

Nadal in the pink as Sharapova hits all-time low at Australian Open

Top seed Rafael Nadal turned on the style as he launched his bid for a record-equalling 20th Major title at the Australian Open on Tuesday, but falling star Maria Sharapova hit a career low. **P16**

THE DAILY **tribune**



Kendall Jenner spotted out again with ex Ben Simmons **14 CELEBS**

WORLD 5 Eight Indian tourists die in Nepal after lighting gas heater in hotel

Governor chairs co-ordination meeting

Manama

Southern Governor Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa has chaired the first co-ordination meeting for 2020, in the presence of officials representing concerned parties.

He stressed the importance of assessing citizens needs and meeting their aspirations. He commended dedicated efforts being exerted to carry out development projects in the Southern Governorate.

He discussed latest developments of work on development, service, health, educational projects in the region of Riffa, stressing the importance of completing the schemes.

He was updated on the progress of work on development Um Ghuwafa spring, stressing the crucial importance of conserving historical sites which are liked to Bahrain's long-standing heritage.

Deadly storm batters Spain

Madrid

Powerful storm Gloria has battered much of eastern Spain, with officials linking at least four deaths to it.

The Balearic Islands and the region around Valencia were the worst-hit on Monday, with heavy flooding and strong winds causing havoc.

More than 30 provinces in Spain were put on high alert. The storm later moved into southern France.



02 Bahrain, Morocco charity foundations sign MoU

03 Telecom firm's new logo 'almost identical' to US firm's

04 'Nearly 300 fishermen' arrested for illegal shrimping since 2018

210 fils (includes VAT)



6 084010 110021 >

Amnesty slams new Qatari law restricting freedom of expression

London

Amnesty International yesterday expressed concern over a vague new law that threatens to "significantly restrict freedom of expression in Qatar."

The law, issued by Qatari Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, authorises the imprisonment of "anyone who broadcasts, publishes, or republishes false or biased rumours, state-

ments, or news, or inflammatory propaganda, domestically or abroad, with the intent to harm national interests, stir up public opinion, or infringe on the social system or the public system of the state."

The law comes just two years after Qatar acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a UN agreement that guarantees individuals the right to seek, receive and impart information

Qatar already has a host of repressive laws, but this new legislation deals another bitter blow to freedom of expression in the country and is a blatant breach of international human rights law.

LYNN MAALOUF

and ideas.

Lynn Maalouf, Amnesty International's research director for the Middle East, said: "Qatar already has a host of repressive laws, but this new legislation deals another bitter blow to freedom of expression in the country and is a blatant breach of international human rights law."

She called it "deeply troubling that the Qatari Emir is passing legislation that can be

used to silence peaceful critics," adding: "Qatar's authorities should be repealing such laws, not adding more of them."

Under the new law, "biased" broadcasting or publishing can be punished with a fine of over \$25,000 or up to five years in prison.

The new legislation joins laws introduced in 1979 and 2014 that Amnesty International says arbitrarily restrict freedom of expression.

'IS resurgence' alert

Al Azhar warns of ISIS efforts to regain its status in Iraq

US troops are involved in active operations against ISIS remnants, but most are engaged in training the Iraqi army.

While experts are concerned about the return of IS, they also say that a US withdrawal will not mean that IS will have a strong reprisal.

Baghdad

One of the highest Sunni authorities in the region warned yesterday that ISIS is using Iraq's current political and military crisis to gain ground.

Al Azhar University's Obser-



Iraqi soldiers being trained with members of the Third Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, at Camp Taji, Iraq.

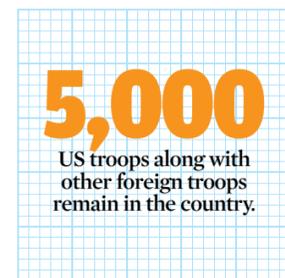
vatory, which has been closely monitoring IS, said the group is attempting to reform and improve its status in Iraq.

"The group is using technology and digital platforms to spread their messages and ideology to recruit young individ-

uals to regain its grounds," the observatory said.

It called on the international community to unite in the face of terrorism to halt the group's resurgence.

The warning comes as tensions between Washington



and Tehran escalated in Iraq prompting fears that ISIS could make a comeback amid the upheaval.

It follows the US killing of Iranian General Qassem Suleimani and top Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi Al Muhandis near Baghdad airport earlier this month.

Tehran retaliated with rocket attacks carried out by militias against US personnel stationed in Iraq.

The tit-for-tat strikes pushed the Iraqi parliament to issue a

non-binding call for the estimated 5,000 US troops and other foreign forces to leave the country.

The decision was mostly driven by pro-Iranian factions in parliament.

But US President Donald Trump's administration said it is determined to keep troops in Iraq.

US troops are involved in active operations against ISIS remnants, but most are engaged in training the Iraqi army.

The presence of US troops in Iraq is part of a request for assistance to combat ISIS that was sent in 2014 when the group seized large areas of Iraq and Syria.

Although the US and Iran have not had any diplomatic relation since 1980, the two found common ground in their battle against the insurgents.

General Suleimani played an important role in the fight against ISIS in Iraq.

Fatal accident



The Ministry of Interior yesterday said that an Asian man aged 39 died in an accident on Shaikh Jaber Al Sabah Street near the intersection of Nabih Saleh signal towards Riffa. He was allegedly hit by a motorist. The ministry has launched a probe into the accident. Above, the damaged car being removed from the accident scene.

CORONAVIRUS

US reports first case of infection

New York

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention have announced America's first reported case of the Wuhan coronavirus.

The infected man is a resident of Snohomish County, Washington state, who had symptoms after returning from a trip to the region around Wuhan, China, where the outbreak was first reported.

He was not identified further by local officials and is said to be quite ill. He was admitted to hospital with pneumonia last week and the coronavirus infection was confirmed on Monday.

The virus, which was first identified last month in a

seafood and poultry market in Wuhan, has spread from there to Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen. It has also spread to Taiwan, Japan, Thailand and South Korea.

It has caused alarm because of its connection to severe acute respiratory syndrome, or Sars, and has killed six people, infecting more than 300 others.

Last week, the health authority began screening travellers from China at three US airports.

Wuhan has a population of more than 11 million and Chinese officials confirmed on Monday that the virus is contagious between humans.

The World Health Organisation will hold an emergency committee this week to discuss the infection.