

Hamilton sets  
scintillating pace

Championship leader Lewis Hamilton lived up to his status as prerace favourite for the Singapore Grand Prix when the Mercedes driver soared to the top of the timesheets with a storming lap in the second free practice ses- sion at a floodlit Marina Bay Street Circuit yesterday. **P12**

India cuts corporate taxes

THE DAILY tribune



Ariana Grande evacuates Scotland hotel after fire alert

Children hit streets in vast global climate strike

Security alert  
level raised

Dubai

Kuwait has raised the security alert level at all of its ports, including the oil terminals, the state-run Kuwait News Agency reported yesterday, citing a decision by the trade and industry minister.

“The decision emphasises that all measures have to be taken to protect the vessels and the ports facilities,” it said.

French help for  
Lebanon

Paris

France remains committed to helping Lebanon in its plans for economic reforms, French President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday at talks in Paris with Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri.

Lebanon, one of the world’s most indebted states, is aiming to drive through long-postponed reforms to try to improve its stagnant economy and state finances. Speaking at a joint press event with Macron, Hariri said he had had “excellent talks” with French business about investing in Lebanon.

Assault rifle  
ban pledge

Toronto

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, embroiled in a blackface picture scandal, on Friday pledged to ban military-style assault rifles in the country’s most ethnically diverse city in a bid to get his campaign back on issue.



‘Bahrain will always support peace, development efforts’

Chinese national jailed for ‘using forged credit cards’

Kingdom’s anti-chemical weapon stance stressed

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Free aliens!



Scores of enthusiasts converged on rural Nevada for a pilgrimage of sorts to the US installation known as Area 51, long rumoured to house government secrets about alien life, as law enforcement officials beefed up security around the military base. Visitors descended early in the day on the tiny desert town of Rachel, a short distance from the military site, in response to a recent, viral social-media invitation to “storm” Area 51 on Friday, raising concerns by local authorities of unruly crowds overwhelming the community. Situated about 240 km north of Las Vegas, the remote hamlet of just 50 year-round residents lacks a grocery store or even a gasoline station.

Latest wave of US sanctions on Iran

Jeddah



These are the highest sanctions ever imposed on a country.

TRUMP

US President Donald Trump yesterday revealed the details of additional sanctions against Iran, which he described as the toughest ever imposed.

The Treasury Department decided to take action against Iran’s central bank after US officials concluded that Tehran was responsible for last week’s drone and missile attacks on Saudi oil facilities in Abqaiq and Khurais.

“We have just sanctioned the Iranian national bank,” Trump said during a press conference in the Oval Office. “These are the highest sanctions ever imposed on a country.”

When asked about the possibility of a military response, Trump said: “The easiest thing I could do is knock out 15 different major things in Iran. I could do it right here in front

of you and that would be it. And then you would have a nice, big story to report.

“But I think the strong-person approach, and the thing that does show strength, would be showing a little bit of restraint. Much easier to do it the other way. It’s much easier. And Iran knows if they misbehave, they’re on borrowed time.”

Meanwhile, Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday strongly condemned the attacks. During a telephone call to King Salman, he said the strikes were a “serious violation” of the Kingdom’s security and stability, and had affected on the global energy market.

Houthi sites attacked

Arab coalition hits ‘legitimate military targets’ in Hodeidah

● The coalition warned civilians to stay away from the targeted locations for their own safety.

● Saudi Cabinet strongly condemned the attacks on two Saudi Aramco facilities in Abqaiq and Khurais.

Riyadh

The Arab coalition fighting the Houthi militias in Yemen announced on Friday that it had launched a military operation in the north of Yemen’s port city of Hodeidah against “legitimate military targets.” The coalition said it had destroyed four sites used to assemble remote-controlled boats and sea mines.

“These sites are used to carry out attacks and terrorist operations that threaten shipping lines and international trade in



The coalition said its operation destroyed four sites north of the port city of Hodeida.

the Bab Al Mandab Strait and the southern Red Sea,” coalition spokesman Col Turki Al Maliki said in a statement.

The destruction of hostile sites helps protect the freedom of maritime navigation, Al-Maliki said, adding that the operation abides by international law.

“The Houthi terrorist militia is using the governorate of Hodeidah as a base from which

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points of impact at the two Saudi energy facilities were stressed by satellite pictures, including damage at the heart of the Abqaiq plant.

to launch ballistic missiles, drones, and booby-trapped remote-controlled boats, as well as indiscriminately deploying naval mines, in a clear violation of international humanitarian law and in violation of the provisions of Stockholm Agreement and the cease-fire agreement in Hodeidah,” he said.

The coalition warned civilians to stay away from the targeted

locations for their own safety.

On Thursday, the coalition intercepted and destroyed a Houthi boat laden with explosives in the Red Sea.

“The coalition’s naval forces detected an attempt by the Iran-backed terrorist Houthi militia to carry out an act of aggression and terrorism in the southern Red Sea using an unmanned, rigged boat ... launched from Hodeidah governorate,” Al Maliki said.

He added that the foiled attack represented a threat to regional and international security and the safety of maritime routes and international trade.

The Houthis have carried out scores of attacks against Saudi Arabia using drones and ballistic missiles. Recently, leaders from around the Arab world condemned last Saturday’s drone attacks on Saudi Arabia’s Aramco refineries in the Eastern Province.

Saudi Cabinet strongly condemned the attacks on two Saudi Aramco facilities in Abqaiq and Khurais and reaffirmed the Kingdom’s ability to effectively deal with such attacks and their impact.

LITTLE ENEMIES

Philippines’ Duterte pestered again as gecko stalls speech

Manila

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte just keeps getting bugged during his public speeches.

A noisy gecko was the latest wildlife contributor to an address by Duterte, interrupting

the leader on Thursday evening just as he launched another tirade at human rights groups critical of his bloody war on drugs.

The reptile’s persistence caused laughter in the crowd of mostly soldiers, causing Duterte stop mid-sentence, turn to his left



Rodrigo Duterte

and pause for a while to see what the off-camera commotion was.

“You brought a gecko here?” he asked an official sitting behind him, drawing laughs.

Geckos are common across Southeast Asia. The small lizard-like reptiles are known for their ability to produce vari-

ous loud sounds, from barks to chirps, to communicate or when threatened.

While activists accuse Duterte of cowing his opponents into silence, reptiles and insects have no qualms about pestering him during his often hours-long, televised addresses.