

Bahrain taste defeat but advance

Bahrain lost to China 1-3 (19-25, 25-23, 18-25, 15-25) yesterday night as the first round of the FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship 2019 wrapped up at Shaikh Isa Sports City in Riffa.

P16



Kim Kardashian thanks Trump for his 'efforts to free A\$AP Rocky'

14 **CELEBS**

WORLD **5** New Delhi asks Iran to free 18 Indians on seized tanker

2 arrested for killing diplomat Baghdad

Two people have been arrested for killing a Turkish diplomat in Iraq in an armed attack last week, the Iraqi Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) said yesterday.

The statement also said that search efforts are ongoing for others involved in the attack.

On Wednesday, Osman Kose, who was serving at Turkey's Consulate General in Erbil, was killed in an armed attack at a restaurant.



02 Kingdom's exports surge 6pc in the second quarter

03 Mystery shrouds teenager's death

04 Kingdom condemns Iranian detention of British oil tanker

210 fils (includes VAT)



● The agreement has been in the works for many weeks and is not a response specifically to Friday's seizure.

● The US Central Command said the deployments to Saudi Arabia had been approved by the Pentagon.

Jeddah

Saudi Arabia's King Salman approved hosting US forces in the Kingdom to boost regional security and stability, the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

The ministry tweeted that Saudi Arabia and the United States are "strengthening their longstanding partnership in the face of regional threats."

In Washington, the US Defence Department confirmed the move in a statement, saying it would deploy troops and resources to Saudi Arabia to "provide an additional deterrent" in the face of "emergent, credible threats."

The gesture comes amid rising tensions between Washington and Tehran in the Gulf



Gen Kenneth McKenzie, Commander of US Central Command, shakes hand with Saudi soldiers during his recent visit to the Kingdom.

that have impacted global oil markets.

With Iranian military threats in mind, the US is sending American forces, including fighter aircraft, air defence missiles and likely more than 500 troops, to a Saudi air base that became a hub of American air power in the Middle East in the 1990s.

500

troops are expected to be sent by the US to Saudi as part of boosting ties.

Senior American defence officials said some US troops and Patriot air defence missile systems have already arrived at Prince Sultan Air Base, south of Riyadh, where the troops have been preparing for the arrival of aircraft later this summer as well as additional troops.

The agreement has been in the works for many weeks and

is not a response specifically to Friday's seizure by Iran of a British tanker in the Arabian Gulf.

Tensions with Iran have spiked since May when the Trump administration said it had detected increased Iranian preparations for possible attacks on US forces and interests in the Gulf area.

In a written statement Friday evening, US Central Command said the deployments to Saudi Arabia had been approved by the Pentagon.

"This movement of forces provides an additional deterrent, and ensures our ability to defend our forces and interests in the region from emergent, credible threats," Central Command said.

"This movement creates improvement of operational depth and logistical networks. US Central Command continually assesses force posture in the region and is working with Kingdom of Saudi Arabia authorities to base US assets at the appropriate locations."

Putting US combat forces back in Saudi Arabia, after an absence of more than a decade, adds depth to the regional alignment of US military power, which is mostly in locations on the Arabian Gulf that are more vulnerable to Iranian missile attack.

TANKER ROW

Hunt warns Iran to 'reverse illegal seizure'

● The British navy seized Iran's Grace 1 tanker in Gibraltar on July 4 on suspicion of smuggling oil to Syria in breach of European Union sanctions.

London

British foreign minister Jeremy Hunt said yesterday that he was worried that Iran had taken a "dangerous path" after it seized a British-flagged tanker on Friday in the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's Fars news agency reported that the



We have been trying to find a way to resolve Grace1 issue but will ensure the safety of our shipping.

HUNT

Stena Impero had been taken to the port of Bander Abbas, which faces the strait, after it said the tanker had been involved in an accident with an Iranian fishing vessel.

"Yesterday's action in Gulf shows worrying signs Iran may be choosing a dangerous path of illegal and destabilising behaviour after

Gibraltar's legal detention of oil bound for Syria," Hunt said on Twitter.

"As I said yesterday our reaction will be considered but robust. We have been trying to find a way to resolve Grace1 issue but will ensure the safety of our shipping."

The British navy seized Iran's Grace 1 tanker in Gibraltar on July 4 on suspicion of smuggling oil to Syria in breach of European Union sanctions.

Hunt also said he was very concerned about the loss of contact between jailed British-Iranian aid worker Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and her family after she was moved from a prison in Tehran to a psychiatric ward in a hospital.

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Kingdom's exports surge 6pc in the second quarter

Saudi ranked first country importing from the Kingdom

● The report highlighted that China was ranked the first country that exports to Bahrain with BD171 million.

● Four-wheel drive cars were third listed products imported with BD50 million during second quarter 2019.

TDI | Manama

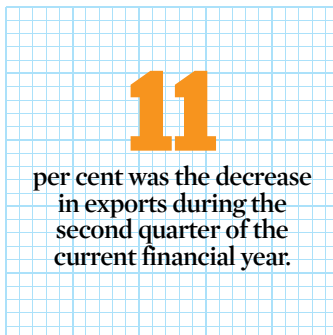
The Kingdom's exports increased by six per cent in the second quarter (Q2) of the current financial year, reaching BD595 million (\$1.56 billion) versus BD561 million for

Q2 2018, said the Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA) in a new report.

The report said that top ten countries account for 78 per cent of the exported national origin value and 22 per cent for other countries.

Saudi Arabia was ranked the first country importing from the Kingdom with BD145 million, the US second with BD84 million and the UAE came in the third place with BD65 million.

With regard to national export products, agglomerated iron ores and concentrates emerged the top products exported in second quarter 2019 with BD132 million; unwrought aluminium alloys were positioned second products imported with a value of BD61 million; and aluminium wire stood third place for exported products with BD50



million.

The report pointed out that the value of re-exports increased by 58 per cent as it reached BD180 million during second quarter 2019 versus BD114 million for the same quarter of the previous year.

The top ten countries account for 88 per cent of the re-exported value and 12 per cent for other countries.

The UAE was ranked as the first country to re-export from Bahrain with BD52 million, KSA ranked as the second with BD51 million, and China as the third with BD20 million.

Four-wheel drive cars emerged as the top product re-exported from Bahrain with BD21.8 million, gold ingots came as second products with BD21.6 million, and agglomerated iron ores and concentrates came as the third with BD16.4 million.

The trade balance, difference between exports and imports, the value of the deficit of the trade balance reached BD492 million during second quarter 2019 versus BD745 million for the same quarter of the previous year with decrease of 34 per cent.

The value of imports decreased by 11 per cent as it reached

BD1.266 billion during second quarter 2019 versus BD1.420 billion for the same quarter of the previous year, while the top ten countries account for 68 per cent of the imports value and 32 per cent for other countries.

The report highlighted that China was ranked as the first country that exports to Bahrain with BD171 million, Australia as the second with BD104 million whereas the Brazil ranked third with BD104 million.

Non-agglomerated iron ores and concentrates emerged as the top product imported to Bahrain with BD125 million, while the aluminium oxide as the second with BD94 million.

Four-wheel drive cars were third listed products imported with BD50 million during second quarter 2019, the report added.

British Airways suspends flights to Cairo

Cairo

British Airways suspended flights to Cairo for seven days on Saturday to allow for a security assessment, the airline said.

"We constantly review our security arrangements at all our airports around the world, and have suspended flights to Cairo for seven days as a precaution to allow for further assessment," the statement said.

It added it would never operate an aircraft unless safe to do so. When asked for more details about why flights had been suspended and what security arrangements the airline was reviewing, a spokeswoman for the airline responded: "We never discuss matters of security."

Three Egyptian airport security sources told Reuters that British staff were checking security at Cairo airport on Wednesday and Thursday.

The British Foreign Office advises against all but essential travel by air to and from the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, but has not issued similar warnings against air travel to and from Cairo.

The Egypt State Information Service could not immediately be reached for comment.

Arab coalition forces down Houthi drone



Debris seen on the tarmac following Houthi attack on Abha airport.

● The coalition had said earlier it also downed two drones in Yemeni airspace that had been launched towards Jizan.

Dubai

Arab Coalition spokesperson Col Turki Al Maliki yesterday said that coalition forces intercepted and shot down a drone launched by the Houthi militia in Amran governorate and directed towards Abha, Saudi state news agency SPA has reported.

Al Maliki added the Iranian-backed militia remained futile in their attempts to target the civilian areas as well as the civilian population.

The Arab coalition command would take strict measures to paralyse and neutralise all hostile capabilities of the militia within international humanitarian law and its customary laws, Al Maliki said in the SPA report.

The Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen has been intercepting and downing drones launched by the Iran-aligned Houthi movement towards the southwestern Saudi cities of Jizan and Abha, state TV reported.

Earlier the Houthis' Al Masirah TV quoted a Houthi military spokesman as saying the group had carried out drone attacks targeting the King Khalid air base near the southwestern Saudi city of Khamis Mushait and drone hangars at Jizan airport.

"The Houthi militias contin-

ue targeting civilians and civilian airports in Abha, Jizan and Najran and continue to threaten regional and international security," the coalition spokesman, said.

The coalition had said earlier it also downed two drones in Yemeni airspace that had been launched towards Jizan.

The Houthis, who are battling the Saudi-led coalition in neighbouring Yemen, have in the past few months stepped up their attacks against targets in Saudi Arabia.

A Syrian resident of Saudi Arabia died last month from wounds sustained in a drone attack on Abha Airport that was claimed by the Houthis.

In response, the coalition has targeted the group's military sites around the Yemeni capital Sanaa and the port city of Hodeidah.



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr Abdulhussain Mirza met a number of citizens to listen to their comments and suggestions regarding power and water supplies. Dr Mirza said such comments and suggestions were always welcome and said anyone could come to his office at any time in this context.



A security delegation chaired by the Director-General of King Fahad Causeway Police attended the third joint meeting of the heads of borders, airports, ports and customs authorities in the Arab world held at the Arab Interior Ministers Council headquarters in Tunisia. The meeting discussed the implementation of the recommendations of the previous meeting and co-ordination in information technology, along with prosperous experiences.



The General Directorate of Traffic announced that the first batch of technical examiners of companies had been trained, as part of steps to assign the technical examination of vehicles to the private sector. Director of Licences Affairs Lieutenant-Colonel Abdulrahman Al Muawda attended the graduation ceremony. He highlighted that the training was part of the decision of Interior Minister to assign this service to the private sector under the supervision of the Traffic Department. The training included informing the examiners about procedures and equipment for examining vehicles that meet accredited criteria by the directorate.

Mystery shrouds teenager's death

Boy, 16, was found dead on a terrace of a building near his residence

● **The Interior Ministry did not release any statement regarding the death until the press time.**

● **The body of the deceased is being kept at the Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC) morgue.**

**TDI | Manama
Mohammed Zafran**

Mystery surrounds the death of a teenager whose body was found on the terrace of a building near Zubara Avenue in Manama on Friday.

The deceased, sixteen years old Shreyas Manoj, was a Plus One student at the Indian School Bahrain.

Shreyas, who had left his



Shreyas was a Plus One student at the Indian School Bahrain.

apartment on Friday morning to play basketball, never returned home, according to sources.

"Parents got worried after

they did not hear from him for many hours. They tried calling, but could not reach him as his mobile was switched off.

"They filed a missing complaint at the nearby police station," the sources said.

Instantly, a team of police began search for the boy and soon located his lifeless body on the terrace of a nearby building.

The Interior Ministry did not release any statement regarding the death until the press time.

"Police investigations are ongoing and the cause of death is unknown. No official statement has been released yet by the investigators," the sources added.

Shreyas is survived by his parents, father Manoj Kumar and mother Rosa Manoj and elder brother Siddharth Manoj.

Siddharth is pursuing his higher studies in Bangalore, India.

Sources said Manoj Kumar

Police investigations are ongoing and the cause of death is unknown.

SOURCES

owns a health and fitness centre in Umm Al Hassam and the family has been in the Kingdom for over 17 years now.

The body of the deceased is being kept at the Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC) morgue.

Meanwhile, in another incident, the Interior Ministry confirmed the death of an Asian national in a traffic accident.

"An Asian died after being hit by a car on Shaikh Isa Bin Salman Street near the area of Umm Al Hassam. The concerned authorities took the necessary measures," the ministry stated yesterday.

Bahraini families pledge allegiance to His Majesty

Manama

More Bahraini families yesterday pledged their allegiance to the Kingdom's leadership.

Al Zayed family expressed its full allegiance to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, stressing loyalty to him in confronting fallacies disseminated by the Qatari mass media, which "reflect bankruptcy of the Qatari regime and its disrespect of the principles of good neighbourliness preached by Islam and underscored by international covenants and conventions".

Al Zayed family affirmed in a statement its allegiance to Bahrain leadership and strongly denounced the failed attempts of the Qatari media to sow sedition and division and support terrorism.

Al Naim tribe also expressed its full allegiance and loyalty to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and pride in the landmark achievements attained during his prosperous era.

In a statement, the Al Naim tribe affirmed its unwavering deep-rooted loyalty to Bahrain and its esteemed Al Khalifa rulers, noting that Bahrain will remain an oasis of security and prosperity.

Al Naim tribesmen prayed to Allah the Almighty to protect HM King Hamad, His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.

Al Naim tribe condemned, in the strongest terms, the fallacies aired by Al Jazeera satellite channel against Bahrain and its leadership, in an attempt to undermine the Kingdom's social fabric.

It stressed that Qatar's support for Al Jazeera proves its policies aiming to harm Bahrain, a conduct that contravenes all international norms

Qatar's support for Al Jazeera proves its policies aiming to harm Bahrain, a conduct that contravenes all international norms and laws.

AL NAIM TRIBE

and laws.

Al Naim tribesmen affirmed that Qatar's suspicious attempts have been exposed and will never succeed, thanks to the leadership of HM King Hamad, as well as to the Bahraini citizens' awareness, vigilance, adherence to national unity and loyalty to the leadership.

The Al Hammadi tribe in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the UAE condemned the continuous attempts of the Qatari regime to target Bahrain's security and stability, as well as the cohesion of the loyal Bahraini people, whose members are united behind the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

In a statement, Al Hammadi tribesmen stressed that the Qatari regime's alliance with the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nations will increase Qatar's isolation, expressing rejection and denunciation of the fabricated fallacies aired by the regime-run Al Jazeera satellite channel.

The statement affirmed that the Qatari regime's repeated conspiracies will fail, and strengthen the Bahraini people's cohesion, under its leadership.

Al Hammadi tribesmen in Bahrain affirmed their standing behind the leadership of HM King Hamad, His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.

432,225 pilgrims arrive in Saudi

Riyadh

The number of pilgrims coming to perform Hajj rituals from abroad, through air, land and sea ports, has reached 432,225 so far, according to statistics issued by Saudi General Directorate of Passports.

The General Directorate of

Passports said that the number of pilgrims arriving by air reached 426,292, by land 3,251, and by sea 2,682, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has been organising a training session for its seasonal workers titled "How to Set an Example and Make a Change," in preparation for this

year's Hajj season.

The session was held in co-operation with the National Documentation Training Institute, and is taking place at the headquarters of the Jeddah chamber.

The sessions focus on the ministry's role in serving pilgrims and work ethics, and stressed the importance of recognising

the immense significance of the pilgrimage for pilgrims.

The ministry's director of human resources, Khaled Al Qazlan, highlighted the ministry's eagerness to promote and enhance the services provided to pilgrims, and to train its employees to better provide those services, in line with the directions of Saudi Arabia's leaders.

Revamp of secondary sanitary water pumping stations continues

Manama

Sanitary Engineering Assistant Undersecretary at Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Asma Jassim Murad, stated that work is still ongoing on the project of revamping secondary sanitary water pumping stations in an effort to raise the efficiency of sanitary networks and to reduce damages.

Ms Murad explained that the project aims to maintain the stations and to improve them to raise their efficiency and to ensure their longevity in addition to reducing malfunctions and



The work is expected to be completed by September 2019.

37
sanitary water pumping stations were chosen for revamping and upgrading the electrical and mechanical equipment.

therefore reduce floods that the areas with these stations sometimes experience.

Ms Murad added: "Thirty-seven sanitary water pumping stations were chosen for revamping

and upgrading the electrical and mechanical equipment. As per this project, these stations were provided with new pumps, inner pipes, structures, electrical control panels and sensors. Some stations also had minor civil works done to them."

The chosen stations are located in different areas: seven in Muharraq, 20 in Manama, Jidhafs and Al Budaiya, seven in Sitra, Al Eker and Alba, and three in Tubli and Riffa, sources said.

The project's total cost is BD1,031,528.809, and it is expected to be completed during September 2019, sources added.

New mosque opens



Sunni Endowments Council President Dr Rashid bin Mohammed Al Hajeri opened Najat Sayed Abdullah Al Gharballi Mosque in Galali. He extended heartfelt thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for the great care accorded to mosques across Bahrain. He stressed the religious importance of building mosques and maintaining them, pointing out that it is one of the best religious deeds. The one-storey mosque has a traditional Bahraini design with a courtyard and the original Bahraini minaret. It has a capacity of 150 male worshippers and 45 female worshippers.

Kingdom condemns Iranian detention of British oil tanker

Foreign Ministry urges Iran to stop its threats to maritime navigation

● The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated the Kingdom of Bahrain's solidarity with the friendly United Kingdom.

● The UK has branded Iran's seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker in the Gulf as a "hostile act".

Manama

Bahrain yesterday strongly condemned Iran's detention of a British oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz.

In a statement, the Foreign Ministry called on Iran to cease its recurring hostile activities and to release Stena Impero immediately.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated the Kingdom of Bahrain's solidarity with the friendly United Kingdom against all that threatens its interests and supports what protects its rights.

The ministry also stressed the need for Iran to halt its irresponsible acts and to stop its continuous threats to maritime navigation.

It further called on the international community to take all the necessary actions to confront Iran and make it comply with the international maritime safety laws and treaties in order to establish international peace



The British oil tanker Stena Impero.

and security.

The UK has branded Iran's seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker in the Gulf as a "hostile act" on Saturday, rejecting Tehran's explanation that it had seized the vessel because it had been involved in an accident.

Iran's revolutionary guard released footage of the Stena Impero being boarded. As several speedboats sped alongside the vast vessel, an Iranian helicopter hovered over the ship's deck and several men in balaclavas carrying automatic weapons rappelled down a rope.

The video showed Iranian

troops using the same method of boarding the vessel as British Royal Marines used to seize the Grace 1 tanker on July 4. British authorities stopped the tanker, loaded with 2.1 million barrels of light fuel oil on suspicion of breaching European sanctions on Syria.

The Stena Impero was captured on Friday evening, a day after Gibraltar's Supreme Court said it would extend by 30 days the detention of an Iranian tanker seized two weeks ago.

British Defence Secretary Penny Mordaunt called the incident a "hostile act". Foreign

Secretary Jeremy Hunt said he had expressed "extreme disappointment" at the incident just a week after Iran said it wanted to deescalate the situation in the region during a phone call to his Iranian counterpart, Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Mr Hunt said the action was "totally and utterly unacceptable" and a "clear contravention of international law".

"We need to see the illegal seizing of a British-flagged vessel reversed, we need that ship released, and we continue to be very concerned about the safety and welfare of the 23 crew

members."

He said the Iranian view that the seizure was simply "tit-for-tat" could not be further from the truth.

"Just spoke to...Zarif and expressed extreme disappointment that having assured me last Saturday Iran wanted to de-escalate situation, they have behaved in the opposite way," Mr Hunt tweeted on Saturday.

"It raises very serious questions about the security of British shipping and indeed international shipping in the Straits of Hormuz," he later said via a foreign office statement.

Bahrain's strides highlighted at major forum
Manama

Bahrain Institute for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (DE-RASAT) Board of Trustees' Chairman Dr Shaikh Abdulla Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa took part as a keynote speaker in the The South-South Global Thinkers: the Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks for South-South Co-operation.

The event was held on the sidelines of the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development in the city of New York.

Addressing the event, he called for a sound academic dialogue to achieve intellectual communication between researchers and thinkers in the Southern countries to support development issues and partnership in building the building.

He highlighted Bahrain's achievements and gains, stressing the landmark success of the reform project led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa in all fields to ensure citizens services in a safe and prosperous environment.

He underlined Bahrain's success in building a constitutional, political, legal, security, economic, social and media system to bolster citizens' welfare and investment in human beings, being a top national priority in line with the 2030 Bahrain Economic Vision.

He outlined Bahrain's impressive steps over the past two decades to promote reforms and democratic development, people's participation, protect rights and liberties with legal guarantees and vested state institutions, incorporating sustainable development goals in the economic strategy.

'Safe Access' workshop held for 28 volunteers

TDT | Manama

The Bahraini Red Crescent Society, in co-operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), organised a training workshop titled "Safe Access".

It was attended by Vice-President of the Association, Ali Mohammad Murad and Board Member Hassan Ali Gomaa, the Secretary General of the Society Dr Abdullah Fawzi Amin and Director General Mubarak Khalifa.

They honored the volunteers of the association, who participated in the workshop for their commitment to attend and the ability to enhance their knowledge and skills in the field of relief and humanitarian work.

The two-day course was organised in co-ordination with the First Aid Committees and the Disaster Team of the Society, with the attendance of 28 volunteers from the Bahrain Red Crescent Society.

Dr Amin pointed out the importance of the workshop in the field of access to security in accordance with the standards of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which aims to connect and provide assistance to those affected in conflict areas.

In a speech during the workshop, Dr Ameen stressed the keen-



The participants at the workshop with BRCS officials.

28

volunteers from the Bahrain Red Crescent Society attended the workshop.

ness of the Bahrain Red Crescent Society to select the best trainers in this field to make the best use of the participants in the workshop, adding that the participants have completed previous training programmes in various fields of humanitarian and relief work.

He expressed the need for such workshops as they are of great importance to the Bahraini Red

Crescent volunteers, as they allow some participants to switch from trainee to certified trainer, in addition to creating job opportunities.

Dr Amin highlighted the basic programmes adopted in the field of relief and humanitarian work, provided by the association in co-operation with the International Federation, and includes seven programmes, five of which are basic and two optional: disaster management programme, first aid programme, international humanitarian law programme, psychosocial support programme, project management and sphere standards.

The workshop also encompassed areas including water supply, sanitation and hygiene, food security, shelter and human settlements as well as health work.

Charity auction to be held at Brave London event

TDT | Manama

A charity auction will be one of the highlights of BRAVE 24: London, a mixed martial arts event set to connect the sport to the highest level of dignitaries around the world, organisers said in a statement issued.

"The once-in-a-lifetime, exclusive experience will take place at the Copper Box Arena, on July 25, and will be a luxurious, invite-only show to more than 300 celebrities, influencers, politicians, and businessmen.

"And the top personalities in attendance will have the chance to bid on exclusive items, with all the proceeds going to the Royal British Legion, a charity which provides financial, social and emotional support to veterans of the British Armed Forces (Royal Navy, British Army, and Royal Air Force) and their families and dependants.

"It is the largest Armed Forces Charity in Great Britain, with 235,000 members, 110,000 volunteers and a set network of other charities and partners."

"When we have the world coming together, we're going to make sure that MMA is not only a sport to be developed, to be empowered. We also think of what MMA can give back to the community," said Brave CF President



A poster of the event.

Mohammed Shahid.

"We always have a charity aspect to every event we host. But this is going to be one of the biggest things we've done at BRAVE Combat Federation. The auction is fully focused on how much mixed martial arts can contribute to the community. And this is one of the most important aspects of BRAVE CF.

"The auction will take place between the preliminary and main cards, giving a chance for the VIP

attendees to bid on exclusive items that will be announced in the coming days," he added.

The charity aspect of the event is just one of the things that will set BRAVE 24: London apart from all other events and elevate MMA to a higher standard, as the hundreds of VIP personalities attending will also enjoy musical numbers and will have a chance to meet and connect with CEOs of major companies, as well as celebrities and influencers.

world

Thousands rally in support of Hong Kong police



People attend a pro-government rally outside the government headquarters in Hong Kong

Hong Kong, China

Tens of thousands of people rallied in support of Hong Kong's police and pro-Beijing leadership on Saturday, a vivid illustration of the polarisation coursing through the city after weeks of anti-government demonstrations.

Hong Kong has been rocked by more than a month of huge and largely peaceful protests -- as well as a series of separate violent confrontations with police -- sparked by a proposed law that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China and other countries.

The bill has since been suspended, but that has done little to quell public anger which has evolved into a wider movement calling for democratic reforms, universal suffrage and a halt to sliding freedoms in the semi-autonomous financial hub.

Saturday's rally was a moment for the establishment to muster their own supporters.

A predominantly older crowd was joined by families and younger residents, waving Chinese flags and holding banners supporting the police. "Friends who used violence say they love Hong Kong too, but we absolutely cannot approve of their way of expressing themselves," said Sunny Wong, 42, who works in insurance.

A 60-year-old woman named Leung said protesters who stormed and vandalised the legislature earlier this month must be held responsible for their acts.

"I really dislike people using violence on others... it was so extreme," Leung said.

Police estimated a turnout of 103,000 people at the peak of the rally, while local media cited organisers as saying 316,000 attended.

Hong Kong police uncover 'homemade explosive lab'



Police said they swooped on an industrial building in the district of Tsuen Wan on Friday evening and arrested a 27-year-old man

Hong Kong, China

Hong Kong police yesterday said they had uncovered a makeshift factory producing high-powered explosives alongside pro-independence leaflets, a discovery which comes as the city is rocked by unprecedented political protests.

Police said they swooped on an industrial building in the district of Tsuen Wan on Friday evening and arrested a 27-year-old man.

"We are dealing with a homemade laboratory for the manufacture of high explosive, specifically TATP," Superintendent Alick McWhirter, a bomb squad specialist, told reporters on Saturday.

"This is an extremely sensitive and an extremely powerful high explosive. It will

cause exceptional amounts of damage when used," he added.

TATP requires skill to manufacture but has been used in a number of major terror attacks, including the 2005 London suicide bombings and the recent deadly Easter attacks on hotels and churches in Sri Lanka earlier this year.

McWhirter said his team had carried out at least one controlled explosion and expected to do more because the TATP they had discovered was volatile.

Items also displayed by police after the raid included a T-shirt with the logo of the Hong Kong National Front, a pro-independence group, as well as leaflets related to huge anti-government protests currently engulfing the international finance hub.

New Delhi asks Iran to free 18 Indians on seized tanker



Stena Impero, a British-flagged tanker, off the coast of Amsterdam. The British-flagged tanker Stena Impero seized by Iran is now at anchor off the port of Bandar Abbas with all its crew aboard after colliding with a fishing boat, authorities said

New Delhi, India

India said yesterday it was in touch with Tehran to secure the release of 18 of its nationals serving on a British-flagged tanker seized by Iran in the Strait of Hormuz.

The Philippines also said it would ask Iran to free a Filipino crew member on the Swedish-owned Stena Impero which was seized on Friday, as tensions mount in a key waterway for the world's oil supplies.

Raveesh Kumar, spokesman for India's foreign ministry, said that 18 of its nationals were on the ship and said New Delhi was "in touch with the government of Iran to secure (their) early release and repatriation".

The tanker was impounded off Bandar Abbas port for breaking "international maritime rules" after colliding with a fishing boat, Iranian authorities said.

The Philippine foreign department said a Filipino, three Russians and a Latvian were also among the ship's crew.

"(Philippine) Ambassador to Iran Fred Santos is contacting Iranian authorities to seek assurance that the Filipino seafarer is safe and will be released soon," it said, adding the unidentified crew member's family has been notified.

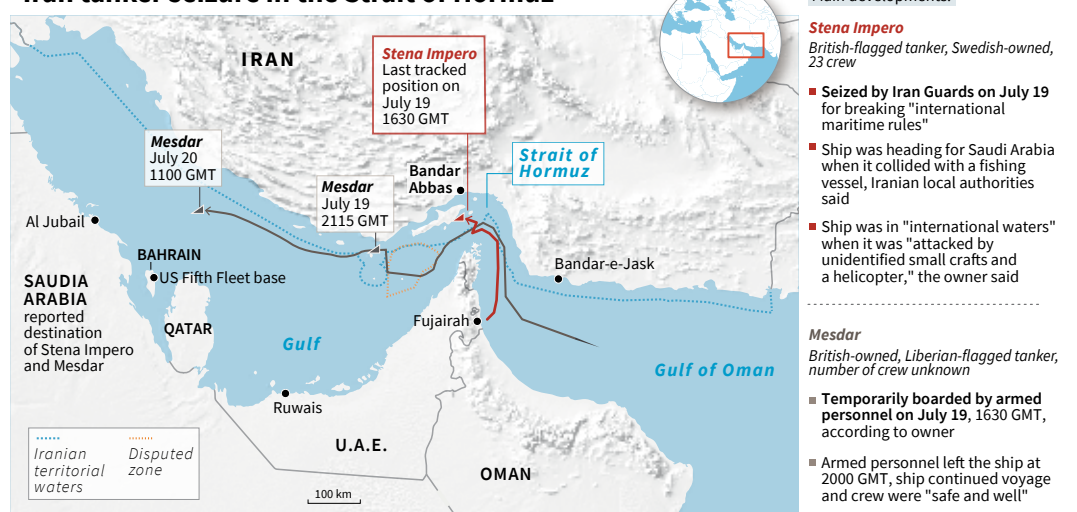
The recruitment agency that supplied the Filipino crew member told Manila there were no reported injuries as the vessel headed for the Iranian coast on Friday, the department added.

Iranian authorities said the tanker has anchored off Bandar Abbas with all its 23 crew aboard.

Britain said a second ship had also been seized in the Persian Gulf -- the Liberian-flagged Mesdar.

The Mesdar's British owner said the vessel had been temporarily boarded by armed personnel, but was free to leave and that all crew were "safe and well".

Iran tanker seizure in the Strait of Hormuz



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Washington, United States

Fifty years ago on Saturday, American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans in history to set foot on the Moon, an event watched on television by half a billion people. Their lunar module, named “Eagle,” touched down at 2018 GMT (4:18pm ET) on July 20, 1969. A little over six hours later, at 0256 GMT, Armstrong placed his left foot on the lunar surface, declaring: “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” NASA has been in overdrive for several weeks to mark the anniversary, with exhibits and events nationwide but most notably at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida and the Johnson Space Center in

Houston, Texas. On Saturday, Vice President Mike Pence is due to deliver a speech from the Kennedy Space Center, from where Armstrong, Aldrin and Michael Collins, the third crew member took off. All three men were born in 1930. Pence sent shockwaves through the industry in his last major space speech in March, when he advanced the deadline to return humans to the Moon by four years, from 2028 to 2024. It is within this charged context, with President Donald Trump publicly questioning NASA’s plans to return to the Moon to test technology for Mars, that the US is celebrating the anniversary of the epoch-making Apollo 11 mission.

‘World in my window’ Collins, 88, has remained the more active of the surviving

Apollo veterans, and frequently shares lyrical recollections of the mission. Speaking at a Washington event on Thursday, he said that while the Moon itself was breathtaking seen up close, it was the view of Earth that has stayed with him and shaped his perspective. “When we rolled out and looked at (the Moon), oh, it was an awesome sphere,” he

said. “The Sun was behind it, so it was illuminated by a rim of gold which made the strangest appearances of the craters and crater pits, the contrast between the whiter than white and darker than dark.” As magnificent as that view was, it was “nothing compared to this other window

out there,” Collins continued. “Out there was this little pea about the size of your thumbnail at arm’s length: blue, white, very shiny, you get the blue of the oceans, white of the clouds, streaks of rust we call continents, such a beautiful gorgeous tiny thing, nestled into this black velvet of the rest of the universe.” While Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were on the surface, ex-fighter pilot Collins remained in lunar orbit where he was in touch with ground control, providing them updates on his position. “I said to Mission control, ‘Hey, Houston, I’ve got the world in my window.’

Cold War victory

By placing men on the Moon, the US achieved the ultimate victory in the Space Race after losing the initial heats to the

Soviet Union, which was first to put a satellite and then a man in space. The undertaking, announced by president John F Kennedy in 1961 and partly spurred by the Bay of Pigs crisis, involved enormous spending rivaled in scope only by the construction of the Panama Canal and the Manhattan Project. It was a resounding achievement not just from a technical perspective but also diplomatic, as the two superpowers jostled for global prestige in the Cold War. Trump has relaunched the race to re-conquer the Moon -- this time with the first woman -- and to journey onwards to the Red Planet. But the deadlines -- 2024 and 2033 respectively -- appear unrealistic and have caused turbulence within the space agency.



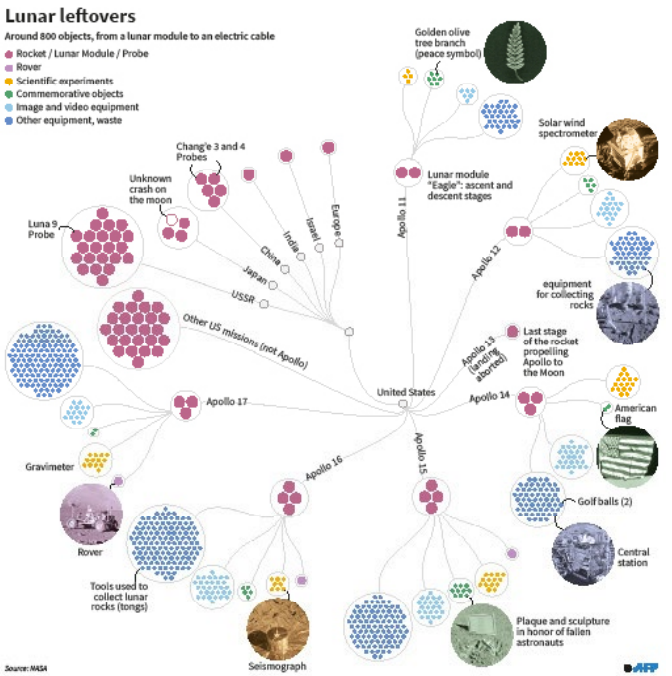
US Astronaut Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin is shown walking near the Lunar Module 20 July 1969 during the Apollo 11 space mission.



This photo released by NASA shows the crew of the Apollo 11 lunar landing mission L-R Neil Armstrong, commander, Michael Collins, command module pilot and Edwin E. Aldrin Jr, lunar module pilot, 01 May 1969



US President Donald Trump speaks with Apollo 11 crew member Buzz Aldrin on July 19, 2019, at the White House in Washington, DC, during a ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Moon landing.



The exploration of space in key dates

| 1957: SPUTNIK | 1961: GAGARIN, 1ST MAN | 1969: ON MOON | 1971: SPACE STATION | 1976: MARS | 1981: SPACE SHUTTLE | 1990: HUBBLE |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| <p>On October 4, 1957, Moscow launches the first artificial space satellite, Sputnik 1, ushering in the Cold War tussle for the cosmos.</p> <p>The beach ball-sized aluminium sphere takes 98 minutes to orbit the Earth and sends back the first message from space, simple “beep-beep-beep” radio signals.</p> <p>On November 3, Sputnik 2 carries the first living being to fully orbit the Earth, a small street dog called Laika. She dies after a few hours.</p> | <p>On April 12, 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes the first man in space, completing a single, 108-minute orbit.</p> <p>Twenty-three days later, Alan Shepard is the first American in space when he makes a 15-minute trip on May 5.</p> <p>The Cold War rivals are only joined in space by a third country in 2003 when China sends up Yang Liwei onboard Earth orbiter Shenzhou V.</p> | <p>On July 21, 1969, US astronaut Neil Armstrong is the first man to step onto the Moon, his teammate Edwin Aldrin joining him around 20 minutes later.</p> <p>Between 1969 and 1972, 12 astronauts -- all American -- walked on the Moon as part of NASA’s Apollo program.</p> | <p>On April 19, 1971, the Soviet Union launches the first orbital space station, Salyut 1.</p> <p>Construction of the still-operating International Space Station (ISS) starts in 1998.</p> <p>The ISS, in which 16 countries participate, took over from the Russian space station Mir, which was brought back to Earth in 2001 after 15 years in orbit.</p> | <p>On July 20, 1976, US spacecraft Viking 1 becomes the first to successfully land on Mars and send back images of the Red Planet.</p> <p>The robot Opportunity explored Mars between 2004 and 2018, with NASA’s Curiosity Rover still active there.</p> | <p>On April 12, 1981, the US space shuttle Columbia, the first reusable manned spacecraft, makes its first voyage.</p> <p>It is followed by Challenger, Discovery, Atlantis and Endeavour, which serve the ISS until the shuttle programme winds up in 2011.</p> <p>The United States has since depended on Russia to transport its astronauts to the ISS. Two US shuttles were destroyed in flight, with the loss of 14 astronauts: Challenger in 1986 and Columbia in 2003.</p> | <p>On April 25, 1990, the Hubble is the first space telescope to be placed into orbit, at 547 kilometres (340 miles) from Earth.</p> <p>Thirteen metres (42 feet) long, Hubble revolutionises astronomy, allowing scientists to observe the planets and most distant stars and galaxies.</p> |

Anime studio fire ‘an arson attack’, Japan police say

Tokyo, Japan

The horrifying fire at a renowned anime firm which killed dozens in Kyoto is being treated as arson and murder, Japanese police have said, with scores of detectives investigating the deadliest violent crime for decades in the famously safe country.

The blaze on Thursday killed 34 people and wounded dozens more at Kyoto Animation -- well known among fans across the world for its animations of popular manga works -- and left anime fans and insiders shocked and heartbroken.

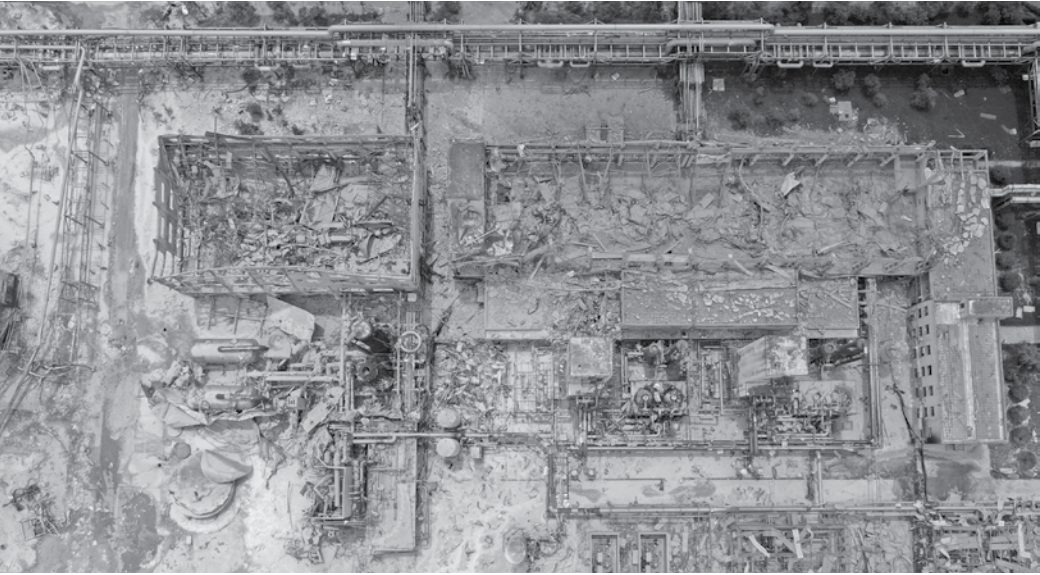
In a rare move, Kyoto police on Friday identified the 41-year-old man suspected of starting the inferno as Shinji Aoba.

Last Gaddafi PM freed

Tripoli, Libya

Baghdadi al-Mahmoudi, Libya's last prime minister under ousted dictator Muammar Al Gaddafi, has been released from jail for health reasons four years after being sentenced to death, Tripoli's justice ministry said yesterday.

Death toll rises to 15 after China plant blast



Damaged buildings are seen at the site of an explosion at the Henan Coal Gas Group factory in Yima city, in China's central Henan province

Beijing, China

The death toll from a huge explosion that rocked a gas plant in central China has risen to 15, state media said yesterday.

Friday's blast at the Henan Coal Gas Group factory left another 15 people seriously wounded and more with light injuries, said the state-run People's Daily.

The blast shattered windows and doors of buildings in a three-kilometre (1.9-mile)

radius.

It occurred in the air separation unit of Henan Coal's factory, state broadcaster CCTV said, with the official Xinhua news agency saying a device in the factory exploded at 5:45 pm on Friday.

All production at the plant has been stopped. More than 270 rescuers were on the scene, Xinhua said, citing the emergency management ministry.

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

Local media showed amateur videos of a massive column of black smoke billowing from the factory and debris littering the roads.

Other images showed the doors and windows of homes blown out and shuttered shops with dented metal fronts.

A bloodied man was seen being helped out of a van in a video posted on social media.

India grounds pilot for sending hijack alert by mistake

New Delhi, India

India has suspended a pilot for accidentally sending a hijack alert to air traffic control during a domestic flight last month, the aviation authority said.

The AirAsia India plane, flying from the capital New Delhi to Srinagar, suffered a stalled engine and the captain told first officer Ravi Raj to send an emergency code to alert authorities about the situation.

Instead of the appropriate code 7700, Raj transmitted 7500 -- the code for a hijacking -- India's Director General of Civil Aviation said in a statement on Friday.

Such a transmission is considered a major security alert across the world. Precise details of the response from Indian authorities during the



Instead of the appropriate code 7700, Raj transmitted 7500

incident were not available, but local media reported last month that procedures for handling a hijacking were set in motion. The Airbus A320 airliner safely landed later in the city of Chandigarh.

Raj was found guilty of "negligent conduct" and suspended for three months, the DGCA said, and the captain of the flight was also warned to be more vigilant.

More than 10,000 rally in Moscow

Moscow, Russia

More than 10,000 people, including prominent opposition politicians, participated in a rally in central Moscow Saturday to demand free and fair local polls, an independent monitor said.

Opposition politicians and supporters gathered after authorities refused to register allies of opposition leader Alexei Navalny and other Kremlin



Thousands of protesters gathered in Moscow

critics seeking to run for the capital's parliament in September elections, said White Counter, an NGO that tracks participation in protest rallies.

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| INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION At 30 June 2019 (Reviewed) | | | | INTERIM STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS For the six months ended 30 June 2019 (Reviewed) | | | | INTERIM STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the six months ended 30 June 2019 (Reviewed) | |
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Xenophobia sweeping through Turkey's cities

Stoked and exploited by politicians, this sentiment has grave implications for some of the world's most vulnerable people

KAREEN SHAHEEN

The rumours spread like wildfire, fanned by social media. In June, a Turkish crowd burned down Syrian storefronts in Istanbul's Kucukcekmece district, following an apparent fake news incident in which a local woman was said to have been harassed by Syrian refugees.

In July, after the secular opposition – which is friendlier towards the Assad regime than President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) – won the Istanbul mayoral elections, viral hashtags on social media demanded that "Syrians get out".

For the most generous of Syria's neighbours in terms of hosting refugees, patience is wearing thin – the result of politicians fuelling and exploiting flames of communal hatred and an economic downturn that has hit ordinary Turks hard.

Turkey hosts the highest total number of refugees in the world. Very few experience the kind of destitution seen in Lebanon, where most refugees are forced to live in crowded tent settlements that flood every winter. Nevertheless, anti-Syrian xenophobia is growing. This sentiment is more dangerous than the kind of prejudice seen in the West, because its aim is the forced return of dispossessed civilians to a barbaric regime.

The idea of sending refugees back home emerged as a mainstream political position in Turkey in 2018, as a pillar of the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) candidate Muharrem Ince's general election



A Syrian refugee family from Aleppo feed seagulls while crossing the Bosphorus from Uskudar to the European side of Istanbul.

campaign. Mr Ince, a dynamic figure whose rallies drew thousands of people fed up with Mr Erdogan's authoritarian rule, ultimately lost the election. But one of his key pledges was to re-establish relations with Damascus within 100 days and begin the process of sending refugees back home. This went largely unnoticed in western election

coverage, which instead focused on Mr Erdogan's steady assault on democratic values.

Mr Erdogan was returned to the presidency, but the AKP underperformed at the polls. One possible explanation was that the party was not in tune with ordinary voters on the refugee issue. Polls show that an overwhelming majority of Turks,

regardless of affiliation, are

py about the presence of refugees. The AKP belatedly picked up the electoral potential of the refugee sentiment, with the party's mayoral candidate in the recent elections vowing to send back Syrians who cause trouble. The party's ultra-nationalist Good Party set up posters

Peace offers the only pathway to a political settlement

AJMAL SHAMS

Peace was and remains the top priority for Afghans. No economic and development agenda can be achieved without sustainable peace and security in Afghanistan. According to Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, an amount exceeding \$100 billion has been invested in the country's rehabilitation and development during the past 17 years.

However, foreign aid has significantly diminished since 2014, when most of the international security forces left the country as part of transitioning to Afghan ownership. Afghanistan's hopes for its economic growth and development lie in its vast mineral resources, investment by Afghan as well as foreign companies, and Afghanistan acting as a transit and energy corridor between the central and South Asia. Yet, these ambitious economic objectives cannot be achieved unless peace and security are restored across the country.

Leaders of the National Unity Government in Afghanistan were voted to power, based on promises of bringing peace and stability to a nation that has suffered from continuing war and conflict for the past four decades. Although the Afghan leadership tried its best, reaching out to Pakistan as well as the Taliban, these efforts did not result in any meaningful outcome. When the US President Donald Trump announced his new strategy for Afghanistan and South Asia in 2017, a peaceful settlement of the Afghan conflict was an essen-

tial element of the strategy. On the other hand, the Taliban consistently declined the Afghan government's offer for direct talks. It was in the wake of these circumstances that the US had to start direct negotiations with the Taliban through its special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, an Afghan-American who is the best fit for the task.

The Taliban and the US delegations have held seven rounds of talks in Doha, the capital of Qatar. According to Mr Khalilzad, the talks focused on four main points, including complete withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan, guarantees by the Taliban not to use Afghan soil against the US, an enduring ceasefire and intra-Afghan dialogue that will lay out the roadmap for a political settlement. The latest round of talks ended on July 7 with both sides expressing optimism and speaking of genuine progress.

Another important development was the two-day intra-Afghan dialogue in Doha just a week ago, in which the Taliban delegation held discussions with Afghan representatives. Regardless of the fact that delegates from Afghanistan did not officially represent the Afghan government, the conference was a positive step forward in building confidence and paving the way for future direct talks between the Afghan Government and the Taliban.

Regional consensus on the Afghan peace process is of crucial importance. The ongoing armed insurgency in Afghanistan is a threat for regional stability and adversely



An Afghan security personnel investigates the site of a Taliban car bomb attack in Kabul.

impacts economic co-operation among countries of the region and beyond. It is encouraging that the US, Russia and China have all supported and called for immediate intra-Afghan dialogue to determine the way forward for the political

settlement of the conflict. Any roadmap for peace must ensure that all parties to the conflict agree on an inclusive future set up for Afghanistan that guarantees to maintain the achievements of the past 17 years in democracy, development, women's

empowerment and human rights. Afghanistan is in a corner. The country will not survive without a peaceful settlement. The timing is pivotal. The peace process and election process are synchronised is a major

Without a drastic reduction in violence, the long-term future of this war-ravaged nation will remain in the balance

2005

July 2005 **London bombings** occur.

2008

Ram Baran Yadav is declared the first president of Nepal.



2011

NASA's Space Shuttle program ends with the landing of Space Shuttle Atlantis on mission STS-135 at **NASA's Kennedy Space** Center.

2012

Erden Eruç completes the first solo human-powered circumnavigation of the world.



Mr Erdogan was returned to the presidency, but the AKP under-performed at the polls. One possible explanation was that the party was not in tune with ordinary voters on the refugee issue.



centrated in Idlib, which borders Turkey and is the last province to remain under rebel control. The Assad regime is generally assumed to have won the war militarily. Moreover, Ankara has established a sphere of influence in northern Syria, and areas that have been conquered by militias paid for by, and loyal to, Turkey, are functioning in a relatively stable fashion.

However, the truth is that none of these areas are safe. In April, the Assad regime launched the initial salvo of a campaign to reclaim Idlib. More than three million people – many already displaced – live in Idlib. As the fighting draws nearer, large numbers are moving closer to the border and into areas controlled by the Turkish-backed militias.

In the past two years, almost 2,000 Syrians who returned home have been detained, according to estimates by the Syrian Network for Human Rights. Returnees are also

frequently forced join the Syrian military.

Meanwhile, high inflation and unemployment have created serious tensions in Turkish cities. A report in early 2018 by the International Crisis Group found a rapid increase in inter-communal violence, particularly in Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara. It attributed the trend to competition for low-wage jobs between Syrians and Turks. Now, this problem is only getting worse. There are no easy answers. Steps that would integrate Syrians better into Turkey's economy are political suicide.

There are only two possible solutions. The first is for Europe, other western powers and Arab nations that do not border Syria to shoulder their responsibility for refugee resettlement. It is unconscionable that Turkey hosts four million Syrian refugees and tiny Lebanon a million, while the UK has taken in fewer than 14,000.

Second, Turkey needs to be honest about its strategic objectives in Syria, and push for an inclusive peace settlement that creates genuinely safe conditions for refugees to return to. While Turkish politicians are happy to demonise Syrians at home, they are perfectly happy for Syrians to fight their battles across the border. Syrian rebel fighters have been leading the charge on the ground to oust Kurdish paramilitary forces from the regions abutting the Turkish border. These campaigns have created a de facto partitioned country with no meaningful pathway to peace even being considered.

cally stable Afghanistan



Afghanistan is in a complex situation. The country will go to presidential polls in September 2019. The timing is pivotal. How the peace process and election will be synchronised is a major challenge.



violence continues all across the country, with civilians the main victims. The Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF) continuously attack Taliban targets and the Taliban target the former in return, either in guerrilla-style attacks or suicide bombings. This vicious cycle seems to be never-ending. Mr Khalilzad has repeatedly called for a reduction in the violence, but to no avail. As a confidence-building measure, it is important that both parties in the conflict scale back their attacks, especially when civilians are potentially harmed.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, during his visit to Afghanistan last month, said that his government is aiming for a peace deal in the war-ravaged country by September. If this comes true, Afghans will have a great moment to celebrate, and a chance to begin a new life after four decades of war, conflict and destruction.

without peace and security across the country will question the credibility of the ballot. However, the government is intent upon holding elections regardless of any parallel peace process.

In spite of ongoing peace talks,

and has been addressed neither by the Afghan Government nor other relevant stakeholders so far.

Mr Khalilzad has already indicated that peace has priority over the election. Most Afghans also agree that an exercise of democracy



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



This is how lapdog media deflect attention from issues. Now, instead of debating fascism, or the fascist NIA Amendment Bill, we are debating defamation and plagiarism. This might be the only country where media bitterly fights the opposition!!

@Shehla_Rashid

02



Finally met the families of the Ubbha massacre. What they have been through is unimaginably brutal and unjust. Every single Indian should stand with them in the name of humanity.

@priyankagandhi

03



Democrats are outraged about "cages" at border detention facilities. But guess who built EVERY SINGLE ONE: President Obama. Enough of the politics. Let's secure the border and fix the problem.

@Jim_Jordan

04



Called on Union Home Minister @Amit-Shah ji with a Delegation of Hindu refugees, forced to flee from Pakistan! They sought extension of medical VISA and HM assured them every help through even extension of normal VISA!"Felt like my brother is behind me" reacted a woman refugee!

@vinay1011

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

Our beloved Prime Minister gives SMEs a surge of hope



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

That there is a surge of hope among Bahrain's SMEs and small investors can be seen from two very important items of news publicised recently.

The first stated that between January and June this year alone, more than 7,400 commercial registrations were issued to Bahraini and expat investors.

In recent months, more investors have been making Bahrain their base since the Kingdom has opened up more sectors to 100 per cent expat ownership.

The second move that has energised the market is the decision initiated by our wise Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa that 10 per cent of all public tenders awarded must go to SMEs.

This is in addition to a similar quota that facilitates SMEs participating in the national economy through auctions for service facilities at government enterprises.

It will ensure that SMEs will get more access to government deals, creating a cycle of growth and expansion of development channels.

Bahrainis have always shown a strong entrepreneurial trait which later led to the development of giant business houses such as the Kanoos, Almoayyeds, Jalals, Zayanis etc.

By empowering SME entrepreneurs by reserving 10pc of all tenders for them, our Prime Minister has sent out a clear message that he is aware of the need to support them.



Today, Bahraini businesswomen too have etched their footprint in the business environment and besides leading family businesses.

But having the will to work hard and the imagination to start a new business in only part of the story.

By empowering SME entrepreneurs by reserving 10pc of all tenders for them, our Prime Minister has sent out a clear

message that he is aware of the need to support them and help them to upcycle themselves.

Next, Bahrain needs to look seriously at access to finance for SMEs. In the Arab region, SMEs represent 96 per cent of registered companies according to the IMF.

They also employ half the labour force, yet their access to finance is the lowest in the world: lending to SMEs in the region is only seven per cent of bank lending.

Despite the Bahrain Development Bank and Tamkeen support, SMEs struggle to expand their business.

If they are to make the most of the opportunity to seek new business through public tenders, they must also be given new currents of finance and knowhow support.

Closing this financial inclusion gap – with respect to the average of emerging and developing countries – would yield multiple economic benefits.

Given our Prime Minister's keen vision for the future growth of Bahrain, I am sure this will also be a move we shall hear very soon.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

business

US Steel to lay off 2,500 workers in Slovakia



The layoff will affect some 2,500 of the nearly 12,000 workers at the Kosice plant located in Slovakia

Bratislava, Slovakia

The United States Steel Corporation said yesterday it would cut around a fifth of its workforce in Slovakia over by the next two years due to competition from cheap steel imports from outside the European Union.

The company also faulted EU environmental regulations that have driven up the cost of power used to run the massive plant.

The layoff will affect some 2,500 of the nearly 12,000 workers at the Kosice plant located in Slovakia's poorer east struggling with high unemployment.

The steel mill ranks among the largest employers in the eurozone country of 5.4 million people focused primarily on car production.

By the "end of 2021 we will reduce the number of employees working at US Steel Kosice and its subsidiaries by 2,500 employees," company president James Bruno said in a statement.

"We must act to protect our business and remain competitive," he added.

A month ago, management decided to idle one of the plant's blast furnaces and reduce the working week to four days to save on costs.

Slovak government officials were not available for immedi-

ate comment.

US Steel pointed to "higher electrical costs" and "CO2 credit costs that have risen five times in the past year" as significant factors in its decision to shed employees, according to a separate statement published on the company website.

EU industries using power generated from coal have faced rising costs to purchase pollution rights under the bloc's Emissions Trading System.

"Steel plants in Europe face substantial CO2 allowances costs, which our competitors from third countries massively exporting steel to Europe don't have to bear at all," the statement said.

In May, the European Steel Association (EUROFER) called for urgent action by EU policymakers to help the sector facing a flood of cheap steel exports deflected to the EU because of the US imposition of steel import tariffs in 2018.

US Steel Kosice is a key supplier for the Slovakia-based car plants, which include Volkswagen, PSA Peugeot Citroen, Kia and Jaguar Land Rover and have enjoyed record production in recent years.

Unemployment stood at 4.97 per cent in June in Slovakia, which expects economic growth to hit 3.5pc this year, followed by 3.4pc in 2020.

China opens up to more foreign investment



Pedestrians walk past a branch of a Thomas Cook travel agent's shop in London

China will remove shareholding limits on foreign ownership of securities, insurance and fund management firms in 2020

Foreign investors will also be encouraged to set up wealth management firms, currency brokerages and pension management companies

Beijing, China

China lifted some restrictions on foreign investment in the financial sector yesterday, as the world's second largest economy fights slowing growth at home and a damaging trade war with the US.

China will remove sharehold-

ing limits on foreign ownership of securities, insurance and fund management firms in 2020, a year earlier than originally planned, the Financial Stability and Development Committee said in a statement posted by the central bank Saturday.

Foreign investors will also be encouraged to set up wealth management firms, currency brokerages and pension management companies, the statement said. Beijing has long promised to further open up its economy to foreign business participation and investment but has generally dragged its feet in implementing the moves -- a major point of contention with Washington and Brussels.

Yesterday's announcement followed a Friday meeting chaired by economic czar Liu He where policymakers focused on tackling financial risk and financial contagion and pledged new steps to support growth, according to a state council statement.

Additional measures include scrapping entry barriers for foreign insurance companies like a requirement of 30 years of business operations and cancelling a 25 per cent equity cap on foreign ownership of insurance asset management firms.

Foreign owned credit rating agencies will also be allowed to evaluate a greater number of bond and debt types, the statement said.

US President Donald Trump has launched a damaging tariff war in an attempt to force Beijing to further open up its economy and limit what he calls its unfair trade practices.

The US and China have hit each other with punitive tariffs covering more than \$360 billion in two-way trade.

Trump and Xi Jinping agreed to revive fractious trade negotiations when they met on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Japan on June 29 and top US and Chinese negotiators have held phone talks this month.

Equifax close to \$700m settlement for data breach: report



Washington, United States

US credit agency Equifax is close to a \$700 million settlement agreement with authorities over the theft of sensitive personal data of nearly 150 million customers, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

The company, which gathers data on consumers to help lenders determine borrowers' creditworthiness, revealed in 2017 that hackers had stolen the personal details, including names, dates of birth and social security numbers of nearly half the country.

It prompted the resignation of CEO Richard Smith and several other executives, while chief information officer Jun Ying was charged for insider trading after liquidating his shares when the company discovered the breach.

The deal could be announced as soon as Monday, the paper reported Friday, citing anonymous sources. The amount could still change depending on the number of plaintiffs who join a class action lawsuit against Equifax, they added.

Regulators will also ask the firm to strengthen its control procedures, risk management, and security systems at an additional cost of \$1.25 billion, the report said.

Equifax were sued for having identified but not corrected the breach, having insufficient security systems and delaying reporting the problem.

The incident prompted a public outcry and a congressional probe.

Lebanon parliament passes 2019 austerity budget

Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanon's parliament Friday approved a 2019 austerity budget aimed at rescuing an economy crumbling under massive debt and unlocking billions of dollars in international aid, state media reported.

The vote came nearly two months after cabinet approved the budget, which is expected to trim Lebanon's deficit to 7.59 per cent of gross domestic product -- a nearly 4-point drop from the previous year.

The deficit was 11.2pc of GDP in 2018.

Lebanon is one of the world's most indebted countries, with public debt estimated at 141 per cent of GDP in 2018, according to credit ratings agency Moody's.

The state-run *National News*



Representative picture

Agency (NNA) said "parliament passed the 2019 budget", but gave no further details. Officials were not immediately available to comment on the vote.

Before the vote dozens of retired military and security personnel demonstrated outside parliament to denounce a decision to reduce their pensions as part of the austerity package.

Army veterans will face new taxes on their pensions as a result of budget cuts, Defence Minister Elias Bou Saab said on Friday.

Protesters clashed with security forces as they tried to breach a barbed-wire barricade erected outside parliament.

They criticised officials for targeting public sector pensions as part of the austerity

package, while failing to enact more meaningful reforms, such as battling rampant corruption.

Friday's vote also capped days of heated parliamentary debates, broadcasted live on television, over proposed budget cuts.

According to NNA, 18 lawmakers voted against the 2019 budget, while 83 voted in favour.

Growth in Lebanon has plummeted in the wake of endless political deadlocks in recent years, compounded by the 2011 breakout of civil war in neighbouring Syria.

The country has been racking up public debt since the end of its own 1975-1990 civil war, which now stands at more than 150 per cent of GDP, according to the finance ministry.

Thai farmers on the cash trail with snail slime



Phatinisiri Thangkeaw milking a snail of its serum at her farm in Nakhon Nayok province

● **With her 1,000 snails, the teacher makes an extra \$320 to \$650 a month**

● **It “triggers the skin cells... and helps heal the skin”**

Nakhon Nayok, Thailand

Giant snails inch across a plate of pumpkin and cucumber in central Thailand, an “organic” diet to tease the prized collagen-rich mucus from the molluscs, which to some cosmetic firms are now

more valuable than gold.

The snails at Phatinisiri Thangkeaw’s farm were once the scourge of rice farmers, loathed for eating the buds of new crops.

“Farmers used to throw them on the road or in the rivers,” Phatinisiri said. “But now they sell them to me to earn extra money.”

With her 1,000 snails, the teacher makes an extra \$320 to \$650 a month.

It is one of more than 80 farms in Nakhon Nayok province, two hours from the capital Bangkok, cashing in on the global snail beauty market, estimated at \$314 million, according to research group Coherent Market Insights.

The precious slime is patiently

“milked” from the glands of the snail by dripping water over it using a pipette.

Its raw form is sold to Aden International, a Thai-based cosmetics company that primarily ships its products to Korea and the US.

The sole snail slime producer in Thailand, Aden was started three years ago as a business-savvy solution to the snail infestation in Nakhon Nayok, said founder Kitpong Puttarathuvannun.

And his bet paid off -- Kitpong sells the serum under the Acha brand, but also supplies Korean and American cosmetic companies with a dried powder at 1.8 million baht (\$58,200) per kilogram, he said.

”

We found that our slime was very intense because the snails eat everything, including vegetables, grains and even mushrooms... producing good quality slime. the mucus can be used to heal sunburn and heal wounds

PHATINISIRI THANGKEAW



Snails eating cucumbers at the Acha Snail Park in Nakhon Nayok province.

Gold is currently worth \$46,300 a kilogram.

Compared to Aden’s snail slime, the mucus produced in China -- milked daily instead of once every three weeks in Thailand -- is valued at about 80,000 baht (\$2,600) per kilogram, Kitpong said.

“We found that our slime was very intense because the snails eat everything, including vegetables, grains and even mushrooms... producing good quality slime,” he said, explaining that the mucus can be used to heal sunburn and “heal wounds”.

Somkamol Manchun, the doctor in charge of the purification process, said snail mucus contains collagen and elastin -- ingredients that “can make

skin firm with less wrinkles”.

It “triggers the skin cells... and helps heal the skin”.

At the moment, no scientific studies have been done on the curative qualities of snail serum and slime, but snail farmer Phatinisiri is already feeling the market heat up.

Two years ago, she was the first in the area to try farming the slime, she said, and villagers readily gave her what they considered pests.

“Now I buy snails at about 25 baht to 30 baht (about \$1) per kilogram,” she said. “But many people are doing snail farms now so the competition is high.”

Indian government seeks to tap foreign lenders for small firms: sources

● **The government is in discussions with Germany’s state-owned development bank KfW Group, the World Bank and some Canadian institutions**

● **India has 63 million firms in the micro, small and medium firm sector**

● **Seeks to provide as much as \$14.5 billion in credit**

Reuters | New Delhi

India’s government is in talks with foreign lenders to provide as much as \$14.5 billion in credit to millions of its small firms, two officials said.

The government is in discussions with multiple foreign lenders, including Germany’s state-owned development bank KfW Group, the World Bank and some Canadian institutions to extend lines of credit to small enterprises, one of the officials, who did not want to be identified, told Reuters.

KfW’s India office confirmed the discussions, though the



A worker operates a lathe as he makes spare parts of car gearboxes at a workshop in Kolkata, India

”

We are exploring, we are having discussions with various funding agencies if something can be done (for small and medium firms)

OFFICIAL

main focus was on credit lines to support small businesses’ solar power generation. The talks were at an early stage, KfW said.

A spokesman for World Bank in India yesterday said the discussions with the government were in the early stages, adding that “further rounds of consultations will help us define the contours of this collaboration”.

The official said the government plans to source up to 1 trillion Indian rupees of loans from foreign institutions.

“We are exploring, we are having discussions with various funding agencies if something can be done (for small and medium firms),” the second official said.

The officials did not provide full details of the discussions they are having with banks, or identify all those they are talking to, but said talks are at a very early stage.

India’s micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) ministry is discussing the proposal to pull

in foreign banks with the country’s ministry of finance, which will make a final call, the second official said.

The push for foreign loans comes on the heels of the Indian government’s announcement earlier this month that it plans to borrow about 700 billion rupees by issuing overseas sovereign bonds.

India’s 63 million firms in the micro, small and medium firm sector are responsible for more than a quarter of the country’s manufacturing and services output, and must be re-energized for Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government to kick-start the economy.

Last month, a study by a Reserve Bank of India panel said the overall deficit in credit for the MSME sector is estimated at about 20 trillion rupees to 25 trillion rupees.

But lending to such firms can be risky as some lack proper financial information, such as historical cash flow data, which makes it challenging for banks to assess the credit risks.

To mitigate such risks for foreign banks, the loans would be given sovereign guarantees and be routed through Indian government agencies such as the Small Industries Development Bank of India, the first official said.

China Southern Airlines to receive \$4 billion capital injection

Reuters | Shanghai

China Southern Airlines will carry out an equity diversification plan that will involve the injection of 30 billion yuan (\$4.36 billion) of capital from three investors, the firm announced on Saturday.

The Guangdong Hengjian Investment Holding Corporation, the Guangzhou Urban Construction Investment Group and the Shenzhen Penghang Equity Investment Fund will each inject 10 billion yuan into the airline, as part of the country’s efforts to diversify ownership structures among state-owned firms.

The move will significantly improve the company’s debt-to-asset ratio, generate funds for its growth and help modernize its decision-making mechanisms, the announcement said.

It will also use the funds to serve its main air transportation business, pay for construction related to China’s Belt and Road Initiative and support aviation development in cities in the southern province of Guangdong.

China Southern is one of 96 enterprises owned and administered directly by the central government.

Turkish banker released from US prison



Mehmet Hakan Atilla, 47, deputy director general of Turkish lender Halkbank

New York, United States

A Turkish banker convicted for plotting to help Iran evade American sanctions on Iranian oil proceeds has been released from US prison, according to his lawyer and prison officials.

Mehmet Hakan Atilla, 47, deputy director general of Turkish lender Halkbank, was arrested in March 2017 and convicted the following year on five counts of bank fraud and conspiracy following a five-week trial in New York.

He was handed over to immigration police on Friday pending his deportation to Turkey, his lawyer Victor Rocco said. Prison authorities confirmed his release.

Atilla claimed that he had only played a minor role in the scheme and acted as executor of instructions by the bank's director general -- an argument accepted by the court.

Prosecutors had wanted a 20-year sentence for the banker.

His conviction hinged on the testimony of Turkish-Iranian gold trader Reza Zarrab, who

was arrested by US authorities in 2016 after jetting to Florida with his pop-star wife and child on a family holiday to Disney World.

Zarrab, 34, initially pleaded not guilty then flipped, becoming a US government witness after admitting being involved in the multi-billion-dollar gold-for-oil scheme to subvert US economic sanctions against Iran.

His testimony identified Atilla as a key organizer in the scheme, but also implicated former Turkish ministers and even President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Testifying in court last November, Zarrab said he was told that Erdogan, as prime minister in 2012, and treasury minister Ali Babacan gave "instructions" to two public banks to take part in the scheme.

Erdogan has repeatedly rejected the allegations, saying Turkey did not violate the US embargo on Iran and that political rivals were behind the case.

Zarrab's sentence is not known, as many of the documents in his case have remained confidential.

American Airlines-Qantas joint venture wins final US approval

Reuters | Washington

The US Department of Transportation (DOT) on Friday granted American Airlines Group Inc and Qantas Airways Ltd final approval to operate a joint venture after a prior effort was rejected in 2016.

The department last month had issued an order tentatively approving the agreement and granting antitrust immunity to the airlines covering international service.

US Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao announced the approval on Friday afternoon, noting it was the first completed review of an airline joint venture proposal during the Trump administration.

An application for a joint venture covering the United States, Australia and New Zealand was rejected in November 2016 by former President Barack Obama's DOT. It tentatively concluded after a 17-month review that the venture "would reduce competition and consumer choice."

The deal will allow the airlines to coordinate planning, pricing, sales and frequent flyer programmes, with new options and customer service improvements. The two OneWorld alliance carriers are planning up to three new routes within the first two years as well as increased capacity on existing routes, the department has said.

American Airlines did not immediately comment on Friday, but Chief Executive Doug Parker said last month the joint ven-



The deal will allow the airlines to coordinate planning, pricing, sales and frequent flyer programmes.

ture would also create new jobs in the airlines and industries.

In June, JetBlue Airways Corp told the DOT that it took no position on the alliance, but said it would "substantially reduce competition in relevant markets and concentrate a huge level of market share and power in the hands of immunized alliances."

It also said the three major global airline alliances - OneWorld, SkyTeam and StarAlliance - will control 86% of the US-Australia market.

US regulators in 2001 approved similar joint venture agreements for United Airlines and Air New Zealand Ltd, and in 2011 for Delta Air Lines Inc and Virgin Australia.

The US DOT is, however, requiring American and Qantas to perform a self-assessment of the

venture's impact on competition seven years after it takes effect and report their findings to the government.

Regulators in Australia and New Zealand approved the first application for the joint venture before it was initially rejected by the US DOT.

American and Qantas in February 2018 made a second attempt to gain US regulatory permission under President Donald Trump's administration for a venture that would let them coordinate prices and schedules. They threatened to cancel services if it was rejected and argued it could "unlock" up to \$310 million annually in consumer benefits.

The revised application made significant changes, including removing a provision that would

have barred either carrier from code-sharing with other carriers. Code-sharing allows two or more carriers to publish and advertise a single flight under their own flight number.

The airlines argued in their 2018 application that the venture would lead to lower fares and higher capacity as a "more viable third competitor," and drive other carriers to improve quality, schedules and prices.

Qantas said last year the joint venture would allow the two airlines to "significantly improve service" and "stimulate demand."

The airlines said the agreement could generate up to 180,000 new trips between the United States and Australia and New Zealand annually.

GIB, Ithmaar, Benefit back 100th anniversary celebration



Chief Executive Officer of Benefit, Abdulwahid Janahi



Chief Executive Officer of BAB, Dr Waheed Al Qassim



Chief Executive Officer of GIB, Abdulaziz Al-Helaissi



Chief Executive Officer of Ithmaar Bank, Ahmed Abdul Rahim

● **The event on December 11 will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB) said it's receiving more sponsorships for the 100th-anniversary celebration

of Bahrain's banking sector.

The event on December 11 will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

CEO of BAB Dr Waheed Al Qassim expressed association's thanks and appreciation to GIB, Ithmaar Bank and Benefit for their support and sponsorship.

Bahrain's banking sector is the second-highest contributor to Bahrain's GDP with it employing more than 14,000 of which 65pc being Bahrainis.

BAB confirmed GIB gold sponsorship of the 100-anniversary celebration and the annual Bahraini banks' reception celebration held in Washington, DC. The event coincides with the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund scheduled from 18-20 October 2019.

Chief Executive Officer of GIB Abdulaziz Al-Helaissi stressed that GIB's sponsorship to this celebration is part of the bank's efforts to support BAB in achieving its objective to strengthen the solid foundation of the banking sector in Bahrain.

For his part, Chief Executive Officer of Ithmaar Bank Ahmed Abdul Rahim said that it's an honour to be one of the leading national institutions that support the 100th-anniversary celebration of the banking sector.

"Benefit's support for the 100th anniversary of the banking sector is part of the importance of this event in highlighting Bahrain's advanced position in the financial services and reflects Benefit's leadership in this field," said Abdulwahid Janahi, Chief Executive Officer of Benefit.

China hampering energy activity in South China Sea: US

● **Vietnam and China have long been locked in a maritime disagreement over the resource-rich waters of the South China Sea.**

Washington, United States

The United States yesterday expressed concern over reports that China is hampering other countries' oil and gas activities in the South China Sea and accused Beijing of acting like a bully.

The State Department said such acts by China -- it did not say when they are alleged to have happened -- threaten regional peace and security. It said these acts were interfering in particular with Vietnamese oil and gas exploration and production.

"As Secretary Pompeo noted earlier this year, 'by blocking development in the SCS through coercive means, China prevents ASEAN members from accessing more than \$2.5 trillion in recoverable energy reserves,'" spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said in a statement. ASEAN is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Vietnam and China have long been locked in a maritime disagreement over the resource-rich waters of the South China Sea.



China claims almost all of the South China Sea, including waters within Vietnam's exclusive economic zone

The Chinese claim nearly all of it.

But the international community has largely sided with the other claimants -- Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei -- citing the importance of freedom of navigation.

"China's reclamation and militarization of disputed outposts in the SCS, along with other efforts to assert its unlawful SCS maritime claims, including the use of maritime militia to intimidate, coerce and threaten other nations, undermine the peace and security of the region," the US statement said.

"The United States firmly opposes coercion and intimidation by any claimant to assert its territorial or maritime claims," Ortagus added.

"China should cease its bullying behavior and refrain from engaging in this type of provocative and destabilizing activity."

show

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ALADDIN (PG)(ADVENTURE)

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

CRAWL (18+)(THRILLER/HORROR)

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

SEEF (II): 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM
WADI AL SAIL: 10.30 AM + 3.00 + 7.30 + 12.00 MN
SAAR: 11.30 AM + 1.30 + 3.30 + 5.30 + 7.30 + 9.30 + 11.30 PM
KAYA SCODELARIO, BARRY PEPPER, ROSS ANDERSON

THE EXTRACTORS (15+)(ACTION/THRILLER)

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

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

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



STUBER (15+)(ACTION/COMEDY)

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

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

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

ANNABELLE COMES HOME (15+)(HORROR)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHUBHA RATHRI (PG-13)(MALAYALAM)

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

PATHINETTAM PADI (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)

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

KADARAM KONDAN (PG-15) (TAMIL)

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

JHOOOHA KAHIN KA FOR () (HINDI/COMEDY)

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

ARDAAS KARAAN () (PUNJABI/DRAMA)

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

MOVIE REVIEW

Evil has a new friend in tech horror movie ‘AMI’

● Siri-like phone assistant is out for blood in the slasher movie

A.M.I. (which stands for Artificial Machine Intelligence) is a Canadian cyber horror movie revolving around Cassie, a teenage girl whose mother died in a terrible car accident and who’s now dating a douchebag football player. Cassie’s best friend is also a terrible human being, since she has an affair with Cassie’s boyfriend (Liam). The only way Cassie finds to fill the void of her empty life is to form a co-dependent relationship with a software on her phone (kind of like Siri), which Cassie turns into a mother figure. Things take a dark turn very quickly in this 75-minute-long picture, as the software pushes Cassie to commit murderous acts against the people who make her suffer.

The director, Rusty Nixon (on his third attempt at horror cinema), understands how to appeal to mass horror audiences by using jump-scares to spook them but executing them in a rather unpredictable way. Unlike many subpar horror flicks that prepare the viewer for the jump-scare to come, which is not only manip-



A scene from A.M.I.

ulative but also pointless, A.M.I. frightens the viewer when they least expect it.

A.M.I. takes place in current times, but the technology of this “killing software” is way more advanced than what it’s at out disposal at the moment. For example, the movie implies that the software can imitate the voice of any person in the world, and Cassie chooses her mom’s voice for her phone. Logically speaking, that doesn’t make any sense: how did the developers

upload every single human voice (there are currently 7.7 billion individuals on the planet!) in the software? How much memory does this A.I. has? Even if we assume that the software can only imitate these voices, how much would it cost to buy it? It’d be ground-breaking technology that would cost more than a mortgage!

These rational issues create even bigger problems with the movie. In fact, A.M.I. never attempts to explain whether the

software controls Cassie’s life – which is impossible, given the premise of the movie’s universe – or she’s just a psychopath who attaches herself to an artificial entity and doesn’t question any of the horrific things this entity asks her to do. Aside from being logically faulty, this scenario also gives us an extremely unlikeable main character: Cassie is either a buffoon who obeys to the orders of a machine or she’s so mentally incapable that she kills people for cheating on her or betraying

her friendship.

Although the sound-design is rather well-done, the music for A.M.I. is truly misplaced and annoying to listen to. Aside from an orchestral song that’s really effective, every other part of the score seems to come from those lame early-00s rom-coms produced by Disney Channel. It’s a bad score onto its own, let alone in a horror movie where the sound should be atmospheric and terrifying.

To sum it up, A.M.I. is an

amalgamation of tropes and conveniences, a PG-13 indie horror flick that resembles the worst of Hollywood cash-grabs. Despite its lazy and silly premise, a movie like this has the potential to delve into interesting social commentaries, to develop characters in a distressful scenario, but A.M.I. only utilises the old tricks in the book to make a forgettable horror picture that appeals to millennials and is easy to digest with only a few jump-scares to offer.



A.M.I. revolves around a seventeen year old girl who forms a co-dependent relationship with an artificial intelligence on her phone and goes on a murderous rampage

celebs



Kim
Kardashian

Kim Kardashian thanks Trump for his ‘efforts to free A\$AP Rocky’

Los Angeles

Kim Kardashian has thanked US president Donald Trump for his reported “efforts to free A\$AP Rocky” following the rapper’s detainment in Sweden on suspicion of assault.

The reality star tweeted on Thursday in the wake of reports that the White House had intervened.

Linking to a TMZ report, Kardashian wrote: Thank you @realDonaldTrump, @SecPompeo, Jared Kushner & everyone involved with the efforts to Free ASAP Rocky & his two friends. Your commitment to justice reform is so appreciated.”

Kardashian’s tweet coincides with a report by Page Six claiming that the White House has “secured better jailhouse conditions” for A\$AP Rocky, whose real name is Rakim Mayers.

Mayer’s manager, John Ehmann, complained that the conditions at Kronoberg prison, where his client is being held, are “inhumane”, reportedly prompting the Urban Revitalization Coalition (URC) — an organisation set up by the Trump administration — to put Ehmann in contact with senior White House aide and son-in-law of Trump, Jared Kushner.



Trump and A\$AP Rocky

Kim Kardashian and Kanye West also reportedly urged Kushner to intervene in Mayer’s case.

“Jared immediately got Rocky moved to better living conditions,” Pastor Darrell Scott of the URC reportedly told Page Six. “They had this guy in a crap hole. I don’t know if it’s a different facility [that he’s now in], but he’s at least on a different floor. It’s better surroundings.”

Scott also reportedly told Page Six that he and colleague Kareem Lanier had informed Trump about the situation.

“[Trump] asked, ‘Do you like the guy, do you trust him?’” claimed Scott. “And he said, ‘OK, we’ll look into it then.’”

Los Angeles

Director-actor Olivia Wilde is all set to direct and produce an untitled holiday comedy project for Universal Pictures with her ‘Booksmart’ producer Katie Silberman, reported Variety.

Olivia Wilde to helm holiday comedy project for Universal

Universal outbid five studios for the pair’s pitch. Besides production, Silberman will also write the screenplay for the film.

Wilde directorial debut ‘Booksmart’ was scripted by Silberman and three other writers. The film had released on May 24 and minted USD 22 million.

Wilde is currently in production on Clint Eastwood’s ‘The Ballad of Richard Jewell’. While Silberman’s projects include ‘Set it Up’, ‘Isn’t it Romantic’ and the upcoming ‘Most Dangerous Game’.

Olivia
Wilde

Zayn Malik re-lists Bel Air home with reduced price

Los Angeles

Singer-songwriter Zayn Malik has re-listed his home located in Los Angeles’s plush Bel Air community with a reduced price of USD 3.2 million, reported Variety.

The 26-year-old singer who released his solo album ‘Icarus Falls’ in December 2018, acquired the almost one acre home four years ago for USD 3.1 million and put it on sale last year at USD 3.5 million.

The single-story 1960s ranch-style home boasts of fussy architectural detailing.



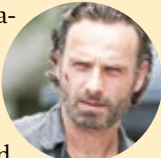
Zayn Malik

Andrew Lincoln starrer ‘Walking Dead’ movies to be released only in theaters

Los Angeles

Andrew Lincoln’s ‘Rick Grimes’ is returning to ‘The Walking Dead’ franchise and will only be released in theatres, not on AMC, reported Variety. It was announced with a short teaser video played at San Diego Comic-Con on Friday.

The 24-second teaser shows the helicopter which was last seen carrying a near-death Grimes jetting off to an unknown place. The teaser ends with the words “Only in Theaters.”



Andrew
Lincoln

Boseman Chadwick on intense chase in ‘21 Bridges’ trailer

Los Angeles

Comic-Con 2019 brought in a lot of surprises, one of which was the second trailer of ‘Avengers’ directors Russo brother’s upcoming production ‘21 Bridges’.

The thrilling trailer features an NYPD detective played by Chadwick Boseman, who sets out to hunt for a pair of cop killers unfolds a huge and surprising conspiracy. Determined to chase and find the killers, the detective goes to extreme measures and orders shut down of all possible avenues to leave the city.



Boseman
Chadwick

Keanu Reeves surprises family that made ‘Breathtaking’ sign for him

Los Angeles



Keanu Reeves

In a sweet gesture, ‘John Wick’ actor Keanu Reeves surprised a family who left a sign “You’re Breathtaking” for him in their yard while he was on the way to the set of his new film ‘Bill and Ted Face the Music’ in Louisiana.

Writer Ed Solomon shared a photo on Twitter on Thursday that shows the 54-year-old star bent down next to the sign the family had made while adding a note of his own.

“So yesterday, this sign was out on a lawn on the way to set,” Solomon captioned the snap. “Keanu jumped out of the car and did this.”

The actor gave the sign, which referenced Reeves’ famous “You’re Breathtaking” quote from an E3 video game conference, a makeover.

“Stacey, you’re breathtaking,” he wrote along with his signature.

However, that wasn’t all. As the family revealed via Twitter on Thursday, Reeves also met the sign-makers.

“Wow! Yesterday was a dream come true!” the fan wrote. “We knew @KeanuReeves_ was filming up the street so my son said we need to make a sign that says ‘You’re breathtaking’ So we did!”

Meghan McCain reveals she suffered a miscarriage

Los Angeles

‘The View’ co-host Meghan McCain on Friday opened up about her miscarriage that she suffered a few weeks ago.

The 34-year-old host revealed that she was expecting a baby girl in an op-ed for the New York Times, reported People.

“I knew I was pregnant before I formally knew I was pregnant. My body told me in all the ways women are familiar with. It told me in the same ways that I was miscarrying,” recalled McCain, who married Ben Domenech in November 2017.

The daughter of late senator John McCain called her miscarriage a “horrendous experience,” adding, “I would not wish it upon anyone.”

Previously, McCain told People that she was under pressure to bear a baby when her father suffered stage-four brain cancer.

“The surprise of learning I was pregnant, many months ago now, swiftly turned to joy. With that joy came all the questions, plans and aspirations that every mother knows,” she shared.



Meghan
McCain

Sarah Silverman and ‘Game of Thrones’ fame John Bradley join Universal’s ‘Marry Me’



Sarah Silverman



John Bradley

Los Angeles

Stand-up comedian and actress Sarah Silverman and ‘Game of Thrones’ fame actor John Bradley are in talks to join Jennifer Lopez musical comedy ‘Marry Me’ at Universal.

Actor Owen Wilson is also on board to star. Helmed by Kat Coiro, the film has been written by John Rogers and Tami Sagher, with a rewrite by Harper Dill.

Universal studio is planning to shoot the film in the fall.

Based on the graphic novel by Bobby Crosby, the film revolves around celebrity, relationships, and social media.

The film discusses the possibilities of what might happen when a superstar weds an everyman as a joke and finds that perhaps there are no accidents.

Lopez, Elaine Goldsmith-Thomas and Benny Medina will produce alongside Rogers. Willie Mercer, Alex Brown and J.B. Roberts will executive produce.

Silverman was recently seen in ‘Battle of the Sexes’ and also returned to dub Vanellope in ‘Ralph Breaks the Internet.’

The film marks Bradley’s first big movie project since the HBO’s hit ‘Game of Thrones,’ series ended.

‘GoT’ cast addresses backlash received by final season

Los Angeles

Two months after the final episode of ‘Game of Thrones’ was aired on television, the star cast of the HBO series finally came together to answer questions about the criticism that the last season was subjected to.

During one of the events of the on-going San Diego Comic-Con on Friday, cast of ‘GoT’, including Hempstead Wright (Bran Stark), Conleth Hill (Varys), Nikolaj Coster-Waldau (Jaime Lannister), Maisie Williams (Arya Stark), John Bradley (Samwell Tarly), Jacob Anderson (Grey Worm), and Liam Cunningham (Ser Davos), came together to interact with fans, People reported.

After a remarkable 8-year-long journey,



the show concluded earlier this year with its eighth and last season.

While it was mostly a pleasant and seamless run, the last season of the show received a mixed reaction from the fans.

Many disappointed fans even started a petition urging the makers to remake the

last season of the series “with competent writers”. The petition managed to garner more than one million signatures.

Reacting to criticism, Coster-Waldau said: “It was a surprising level...the absurdity of the online petition. Every season we had huge controversies. From Ned Stark being killed and then there was the Red Wedding. So obviously when it comes to the end it’s gonna piss you off no matter what because it’s the end.”

Hill, whose character Varys was burnt to ashes in the fifth episode of the final season, said he took the backlash “very personally.”

“For the record, I loved all my years on Game of Thrones. I started when I was 15. It was a life-changing experience. The one thing it was about was the futility of conflict and pointlessness of war,” Hill asserted.

SPORTS

sports

Algeria claim second African crown

- Algeria sink Senegal to claim ‘incredible’ second Africa Cup of Nations title
- Baghdad Bounedjah’s early deflected strike was enough to give Algerians 1-0 win in Cairo

AFP | Cairo

Baghdad Bounedjah’s early goal propelled Algeria to a first Africa Cup of Nations title in 29 years after a fiery 1-0 victory over Sadio Mane’s Senegal in Friday’s final in Cairo.

Bounedjah gave Algeria a dream start in the second minute when his deflected shot looped over Senegal goalkeeper Alfred Gomis, and it proved enough for the 1990 champions to lift the trophy on foreign soil for the first time.

“It’s incredible. The win is for the whole country,” Algeria goalkeeper Rais M’Bolhi told beIN Sports. “We have to thank (coach) Djamel Belmadi. The situation was tricky in the past before he arrived.”

“It’s a bit hard to soak in right now but I think we’ll realise what we’ve done when we return home,” he added.

For Senegal, who lost to Algeria by the same scoreline in the group stage, the long wait for a first continental crown goes on as coach Aliou Cisse, the captain of the 2002 runners-up, again fell short in the final.

“We conceded the goal very early and on the whole I think we deserved to equalise but it didn’t happen,” said Cisse.

“I want to congratulate my players. We’ve been working together a long time for this Cup of Nations and we wanted it but tonight it didn’t go our



Algeria captain Riyad Mahrez lifts the trophy as his team celebrate

way.”

It was the first title-decider to feature two African coaches since 1998, with Algeria boss Djamel Belmadi completing a whirlwind 12 months at the helm after inheriting a side that failed to make it out of the group stage two years ago.

“Without the players I am nothing. They are the main ones. I suppose the staff played its part in guiding the players but they applied the instructions incredibly well,” said Belmadi.

With defensive rock Kalidou Kouli-

baly suspended for Senegal, Salif Sane deputised at the back and Ismaila Sarr was recalled in attack, while Belmadi kept faith in the same side that overcame Nigeria with an injury-time free-kick from Riyad Mahrez.

Gomis finally beaten

Senegal had understandably feared the absence of Napoli star Koulibaly, banned after two bookings in the knockout rounds, although the towering Sane was desperately unlucky as Algeria grabbed the lead with scarcely

a minute played.

As Bounedjah took aim from 20 yards his effort smacked off Sane and arced high into the air before dropping underneath the crossbar and beyond a static Gomis, sparking delirious celebrations from both players and fans, some of whom arrived for the final on military planes provided by the Algerian government.

It was the first time Gomis had conceded in almost 400 minutes in Egypt having replaced the injured Edouard Mendy ahead of Senegal’s final group



Algeria were the champions of the tournament in 1990

game.

Henri Saivet, who missed a penalty in the 1-0 victory over Tunisia, tried to catch M’Bolhi out with a free-kick while Mbaye Niang fizzed a powerful drive just over as Senegal gradually showed signs of life before the half ended with both sets of players embroiled in a scuffle as they headed for the tunnel.

Senegal thought they had won a penalty on the hour when Cameroonian referee Alioum Alioum pointed to the spot for a suspected handball by Adlene Guedioura, but the official reversed his decision after a VAR review.

Niang rounded an advancing M’Bolhi after a searching ball through from Cheikhou Kouyate but the forward sliced wide of the target from a tough angle, with the Algeria ‘keeper then acrobatically tipping over a rasping drive from Youssef Sabaly.

The Desert Foxes started to look jaded as Senegal brought on fresh legs in Krepin Diatta and Mbaye Diagne, but Youcef Belaili nearly made it 2-0 when his cross brushed the head of a defender and skimmed the roof of the net.

Sarr blazed over on the volley as Algeria clung on to their advantage in the closing minutes, the final whistle greeted by an outpouring of raw emotion as the North Africans emerged worthy winners of the expanded 24-team event.

Wolves edge City on penalties to win Asia Trophy

AFP | Shanghai, China

Goalkeeper Rui Patricio was the hero for Wolves, saving three spot-kicks after their Asia Trophy final against Manchester City went to penalties yesterday in Shanghai.

Wolves won the exhibition tournament 3-2 on penalties after the game against the Premier League champions ended 0-0 after 90 minutes.

It was a story of missed penalties for Pep Guardiola’s City.

Raheem Sterling missed a first-half penalty for City, who dominated at a full Hongkou Stadium but were blunt in attack without Sergio Aguero and Gabriel Jesus.

Pre-season games are notori-

ously poor barometers for the season to come, especially when played in stifling heat like in Shanghai.

But both sides fielded close to their full-strength sides and Guardiola and counterpart Nuno Espirito Santo will be glad to escape without any serious injuries to their squads.

Leroy Sane, the German winger wanted by Bayern Munich, started for City and won the Sterling penalty, but otherwise had a quiet game before being substituted on the hour.

Kevin De Bruyne was Guardiola’s captain for the night -- the City armband is up for grabs following the departure of talisman Vincent Kompany.

Sterling should have put City



Conor Coady and Ruben Neves celebrate with Wolves after winning the Premier League Asia Trophy

in the lead but instead blasted his 20th minute penalty over the bar to let Chinese-owned Wolves off the hook.

The England international

Charity auction one of the high-points of BRAVE 24

TDT | Manama

A charity auction will be one of the highlights of BRAVE 24: London, a mixed martial arts event set to connect the sport to the highest level of dignitaries around the world.

The once-in-a-lifetime, exclusive experience will take place at the Copper Box Arena, on July 25th, and will be a luxurious, invite-only show to more than 300 celebrities, influencers, politicians, and businessmen.

And the top personalities in attendance will have the chance to bid on exclusive items, with all the proceeds going to the Royal British Legion, a charity which provides financial, social and emotional support to veterans of the British Armed Forces (Royal Navy, British Army, and Royal Air Force) and their families and dependants. It is the largest Armed Forces Charity

in Great Britain, with 235,000 members, 110,000 volunteers and a set network of other charities and partners.

“When we have the world coming together, we’re going to make sure that MMA is not only a sport to be developed, to be empowered. We also think of what MMA can give back to the community. We always have a charity aspect to every event we host.

But this is going to be one of the biggest things we’ve done at BRAVE Combat Federation. The auction is fully focused on how much MMA can contribute to the community. And this is one of the most important aspects of BRAVE CF”, says president Mohammed Shahid.

The auction will take place between the preliminary and main cards, giving a chance for the VIP attendees to bid on exclusive items that will be announced in the coming days.

”

When are going to make sure that MMA is not only a sport to be developed, to be empowered. We also think of what MMA can give back to the community. We always have a charity aspect to every event we host

MOHAMMED SHAHID

Greenwood strike earns United victory over Inter

AFP | Singapore

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer praised striker Mason Greenwood after the 17-year-old came off the bench to score a brilliant winning goal in a 1-0 friendly victory yesterday over Inter Milan.

“He’s learning everyday, training with the first team and he’s been with us for the last few months. He has grown in confidence and stature,” Solskjaer told reporters after



Mason Greenwood (C) of Manchester United in action

United secured a third straight pre-season triumph without conceding a goal.

“As I have said before, when you have a player who performs, it’s difficult to keep him out.”

The Premier League side dominated from start to finish and Solskjaer was delighted with a sharp performance that deserved to be rewarded by a bigger margin of victory against a team still finding their feet under new manager Antonio Conte.

Bahrain taste defeat but advance

● Bahrain defeated by China but advance to the second round in FIVB U21 Worlds

TDT | Manama

Bahrain lost to China 1-3 (19-25, 25-23, 18-25, 15-25) yesterday night as the first round of the FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship 2019 wrapped up at Shaikh Isa Sports City in Riffa.

The result put Bahrain in second place in Pool A behind the top-ranked Chinese, as both teams advanced to the tournament's second stage.

Joining them marching forward were Argentina and Korea from Pool B, Russia and Iran from Pool C, and Italy and Brazil from Pool D.

Argentina claimed their berth after defeating previously unbeaten Korea in both teams' final group match of the first stage. The result propelled the Argentinians to the top of their pool ahead of the Koreans.

The Russians and Italians stayed undefeated after three games to lead their respective pools. Both won their matches yesterday in three sets, with the Russians taking care of Tunisia

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

POOL A
Puerto Rico bt Morocco 3-1 (25-22, 25-21, 34-36, 25-20)
China bt Bahrain 3-1 (25-19, 23-25, 25-18, 25-15)

POOL B
Argentina bt Korea 3-1 (20-25, 29-27, 25-22, 25-22)
Cuba bt Egypt 3-2 (26-24, 25-20, 21-25, 20-25, 15-9)

POOL C
Russia bt Tunisia 3-0 (25-23, 25-17, 25-15)
Iran bt Czech Republic 3-0 (29-27, 25-18, 26-24)

POOL D
Italy bt Brazil 3-0 (25-22, 25-15, 25-18)
Poland bt Canada 3-1 (20-25, 25-20, 25-18, 26-24)

and Italy surprising Brazil.

Iran joined Russia from their group after winning a tightly contested three-setter against the Czech Republic in a match that decided who qualified for the second round.

In other fixtures that had no bearing on the advancing teams, Cuba needed five sets to dispose of Egypt, Puerto Rico beat Morocco in four, and Poland defeated Canada also in four sets.

In the ensuing second round, the eight teams are divided into two other Pools of four nations each (Pool E and Pool F). China are in Pool E with Korea, Russia and Brazil; while Bahrain are in Pool F with Argentina, Iran and Italy.

The remaining teams are in the classification groups G and H. Group G includes Puerto Rico, Egypt, the Czech Republic and Canada. Group H is composed of Morocco, Cuba, Tunisia and Poland.

Today is a rest day. Second round action begins tomorrow.

In Bahrain's loss against China, the home side had a slow start and gave up the first set to their rivals. A strong second set levelled the proceedings, but the Chinese were too good on the day and they took care of business in the third and fourth sets.

Hasan Mohamed led Bahrain with 19 points while Cheng-cheng Xiu was the top scorer for the triumphant Chinese with 23.



Bahrain's Hasan Mohamed meets China's Dongzheng Zhang at the net

Bahrain head coach Yousuf Khalifa said after the loss: "This result does not change anything for us. It will be the same for us moving forward. More important for our group now is recovery time. We will use today and tomorrow. Tomorrow we will only do some light training."

In Argentina's Pool B contest, the victors claimed maximum points with their 3-1 (20-25, 29-27, 25-22, 25-22) decision. Cuba won against Egypt 3-2 (26-24, 25-20, 21-25, 20-25, 15-9) in the division's other game.

In Iran's win, they managed to eke out the first set by two points, and the after cruising in the second, won by two once again in the third to seal the 3-0 (29-27, 25-18, 26-24) result.

Italy and Brazil were both unbeaten as they headed into yesterday's clash. By the end of the contest, it was the Italians who maintained a pristine record, stunning their rivals in three sets (25-22, 25-15, 25-18).

| Final preliminary round standings | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|-----|
| (Win in 3 or 4 sets = 3pts for winner; Win in 5 sets = 2pts for winner, 1pt for loser) | | | | |
| *Team advances to Second Round | | | | |
| | P | W | L | Pts |
| POOL A | | | | |
| *China | 3 | 3 | 0 | 9 |
| *Bahrain | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Puerto Rico | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Morocco | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| POOL B | | | | |
| *Argentina | 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| *Korea | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| Cuba | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Egypt | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| POOL C | | | | |
| *Russia | 3 | 3 | 0 | 8 |
| *Iran | 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| Czech Republic | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Tunisia | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| POOL D | | | | |
| *Italy | 3 | 3 | 0 | 9 |
| *Brazil | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| Poland | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Canada | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 |

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Pinot conquers Tourmalet as Thomas loses time to Alaphilippe

AFP | Paris

France celebrated yesterday as Thibaut Pinot conquered the Pyrenean summit of la Col du Tourmalet with Julian Alaphilippe following him across the line to extend his overall Tour de France lead.

Defending champion Geraint Thomas lost 35 seconds after being dropped by Pinot at the death, while his Ineos co-captain Egan Bernal finished a few seconds behind the winner at the first of seven summit finishes over 2000 metres.

Pinot had vowed to attack this stage after losing time to an Ineos-led attack in a crosswind on the narrow road to Albi on Monday had angered him and his team.

Thomas is now over two minutes behind Alaphilippe in the general classification after he started to suffer with 500 metres to go.

While this was far from disastrous, Thomas losing time to Alaphilippe on two consecutive stages where he himself had predicted the reverse is something of an upset.



France's Thibaut Pinot celebrates as he crosses the finish line

French president Emmanuel Macron followed the whole stage from the lead car in the vast caravan and appeared animated as he was flanked on the podium by his two compatriots. "This man has heart," he said looking at Alaphilippe. "France is proud of them both."

As the 117km stage 14 climbed above the tree-line and above the mist where the oxygen levels were lower and fans at fever pitch lent a hint of insanity to

proceedings, contenders for the overall victory gradually fell by the wayside.

Adam Yates, Dan Martin, Nairo Quintana and Jakob Fuglsang, wilted one after the other as the Pinot and his FDJ climb partner kept up the pace.

Few expected the yellow jersey wearer Alaphilippe to thrive on Friday's time-trial, which he won, and fewer still expected him to survive here on the Tourmalet.