening goal.

India rout Pakistan by eight wickets

PTI | Dubai

India ticked all boxes as they clinically decimated Pakistan by eight wickets in a lopsided Asia Cup group league encounter yesterday.

It was a superlative effort from the bowling unit that saw them shoot out Pakistan for a paltry 162 in 43.1 overs before Rohit Sharma (52 off 39 balls) and Shikhar Dhawan (46 off 54 balls) added 86 for the opening wicket to ensure a smooth chase for the 'Men In Blue' in only 29

overs.

This was India's most comprehensive victory in terms of balls remaining (126).

After a wake-up call against Hong Kong, the Pakistan match was a near perfect performance for India as Bhuvneshwar Kumar (3/15 in 7 overs) and Kedar Jadhav (3/23 in 9 overs) were perfectly complemented by Jasprit Bumrah (2/23 in 7.1 overs) and Kuldeep Yadav (1/37 in 8 overs).

If Kuldeep's googly to snuff out Babar Azam was the turning



Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma (L) and Shikhar Dhawan runs between the wickets as Pakistan cricketer Mohammad Amir (R) looks on

Pakistan

Imam-ul-Haq c Dhoni b Kumar	2
Fakhar Zaman c Chahal b Kumar	0
Babar Azam b Yadav	47
Shoaib Malik run out	43
Sarfraz Ahmed c sub (Pandey) b Jadhav	6
Asif Ali c Dhoni b Jadhav	9
Shadab Khan st Dhoni b Jadhav	8
Faheem Ashraf c Dhawan b Bumrah	21
Mohammad Amir not out	18
Hasan Ali c Karthik b Kumar	1
Usman Shinwari b Bumrah	0
Extras (lb6, nb1)	7
Total (all out; 43.1 overs)	162

Fall of wickets: 1-2 (Imam), 2-3 (Zaman), 3-85 (Azam), 4-96 (Sarfraz), 5-100 (Malik), 6-110 (Asif), 7-121 (Shadab), 8-158 (Ashraf), 9-160 (Hasan)

Bowling: Kumar 7-1-15-3, Bumrah 7.1-2-23-2, Pandya 4.5-0-24-0, Chahal 7-0-34-0, Yadav 8-0-37-1, Rayudu 0.1-0-0-0, Jadhav 9-1-23-3

India

R. Sharma b Shadab	52
S. Dhawan c Azam b Ashraf	46
A. Rayudu not out	31
D. Karthik not out	31
Extras (nb2, w2)	4
Total: for two wkts; 29 overs	164

Did not bat: K. Jadhav, M. Dhoni, H. Pandya, K. Yadav, Y. Chahal, B. Kumar, J. Bumrah

Fall of wickets: 1-86 (Sharma), 2-104 (Dhawan)

Bowling: Amir 6-1-23-0, Shinwari 4-0-27-0 (1nb), Hasan 4-0-33-0, Ashraf 5-0-31-0 (2w, 1nb), Shadab 1.3-0-6-1, Zaman 6.3-0-25-0, Malik 2-0-19-0

Result: Indian win by eight wickets

point, Kedar Jadhav's unconventional side-arm off-breaks broke the lower middle-order as Pakistan never recovered from the batting collapse.

With the pressure of scoreboard virtually non-existent, Rohit and Dhawan showed why they are one of the most formidable opening pair in white-ball cricket.

The eighth over from Usman Khan enabled India to cut loose as Rohit first hooked him for a six using the pace of the delivery and followed it up with a pull shot for boundary and then short arm pull in front of

square for another six. With 19 runs coming off that over, there was no looking back for India.

Rohit's third six was another hook shot off Hasan Ali followed by a drive through mid-off to complete his 35th half century in ODIs. He was fooled by a googly from Shadab Khan but by then India were on course for a comprehensive victory. Ambati Rayudu and Dinesh Karthik both contributed 31 to take India past finish line with consummate ease.

The two teams will now meet in Super Four on September 23.

Messi shine but work still to do for Barca

AFP | Barcelona

Lionel Messi had said it was time Barcelona won the Champions League again and he played like a man on a mission on Tuesday, scoring a hat-trick in a 4-0 demolition of PSV Eindhoven.

It was his eighth treble in the competition, taking him above the record of seven he shared with Cristiano Ronaldo to sit unmatched at the top of the list.

Messi marked other milestones too. He has now scored in 14 different Champions League campaigns, with only Raul and Ryan Giggs ahead of him on 15 and 16 respectively. Three times, Messi has hit hat-tricks in his opening game.

"He makes the extraordinary look ordinary," said Barcelona's coach Ernesto Valverde.

"Messi is a man of his word," wrote Marca. "He said he wanted this Champions and he led by example."

The first goal was impressive enough. Ousmane Dembele had earned a free-kick, the reward for a weaving run forward, a yard outside of the penalty area and slightly right.

PSV's wall edged forward, desperate to close the gap, but Mes-



Lionel Messi curls home a free-kick to open the scoring

si arced the ball over all of them, spinning it away from Jeroen Zoet's left hand and into the top corner.

"He has an incredible left foot," Ivan Rakitic said. "A lot of the time when he takes free-kicks you may as well go directly to the place where you're going to celebrate them."

Marca described it as a "Mara-

donian touch". Eight free-kicks converted this year, another personal record broken.

If the World Cup proved anything, however, it is that Messi cannot do it alone and Barcelona will need others to shine if they are to end their Champions League hiatus.

After three straight quarter-final exits, the last a humbling

collapse against Roma, this was a clean slate, a chance, at least to start to put things right.

Turbulent debut season

Andres Iniesta has gone but he was not too much missed on this occasion at the Camp Nou, where Philippe Coutinho sparkled and could have had his own hat-trick had his shoot-

ing been more precise, while Dembele might have been man of the match before Messi stole the show.

With a turbulent debut season, blighted by injury, behind him, Dembele looks like a player back on track.

He won the free-kick for Messi but his goal was a peach too. Turning between two PSV midfielders, he drove into the space and curved the ball into the bottom corner from 25 yards.

"In a team there is room for everyone, good passers and also for those that can break through," said Valverde. "That's where we need Dembele."

The 21-year-old has five goals, already one more than his total last term. "He was dazzling," wrote AS. "Those five goals in six games have buried the worst year of Dembele's life."

Messi, Dembele, Coutinho, and Luis Suarez too, caused havoc but four goals still flattered Barcelona. "4-0 is too heavy," PSV's coach Mark van Bommel said afterwards, and he was right.

They had three good chances to take the lead and Hirving Lozano might have equalised in the second half too, had Gerard Pique not made a scrambling last-ditch block.

CONMEBOL asks FIFA to hold Copa America in same years as Euros

AFP | Asuncion, Paraguay

South American football confederation CONMEBOL announced that it wants to change its calendar so that Copa America is held in the same year as European Championship from 2020.

The Copa America is usually played the year after the World Cup, with the next edition to be hosted by Brazil in 2019.

"I want to make public that we have submitted a request to FIFA to have the Copa America played in even years from 2020," said CONMEBOL president Alejandro Dominguez.

As the world's oldest international football tournament is part of FIFA's calendar, the sport's governing body must give the proposal the green light.

The Copa America was held in 2016 as a one-off to celebrate the event's centenary, when Dominguez proposed to UEFA the possibility of holding a four-team tournament between the Euro and Copa finalists.