



ahli united bank
Ramadan
 Prayer Timings
 Day 16
 Fajr 03:19 AM
 Dhuhur 11:34 AM
 Asr 03:02 PM
 Maghrib 06:20 PM
 Isha 07:50 PM

HRH the Crown Prince hails vital role of Interior Ministry



HRH the Crown Prince during an Iftar banquet for MOI officers

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness yesterday hailed the vital role Ministry of Interior plays in protecting Bahrain's security and upholding the rule of law, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

"The wide-ranging initiatives and programmes implemented by the MOI strengthens community partnerships and preserve the Kingdom's national identity," said His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

HRH the Crown Prince went on to commemorate the Kingdom's fallen servicemen, emphasising that their selfless sacrifices will always be honoured with great pride.

The Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister

was holding an Iftar banquet for senior officers and officials from the Ministry of Interior (MOI) at the Public Security Officers' Club.

Upon arrival, HRH the Crown Prince was received by the Minister of Interior, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

Prince Salman extended his best wishes to the Minister of Interior and senior MOI officers on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadhan.

On behalf of the MOI, the Minister of Interior expressed his gratitude for HRH the Crown Prince's support to the Kingdom's security, and for recognising the MOI's honourable role in protecting the Kingdom and its citizens.

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa also attended the Iftar banquet.

WHO honours PM as 'World Leader'

TDT | Geneva

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa was declared as a 'World Leader' in the field of health by the World Health Organisation (WHO) during its 72nd World Health Assembly meeting held at the UN headquarters in Geneva.

The honour also makes HRH Premier the first world leader to be honoured by the World Health Organisation, thanks to his achievements in sustainable development and the health sector in particular.

The honour was a tribute to His Royal Highness the Premier for his pioneering role and contributions to promoting the public health sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Minister of Health Faeqa bint Saeed Al Saleh received the shield on behalf of His Royal Highness the Premier from the WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Director-General of WHO, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, announced the honour in the presence of heads of states, governments and ministers of health from the organisation's 194 member states.

In a speech marking the occasion, delivered by the Minister



The 72nd World Health Assembly meeting held at the UN HQ in Geneva.

of Health, His Royal Highness expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to the WHO Director-General for the honour which, he said, "Comes from a long-standing organisation with a noble humanitarian task."

The Premier added that the honour is a tribute to the numerous achievements in the health sector, which is a cornerstone of the Kingdom's sustainable development plans.

"This recognition will act as an incentive for all of us in the Kingdom to improve health-care services and make them more responsive to the growing needs of the population," the Premier said.

For her part, the Health Minister described the honour, the first of its kind in the organisation's history, as an important recognition of the Kingdom, thanks to HRH the premier for achieving the SDGs in health.

First-ever set of sextuplets born in Poland

Warsaw, Poland

A woman has given birth to Poland's first sextuplets with each newborn weighing about one kilogram (2.2 pounds), physicians at the University Hospital in Krakow said.

"This is the first birth of sextuplets in Poland and one of the few in the world," University Hospital Professor Ryszard Lauterbach was quoted as saying by the Polish PAP news agency.

The four girls and two boys, ranging in weight from 890 grammes to 1.3 kilograms, were delivered by caesarean section at the 29th week of pregnancy, he added. Their mother is "very involved, smiling and happy", according to the physician who said that the 29-year-old woman already has one two-year-old boy at home.



03 Iran links found to online terror

04 Bahrain, India bilateral trade, investment soar

05 Hundreds protest strict Alabama abortion law



War will pronounce 'official end' of Iran

Trump warns Iran hours after first reports of a missile attack into Baghdad's Green Zone

TDT | Agencies

Tehran was issued a stern warning by the US President yesterday asking to stop threatening America saying, "If Iran wants to fight, that will be the official end of Iran."

"Never threaten the United States again!" Donald Trump said in a tweet without elaborating.

If the US were to be drawn into a conflict that would be the "official end" of Iran, Trump said as Saudi Arabia also made clear that it's ready to respond with

"all strength". Saudi said it was up to Iran to avoid war.

Yesterday's tweets also mark a sharp change in the tone of United States which has been trying to downplay the possibility of conflict.

The heightened rhetoric follows hours after the first reports of rocket attacks into Baghdad's heavily fortified "Green Zone" aiming the US embassy.

The attacks, a US state department official said, failed to hit a US facility and produced no casualty or damages.

No claims of responsibility had been



Donald Trump

made, but the United States said it was taking the incident "very seriously."

"We have made clear over the past two weeks and again underscore that attacks on US personnel and facilities will not be tolerated and will be responded to in a decisive manner," the official said in an emailed statement. "We will hold Iran responsible if any such attacks are conducted by its proxy militia forces or elements of such forces, and will respond to Iran accordingly." In recent days, the US has deployed the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier to the region and reportedly drawn up plans to send 120,000 troops to the Middle East.

HOUTHJI TERROR

Bahrain condemns missile attacks on Mecca, Jeddah

TDT | Manama

Bahrain yesterday strongly condemned the firing of two ballistic missiles by the coup militias in Yemen towards Mecca and Jeddah in

Saudi Arabia. The Foreign Ministry statement termed the act as a "grave violation of all religious, human and moral freedoms", as it also disrupts the sanctity of holy sites.

The ministry commended the

Saudi Air Defence Forces for their vigilance in intercepting the two ballistic missiles.

Reiterating Bahrain's unwavering support to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain called on all Islamic countries and the international

community to unite to eradicate these criminal acts.

The missiles were intercepted over Taif, one headed for Mecca and another towards Jeddah. The fragments of the missile landed in Wadi Jalil, which ex-

tends to Mecca.

The Yemeni government said that it strongly condemns the Houthi attempt to target Mecca, adding that the attack on the holy site is "a full-fledged terrorist act".

The Iran-linked Houthi militias have targeted Saudi border towns and Riyadh with ballistic missiles and also claimed drone attacks on the airports of Abu Dhabi and Dubai in the past.

Khalid Bin Mohammed Mosque opened
TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Khalid Bin Mohammed Bin Salman Al Khalifa Mosque in the Northern Governorate's Hamad Town opened yesterday.

Shaikh Dr Rashid bin Mohammed Al Hajeri, President of Sunni Endowments Council inaugurated the mosque and commended the benefactor who built the mosque.

The two-layered plus mezzanine building accommodates 750 worshippers and features various utilities, and residence for its imam and muezzin.

Man arrested for murder



TDT | Manama

Hoora police on Monday arrested a person on the charge of murder.

The suspect was identified as an Asian national, 34, of Tubli area, said Head of Hoora Police Station of the General Directorate of Capital Governorate Police.

He is accused of beating to death another man, 35, of the same nationality following an altercation inside a house in Tubli.

Police who reached the scene immediately following a tip-off nabbed the suspect while attempting to flee.

The body of the Asian was found inside the home with head injuries with a hard object.

Legal proceedings are being taken to refer the case to the Public Prosecution.

'Well deserved honour'

The Cabinet hails WHO's recognition of the Premier's accomplishments in health sector



HRH the Prime Minister chairing the weekly Cabinet meeting at the Gudaibiya Palace yesterday

TDT | Manama

The Cabinet yesterday lauded the honouring of HRH the Prime Minister as a "World Leader" in health by World Health Organisation as a "well-deserved international honouring" in recognition of the Premier's great accomplishments.

Deputy Premier, HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, extended, on behalf of the session, sincere congratulations to HRH Premier, citing the development of the health system in line with the goals of WHO, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2030). His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa chaired the regular weekly Cabinet session at the Gudaibiya Palace.

Moving on, the Cabinet extended congratulations to the Representatives and Shura Councils for their "constructive and fruitful" cooperation, marking the issuance of a Royal Order

adjourning the first session of the Fifth Legislative Term.

The Cabinet affirmed the Kingdom's firm support to the brotherly Palestinian people and keenness to creating opportunities to improve their conditions and achieve their aspirations for an independent state.

The session underscored Bahrain's backing to all initiatives aimed at boosting infrastructural development in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, citing the "Peace to Prosperity" workshop to be hosted by Bahrain in partnership with the United States of America.

Ensure services

HRH Premier gave directives to ensure sufficient services at new towns while reviewing the progress of Khalifa Town's health centre project.

The Premier gave directives to begin work in the project in September and instructed the Ministry of Health to set up health clinics at the Khalifa Town temporarily.

The 17,000-square-metre Khalifa Town's Health Centre Project includes 12 clinics for doctors, six dental clinics, as well as pharmacy, radiology, laboratory, emergency, physiotherapy, childcare and maternity departments, in addition to parking for 270 cars.

Emergency summits

The Cabinet welcomed calls of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, to hold an extraordinary summit for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) leaders and another for Arab leaders, in addition to that of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in Mecca.

HRH Premier stressed that the wise call by King Salman reflects his keenness on GCC and Arab consultation and coordination amid the current challenges.

Mohammed bin Mubarak Academy hailed

HRH Premier lauded the directives of His Majesty King

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to turn the Foreign Affairs Ministry's Diplomatic Institute into a specialised Academy for Diplomatic Studies, carrying the name of HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa. The session endorsed a draft-decree, submitted by the Foreign Affairs Minister, on establishing the "Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa's Academy for Diplomatic Studies".

Assistance for clubs

The Cabinet approved a draft-edict on extraordinary assistance requests for Bahraini clubs for participating in external sporting events.

The bill aims to regulate the mechanisms of making requests for extraordinary assistance for clubs through setting up a specialised committee.

The session approved the bill for which a draft-edict will be issued by the Minister of Youth and Sports Affairs.

Bahraini-Saudi Council

The Cabinet endorsed the

minutes of the establishment of a Bahraini-Saudi Coordination Council and mandated the Foreign Affairs Minister to sign them on behalf of the Kingdom.

The Council aims to enhance consultation and coordination between the two brotherly countries in matters of mutual interest and in the economic, political, investment and military fields.

Amendment

The session referred a draft-law on amending some provisions of Decree-Law 18/1997 on regulating the pharmaceutical professions and pharmaceutical centres to the Council of Representatives, along with a memorandum explaining the government's opinion on it.

Replacing foreign workers

The Cabinet approved a proposal on training and rehabilitating Bahraini workers in the public sector to replace foreign workers.



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister visiting the majlis of Prince Faisal bin Mohamed bin Shuraim Al-Marri. HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of HM the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and Chairman of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, were also present at HRH's visit to the Majlis

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister during an Iftar banquet for senior officers and officials from the Ministry of Interior (MOI) at the Public Security Officers' Club.

big story

Iran links found to online terror

Social media accounts pumping terrorist materials into the Kingdom were found to have their roots in Iran, Qatar, Iraq and some European Countries. Authorities are warning not to deal or interact with those accounts and networks to avoid accountability



Representative picture. (Courtesy of cnbcfm)

TDI | Manama

Accounts caught posting terrorist materials in the Kingdom through social media platforms were found to have direct links to terrorist elements in Iran, Qatar, Iraq and European countries.

An investigation by the Director-General of Anti-corruption and Economic and Electronic Security found fugitives convicted in absentia here are also targeting the Kingdom from abroad.

The alarming findings emerged following a probe conducted by The Director-General of Anti-corruption and Econom-

ic and Electronic Security into social media accounts spreading seditious contents online.

The uncovered accounts and their activities, the Director-General said, were managed by Yousif Al-Muhafdhah and Hassan Abdulnabi (Al Sitri) - both fugitives living in Germany and Australia.

Their activities, focused on implementing a systematic plan to defame the reputation of Bahrain and its people, seemingly emanated from fake accounts linked to Iran, Qatar, Iraq and some European countries such as France, Germany and Australia.

The investigation found that

The uncovered accounts and their activities, the Director-General said, were managed by Yousif Al-Muhafdhah and Hassan Abdulnabi (Al Sitri) - both fugitives living in Germany and Australia

the accounts were interconnected and are backed by e-cells pumping false information from inside the country, and engaged in promoting their agenda.

Cabinet orders clamp down on harmful social media accounts

TDI | Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa condemned in strongest terms misleading attempts made by some websites and social media accounts to sow sedition in the Bahraini society.

They are “disseminating fallacies and rumours in a bid to target the kingdom’s closely-knit social fabric,” HRH the Premier said warning that those attempts are made by “internal and external plotters and enemies of the nation.” Such efforts, HRH the Premier said, proved a failure thanks to “the cohesive Bahraini society’s awareness and keenness to foil the goals of those malicious accounts, and thwart their evil attempts.”

HRH Premier gave directives to the Ministry of Interior to deal strictly with offending social media networks, through intensifying monitoring and follow-up.

“The origin of those terror cells has been identified and the government is taking necessary legal steps,” the Director-General said.

The statement warned that legal actions will be taken against those posting illegal content or information on social media accounts to hamper “civil peace and social fabric”.

“They are disseminating fallacies and rumours in a bid to target the kingdom’s closely-knit social fabric. Those attempts are made by internal and external plotters and enemies of the nation”

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRIME MINISTER PRINCE KHALIFA BIN SALMAN AL KHALIFA

The Premier also ordered to take strict and stringent legal measures against those in charge of them and the cyber cells that cooperate with them.

The director-general also stressed not to deal or interact with those accounts and networks to avoid accountability.

The official called on citizens and social media users to be cautious when posting information and avoid reposting allegations and malicious rumours that harm security and civil peace.

Bahrain gets 100 varieties of fruits and vegetables from 130 countries



People buying vegetables from a shop



An official doing quality checks

TDI | Manama

Mohammed Zafran

Markets here are flush with fruits and vegetables, thanks to more than 100 varieties of fruits and vegetables flown in from more than 130 countries around the globe.

This process, Ministry of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning said, ensures a constant supply of vegetable

and fruits in the Kingdom’s market.

The Ministry further said it examined close to 8000 agricultural consignments at the Kingdom’s shipping ports in the first four months of this year.

Of the 7960 agricultural consignments, 6790 were for fruits and vegetables.

All of the consignments were

inspected and found to be safe.

Concerned department at the Ministry issued 1354 licenses including 415 for importing vegetables and fruits and 939 for importing plants.

35,000 agricultural consignments were received at Bahrain’s ports last year, which included 330 thousand tons of vegetables and fruits.

“The department has thor-

oughly inspected agricultural products entering the Kingdom via King Fahad Causeway, Bahrain International airport and more,” a Ministry representative said.

“Every step is taken to ensure that the agricultural products are safe and hygienic at the same time speed up procedures so businesses do not lose time.”

Stepdaughter’s murder: Court rejects woman’s appeal

TDI | Manama

A Yemeni woman convicted of beating her 9-year-old stepdaughter to death lost her final appeal yesterday at the Court of Cassation, confirmed Public Prosecution.

Family and Child Prosecution Chief Prosecutor, Ibrahim Al Binjassim, said the court confirmed the seven-year prison term awarded to the woman by the Fourth High Criminal Court on 11 April 2018.

The seven-year jail term is the maximum punishment that could be given in situations like this.

It’s worth noting that the High Criminal Court also called upon the Bahraini legislative body to increase the punishment for “such horrendous acts”.

Identified as Zahra Al Hasisi, the victim died at the King Hamad University Hospital on 30 July 2016. Internal haemorrhage caused by brutal physical assault was cited as the reason.

The fourth grader also had injuries from years of abuse,

Identified as Zahra Al Hasisi, the victim died at the King Hamad University Hospital on 30 July 2016. Internal haemorrhage caused by brutal physical assault was cited as the reason. The fourth grader also had injuries from years of abuse

including burns on her back and neck.

The medical examiner who carried out Zahra’s autopsy told the court that the kid suffered brutal violence for years.

Zahra lived with her father, stepmother, three siblings and two step-siblings at an apartment in Hidd since 2013 after the father was granted her custody by a Yemeni court.

The girl’s father, a Bahraini of Yemeni origin, was also tried for the same charge but was acquitted for lacking evidence.

Bahrain, India bilateral trade, investment soar

● **Bilateral trade between Bahrain and India is estimated to have jumped 40 per cent**

TDT | Manama

Mohammed Zafran

Investment and trade between India and Bahrain have sky-rocketed in the past few years, a top Indian embassy official has said.

According to the outgoing Second Secretary (Commerce) Om Prakash, the bilateral trade between Bahrain and India is estimated to have jumped 40 per cent in about a year.

Om Prakash has been reassigned by the Indian government to the Embassy Cairo, Egypt and is set to leave Bahrain today.

On the substantial jump witnessed in Bahrain-India bilateral trade, Om Prakash said, "Such dramatic increases are also evident in bilateral investments, which is encouraging."

Thanks to constant support from all sides, "Trade between India and Bahrain is increasing constantly and substantially,"



“During my four years of tenure here, I have had the privileged to enjoy immense support from the embassy, the Bahraini government, and individuals as well. I would like to thank Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha for his sincere efforts

OM PRAKASH
INDIAN EMBASSY SECOND SECRETARY (COMMERCE)

Om Prakash told Tribune.

In the period from April 2018 to February 2019, the increase in bilateral trade between India and Bahrain was 40pc.

The increase, according to Om Prakash, in the year-ago period was 35pc. "The year before that had also recorded a significant increase," he said adding: The current increase was mainly due to an increase in the trade of

engineering items."

"Four years ago this was not the case," Om Prakash said. "Such items were not traded much."

Since March 2015, the flow of investment from Bahrain to India has more than tripled, while that from India to Bahrain has zoomed to around 1.7 billion US dollars.

"As per the Ministry of In-



Indian Embassy, Bahrain

dustry, Commerce and Tourism, India is one of the top investors in Bahrain," he said adding: "Indians comprise of the largest number of foreign investors in the country."

The outgoing Second Secretary also pointed out that in recent years participation in busi-

ness meets by both sides has "improved substantially."

When asked about his experience in Bahrain, Om Prakash said, "During my four years of tenure here, I have had the privileged to enjoy immense support from the embassy, the Bahraini

government, and individuals as

well." "I would like to thank Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha for his sincere efforts.

"All credit for the improvements goes to him.

"He has made sure to give his full support to every single person at the embassy as well as to the public," Om Prakash said.

Court upholds twin brothers' prison terms

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Court of Appeal yesterday upheld the sentences awarded to Bahraini twin brothers for peddling Hashish.

The brothers were each given jail terms of 15 years and a fine of BD5,000.

The suspects were nabbed by the police following a tip-off.

Police also secured a search warrant from the public prosecution, as several previous attempts to catch the suspects went awry as the undercover agents failed to convince the duo to sell them drugs.

"When we arrived, one of the twins (the second defendant) tried to flee after serious resistance.

"He had a piece of hashish with him.

"Three pieces of hashish each weighing three kilograms were found from his car," One of the police officers who took part in the raid told prosecutors.

Police officers also retrieved BD14,980 in cash from the suspect's room.

When we asked about the hashish, he said, "My brother stored them in my car."

Regarding the money found from his room, he said, "I didn't know it was there," the police officer told the court.

Investigators later found the suspect as having another apartment, in which his wife was staying.

More than BD41,000 in cash was found from there during a search operation.

The suspects claimed the money was from their prawn business.

Death sentence upheld for cop killer

TDT | Manama

The Court of Cassation yesterday upheld a capital conviction issued for a cop-killer.

The Court dismissed the man's appeal, which was also his second and final allowed against the verdict, as he exhausted another previously. The High Court of Appeals rejected his first appeal.

The man was found guilty of killing an on-duty policeman in Diraz on 18 June 2017 using an Improvised Explosive Device (IED).

The accused was among a group of four who targeted a police patrol vehicle stationed at the entrance of the village.

Policeman, Abdulsamad Abdulla, was killed in the explosion, which also left two others with life-threatening injuries.

Three partners of the death row convict were sentenced to life-in-prison by the High Criminal Court.

Suspects were fined BD1,000 each. The Court also ordered them to pay BD2,301 for damaging police vehicle.



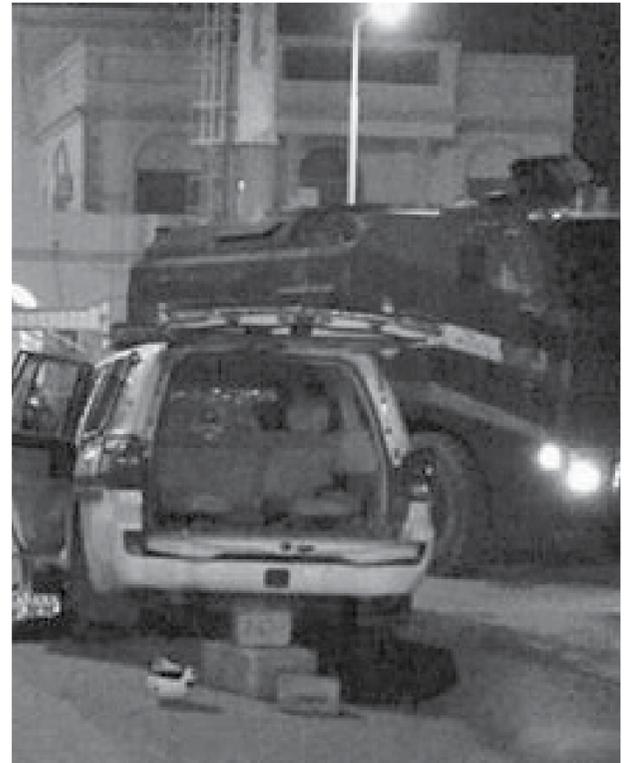
The attack caused the death of on-duty policeman Abdulsamad Abdulla

The Court also stripped their Bahraini citizenships.

The suspects were nabbed a month after the blast.

Investigators found that the accused were functioning under the direction of the wanted individual currently a refugee in Iran.

The masterminds in Iran were also convicted of several terror-related crimes in the Kingdom.



A picture of the police patrol vehicle which was targeted by the defendants

World Quiz Championship

TDT | Manama

The International Quizzing Association (IQA) is introducing the World Quiz Championship (WQC) 2019 for the first time in Bahrain.

The event will be held in association with Q Factory, Kerala Catholic Association (KCA) and S.T.E.P. Academy.

WQC 2019 will be conducted at the VKL Auditorium, Kerala Catholic Association (KCA) on 1 June 2019 from 1.30 pm to 6.00 pm.

The last date of registration is 28th May and for registration contact +97336939596. Registration fee is BD3.

There is no age or qualification bounds set to take part in any of the events.

The same set of questions will be given to the participants across all the venues in the world.

In Kerala, World Quiz Championship is conducted under the guidance of district collectors.

The participants get a chance to directly represent the country in an official World Championship, by completing the test.

"It is truly a matter of our pride to represent Bahrain on this world map of World Quiz Championships," said Aneesh Nirmalan, Proctor of World Quiz Championship 2019.

Sevi Mathunni, President of KCA, said that it's a pride moment to host this event along with the KCA's 50th-anniversary celebrations.



KCA, in association with International Quizzing Association, Q Factory and STEP, will hold a World Quiz Championship on 1st June 2019 from 1.30pm to 6 pm at KCA VKL Auditorium. Sevi Mathunni, President KCA, Abraham John, Varghese Karakkal, Varghese Joseph, General Secretary-KCA, and Aneesh Nirmalan, IQA and Step Academy were present at the press meet

WORLD

US ambassador visits Tibet

Beijing, China

The US ambassador to China is making the first trip to Tibet by an American envoy in four years after obtaining rare access to the restricted region, his embassy said yesterday.

The visit by Ambassador Terry Branstad comes two months after the US State Department said Beijing had "systematically" impeded access to Tibetan areas for US diplomats, journalists and tourists.

Branstad was scheduled to visit Qinghai province and the neighbouring Tibet Autonomous Region from Sunday until this Saturday, an embassy spokesperson said in an email.

Pakistan cricketer Asif Ali's daughter dies after cancer treatment

Leeds, United Kingdom

Pakistan batsman Asif Ali is expected to leave the tour of England following the death of his daughter, who had been having treatment for cancer in the United States.

Islamabad United, the team Asif plays for in the Pakistan Super League, confirmed the death of 18-month-old Noor Fatima in a statement issued late Sunday.

Islamabad United, the team Asif plays for in the Pakistan Super League, confirmed the child's death in a statement issued late Sunday.

Hundreds protest strict Alabama abortion law

● Alabama passed a law that prohibits all abortions -- even in cases of incest and rape

● Trump described himself as "strongly Pro-Life, with the three exceptions - Rape, Incest and protecting the Life of the mother."

Montgomery, United States

Around 400 people took to the streets in the capital city of the southern US state of Alabama on Sunday to rally against the nation's most restrictive bans on abortions in decades.

Women's reproductive rights defenders gathered in Montgomery, as well as in Birmingham, Anniston and Huntsville where hundreds more were estimated to have joined in denouncing the "Alabama Human Life Protection Act," or HB314, which virtually outlaws terminations of pregnancy.

Protesters in Montgomery held up signs reading "her body, her choice" and "we are not ovary-acting." There were no counter-demonstrators.

Several other women were dressed as characters forced to bear children in the dystopian novel and television series "The Handmaid's Tale."

One of them, who gave her name only as Amanda, accused



Pro-Choice protester holds a sign reading "We will not go back" before the March For Reproductive Freedom rally in Montgomery, Alabama,

Alabama's legislators of "trying to imprison women and doctors."

"Wearing the 'Handmaid's Tale' outfit is sending a message that you're trying to turn us into slaves, reproductive slaves," the 40-year-old-lawyer told AFP.

"They're trying to fill prisons, more private prisons so that women will do hard labor after they get convicted of these 'crimes' of abortion."

Last week, Alabama passed a law that prohibits all abortions -- even in cases of incest and rape -- unless there is a risk of death for the mother.

"Our call center's been getting hundreds and hundreds of phone calls from concerned citizens asking us what this means," said Barbara Ann Luttrell, director of communications and marketing for Planned Parenthood

Southeast.

Planned Parenthood is not currently providing abortion services in Alabama. "We'll be having abortion services up and running again as soon as possible," she said.

The Alabama law is likely to be blocked in state courts before its November launch date but Republican Governor Kay Ivey acknowledged when she signed it that it was part of a wider Republican offensive to get the issue relitigated on the national stage.

Republican offensive

Conservative activists hope to get a Supreme Court decision against the landmark 1973 ruling Roe v Wade that said unduly restrictive state regulation of abortion is unconstitutional. Conservatives are counting on



Kentucky and Mississippi have banned abortions as soon as a fetus's heartbeat is detectable, or around the sixth week of pregnancy. Similar measures are being adopted in Georgia, Ohio, Missouri and Tennessee.

Indonesian court sentences French drug smuggler to death



Frenchman Felix Dorfin (L) arrives at a court in Mataram on the resort island of Lombok

Mataram, Indonesia

An Indonesian court yesterday sentenced Frenchman Felix Dorfin to death for drug smuggling, in a surprise verdict after prosecutors asked for a 20-year jail term.

Dorfin, 35, was arrested in September carrying the suitcase filled with about three kilograms (6.6 pounds) including ecstasy and amphetamines at the airport in Lombok, a holiday island next to Bali where foreigners are routinely arrested on drugs charges.

"After finding Felix Dorfin legally and convincingly guilty of importing narcotics... (he) is sentenced to the death penalty," presiding judge Isnurul Syamsul Arif told the court.

He cited Dorfin's involvement in an international drug syndicate and the amount of drugs in his possession as aggravating factors.

"The defendant's actions could potentially do damage to the younger generation," Arif added.

Prison riot in Tajikistan leaves 32 dead



Representative picture

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

A riot at a prison in Tajikistan has left 32 people dead, including 24 members of the Islamic State militant group and three guards, authorities said yesterday.

Five of the inmates and the three guards were killed by IS prisoners during the riot that erupted on Sunday evening, the justice ministry said in a statement. The prison in Vakhdat, 17 kilometres (11 miles) east of the capital Dushanbe, holds 1,500 inmates.

It said the prisoners first stabbed to death three guards,

and then five other inmates "in order to intimidate" the others.

They then took other prisoners hostage before opening fire on the jail's medical facilities.

"Following a reprisal operation, 24 members of this group were killed and 25 others arrested. The hostages were freed" and calm restored to the prison, the statement said.

Among the leaders of the riot, the Tajik authorities identified the 20-year-old son of the former head of Tajik special forces who became a member of the IS leadership in Syria, where he was killed in September 2017.

Sudan talks to resume

Khartoum, Sudan

Sudan's army rulers and protesters resume talks Monday to finalise the makeup of a new ruling body after overnight negotiations remained deadlocked following a "dispute" over who should lead it.

The two sides launched a round of new talks Sunday evening over the form of the sovereign council to rule Sudan for a three-year transitional period following last month's ouster of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir.

The military council that replaced him has faced international pressure to install a civilian-led administration -- a key demand of thousands of demonstrators who have spent weeks camped outside Khartoum's army headquarters. Hours of overnight meetings into the early hours of Monday ended without agreement, but the ruling military council announced the talks would resume.



State Bank of India, Retail Branch, Kingdom of Bahrain
Position : Dy. Money Laundering Reporting Officer (DMLRO)

State Bank of India, the largest commercial bank in India, with its presence across the globe and a leading financial institution in Bahrain is looking at recruitment of a DMLRO for its Retail Branch in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Eligibility

- Age : Maximum 40 years
- Nationality : Any
- Qualification:
 - (a) A bachelor level degree from a University or higher or a relevant professional qualification.
 - And,
 - (b) Relevant certification(s) which include but not limited to:
 - Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist Examination (ACAMS); and/ or
 - Diploma in Anti-Money Laundering offered by the International Compliance Association; and/ or
 - International Diploma in Financial Crime Prevention offered by International Compliance Association; and/ or
 - International Advanced Certificate in Compliance and Financial Crime offered by the International Compliance Association.
 - (c) Excellent communication skills (both spoken & written) in English.
 - (d) Knowledge of Arabic would be a plus.
 - (e) Proficiency & Skills in Computers is essential.

Experience : Candidate must have a minimum of 2 years experience in the banking industry of which at least 1 year experience in an anti-money laundering or anti-money laundering related role.

No. of vacancies : 1

Interested candidates may forward their application along with copies of the requisite qualifications & experience.

(In the standard format available at our website www.sbi-bh.com)
with details of present employer, current salary drawn and expected salary etc. to

The Chief Executive Officer, State Bank of India, Retail Branch, PO Box No. 10763,
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

All applications have to be sent only in hard copy form. E-mails would not be accepted.

Last date of application : 30th May, 2019



Animal in an enclosure on April 10, 2019, at the sanctuary in Jerash, some 50 kilometres north of the Jordanian capital

Animals find haven in Jordan

● Most were rescued from Syria, where the conflict has raged since 2011

● Only one animal -- a bear called Lula -- was evacuated from Iraq.

Jerash, Jordan

For more than a year after being moved to a Jordanian wildlife reserve from war-hit Syria, two bears, Loz and Sukkar, would cower whenever planes flew by, traumatised by past bombardments.

They are among dozens of animals that have been rescued from regional war zones, including the Israeli-blockaded Gaza Strip, and brought to Jordan's Al Ma'wa For Nature and Wildlife.

The sanctuary located in Jerash province north of Amman was set up by the Princess Alia Foundation, named after the king's sister, in cooperation with the international animal welfare organisation Four Paws.

Sukkar (sugar in Arabic) and Loz (almond) are Asian black bears, now aged nine, who were trapped by war in the Magic

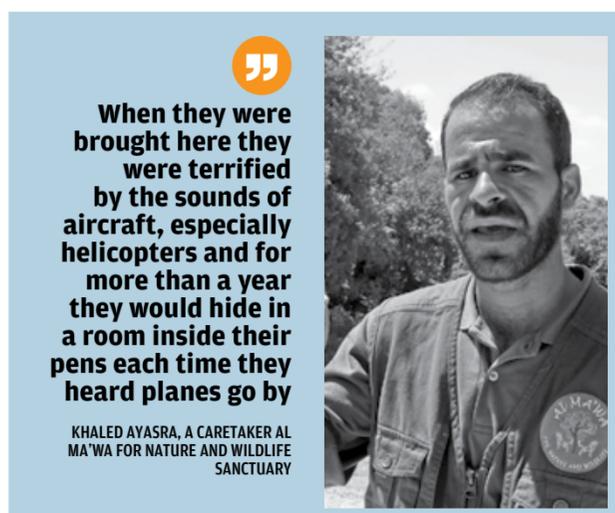


Marek Trela, a Polish veterinary surgeon and CEO of Al Ma'wa For Nature and Wildlife sanctuary

World Zoo outside Syria's second city, Aleppo, before being rescued in the summer of 2017.

"When they were brought here they were terrified by the sounds of aircraft, especially helicopters and for more than a year they would hide in a room inside their pens each time they heard planes go by," said caretaker Khaled Ayasra.

The black bears are among 26 animals -- eight lions, 12 lionesses, two Bengal tigers and four bears -- who live in the sprawling 1.4-square-kilometre sanctuary in a wooded moun-



”
When they were brought here they were terrified by the sounds of aircraft, especially helicopters and for more than a year they would hide in a room inside their pens each time they heard planes go by

KHALED AYASRA, A CARETAKER AT AL MA'WA FOR NATURE AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

tainous region. Most were rescued from Syria, where the conflict has raged since 2011, as well as the conflict-riddled Gaza Strip where Israel has fought three wars since 2008 with the territory's Islamist rulers, Hamas.

Only one animal -- a bear called Lula -- was evacuated from Iraq. Martin Bauer, spokesman for the Vienna-based Four Paws, said most of the animals were in poor physical and psychological condition before being rescued and "often sensitive to loud noises".

"They are usually emaciated, their teeth are in bad condition



and... also suffer from psychological trauma," he told AFP.

'Aromatherapy'

Before they reach the sanctuary, the animals are taken to the New Hope Centre, a veterinary clinic linked to the Jerash reserve, where they are provided with medical care and undergo rehabilitation.

Some are then sent back to their country of origin, while others are released into the wild or brought to the sanctuary to start a new life.

"In our sanctuaries the animals have the chance to recover

from the hardships of their past and very often their natural instincts come back after a while," said Bauer.

He said proper food and medical care is "extremely vital" for their well-being, but the animals must also be able to trust their carers and regain self-confidence. Loz and Sukkar have made huge strides since coming to Jordan.

"They are happier and love to play and meet visitors," said Ayasra.

Workers at the sanctuary use all sorts of means to help the animals recuperate after years of hardship.

They are given a balanced diet, toys such as balls to play with and even an aromatherapy type of treatment -- natural herbs and spices placed in pails inside their pens -- to help them relax.

Bears eat 16 kilos (35 pounds) worth of fruit and vegetables daily, while the lions are given seven to 15 kilos of meat three times a week.

Sultan, the lion, and Sabreen, a lioness, are among the animals who found a new lease on life at the Ma'wa, after their rescue by Four Paws in 2014 from a Gaza zoo following Israeli bombardment.

At first, "Sultan was very, very nervous and would destroy

everything he found inside his enclosure," said Ayasra. "But now he has calmed down and likes to greet visitors."

'Natural habitat'

Al Ma'wa CEO Marek Trela, a Polish veterinary surgeon, said the sanctuary aims to "give a better life to animals who have suffered in different ways".

The wildlife reserve "is very similar to their natural habitat" and helps them to thrive as they return to an uncrowded, natural environment, he said.

"If they like to see people they can... if they don't want to they hide in the forest and they live their own life. That is what we are trying to give them after the hard time they had," said Trela.

"The most important thing is to let them live their own life... to live the way they like," said Trela, a former vice president of the World Arabian Horse Organization.

Although it is not a zoo, visitors can tour the reserve and spend some time with the animals for an entrance fee of five dinars (around \$7).

Over the past five years, Four Paws has rescued nearly 100 animals from Gaza, Syria and Iraq, including 43 who were brought out of the Palestinian territory in April.

Turkey orders arrest of 249 foreign ministry staff

Istanbul, Turkey

Turkish authorities yesterday ordered the arrest of 249 past and present foreign ministry personnel suspected of ties to the group blamed for a failed 2016 coup, the prosecutor's office said.

At least 78 have already been detained, the office in the capital Ankara said.

The latest crackdown is part of a probe in 42 cities into alleged irregularities in the foreign ministry entrance exam in favour of members of a movement led by US-based Muslim preacher Fethullah Gulen.

The suspects joined the foreign ministry between 2010 and 2013, according to the prosecutor's office.

12 suspected jihadists killed in Egypt raids: ministry

Cairo, Egypt

Twelve suspected jihadists were killed Monday in police raids near Cairo, Egypt's interior ministry said, a day after a bomb blast injured 17 people including tourists near the Giza pyramids.

Security forces "carried out a raid against an apartment in the 6th of October district used for making explosive devices... These forces were shot at and responded, which left seven dead among the group," which has ties to the Muslim Brotherhood, the ministry said in a statement.

In another such raid in Cairo's Al-Shorouk neighbourhood against the militant Hasm group, an armed affiliate of the Muslim Brotherhood, the ministry said five suspected jihadists were killed in an exchange of fire.

Weapons and ammunition were seized in the two apartments, the interior ministry said.

Beijing denounces US warship sail-by in South China Sea

Beijing, China

China on Monday denounced a US warship sail-by near disputed islands in the South China Sea as a violation of its sovereignty.

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) organised air and naval forces to warn the USS Preble to leave, said a PLA spokesman, after it entered waters near China-claimed Scarborough Shoal on Monday morning.

"The relevant actions from the US side endanger the safety of both Chinese and American ships and personnel, and undermine China's sovereignty and safety," said Li Huamin, spokesman of the PLA's Southern Theatre Command.

Sinking feeling

Philippine cities facing 'slow-motion disaster'



The chapel in Sitio Pariahan, Bulacan, located amid encroaching bay waters

Manila, Philippines

When Mary Ann San Jose moved to Sitio Pariahan more than two decades ago, she could walk to the local chapel. Today, reaching it requires a swim.

The main culprit is catastrophic subsidence caused by groundwater being pumped out from below, often via unregulated wells for homes, factories, and farms catering to a booming population and growing economy.

The steady sinking of coastal towns and islets like Pariahan in the northern Philippines has caused Manila Bay's brackish water to pour inland and displace thousands, posing a greater threat than rising sea levels due to climate change.

"It was so beautiful here before... Children were playing in the streets," San Jose said, adding: "Now we always need to use a boat."

Most of the former residents have scattered to other parts of the region. Just a handful of families remain in Pariahan, which had its own elementary school, a basketball court and a chapel before the water flowed in.

These days just the flooded chapel, a cluster of shacks on bamboo stilts where San Jose lives with her family, and a few homes on a bump of land remain. The children that live there commute 20 minutes by boat to a school inland and most of the residents eke out a living by fishing.

The provinces of Pampanga and Bulacan -- where Pariahan is located -- have sunk between four and six centimetres (1.5-2.4 inches) annually since 2003, according to satellite monitoring.

"It's really a disaster that is already happening... It's a slow-onset disaster," explained Narod Eco, who is part of a group of scientists tracking the problem.

Threat to lives

By comparison, the UN estimates average sea level rise globally is about three millimetres per year.

The creeping bay waters put people and property at risk,

while the threat is amplified by high-tides and flooding brought by the roughly 20 storms that pound the archipelago every year.

Some areas have raised roads in an effort to keep up with the sinking, creating odd scenes where the street surface is at the height of door knobs on roadside buildings.

At least 5,000 people have been forced out of the mostly rural coastal areas north of Manila in recent decades as the bay water has moved further inland, regional disaster officials said.

The sinking is very likely permanent because the ground in the hardest hit areas is mostly clay, which sticks together after the water is pulled out.

The fate of towns such as Pariahan provides a preview of the problems that may await some of the capital's 13 million people.

Sections of Manila along the shore of the bay are sinking too, with excess groundwater pumping being the most likely cause, Eco, the researcher, told AFP. The subsidence there though is at a slower rate than the northern coastal communities, potentially due to less pumping or differences in the soil, he added.

A moratorium on new wells in the greater Manila area has been in place since 2004. But enforcing that ban as well as shuttering existing illegal wells, falls to the National Water Resource Board



A woman carrying a baby through floodwaters in Mabalacat, Pampanga



Residents using an artesian well pump in Sitio Pariahan, Bulacan

and its roughly 100 staffers who are responsible for policing the whole country.

"We have insufficient manpower resources," the board's director Seville David said. "It's

a very big challenge for us, but I think we are doing the best we can."

Things will get worse

The demand for water has

soared as Manila's population has nearly doubled since 1985, and the size of the nation's economy has expanded roughly tenfold over the same period.

This explosive growth has created a ravenous demand for water, especially in the agriculture and manufacturing industries to the north of the capital.

"The sinking is a very serious threat to people, their livelihoods and cultures," said Joseph Estadilla, a spokesman for alliance seeking to protect Manila Bay coastal communities.

"This is only going to get worse in the near future," he insisted.

Manila and its surroundings are among several major cities, especially in Asia, under threat as the land collapses beneath them, though the causes for this vary.

Cities such as Jakarta -- which is sinking 25 centimetres (0.8 feet) each year -- Bangkok and Shanghai risk being inundated within decades as a mixture of poor planning, more violent storms and higher tides wreak havoc.

In Jakarta, a city of 10 million people that sits on a confluence of 13 rivers, half the population lacks access to piped water, so many dig illegal wells to extract groundwater.

Yet in Pariahan the residents who remain are doing what they can to stay in a place they call home.



An abandoned structure amid encroaching bay waters in Sitio Pariahan, Bulacan

How Europe's 'Identitarians' a

Martin Sellner, leader of the Identitarian movement in Austria, has reportedly admitted more extensive email contact with Christchurch shooter Brenton Tarrant



Identitarian Movement leader Martin Sellner



ANNE APPLEBAUM

Was it an invitation to cocktails or the start of a far-right conspiracy? In Europe, these days, it can be hard to tell. But this week Austrian media are reporting that the links between Martin Sellner and Brenton Tarrant were rather more extensive. Sellner is the clean-cut leader of the Austrian Identitarian Movement; Tarrant is the man charged with shooting up two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. The two exchanged emails in 2018 after Tarrant made a donation to the Identitarians; Sellner sent Tarrant a link to his YouTube page and invited him for a beer in Vienna. Tarrant booked a hotel in Vienna, though we don't know if he got there.

Why does it matter? Because Sellner represents a curious phenomenon in European politics: the far-right middleman. Unlike the neo-Nazis of old, the Identitarians don't wear jackboots, don't shave their heads, don't lurk in the shadows. They have slick websites, professional videos and formal organizations in several European countries, including Britain, France and Germany, as well as Austria. They attract attention with "happenings" — interrupting a play performed by refugees and pouring fake blood on the stage — rather than just marching and shouting. They claim they aren't racists, that they respect all cultures — and insist that they just want to preserve their



Pakistan traders burn a poster with the image of Brenton Tarrant, the Christchurch shooter (file photo)

own. Quietly, they maintain links with extremists like Tarrant while also socializing with the now-mainstream politicians of the "far-right" Austrian Freedom Party, which is a part of the current Austrian ruling coalition. And, in practice, they are steadily pushing racist, conspiratorial thinking from the fringes of the Internet into the political mainstream — and not just in Austria.

Of course they deny that this is what they are doing. In a video he made in English — the Identitarians are keen to be in touch with their white-supremacist American counterparts — Sellner describes himself as a "patriot," shows off the lovely

Austrian countryside free speech and Everyone else denies they are doing, too. Strache, the Freedom Party vice chancellor, has tried to stop the circulation of Identitarian propaganda. Strache has just been among other things might take control of the press, so perhaps he Nevertheless, the Identitarians have crept into the official language. For example, you hear the phrase "patriot," which Str

It's not too late to bridge the divides in Sri Lanka — but it won't be easy

The virulent Buddhist nationalism that has fuelled anti-Muslim attacks not only in recent days but also in the months preceding the Easter Sunday attacks, is a clear and present danger



Heavily-armed Sri Lankan soldiers (L) ride a motorcycle near the Jumha Mosque after a mob attack



ANNE APPLEBAUM

In the days since terrorists carried out attacks on churches and hotels in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday, a series of violent reprisal attacks have targeted the country's Muslim community. The assaults intensified during the week of May 13, when marauding mobs torched Muslim homes, businesses and places of worship, compelling the Sri Lankan authorities to order a nationwide curfew.

These attacks are alarming not only because of their intensity, but because they threaten to aggravate the societal divides in Sri Lanka that helped fuel a brutal, 26-year civil war that ended a decade ago.

The schisms during that conflict were different than those playing out today. During the civil war, militants representing the Tamil ethnic minority fought against the ethnic Sinhalese-dominated state for the right to a separate homeland. Today, the tensions are religious in nature, between Sri Lanka's majority Buddhists, who have staged the violent reprisals, and the Muslim minority. But the broader issues of communal tensions and violence remain the same.

Unfortunately, this is exactly what Daesh, the sectarian-minded terror group that claimed responsibility for the Easter massacre, wants to achieve and exploit: Different



1992

After 30 seasons Johnny Carson hosted his penultimate episode and last featuring guests (Robin Williams and Bette Midler) of *The Tonight Show*.

1994

The Democratic Republic of Yemen unsuccessfully attempts to secede from the Republic of Yemen; a war breaks out.

1996

The ferry MV Bukoba sinks in Tanzanian waters on Lake Victoria, killing nearly 1,000.

1996

In Miami, five abortion clinics are attacked by a butyric acid attacker.

are mainstreaming racism



Man charged in relation against the March 15 attack on two mosques in France.

Identitarians and the Alternative for Germany (AfD), the far-right party that is now the third-largest group in the German parliament.

Not all of this is new: Jacob Davey, the author of a forthcoming Institute for Strategic Dialogue paper on this subject, told me that fears of “white genocide” date back decades. But new communications technologies, plus the new international coordination of the far right, plus current politics — the migration crisis and jihadist terrorist wave — have created a perfect storm. Davey calls it a “linking tool” that taps into different debates all over the world. It also radicalizes. The “Great Replacement” conspiracy theory provides a path from mainstream conversations about the impact of migration and the compatibility of Islam and democracy to calls for mass “remigration” — to the legitimization of murder. Most people won’t be radicalized all the way, but a few will. To its more unbalanced adherents, fears of a “Great Replacement” create a sense of urgency, of an existential crisis that requires violent action.

I’m explaining all of this because it’s also the hidden background to a number of recent news stories. The “manifesto” published by Tarant referred explicitly to migrant “invasions.” The synagogue shooting suspect in Poway, Calif., said he believed that “global Jewish elites” were secretly plotting to change the ethnic composition of the United States. The Pittsburgh synagogue shooting suspect also said Jewish organizations were bringing in “hostile invaders.” The obsession with the Jewish financier George Soros, a feature of far-right propaganda every-

The Identitarian movement or Identitarianism is a European, North American, Australian, and New Zealander white nationalist movement that originated in France. Politically a part of the far-right, it began as a youth movement with strong associations with French Nouvelle Droite groups such as Generation Identitaire and Unite Radicale. Identitarianism became notable with the formation of the anti-immigration and nativist Bloc Identitaire, and the movement has since taken on its own identity and has spread internationally

where from Hungary to Alabama, is linked to this set of ideas. And when President Trump or Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini talk about immigrant “invasions,” they are nodding and winking to Identitarianism, too.

All of this presents a dilemma for Austrian police and, indeed, American police. Sellner is not a terrorist. But does his movement inspire terrorism? Clearly he is entitled to freedom of speech. But is that speech shaping the political debate in ways that could lead to violence? He has been banned from entering the United States and is under investigation in Austria. But the questions he poses aren’t strictly legal; they are moral, political or, perhaps, digital. And, as of yet, we don’t have answers to them.

(Anne Applebaum is a columnist for The Washington Post and a Professor of Practice at the London School of Economics’ Institute of Global Affairs)



Protesters demonstrate to denounce New Zealand mosque attacks in Christchurch (file photo)

de, and talks about cultural identity. es that this is what o: Heinz-Christian dom Party leader or of Austria, sued tion of a photo of nner with several e suit failed; but en taped musing, gs, about how he pl of the Austrian ne’ll find a way.

the movement’s ideas e Freedom Party’s ay attention when e “Great Replace- ache has used in

Facebook posts: This is a secret plot, believed to be orchestrated by Jews, to replace white Europeans with Muslims, and it is the central Identitarian myth. Also pay attention when you hear talk of “defending Europe” from “invasion,” and of the need for “remigration” (or, less politely, ethnic cleansing). These are Identitarian ideas, too, and they are spreading quickly. The Institute for Strategic Dialogue in London has tracked online references to the “Great Replacement” and discovered some 1.5 million on Twitter alone. The institute has also tracked the term “remigration,” which began spreading in Germany following meetings between the

etial groups pitted against each other, ently.

o its credit, the beleaguered Sri Lankan ernment — which has come under fire not acting on multiple intelligence orts that warned of the Easter Sunday ck in advance — has said and done the ht things in response. Leading officials e called for calm and unity. Security es have cracked down on those involved e anti-Muslim violence, crackdowns e have been particularly robust since Sri ka declared a state of emergency the day r the Easter attack, which gives it full ics would say excessive) powers to act st those suspected of violence.

nd yet, there are three reasons to fear Sri Lanka’s communal tensions could sen and even spiral out of control, de- e the best efforts of state and civil soci-

ety to bring the country together.

Firstly, the virulent Buddhist nationalism that has fuelled anti-Muslim attacks not only in recent days but also in the months preceding the Easter Sunday attacks, is a clear and present danger.

Buddhist extremist groups in Sri Lanka have been around for quite some time and have generally been treated with kid gloves — if not openly supported — by Sri Lankan political leaders. These groups advocate for, and carry out, violent acts against Muslims. This phenomenon is also seen in Myanmar, where nasty anti-Muslim ideologies spouted by radical Buddhist monks have contributed to the environment that led to the Myanmar military’s assaults on the Rohingya Muslim community.

Until the Sri Lankan authorities take irreversible steps to expunge the scourge of

In Sri Lanka, officials banned social-media platforms after the Easter attacks to reduce the likelihood that they would be used to incite retaliatory violence. But banning the platform will not solve the underlying problem, as the violence of recent days makes painfully clear

Buddhist extremism, communal violence will continue to flare.

Secondly, in Sri Lanka, social media — one of the great double-edged swords of our time — is a powerful purveyor of the toxic narratives that fuel communal violence. We all know the power of social media; it has the ability to instantaneously spread news far and wide. This is a good thing when it is spreading important information, from warnings about incoming flash floods to tips on where to vote on election day, and many other useful things in between. But social media’s clout when it comes to information dissemination is a very bad thing when that information consists of fake news or other provocations that prompt violence.

Indeed, reports abound that social-media posts played a role in triggering the anti-Muslim violence recently seen in Sri Lanka — just as they did in 2017, when false rumors spread about Muslims planning to attack a sacred Buddhist monument. Of course, this nefarious use of social media

to trigger unrest is part of a wider problem that plays out across the globe.

In Sri Lanka, officials banned social-media platforms after the Easter attacks to reduce the likelihood that they would be used to incite retaliatory violence. But banning the platform will not solve the underlying problem, as the violence of recent days makes painfully clear.

Thirdly, Sri Lanka’s political situation heightens the risk of increased communal tensions and violence. The country faces an election later this year. With emotions from the Easter Sunday attack sure to remain high for some time, leaders of the current government might find it politically expedient to resort to increasingly tougher rhetoric (and actions) toward Muslims. Indeed, given that a leading presidential candidate, Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, has been associated with hard-line Buddhist nationalist causes, politicians aspiring for high office might calculate that such ugly talk could strengthen their electoral position.

This is not to say Sri Lanka cannot step back from the precipice. Sri Lankans — both the state and society — know all too well the bloody consequences of letting widening societal divisions go unaddressed. This painful legacy of past tragedy provides a powerful incentive to take corrective measures that can bridge divides and generate stability.

But given Sri Lanka’s troubling trend lines, it will not be easy.

(Michael Kugelman is deputy director of the Asia Program and senior associate for South Asia at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.)



A view of a damaged shop after a mob attack in Minuwangoda



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Idea for my next novel: Ruling party captures Election Commission, thereby gaining access to EVMs, & then fixes exit polls to inflate numbers & thus provide cover for stolen seats via captured EVMs. Purely fictional scenario. Any resemblance to actual events is purely coincidental!

@RaisinaSeriesi

02



The excitement levels only on exit polls is a bit excessive. It would be wise and prudent to quietly wait and watch to see what unfolds on May 23, in my humble opinion.

@HindolSengupta

03



We have an Administration that is trying to goad Iran into war, but is not doing a thing about the 20 veterans a day who die by suicide. We will not stand for dishonoring our veterans in that way.

@KamalaHarris

04



Journalists need to stop letting themselves be used by politicians and making their self-esteem dependent on “access” to politicians. Let Indian journalism re-discover its true vocation as the voice of citizens not political VIPs, the press is voice of powerless not of powerful

@sagarikaghose

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

business

Kuwait: Gulf strengthen oil coordination amid tensions

Kuwait City, Kuwait

Kuwait's deputy foreign minister said countries in the Gulf have strengthened coordination to provide oil to global markets amid increased regional tensions.

"It is normal amid this escalation that Kuwait and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries take these steps," Khalid al-Jarallah told reporters late Sunday on the sidelines of a Ramadan sit-down organised by the Iraqi embassy.

"There is cooperation and coordination between Kuwait and the Gulf countries to provide guarantees for oil tankers and continuous supply of energy to global markets."

Jarallah's comments come days after sabotage attacks against tankers in highly sensitive Gulf waters and the bomb-

”
There is cooperation and coordination between Kuwait and the Gulf countries to provide guarantees for oil tankers and continuous supply of energy to global markets

KHALID AL-JARALLAH
KUWAIT'S DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER



ing of a Saudi pipeline -- the latter claimed by Iran-aligned Yemeni rebels.

Both attacks targeted routes built as alternatives to the Strait of Hormuz, the conduit for almost all Gulf exports.

The US Fifth Fleet headquar-

tered in Bahrain said the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council began "enhanced security patrols" Saturday in international waters, in "tight coordination with the US navy".

Iran has repeatedly threatened to close the strait in case

of war with the United States, which earlier this month announced it was sending an aircraft carrier and strike group to the region.

Kuwait's deputy foreign minister said "tension was escalating quickly" but he remained hopeful.

He added Kuwait was in "constant contact" with its ally, the US.

On Saturday, OPEC giant Saudi Arabia called for urgent meetings of the GCC and the Arab League to discuss recent "aggressions and their consequences" in the region.

The two summits are scheduled to be held in Mecca on May 30.

Jarallah welcomed the kingdom's invitation, saying Kuwait was keen to take part in discussions on issues "potentially dangerous" to the region.

FinMark, Tamkeen to hold regional mentorship forum

TDT | Manama

FinMark Communications will hold a mentorship forum on "Human Capital Forum - Harnessing the Power of Mentorship" in Kingdom by end of November in strategic partnership with Tamkeen.

The event aims to showcase the important role that mentorship can play in accelerating human capital development and the realisation of the development goals of the GCC economies and companies across all sectors.

The Forum will feature leading regional and international speakers and experts on mentorship.

Zahraa Taher, Managing Director of FinMark Communications, the Forum's organiser, added, "We are confident the Forum can support further thought, investment and uptake of both existing mentorship schemes and encourage organisations themselves to develop internal mentorship programmes of their own."

Commenting, Chief Invest-



Zahraa Taher

The Forum will feature leading regional and international speakers and experts on mentorship

ment and Marketing Officer at Tamkeen, Dr Nasser Qaedi, said, "With our support for this Forum, we hope to encourage leading organisations across the region to look more closely at mentorship as part of their development and training plans and to utilise the many important platforms, including Tamkeen's, that are out there today."

Al Baraka Banking Group, UNEP sign global MoU

Targets \$197 million financing for Environmental Projects

TDT | Manama

Al Baraka Banking Group (ABG) and UN Environment (UNEP) have proposed to collaborate for leveraging private finance for environmental projects in Al Baraka network countries.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed yesterday to formalise the strategic partnership by the President & Chief Executive of ABG, Adnan Ahmed Yousif and the UN Environment Acting Executive Director Joyce Msuya.

The partnership aims at developing best practices in sustainable development, which is vital for the successful transitions to green economies. UN Envi-



The deal signing

ronment West Asia Office and Al Baraka Banking Group will facilitate knowledge exchange, replication of successful solutions and transfer of expertise by establishing standards and

innovative finance approaches for varying contexts through collaboration in research and events.

At the signing ceremony, ABG's President & Chief Executive, Adnan Ahmed Yousif said, "It is the Group's intention to finance environmental projects of over \$197 million for 2019-2020 in various countries where Al Baraka operates."

This pledge comes as part of the Al Baraka Sustainable Development Goals (2016-2020). We expect that our collective effort will help reduce carbon emissions in these countries."

On her part, the UN Environment Acting Executive Director, Joyce Msuya stated, "We hope this partnership will be able to

strengthen efforts to achieve sustainable development in the region while improving the lives of local communities."

Al Baraka Group will extend its support to renewable and energy efficiency projects in Al Baraka's operating countries by financing over \$78 million towards renewable energy projects and Financing over \$119m towards enhancing the energy efficiency of existing cooling & electric systems.

Yousif further added, "The current pledge of US\$197m is in addition to the previous pledge of US\$635m made in 2016, and brings the total of Al Baraka's pledge to US\$832m for financing the Sustainable Development Goals."

Motorcity honoured with top XCMG award

TDT | Manama

Motorcity, the exclusive distributor of a wide range of commercial and passenger vehicle brands in Bahrain, has received a dealer appreciation award from China's top construction machinery & equipment manufacturer; Xuzhou Construction Machinery Group (XCMG).

The award was presented to Motorcity Chairman Waleed Kanoo along with other company officials, by officials from XCMG at the Capital Club in Manama in the presence of the Ambassador of the Republic of China to Bahrain and members of the Chinese Chamber Of Commerce.

XCMG ranks number one in China and number six globally in the construction machinery in-



Motorcity wins award from China's top machinery equipment manufacturer Xuzhou Construction Machinery Group

The award was presented to Motorcity Chairman Waleed Kanoo at the Capital Club in Manama in the presence of the Ambassador of China and members of the Chinese Chamber Of Commerce

dustry, and ranked second place in the International Construction's Yellow table '2018 List of Global Top 10 Crane Manufacturers'.

With an annual export value of over \$1.6 billion, XCMG has successfully implemented its ambitious 'Going Global' strategy seeing its products sold by 300 global distributors in more than 170 countries and regions.

Japan's economy grew 0.5 per cent in first quarter: data

Tokyo, Japan

Japanese GDP expanded 0.5 per cent in the first quarter of this year, official data showed yesterday, in a better-than-expected result for the world's third-largest economy.

It was the second successive expansion for the Japanese economy after growth of 0.4 percent in the fourth quarter of last year and defied gloomy expectations by analysts who predicted a small decline at the start of 2019.

The latest data was being closely watched amid speculation Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government could postpone a planned sales tax hike for the third time if the GDP



Representative picture showing a car production line

growth figure were very weak. Net exports contributed strongly to the latest growth figures but only because the fall in imports outweighed a decline in exports, the Cabinet Office said.

The latest indication of Japan's economic health comes amid uncertainty over the global economy, including US-led trade tensions, Brexit and other factors.

Ryanair profit slumps on cheaper fares

London, United Kingdom

Ryanair's annual net profit slumped by almost one third as overcapacity in the European short-haul sector caused it to cut ticket prices, the Irish no-frills airline said Monday.

Profit after tax dropped 29 percent to 1.02 billion euros (\$1.14 billion) in the year ending March 31 compared with a year earlier, the Dublin-based carrier said in an earnings statement.

Ryanair said profits could decline further in 2019/20, to between 750 million and 950 million euros.

"Short-haul capacity growth and the absence of Easter in the fourth quarter led to a six percent fare decline," chief executive Michael O'Leary said in the statement.

However, the drop in fares attracted more passengers, the number of which rose by nine percent to 142 million for the year.

Europe's short-haul sector is being weighed down by fierce competition despite some consolidation, including Ryanair's recent purchase of Austrian carrier Lauda.

"We expect further consolidation and airline failures in winter 2019 and again into 2020 due to over-capacity, weaker fares, and higher oil



chief executive Michael O'Leary

prices," Ryanair said Monday. The slide in annual profits comes as the airline undergoes major restructuring.

Mirroring a set-up by British Airways and Iberia owner IAG, Ryanair aims to have four distinct operations, each with its own chief executive.

Under overall boss O'Leary, will be Ryanair DAC overseeing the Irish operations, Ryanair UK, Lauda for its Austrian business and Ryanair Sun, or Polish unit, according to an announcement earlier this year.

Ryanair's recent performance has been hit also by pan-European strikes last year that forced it to cancel flights, affecting thousands of passengers, and offer improved pay deals to staff via landmark deals with unions.

Ryanair is also exposed to any Brexit fallout, with Britain accounting for about one-quarter of its revenues.

Google and Android system start to cut ties with Huawei

● Huawei smartphone users will no longer have access to Gmail and Google Maps apps

● The ban includes technology sharing

● Huawei will be required to manually access any updates or software patches from Android Open Source Project

San Francisco, United States

US internet giant Google, whose Android mobile operating system powers most of the world's smartphones, said it was beginning to cut ties with China's Huawei, which Washington considers a national security threat.

The move could have dramatic implications for Huawei smartphone users, as the telecoms giant will no longer have access to Google's proprietary services -- which include the Gmail and Google Maps apps -- a source close to the matter said.

In the midst of a trade war with Beijing, President Donald Trump has barred US companies from engaging in telecommunications trade with foreign companies said to threaten American national security.

The measure targets Huawei, the world's second-biggest smartphone maker, which has been listed by the US Commerce Department among firms that American companies can only engage with in trade after obtaining the green light from the authorities.

The ban includes technology sharing.

"We are complying with the order and reviewing the implications," a Google spokesperson told AFP.

"For users of our services, Google Play and the security protections from Google Play Protect will continue to function on existing Huawei devices."



A man checks his mobile phone next to Huawei advertising in Shanghai



Huawei is a rapidly expanding leader in 5G technology, and its smartphones out-sold Apple's iPhones in the first quarter of this year, seizing the California company's second-place spot in a tightening smartphone market dominated by Samsung.

\$67bn
worth components are being bought by Huawei each year, including about \$11bn from US suppliers

It buys about \$67 billion worth of components each year, including about \$11 billion from US suppliers, according to The Nikkei business daily.

Huawei is the target of an intense campaign by Washington, which has been trying to persuade allies not to allow China a role in building next-generation 5G mobile networks.

US government agencies are already banned from buying equipment from Huawei.

Huawei founder and CEO Ren Zhengfei said Saturday that "We have not done anything which violates the law," adding the US measures would have a limited impact.

Ren's army background and Huawei's opaque culture have fueled suspicions in some countries that the firm has links with the Chinese military and intelligence services.

Due to the ban, Google will now have to halt business activities with Huawei that involve direct transfer of hardware, software and technical services that are not publicly available -- meaning Huawei will only be able to use the open source version of Android, the source said.

Google apps such as Gmail and Maps should remain functional on Huawei phones at least initially, another source said.

But while the ban on technology sharing is in place, Huawei will be required to manually access any updates or software patches from Android Open Source Project -- the code accessible to all outside program-

ers -- and also to distribute the updates to users itself.

A person familiar with the matter who requested anonymity told Bloomberg News Huawei that will be unable to offer Google's proprietary apps and services in the future.

Huawei did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

5G leader

The Chinese firm remains dependent on foreign suppliers.

Ithmaar Bank celebrates employees' academic success

TDT | Manama

Ithmaar Bank, a Bahrain-based Islamic retail bank, hosted a dinner to honour employees who earned advanced professional certifications.

The celebration hosted by Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Abdul Rahim, was attended by Ithmaar Bank Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Banking Group, Abdul Hakeem Al-Mutawa, Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Support Group, Ravindra Khot and Head of Human Resources, Enas Mohammed Rahimi.

A total of twenty-two employees from various departments were honoured on the occasion for obtaining various degrees.

"At Ithmaar Bank, we believe that the Bank's employees are



Officials and employees during a photocall

our greatest asset, and we invest heavily on their development to ensure the Bank's continuous growth," said Abdul Rahim.

The honoured employees

are: Abdulrahman Rashed Abdulrahman Husain, who earned the Project Management Professional certificate, Ali Mohammed Abdulla, who earned the Oracle Database 12c Ad-

ministrator Certified Associate certificate, Fatima Mohamed Faraj Ali Redha, who earned the ISO 27001:2013 Lead Auditor, Hamad Mohammed Ali Al Dosseri, Hawra Darwish Ghulom,

Khaled Mohammed Ishaq Saffy, Khaled Yusuf Abdulla Al-Ansari, Masooma Asghar Abbas Yusuf, Sayed Ali Adel Salman, Manar Faisal Mohamed Othman Mohamed, Abdulla Abdulaziz Ab-

dulla Al-Abbasi, Ali Ahmed Ali Ahmed Mohamed, Hamad Sami Hamad Alnajem, Isa Ali Al Hammadi, Maryam Mohamed Abdullatif Hejres, Mazen Mohamed Abdulrahman Bucheri, Mohammed Ebrahim Mohammed Bushelaibi and Muneera Ghazi Hareb Al-Ghafri, who earned the Advanced Diploma in Islamic Finance, Manar Ebrahim Ahmed Al-Arabi who earned the Certified Associate in Project Management - CAPM, Saud Abdulaziz Hasan Rashid, who earned the Professional Masters in Islamic Banking and Finance, Asma Abdulhameed Ahmed Abdulrahim Abdulla, who earned the Professional Masters in Islamic Banking and Finance and Fatema Adel Abdulla Ahmed Ebrahim, who earned the CIPD Level 3.

Over 81,000 to benefit from Malabar Gold this Ramadan

TDT | Manama

The Holy Month of Ramadan is at our doorsteps and millions of people around the world are getting ready to welcome the month with the acts of service, charity and prayers.

As in previous years, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the largest jewellery retailer with 250 stores globally strengthens its CSR activities in the GCC and Far East region this Ramadan. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has planned month-long CSR activities in association with like-minded organizations to benefit the needy. Over 81,000 special Iftar meals/kits will be distributed during this period.

In Bahrain, the group is planning to provide over 5,250 Iftar meals to the workers at different labour camps located all over Bahrain like Askar, Akker, Jau, Arad, Hidd etc. Like in previous years, they will be associating with Discovery Islam, Royal charity organization, Al Hedaya Centre and Friendship Society for Blinds, UCO Parents Care to carry out such activities during Ramadan.

In UAE, over 45,000 Iftar meals/kits will be provided to the residents in association with various like-minded organisations like Sharjah Charity Inter-



Malabar Gold & Diamonds associates with various associations and like-minded organisations this Ramadan to provide Iftar meals and other CSR initiatives.

national, Community Development Authority, Dubai Municipality, Sharjah Awqaf, Red Crescent, KMCC, MSS, various labour camps and masjids throughout this Ramadan. 21,000 Iftar meals will be provided at Sajaa Industrial area, Sharjah throughout Ramadan in an air-conditioned

tent which is set up with the support of Sharjah Charity International. Company will also distribute Iftar meals across the various labour camps & nearby masjids in UAE.

In Oman, the group provides over 16,000 Iftar meals all over Oman throughout the holy

month of Ramadan. An air-conditioned tent which is set up at Ruwi where more than 15,000 beneficiaries will be benefitted.

In Kuwait, the group will provide Iftar meals to over 3,000 labourers in different parts of various governorates and the desert areas.

In Qatar, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has planned to provide over 10,000 Iftar meals for the labourers across Qatar, one-month long CSR activities are planned in association with 98.6 FM Malayalam Radio station and Qatar Sparsam organisation to benefit the needy.

In KSA, the group has planned to provide Iftar meals in Haram area of Madina Al Munawarah in association with KMCC and Iftar kits will be provided in Makkah Al Mukarramah as well.

In Malaysia, the group provides 800 special Ramadan Kit to the underprivileged people which includes the grocery which will be enough for a family of 3 persons to break the fast for 10 days during Ramadan. The Company also provides 1,000 Iftar meals which will be distributed in & around of various masjids.



In Bahrain, the group is planning to provide over 5,250 Iftar meals to the workers at different labor camps located all over Bahrain like Askar, Akker, Jau, Arad, Hidd etc.

In KSA, the group has planned to provide Iftar meals in Haram area of Madina Al Munawarah in association with KMCC and Iftar kits will be provided in Makkah Al Mukarramah as well.

In Malaysia, the group provides 800 special Ramadan Kit to the underprivileged people which includes the grocery which will be enough for a family of 3 persons to break the fast for 10 days during Ramadan. The Company also provides 1,000 Iftar meals which will be distributed in & around of various masjids.

Waqf Fund holds 12th roundtable discussion



Participants during a photocall

TDT | Manama

A roundtable discussion on Creating an Islamic Profit Rate Benchmark by Waqf Fund concluded yesterday with the participation of experts from both inside and outside Bahrain.

The 12th Roundtable Discussion organised by the Waqf Fund focused on the topic "Creating an Islamic Profit Rate Benchmark – Why and How".

20 people participated in the

Roundtable including several from outside Bahrain.

The meeting concluded that Islamic finance should establish its profit rate benchmark and move away from using conventional interest rate benchmarks, despite serious challenges in design, implementation and monitoring of the new benchmark.

Bank Negara Malaysia and Central Bank of Sudan were among the regulators – besides the Central Bank of Bahrain

present at the event.

The leadership of standard setting bodies AAOIFI and IIFM was also represented together with senior people from International Shari'ah Research Academy (ISRA), Malaysia and Islamic Research & Training Institute (IRTI), Saudi Arabia.

The Roundtable started with presentations from Omar Mustafa Ansari, Acting Secretary General, AAOIFI, Dr Yahia Abdulrahman, founder of

La Riba Bank, USA, Dr Younes Soualhi, senior researcher, ISRA and Dr. Sami Al Suwailem, CEO, IRTI. The speakers deliberated on various aspects of the need to create a new Islamic profit rate benchmark, the issues with using LIBOR, the developments regarding LIBOR's replacement and the practical issues in implementing a new benchmark. After the presentations the floor was opened for debate and discussion.

Ford to cut 7,000 jobs

New York, United States

Ford plans to cut 7,000 jobs, or 10 percent of its global salaried workforce, as part of a reorganization as it revamps its vehicle offerings, the company said Monday.

The downsizing will involve some layoffs and reassignments of white-collar staff and should be complete by the end of August, a Ford spokeswoman said. Ford has been phasing out most sedan models in the United States as more consumers have opted for pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles.

The move, which began last year and follows some job cuts announced earlier in other regions, will lead to 800 layoffs in North America in total, including about 500 this week, said Ford spokeswoman Marisa Bradley.

The company has yet to determine all of the specifics in

other regions, she said.

The actions, expected to save about \$600 million a year, come as Ford ramps up investment in electric cars and autonomous driving technology, eyeing future growth in those businesses even as current profitability is tied closely to sales of conventional vehicles in North America, including its best-selling F-150 pickup trucks.

"To succeed in our competitive industry, and position Ford to win in a fast-changing future, we must reduce bureaucracy, empower managers, speed decision making, focus on the most valuable work and cut costs," Chief Executive Jim Hackett said in an email to employees.

Ford had 199,000 employees, including unionized workforce, at the end of 2018, down from 202,000 a year earlier, according to securities filings.

Mazda Sitra showroom announces Ramadan offers

TDT | Manama

International Motor Trading Agency (IMTA), the sole authorised distributor for Mazda passenger vehicles in Bahrain, announced an exclusive promotion on new 2019 models to celebrate the Holy Month of Ramadan.

This Ramadan, customer can take advantage of the new state-of-the-art Mazda facility located in Sitra- sprawling over an area of 3,753.00 Sq. Mt- offering an opportunity to experience the famous brand in a refreshing new setting.

Under the Ramadan promotion, the new 2019 Mazda CX9 model will be available at a starting price of BD11,400*; the CX-5 will be offered from BD8, 600* onwards and the CX-3's starting



price is BD7,600*. Also, the Mazda 3 2019 is available at a special

price of BD6,250* and the Mazda 6 will start at BD7,900*. All the

prices are inclusive of VAT.

Besides, IMTA is offering free

five years or 100,000km service package, free insurance, registration, window tinting and rust proofing, a special finance deal with three months deferred instalment and a special finance rate of interest of 1.99%.

Customers also stand a chance to win fabulous prizes in a raffle draw.

A trade-in facility is also made available from IMTA for any make and model. There will be a free evaluation for old cars with great deals provided by IMTA with hassle-free documentation if a car is exchanged.

This offer is valid until the end of Ramadan and terms and conditions apply.

Commenting on the promotion, IMTA President Suzan Salman Kanoo said: "Rama-

The new 2019 Mazda CX9 model will be available at a starting price of BD11, 400*; the CX-5 will be offered from BD8, 600* onwards and the CX-3's starting price is BD7, 600*.

dan is a very special time for our customers and communities in the Middle East, and we want to make it even more special for them by offering more value."

From 18 May 2019 till the end of Ramadan, Mazda showrooms will be open from 8 am to 5 pm and from 8 pm to midnight. They will remain closed on Friday.

SHOW

OASIS JUFFAIR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CITYCENTRE

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

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

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

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



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

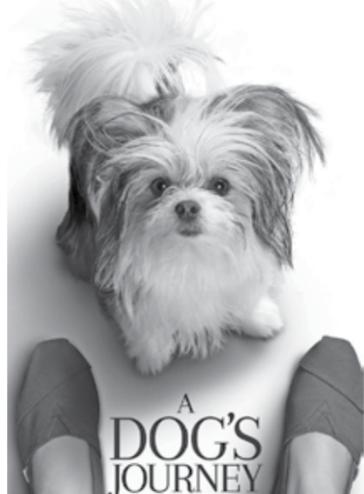
5-STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2 (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/COMEDY/DRAMA)
* TIGER SHROFF, TARA SUTARIA, ANANYA PANDEY
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 3.00 + 6.00 + 9.00 PM + 12.00 MN

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

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

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

Some friendships transcend lifetimes.



A DOG'S JOURNEY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEEF (II)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEEF (I)

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AL HAMRA

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

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

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

WADI AL SAIL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MOVIE REVIEW

Human spirit climbs to another level in 'Free Solo'

Free Solo is a 2018 American documentary film directed by Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin. The film profiles rock climber Alex Honnold on his quest to perform a free solo climb of El Capitan in June 2017.

The film premiered at the Telluride Film Festival on August 31, 2018, and also screened at the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival, where it won the People's Choice Award in the Documentaries category. It was released in the United States on September 28, 2018, received positive reviews from critics and has grossed over \$21 million.

The film received numerous accolades, including winning Best Documentary Feature at the 91st Academy Awards. The film is available to stream in the United States through the National Geographic TV channel app and website, on Hulu, and



Alex Honnold climbs El Capitan in Free Solo

will also be available to stream on the upcoming Disney+ service at launch.

On review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 99% based on 135 reviews, with an average

rating of 8.21/10. The website's critical consensus reads, "Free Solo depicts athletic feats that many viewers will find beyond reason – and grounds the attempts in passions that are all but universal."

On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 83 out of 100, based on 25 critics, indicating "universal acclaim".

Writing for Variety, Peter Debruge said, "Apart from a slow

stretch around the hour mark, the filmmakers keep things lively (with a big assist from Marco Beltrami's pulse-quickening score, the nail-biting opposite of Tim McGraw's soaring end-credits single, "Gravity"), featuring test runs at Zion National Park's Moonlight Buttress and the nearly sheer limestone cliffs in Taghia, Morocco."

Richard Lawson of Vanity Fair called the film "bracingly made" and wrote, "I left the theater invigorated and rattled, in awe of this charismatic man's accomplishment but scared that it will inspire others to attempt the same ... But maybe Free Solo's detailed, transfixing portrait of their hero will at least show some sort of barrier to entry, communicating to those eager wannabes that very few people indeed are built quite like Alex Honnold. And thank goodness, in a way, for that."

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Ramadan cooking

Chilled Cucumber And Orange Juice With Oregano

Ingredients

- Cucumbers
- Fresh orange juice
- Sugar
- Dried oregano

How To Make:

1. Trim the ends of the two cucumbers and scrub the peels.
2. Remove about half of the peels from each cucumber and remove the seeds if they are large.
3. Cut the cucumber into chunks and put in a food processor or blender.
4. Pour in 2/14 cup fresh orange juice and sprinkle in 1 1/2tsp sugar and 1/2 tsp dried oregano.
5. Blend for at least 1 minute or until very finely puréed.
6. The drink should be a bit thicker and slightly foamy.
7. Taste for sweetness and seasoning and adjust as needed.



Businessman Nisar Ahmed (Chairman Al Jazeera Gas) with guests during an Iftar Dinner he arranged in the honour of Murad Ali Wazir (H O C Pakistan Embassy) and Prominent Business community of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

Ozil dines with Turkey’s Erdogan during Ramadan iftar

AFP | Ankara, Turkey

Arsenal’s German midfielder Mesut Ozil dined with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during a Ramadan iftar meal in Istanbul late Saturday.

Images in Turkish media showed a smiling Ozil and model fiancée Amine Gulse, sitting at a table on either side of Erdogan at the Ottoman-era Dol-



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (C) next to Arsenal’s German soccer player Mesut Ozil (L) during an iftar dinner in Istanbul

mabahce Palace.

The iftar, the meal for breaking the fast during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, was also attended by young Turks ahead of Youth and Sports Day on Sunday, a national holiday in Turkey.

In another photo, Ozil and Gulse were sitting in a room with Erdogan, joined by Fahrettin Altun, communications director at the Turkish presidency.

SPORTS

sports

Mbappe 'bombshell' places pressure on PSG as Madrid lurk

Mbappe was named the Ligue 1 player of the season

AFP | Paris

France star Kylian Mbappe has cast doubt on his Paris Saint-Germain future, cranking up the pressure on the club's hierarchy as Real Madrid reportedly attempt to lure him to Spain.

The 20-year-old Mbappe fuelled transfer speculation at Sunday's French league awards ceremony after saying that he wants "responsibilities, maybe at PSG, maybe elsewhere".

It appeared a calculated move by Mbappe, who succeeded team-mate Neymar as the Ligue 1 player of the year, after he again brought it up in front of reporters moments later.

"I said what I had to say. When you're on stage you can send messages, I think I got mine across. If I keep talking it would be too much and that's not the message I want to send," Mbappe explained.

He has been regularly linked with a potential move to Madrid since breaking through with Monaco's 2017 Ligue 1 title-winning team, but instead made the switch to PSG, initially on loan,



Mbappe became only the second teenager in history last year, after Brazil legend Pele, to score in a World Cup final during France's 4-2 triumph over Croatia

and then for 180 million euros.

But since Zinedine Zidane's return to the Real dugout earlier this year, rumours about Mbappe joining his fellow Frenchman at the Santiago Bernabeu have intensified.

French sports daily L'Equipe led with the headline "trophy for the shock sentence" following Mbappe's ambiguous remarks, while Spanish media described it as a "bombshell" after picking up on the fact it was the first time the striker has hinted he could leave Paris.

Under contract with PSG until 2023, Mbappe is said to be in discussions with the club over an extension, but was his message a play to strike an improved deal, which reportedly pays him 20 million euros per season?

Former PSG goalkeeper Jerome Alonzo, who played for the club between 2001 and 2008, believes Mbappe is angling for a greater say in the club's planning, after a disappointing season which saw Thomas Tuchel's side again fail in the Champions League.

Leadership battle

"I have more of an impression that he's someone important at the club who says, 'Guys, I want to vouch for the project but it needs to move along a little. I want to stay for a long time but give me the means to become European champion. If the project doesn't move beyond that, I'm leaving,'" Alonzo told AFP.

This term, Mbappe has stepped up another gear with Neymar out injured for much of the campaign, but his demand for further authority could place him



Kylian Mbappe

comes two weeks after the same statements from Neymar. There must not be a spat at PSG between leaders or groups with the Brazilian side of the dressing room and the others," warned Alonzo.

Mbappe backed up his excellent 2018 World Cup, where he scored four times as France won the trophy, by netting 38 times for PSG this season, although he needs to score five in the last league game of the season against Reims next weekend to snatch the European Golden Shoe from Lionel Messi.

"I tell myself that even if I lose, I lose to Messi, one of the greatest players in history," he told AFP.

"To think that maybe I kept up with him until the last game, that's a source of pride too, but it's not over."

Mbappe became only the second teenager in history last year, after Brazil legend Pele, to score in a World Cup final during France's 4-2 triumph over Croatia.

Clarke named as Scotland manager

AFP | Glasgow

Steve Clarke was named as new Scotland manager, with a brief to turn around their Euro 2020 qualifying campaign after a dismal start.

The 55-year-old replaces Alex McLeish on a three-year deal just a day after securing third place in the Scottish Premiership for his Kilmarnock team.

The former West Brom manager, who won PFA Scotland and Scottish Football Writers' Association manager of year awards, has signed a three-year contract until end of 2022 World Cup qualifying campaign.

Croatia's Dalic calls up rookie pair for Euro qualifier

AFP | Zagreb, Croatia

Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic named two uncapped players in his squad for next month's crucial Euro 2020 qualifier against Wales as the World Cup runners-up look to react after a shock defeat by Hungary.

The two newcomers are Leicester defender Filip Benkovic, who has spent the season on loan with Celtic, and left-back Dario Melnjak, who has scored four goals in 15 games since joining Turkish side Rizespor in January.

BIC honours new champions at awards night

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) hosted its End-of-Season Awards Night over the weekend and honoured the newly crowned champions of the 2018/2019 national racing season.

Among the awardees were the winners in the BIC 2,000cc Challenge, the Bahrain Karting Sprint Championship (BKSC) and the Bahrain Karting Endurance Championship (BKEC).

BIC Chief Executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa was on hand to present the various trophies. Also in attendance were other high-ranking officials from BIC, Bahrain International Karting Circuit, Bahrain Motor Federation and Circuit Racing Club.

Shaikh Salman awarded Tareq Al Tajer for becoming the undisputed champion of the BIC 2,000cc Challenge. Al Tajer claimed his first-ever title in the series.

Shaikh Salman also awarded Shaikh Salman bin Isa bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa and Ahmed bin Khanen for finishing second and third, respectively. Mohamed Faqih, Majed Himmo and Giovanni Salerno also took home prizes for finishing in the top six overall.

The top three also had sep-



Winners with their trophies during BIC end-of-season awards night

arate trophies presented to them for ending the season first through third in the championship's Pro class; while Himmo, Salerno and Martyna Al Qassab were honoured for being the best three in the Novice category.

Shaikh Salman bin Isa bin Ebrahim had a pair of additional awards. During the season, he posted the 2,000cc Challenge's Fastest Lap and also clinched the Most Pole Positions.

Meanwhile, in the BKSC, Shaikh Salman awarded the winners in the two categories that make up the championship, namely the Bahrain Rotax Mojo Max Challenge (BRMMC) and the Bahrain Sprint Sodi World Series (BSSWS).

In the BRMMC, Luca Kane Houghton was presented with the champion's trophy in the

Micro class, where he won ahead of runner-up Gracie Rose Grantham and third-placer Louis Elnabulsi.

Santhosh Kumar was presented the winner's trophy in the Mini category ahead of Matteo Quintarelli and Jacob Topp.

Fahad Alkhaleel was victorious in the Junior class where Fahad Almuqla came second and Omar Aldereyaan was third.

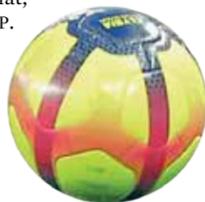
Mohammed Mattar was the champion in the BRMMC's Max category after a tough battle with Raed Raffii and Hussain Hasan.

Essa Aldossary claimed the title in the Max Masters class, while Fred Clark was second and Osama Azoouka third.

Amongst the teams' championships, Absolute Racing took three out of five titles, winning in the Micro, Mini and Max

on a collision course with the Brazilian.

"This request for accountability poses questions because it



categories. Dojomoto Racing triumphed in the Juniors class and ED Racing Team in the Max Masters.

Along with their individual championships, the BRMMC's winners also won entries to compete in prestigious karting events in Europe in the coming months.

Houghton, Kumar, Alkhaleel and Raffii all won seats in the Rotax Max Challenge International Trophy, set to take place August 20 to 29 in Le Mans, France. Mattar, on the other hand, earned a berth in the Rotax Max Challenge Grand Finals, scheduled for October 19 to 26 in Sarno, Italy.

In the BSSWS, Shaikh Salman presented Ali Baslar the trophy for being the season's champion. Abdulla Buhinid finished in second place while Rashid Almuammari came third.

Finally, Shaikh Salman honoured winners in the BKEC and handed over their trophies.

Racing Bahrain were the overall champions. They featured Mattar, Khaled Alsaedi, Khaled Alrayes and Durate Lopes. Go Bahrain were second, and they included Raffii, Buhindi, Baslar and Almuammari. Bapco Sadeem came third featuring Osama Albuflasa, Faisal Alshadii, Abdulla Althawadi, Talal Beshara and Mohammed Jalal.



Czech Republic's Karolina Pliskova kisses the trophy after winning against Britain's Johanna Konta the WTA Masters tournament final tennis match at the Foro Italico camp in Rome

Pliskova climbs to second in rankings, Williams back in top 10

AFP | Paris

Karolina Pliskova climbed five places in the WTA rankings yesterday to second after her Italian Open triumph at the weekend, with Naomi Osaka's world number one spot now in the Czech's sights.

The 27-year-old saw off Briton Johanna Konta to win her 13th WTA title in Rome.

She will be the second seed at the French Open, which starts on Sunday, as she looks to improve on her previous best Roland Garros performance -- a semi-final run in

2017.

Osaka's lead in the rankings remains in peril, although reigning French Open champion Simona Halep dropped down to third.

Pliskova's rise has seen three-time Grand Slam winner Angelique Kerber and Petra Kvitova slip two places and one spot respectively.

Serena Williams returned to the top 10 after playing her first match since March in Italy, despite pulling out before her scheduled second-round match with sister Venus.



Upset as Alonso fails to qualify for Indy 500

F1 driver and two-time world champion Fernando Alonso leans on the car in McLaren's garage

Former Formula One world champion failed to qualify for the Indianapolis 500

AFP | Indianapolis

Fernando Alonso's latest bid for Indianapolis 500 glory ended in failure on Sunday after the two-time Formula One world champion failed to qualify for the US motorsport showpiece.

The 37-year-old Spaniard was eliminated by young US driver Kyle Kaiser on the final run of the rain-delayed "Last Row Shootout" qualifying session at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

McLaren driver Alonso had

been chasing a victory at the Brickyard in a bid to become only the second driver after Britain's Graham Hill to claim the Triple Crown of motorsport, with wins in the Monaco F1 Grand Prix, 24 Hours of Le Mans endurance and Indy 500.

But Alonso's attempt to add the last remaining piece of the treble to his trophy cabinet was snuffed out in a dramatic qualifying session.

"This type of challenge, they can bring you a lot of success and you can be part of the his-

tory of the sport or you can be really disappointed," he said. "Today is one of those, but I prefer to be here than to be like millions and millions of other people, at home watching TV."

"I prefer to try," he said. McLaren engineers had worked feverishly on the Spaniard's car in an effort to give him a fighting chance of qualifying for next week's race, overhauling the setup after a troubled week in Indianapolis.

The tweaks looked to have given Alonso a shot as he took to the track and posted an av-

erage time of 227.353mph for his four laps, putting him second behind Canada's James Hinchcliffe.

However Alonso was left sweating after Sage Karam came out next and roared to the top of the six-driver session with an average speed of 227.740mph.

Karam's time dropped Alonso down to third fastest, and with only the top three making the cut to complete the 33-car field, the Spanish star was left with a nervous wait to see if either of the two remaining drivers could better his time.

Kroos extends Real Madrid deal until 2023

Reuters | Madrid

Real Madrid's Germany midfielder Toni Kroos has renewed his contract until the end of the 2022-23 season, the Spanish club announced yesterday.

The 29-year-old Kroos was expected to leave the Santiago Bernabeu according to Spanish media reports but he has instead extended his stay for another four years.

Real are expected to sell several players in the close season as they overhaul the squad following a bitterly disappointing season in which they finished third in La Liga and were knocked out of the Champions League in the last 16.

"No player reached their top level like in previous years," Kroos told reporters yesterday, having won three consecutive Champions League titles from 2016-2018.

"We're humans and that's normal after winning three Champions Leagues. What's not normal is to win three in a row, it seemed impossible and we did it."

"But we're motivated for next season. I'm happy to stay at Madrid four more years."

Kroos signed for the club from Bayern Munich in 2014 and has made 233 appearances, winning 11 trophies.

"I spoke to (coach Zinedine) Zidane and I know what his idea is. I will be important (in the team), I can't say anything else," added Kroos.



Toni Kroos

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