

India's Kohli says World Cup will be a hit for runs

India feel confident before most challenging World Cup, says Indian captain Virat Kohli | P15

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How Europe's 'Identitarians' are mainstreaming racism

THE DAILY **tribune**



Firmino gives Liverpool fitness boost ahead of CL finale

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F1 legend Niki Lauda dies at 70

Ramadan Prayer Timings

 Day 17

 Fajr 03:18 AM

 Dhuhur 11:34 AM

 Asr 03:02 PM

 Maghrib 06:21 PM

 Isha 07:51 PM

Focus on emerging sectors: CP



HRH CP during a majlis visit yesterday

TDT | Manama

Bahrain will continue to invest in emerging sectors to capitalise on new business opportunities, said HRH the Crown Prince.

"This would reinforce Bahrain's competitiveness in the wider knowledge-based economy," added His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister was visiting the Majlis of the Bin Hindi family, the Majlis of the late Ali Rashid Al Amin, the Majlis of Shaikh Adel Al Moawdeh, and the Majlis of Ebrahim Al Shaikh.

Speaking to Majlis participants, HRH the Crown Prince emphasised the importance of further advancing Bahrain's entrepreneurial sectors and underlined the Kingdom's citizen-centric approach to development.

The move to upskill the national workforce will generate quality job opportunities in line with HM the King's aspirations, HRH CP said.

HRH the Crown Prince went on to highlight continued efforts in modernising IT infrastructure by launching projects that support the Kingdom's thriving information and communications technology (ICT) sector.

The Crown Prince underscored the vital contributions made by Bahrain's citizens in the Kingdom's comprehensive development, affirming that their efforts are central to the Kingdom's prosperous future.

For their part, the Majlis hosts and guests expressed their gratitude for HRH the Crown Prince's visit. HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa accompanied HRH the Crown Prince to the Majlis visits.

Drone attack

Houthi militias target a civilian facility in Najran

TDT | Manama

A civilian facility in the Saudi border province of Najran came under the attack of Iran-aligned Houthi militias yesterday, said Arab Coalition warning there would be a "strong deterrent" to such attacks.

The attack using a bomb-laden drone targeted civilian infrastructure in Najran, state-run Saudi-Press Agency quoted Arab Coalition spokesman Colonel Turki al-Maliki as saying.

Najran, 840 kilometres (525 miles) southwest of Riyadh, is on the Saudi border with Yemen and has repeatedly been targeted by the Iranian-allied Houthis.

"Al Houthi militia attempted to target the vital utility used by civilians in Najran, continuing their terrorist acts that constitute a real threat to regional and international security," Col Turki Al Malaki, said in a statement.

Terming Houthis as "ter-



Colonel Turki al-Maliki

rorist militias of Iran" Col Turki Al Malaki said: "We warn in the strongest words the militia against continuing to target civil installations and civilians."

However, it was not clear if there were any injuries or what the extent of the damage was.

The Houthis did not immediately claim an attack there.

Yesterday's attack followed the shooting down of two Houthis ballistic missiles by Saudi air defence forces on Monday. The missiles were heading towards Makkah and Jeddah.

US fingers Iran on Gulf attacks

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump's administration charged yesterday it was "quite possible" Iran was responsible for sabotage of Gulf oil interests.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the United States has not made "a definitive conclusion" that can be presented publicly over sabotage incidents of oil tankers off the United Arab Emirates or drone strikes on a crude pipeline in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi forces, a report by Saudi Gazette said, shot down the ballistic missiles 60 km from Makkah. The missile debris fell in the Jallel valley that extends to Makkah.



ROLEX

OYSTER PERPETUAL ROLEX DEEPSEA



Modern Art Studio

Rolex Boutique - Bahrain City Centre



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa receiving well-wishers from Bahrain's four governorates marking the holy month of Ramadan, as part of the Royal keenness to meet Bahrainis during the blessed month. HM King praised the great efforts of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and his invitation to take part in the Makkah meetings. Saudi Ambassador to Bahrain, Dr Abdullah bin Abdulmalik Al-Sheikh, handed over the letter at the Sakhir Palace. Speaking on the occasion, His Majesty warned that social media must be used for the good of the country and not as a tool for destruction. In this regard, HM the King directed competent security services to take strict measures against 'negative tendencies'.

Tributes pour in for HRH PM

Arab health ministers hail PM's WHO honour, PM thanks WHO for the honour

TDI | Manama

Tributes poured in from all quarters yesterday after the honouring of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa as a "World Leader" in health by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Arab Health Ministers in a statement said the achievement has entitled Bahrain to be a leader in the health sector.

"WHO's honouring of HRH Premier was in appreciation of his prominent role in enhancing general health in the kingdom," said Egypt's Health and Population Minister and President of the preparatory meeting of the Executive Bureau of the Arab Health Ministers, Dr Hala Zayed.

She was speaking during the 52nd meeting of the Arab health ministers, which discussed the preparations for the 72nd World Health Assembly meeting at the UN headquarters here.

Bahrain's delegation to 72nd World Health Assembly, led by Health Minister, Faeqa bint Said Al-Saleh, participated in Arab Health Ministers' meeting.

Foreign minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, in a statement, affirmed that the honour furthers the interna-



Arab health ministers welcome HRH Premier's honouring by WHO

tional recognition of His Royal Highness' significant role in advancing human development.

"This achievement reflects the WHO's appreciation of the Prime Minister's role in supporting the Organisation in different countries," said Shaikh Khalid.

The Council of Representatives Speaker Fawzia Zainal, in a statement, said the award is a recognition of His Highness's contribution to Bahrain's comprehensive development and modernization.

She paid tribute to HRH the Premier's vision that helped made a huge leap forward in the progress of the Kingdom.

Secretary-General of the Su-

preme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) Shaikh Salman bin Ibrahim bin Hamad Al Khalifa hailed the honour as recognition for HRH the Premier's exceptional achievements and humanitarian projects.

Minister of Finance

Minister of Finance and National Economy, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, said the honour recognises HRH the Premier's prolific landmark development strides and contributions in the humanitarian field.

Interior Ministry Undersecretary for Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs Shaikh Rashid bin Khalifa Al Khali-

fasaid the WHO honour, the first of its kind in the organisation's history, recognises HRH the Premier's clear role in the health field and contribution to sustainable development.

PM thanks WHO

His Royal Highness Prime Minister in a letter to the Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to the World Health Organisation for the honour.

Health Minister, Faeqa bint Said Al-Saleh, handed over HRH Premier's letter to WHO Director-General during their meet-



HRH the Premier

Arab Health Ministers in a statement said the achievement has entitled Bahrain to be a leader in the health sector

preciation for his pioneering role in enhancing the health sector in the kingdom, and in recognition of his contributions, initiatives, successes and landmark achievements in the field of health.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the prestigious honouring proves the great international appreciation enjoyed by HRH Premier for his milestone achievements.

WHO director-general emphasised the importance of stepping up cooperation between WHO and its Member States to eradicate diseases that have become a serious threat to civilians in under-developed countries.

Sabria Mohammed gets Japan's top honour

TDI | Manama

The Embassy of Japan yesterday announced the names of foreign recipients of this year's 'Spring Imperial Decorations'.

Sabria Mohammed Ismail

Shakeeb, a former employee of the Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom, is among this year's foreign recipients, the embassy said in a statement.

Sabria Mohammed will receive the 'Order of the Sacred Treasure, Silver Rays'.

Car catches fire in Riffa: Interior Ministry

Manama

A fire broke out in a car yesterday in Riifa, tweeted Interior Ministry.

"The Civil defence forc-

es extinguished the fire and relevant procedures are being taken. Initial details indicate short circuit as a reason for the fire," the Ministry stated.

Praise for 24/7 health centers

TDI | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

The decision to open more 24/7 health centres has drawn praise from a Parliamentarian.

"Health centres operating round the clock in Hamad Town



Basem Al Malki

will benefit the people there immensely," said MP Basem Al Malki who represents the constituency.

Ministry of Health recently announced that Mohammed Jassim Kanoo Health Center in

Hamad Town will operate on a 24/7 basis.

The Parliamentarian hailed HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa for his constant support and directives to improve the healthcare facilities in the country.

"This step will help reduce the burden on Salmaniya Medical Complex during the evening hours and will also reduce the rush at the health centre during the morning hours. The decision is great news for the people of Hamad town," he said.

Tribune reported on Monday that starting June, Hamad Town and Barbar health centres will operate round the clock.

The ministry of health decided to add Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah health centre in Barbar and Mohammed Jassim Kanoo Health Center in Hamad Town to the list of health centres that operate around the clock.

According to ministry sources, the northern governorates were chosen to have two additional 24-hour health centres considering its size and the number of people in need of such service.

The health centres that currently operate 24 hours are Hamad Kanoo Health Center in Riffa, Muharraq Health Center, and Engineer Health Center in Isa Town.

big story

Don't get duped

A new type of online fraud is doing rounds in Bahrain to trick victims

This might come to you in the form of a headline saying, "Just like this page to win a free business-class flight ticket." Or just like being done in Bahrain: "I made BD275269 from my initial deposit of BD 95. It took me less than 30 minutes of work a week." Careful. All these are examples of convincing scams on Facebook, which will eventually put your money and life at risk.



TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Bahrainis are being targeted with a new type of online fraud using Facebook in the Kingdom, it has emerged.

The novel method involves scammers circulating a fake news story about high ranking Bahraini personalities, political figures and celebrities.

The stories revolve around money-making opportunity rather than an actual product.

They claim that joining their programme will guarantee a generous monthly income.

Upon visiting the website, the user is persuaded to pay an amount as 'investment'.

But the dream ends soon as the 'investor' realises that he/she has been just another scam

victim. Cyber-crime experts have warned against trusting such websites.

"There are ads that come based on your geo-location. If I am in Bahrain, ads will speak volumes about how a Bahraini person made so much money an so forth," said CTM360 CEO Mirza Asrar Baig. He is a cyber-security and scam detection expert.

"For sure, the news story will be from a fake news site and this is called binary options.

"People are lured into investing money to which they think is an investment product. But it is not. Most of them are gambling products," said Asrar Baig.

Facebook is rampant with many such stories which might also sometime asks to like a page for win tickets or free business-class flights being given away. All these are simply examples of convincing scams of Facebook, where fraudsters have mocked up pages in search of unwitting users.

The stories most probably appear in blogs published by the scammers.

It starts with a piece of false information or a clickbait headlines saying that a Bahraini business tycoon or a Bahraini Minister is giving away money to the public.

The news story then turns into an elaborate sales pitch to sell the scam product.

'Bitcoin loophole'.

The latest example is called 'Bitcoin loophole'.

"I decided to sign up for an account with Bitcoin Loophole and made an initial deposit of BD95 to set up my account," the scammer states in a blog post page which was advertised on Facebook.

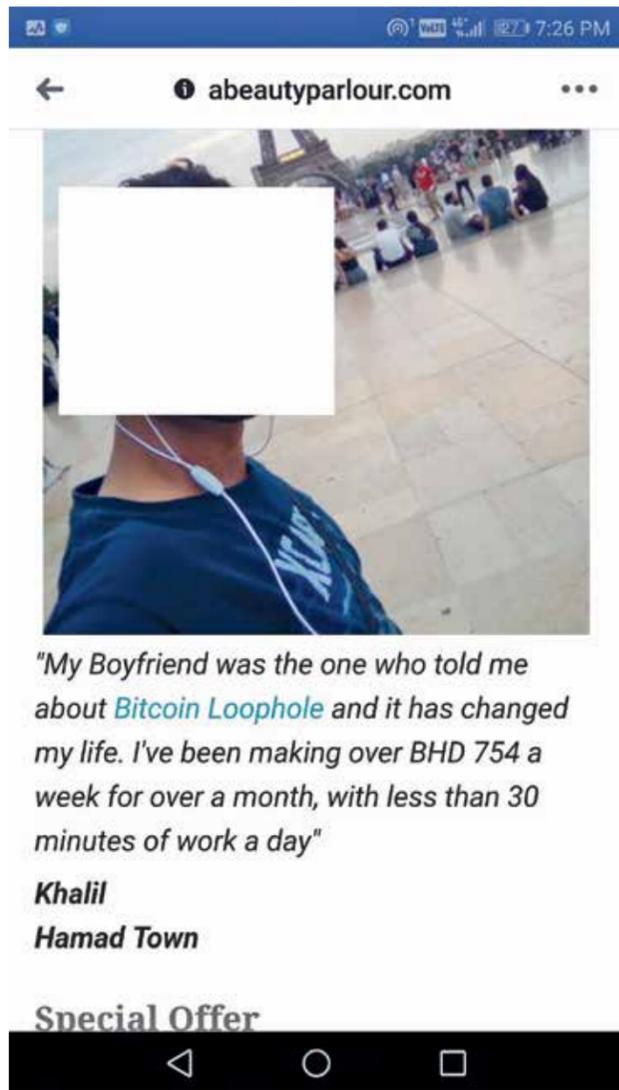
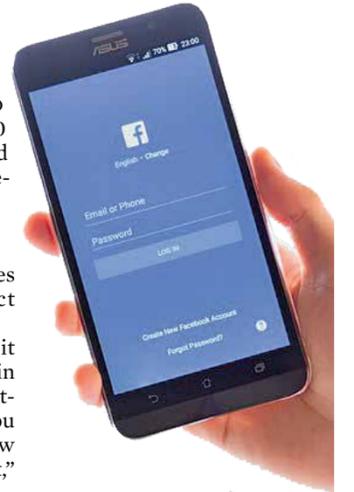
If further reads: "The platform isn't magic, but after 70 per cent of my trades were profitable, the net result was I made BD275269

from my initial deposit of BHD 95. It took me less than 30 minutes of work a week and no technical or investing experience."

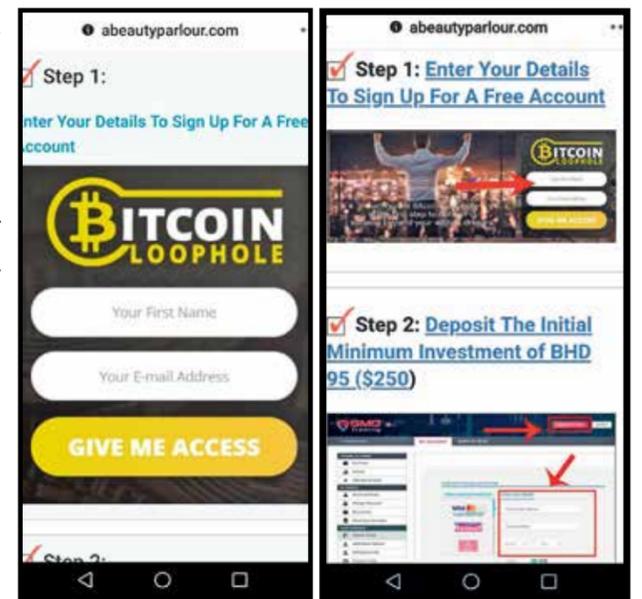
Designed to extract money

Baig warns that such schemes are designed only to extract money from the user.

"They will ask for a deposit and they may even let you win some money within their platform, but that is also fake as you will never be able to withdraw the so-called winning amount," he said.



A fake testimonial published on the website



Screengrabs from the website

Things to watch out for

- People asking you for money who you don't know in person
- People asking you to send them money or gift cards to receive a loan, prize or other winnings
- Anyone asking you to pay a fee in order to apply for a job
- Pages representing large companies, organizations or public figures that are not verified
- People asking you to move your conversation off Facebook to a less public or less secure setting, such as a separate email
- People claiming to be a friend or relative in an emergency
- People who misrepresent where they are located. If someone signs up for Messenger using their mobile phone number, you may be able to check which country their phone number is from. You can also check the Page's location
- Messages or posts with poor spelling and grammatical mistakes
- People or accounts directing you to a Page to claim a prize

Common scams on Facebook

Romance scams:

Romance scammers typically send romantic messages to people they don't know, often pretending to be divorced, widowed or in a bad marriage. They'll engage in online relationships in hopes of receiving money for flights or visas. Their goal is to gain your trust, so the conversations may continue for weeks before they ask for money.

Lottery scams:

Lottery scams are often carried out from accounts or Pages impersonating someone you know or an organization (such as a government agency or Facebook). The messages will claim that you're among the winners of a lottery and that you can receive your money for a small advance fee. The scammer may ask you to provide personal information, such as your physical address or bank details.

Loan scams:

Loan scammers send messages and leave posts offering instant loans at a low interest rate for a small advance fee.

Access Token Theft: A link is shared with you that requests access to your Facebook account or Page. The link may look like it came from a legitimate app, but instead it is a way that spammers can gain access to your account and spread spam.

Job Scams:

Job scammers use misleading or fake job postings to try and get your personal information or your money. Avoid job postings that sound too good to be true or that ask you to pay anything upfront. When clicking on a link from a job posting, watch out for websites that seem unrelated to the original job posting or that ask for sensitive information (example: government ID) but don't use secure (https) browsing.

Courtesy of Facebook

Gurgaon gifts thrill young patients

Malaysia Ambassador and his wife give surprise gifts to children in the paediatric ward of Salmaniya Medical Complex



In pictures, Agus Salim Bin Yusof and his spouse Norsyazwani Hamdan visiting kids in the paediatric ward of Salmaniya Medical Complex



Picture : Supriya Reginald

TDT | Manama
Supriya Reginald

Children in the paediatric ward of Salmaniya Medical Complex got the surprise of their lives when they were showered with gifts yesterday.

His Excellency Agus Salim Bin Yusof, Ambassador of Malaysia to Bahrain, and his spouse Norsyazwani Hamdan delighted the kids with gifts as part of Gurgaon celebrations, yesterday.

"Gurgaon is a time for children to celebrate and receive gifts.

We thought of the unfortunate children who are admitted and cannot celebrate. We decided to distribute these gifts to cheer them up," Agus Salim Bin Yusof told *Tribune*.

The visit forms part of several activities lined up by the Malaysian Embassy in the Kingdom to celebrate the 45 years of bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Malaysia this year.

"This programme with the children of the paediatric ward is the first activity to kick start the celebrations," revealed Agus

Salim Bin Yusof.

"As of now, we don't have a set itinerary. We have fashion shows, cooking demonstrations, sports activities et cetera. The activities involve other embassies and members of foreign affairs," added Agus Salim Bin Yusof.

A joint celebration of the 45 years of bilateral relations between the two countries and the Malaysian National Day will possibly take place during the third quarter of 2019.

"Our national day is on 31st of August, we are yet to set a

date for the joint celebration," said Agus Salim Bin Yusof.

Earlier this year, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa welcomed to Bahrain HM Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar Al-Haj Sultan of Johor, Malaysia.

"The bond between the top leadership posts of both countries is excellent. We support and help each other in International arenas and wish to maintain the strength in their relations," said Agus Salim Bin Yusof.



Mohammed Jassim Mohammed, Senior Advisor for Patient Experience with Agus Salim Bin Yusof and his spouse Norsyazwani Hamdan

Abusive spouse: Court grants divorce to woman

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Sharia Court of Appeal has granted a divorce to a woman who was allegedly assaulted by her husband in front of the court building.

The husband, court files say an alcohol addict, was earlier sentenced to a three-year jail term on similar charges.

The man was accused of assaulting his wife at a public place, stealing money from her and damaging her car. The couple has four children, three daughters and a son.

Applying for a divorce, the woman's attorney, Ebtissam Al Sabbagh, told the court that

The man was accused of assaulting his wife at a public place, stealing money from her and damaging her car. The couple has four children, three daughters and a son.



Lawyer Ebtissam Al Sabbagh

the victim's husband habitually abuses her and has attacked her even in front of the court.

The lawyer told the court that the man forcefully took her mobile phone before pulling her hair and knocking her down to the floor.

Quoting eyewitness account, the lawyer said the man also

verbally insulted the woman. The couple, the lawyer told

the court, have a long history of legal fights, which includes that on charges of assault, alimony and marriage issues.

Al Sabbagh informed the court that the husband has also been convicted before for crimes committed under the influence of alcohol.

The lawyer further told the court that the woman was subjected to mental agony and cruelty due to nagging by her husband from the early years of their marriage.

"The husband repeatedly accused her of having affairs with different men," the lawyer said adding that these issues were so frequent that the woman can no more leave peacefully with him.

Drunk driving: Man gets jail

TDT | Manama

A drunk driver was jailed for six months for failing to pay a fine of BD1,000 received for driving under the influence of alcohol.

The man, a Kenyan by nationality, according to court files, drove a vehicle under the influence of alcohol in a speed exceeding the legal speed limit and crashed into another vehicle. A passenger in the Kenyan man's vehicle sustained injuries in the incident.

Police kept the man in detention with Public Prosecution ordering him to pay BD1,000 for his bail.

The man, however, couldn't make the payment and case were referred to the court.

The court ordered him to pay a fine of BD1,000 and suspended his driving licence for three months.

When asked if he could pay the fine, the man told the court that he doesn't have money.

The court then revoked its decision to impose fine and instead gave him a six-month jail term.

He was charged with driving beyond the speed limit, driving under the influence of alcohol, damaging private property and causing injury to others.

Five jailed for eating during Ramadan fast

TDT | Manama

Public Prosecution detained five men for eating publicly during Ramadan fasting hours. The Prosecution ordered the suspects' temporary detention. They were accused of publicly insulting Islam and disgracing its rites, considering their actions to be against the teachings of Islam, said Capital Governorate Prosecution Deputy Attorney General Nora Al Moalla.

Man beats fellow national to death

TDT | Manama

A 34-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of murdering a 35-year-old man in Tubli area.

Investigators said the man has confessed to the crime and is currently in police custody.

He was arrested while attempting to escape from the crime scene.

The victim was found murdered in a house in Tubli after his head was smashed using a hammer. Both the suspect and victim are Asian nationals. The investigation is ongoing.

Investigators said the man has confessed to the crime and is currently in police custody.

Ahmed Al Ansari, Prosecution Deputy Attorney General of the Capital Governorate, a coroner has examined the body of the victim.

The report cited a blunt force trauma to the head as a result of assault using a hammer as the reason for the death.

Police who reached the crime scene following a tip-off arrested the suspect while he was

attempting to escape.

Information was regarding a fight ongoing in a house in Tubli.

The Prosecution Deputy Attorney General confirmed in a press statement that serious head injuries caused by a 'hard object' as the reason for the death.

Police also seized the murder weapon from the crime scene.

When interrogated, the suspect also confessed to the crime. He will remain in police custody until the case is referred to the concerned Criminal Court.

Fake certificates: Trial adjourned to June 10

TDT | Manama

The second Minor Criminal Court adjourned a trial in a fake PhD degree case yesterday, in which a state official stands accused.

The Court will now hear the case on June 10.

The court postponed the trial following a request made by the lawyers of the suspect.

The lawyer requested more time to study the case.

The accused attended the session with two lawyers.

The case against the official was filed by the Civil Service

Bureau after finding that the degree certificates filed by the official were forged, said Mohammed Salah, Chief Prosecutor of the Southern Governorate Prosecution.

"Several witnesses were questioned, including coworkers of the suspect as well as the head of the Accreditation of Abroad Qualifications in the Ministry of Education and the head of the disciplinary committee formed by the Civil Service Bureau," Salah stated.

The man was accused of forging before he was referred to the court for trial.

WORLD
world

2m sea level rise 'plausible' by 2100

● The area of land lost to the ocean could be equivalent to that of France, Germany, Spain and Britain combined and would displace more than 180 million people

● Earth has already heated 1C since pre-industrial times, contributing roughly 3mm to sea levels each year.

Washington, United States

Global sea levels could rise by two metres (6.5 feet) and displace tens of millions of people by the end of the century, according to new projections that double the UN's benchmark estimates.

The vast ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica contain enough frozen water to lift the world's oceans dozens of metres. The expansion of water as oceans warm also contributes to sea level rise.

But predicting the rates at which they will melt as the planet heats is notoriously tricky.

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said its 2013 Fifth Assessment Report that under current emissions trajectories -- a "business-as-usual" scenario known as RCP8.5 -- would likely rise by up to one metre by 2100.

That prediction has since been viewed as conservative, as the levels of planet-warming green-



Houses on bamboo stilts amid encroaching bay waters in Sitio Pariahan, Bulacan. Areas north of Manila like the provinces of Pampanga and Bulacan have sunk four-six centimetres (1.5-2.4 inches) a year since 2003, according to satellite monitoring. The creeping bay waters put people and property at risk, while the threat is amplified by high-tides and flooding brought by the roughly 20 storms that pound the archipelago every year.

house gas emissions continue to rise year on year, and satellites showing accelerated rates of melt-off from massive ice sheets atop Antarctica and Greenland.

A group of the world's leading ice scientists this week released a expert judgement on the situation, drawing on their own experience and observations.

While there was still a significant margin of error, they

found it "plausible" that under the business-as-usual emissions scenario, sea-level rises could exceed two metres by 2100.

The authors said the area of land lost to the ocean could be equivalent to that of France, Germany, Spain and Britain combined and would displace more than 180 million people.

"A sea-level rise of this magnitude would clearly have pro-

found consequences for humanity," they said.

'The true risks'

In October the IPCC released a landmark climate report that called for a drastic and immediate drawdown in coal, oil and gas consumption in order to arrest the rapid rise in the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

That report, however, did not include revised estimates of sea level rise.

Earth has already heated 1C since pre-industrial times, contributing roughly 3mm to sea levels each year.

The authors of the new study, released Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, argue that the IPCC's sea-level rise predic-



The Paris climate deal, struck between nations in 2015, aims to limit global temperature rises to well below two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), and encourages countries to work towards a 1.5C cap.

tion was too constrained by focusing on what was "likely" to happen.

At wider probabilities -- 5-95 percent likelihood -- they found that under 2C of warming seas could rise 36-126 cm by 2100.

In world that has warmed by 5C -- unlikely but certainly not impossible given projected fossil fuel demand in the coming decades -- they calculated a five percent risk of sea levels surpassing two metres higher, topping out at 238 cm.

Willy Aspinall, from the University of Bristol's School of Earth Sciences, said he hoped the study could provide policymakers with a more accurate worst-case scenario "crucial for robust decision making."

"Limiting attention to the 'likely' range, as was the case in the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, may be misleading and will likely lead to a poor evaluation of the true risks," he added.

Eiffel Tower climber grabbed after sparking evacuation



A man (C) climbs up to the top of the Eiffel Tower, in Paris, without any protection

Paris, France

A climber who sparked an evacuation of the Eiffel Tower on Monday was grabbed after clinging to the famous Paris landmark for more than six hours, officials said.

The man, who was not immediately identified, "is in the hands of the emergency teams" deployed to the tower, which will reopen to visitors as normal early on Tuesday, the company operating the structure said in a statement.

It said firemen who had rap-

pelled down from the tower's third-floor observation deck to near the black-clad climber managed to "talk the individual down".

The man "has been grabbed," a police official added.

Emergency procedures triggered by the man's unauthorised climb forced an evacuation of the iconic monument, the esplanade underneath it and a large section of the adjacent Champ de Mars park mid-afternoon Monday.

Police earlier said they did not know his motive for climbing up its iron beams.

Billionaire to grads: I'll pay your debt

Washington, United States

Sunday was already a day of joy and pride for the graduating class at historically black Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia -- and then it got a whole lot better.

Robert F. Smith, an African-American businessman with a fortune estimated at \$4.4 billion, told the new graduating class that he plans to pay off the entirety of their student debt: an estimated \$40 million.

Of course, Smith received a thunderous round of applause from the 400 graduates -- and from their parents.

"My family is going to create a grant to eliminate your student loans," Smith told the assemblage, according to the college's Twitter account.

"This is my class," said Smith, who was at the ceremony to receive an honorary degree.

"I know my class will pay this forward" and help improve the lives of other black Americans.

Smith had earlier this year announced a \$1.5 million donation to the school, but Sunday's news came as a surprise even to staff at Morehouse, according to the Atlanta Journal and Constitution.



Robert Smith, left, laughs with David Thomas, center, and actress Angela Bassett (Courtesy of Bloomberg)

A spokesman said it was the biggest gift in the history of the school, whose graduates include civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., filmmaker Spike Lee and actor Samuel L. Jackson.

"If I could do a backflip, I would," Elijah Dormeus, a business major, told the newspaper. "I am deeply ecstatic."

Smith, a graduate of Cornell and Columbia universities, founded Vista Equity Partners in 2000, and by 2015 had become the richest African-American, according to *Forbes* magazine, with a fortune surpassing even that of billionaire celebrity (and fellow Morehouse donor) Oprah Winfrey.

In recent years, the soaring costs of college education -- and the rising number of defaults -- have made student debt a growing national issue, addressed by



Smith had earlier this year announced a \$1.5 million donation to the school, but Sunday's news came as a surprise even to staff at Morehouse, according to the Atlanta Journal and Constitution.

many of the Democrats seeking their party's presidential nomination.

Total student debt now exceeds \$1.5 trillion, according to the Fitch ratings agency.

So at least at Morehouse, Robert Smith had folks breathing a sigh of relief on Sunday.

Charles Releford Jr., the father of one newly minted graduate and of a second son in Morehouse's class of 2020, has a fervent wish for Smith.

"Maybe he'll come back next year," he said.

F1 legend Niki Lauda dies at 70

The life and times of Niki Lauda, who has died at the age of 70:



1973: Takes another loan to buy his way into BRM team

1974: Gets a huge break when former BRM teammate Clay Regazzoni recommends him to Ferrari. Lauda finishes second in Argentina on Ferrari debut

1974: Enjoys his first grand prix victory in Spain on April 28 in his fourth race for Ferrari

1975: Emerges as Formula One's star driver as he becomes world champion for the first time, winning five of 14 grands prix and taking nine pole positions

1976: Suffers horrific burns and lung damage in a fiery crash at the Nuerburgring and is read the last rites in hospital. Miraculously misses only two races and is piped to the title by James Hunt

1977: Wins his second world championship with Ferrari with consistent podium finishes and victories in South Africa and the Netherlands

1978: Joins the Bernie Ecclestone-owned Brabham team for a reported \$1 million salary.

1979: Retires from the sport during practice for the Canadian Grand Prix in September, saying he "no longer wishes to drive round in circles" for the struggling Brabham outfit.

Picture taken on 1975 at Silverstone showing Austrian Formula One World Champion Niki Lauda



Niki Lauda is pictured ahead of the British Formula One Grand Prix at Silverstone



French Formula One driver Alain Prost (L) poses with A Niki Lauda on the McLaren car



Mercedes non-executive chairman and former world champion Niki Lauda (L) and F1 supremo Bernie Ecclestone share a joke



Lauda and his wife Birgit attend the world premiere of Rush in central London



Lauda poses with his trophy in the category Lifetime Achievement at the Laureus World Sports 2016



1979: Finds Lauda Air, his first foray into the aviation industry

1982: Returns to racing with McLaren

1984: Becomes world champion for a third time by the smallest of margins -- half a point over teammate Alain Prost

1985: Records the last of 25 grand prix wins in the Netherlands and retires for good



1949: Andreas Nikolaus Lauda born on February 22 in Vienna, Austria

1968: Without telling his parents, who disapprove of motor racing, Lauda wins his first race in a Mini

1971: Takes out a loan to buy a seat in the new March team in Formula Two

1971: Promoted to March Formula One team. Makes grand prix debut in Austria on August 15

1991: Lauda Air Boeing 767 crashes in Thailand on May 26 killing all 223 people aboard

1993: Returns to Formula One as a consultant for Ferrari

2001-02: Appointed team principal for Jaguar

2002: Sells Lauda Air to Austrian Airlines

2004: Creates low-cost carrier Niki, which he sells to Air Berlin in 2011

2012: Appointed non-executive chairman of Mercedes F1 and is instrumental in bringing in Lewis Hamilton to spark a run of five consecutive world championships

2018: Has emergency lung transplant in August

2019: Dies peacefully in his sleep on May 20

Vienna, Austria

Legendary Formula One driver Niki Lauda has died at the age of 70, his family said yesterday, triggering an outpouring of praise for a man whose track victories and comeback from a horrific crash enthralled race fans worldwide.

Lauda died at the University Hospital Zurich in Switzerland on Monday night surrounded by his closest family members, a spokesperson told AFP.

His death comes eight months after he underwent a lung transplant. The family said in a statement that Lauda died peacefully.

"His unique achievements as an athlete and entrepreneur are and will remain unforgettable, his tireless zest for action, his straightforwardness and his courage remain," it said.

"A role model and a benchmark for all of us, he was a loving and caring husband, father and grandfather away from the public, and he will be missed."

Lauda won the Formula One drivers' world championship three times, in 1975 and 1977 for Ferrari and in 1984 with McLaren, despite a terrible race crash in 1976.

An Austrian news report said Lauda -- who has kidney transplants -- was hospitalised for a dialysis earlier this month in

Switzerland.

"Everyone at Ferrari is deeply saddened at the news of the death of our dear friend Niki Lauda," Ferrari said on its Twitter account.

"Niki will forever be in our hearts and enshrined in our history. #RIPNiki," his former team McLaren tweeted on their account.

Lauda had been non-executive chairman at Mercedes F1 since 2012 and he was instrumental in bringing in British driver Lewis Hamilton to spark a run of success that has brought five consecutive world drivers' and constructors' championships.

"A legend has left us. Rest in peace Niki #nikilauda," tweeted 2009 world champion and former McLaren driver Jenson Button as social media exploded with the news of his death.

"Forever carried in our hearts, forever immortalised in our history. The motorsport community today mourns the devastating loss of a true legend," Formula 1 said on Twitter.

'Very, very special man'

Lauda was born as Andreas Nikolaus on February 22, 1949, in Vienna into an upper middle-class family, who did not share his passion for cars.

In 1968, without telling his parents, Lauda won his first

race with a Mini Racer he had bought with his grandmother's help.

During his driving career, Lauda suffered horrific injuries on August 1, 1976 when, having already won five races that season, his vehicle burst into flames on the Nuerburgring in Germany.

He had severe burns to his face and hands, and inhaled toxic fumes which damaged his lungs.

Despite being given the last rites in hospital he made an almost miraculous recovery to race again just six weeks later still bandaged and in intense pain.

He missed only two races that season but was unable to hold off the challenge of Britain's James Hunt, who went on to claim his only world title.

The rivalry between the two men -- which demonstrated the Austrian's extraordinary courage and fighting spirit -- was portrayed in the 2013 film "Rush" by American director Ron Howard.

The next season, in 1977, Lauda went on to win his second Formula One world championship with Ferrari.

Former motorcycling world champion Casey Stoner said on Twitter: "RIP Niki Lauda, a true Icon and Motorsport legend. Thoughts are with his family

and loved ones at this time."

Former F1 driver Johnny Herbert, describing Lauda as "courageous, chatty, and extremely funny", added on Twitter: "I am going to miss you being around the @F1 paddock but the legend of Niki Lauda will live on, because you were a very very special man."

One of Austria's greatest

Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said Lauda "fought himself back into life multiple times".

"With Niki Lauda, Austria loses one of its greatest personalities... He is a role model for courage, discipline and directness," he said on Twitter.

Lauda quit Formula One at the end of 1979 to pursue his second passion, civil aviation.

But he came back to the race circuit in 1982, this time with McLaren, and won his last world championship with them in 1984.

"A highly accomplished athlete and entrepreneur, Niki is an inspiration to many both on and off the racetrack, pushing everyone on his team to always strive for the best," Colin Syn, deputy chairman of the Singapore Grand Prix, said in a statement.

Off the racetrack, Lauda -- recognised by his trademark red cap hiding scars from his

1976 accident -- founded and then sold several airlines with a majority stake of his latest going to Ryanair in 2018.

Tragedy hit in 1991 when a Boeing 767 of his Lauda Air fleet crashed in Thailand on its way from Bangkok to Vienna, killing all 223 people aboard.

In August last year, Lauda underwent an emergency lung transplant in a Vienna hospital

after contracting an infection in his lungs, which were scarred and weakened by the effects of inhaling high temperature smoke during the 1976 accident.

Years before he had also received the kidney transplants. When one failed, a second kidney was donated by his then-girlfriend Birgit Wetzinger, a former flight attendant, who he married in 2008.

Besides their twins, a boy and a girl born in 2009, Lauda also had three other sons from previous relationships.

Joko Widodo re-elected president

● **Widodo and Amin won the country's top jobs with 55.5 percent of the vote against 44.5 percent for Subianto and his wealthy financier partner Sandiaga Uno**

Jakarta, Indonesia

Thousands of soldiers fanned out across Jakarta on Tuesday after the surprise early announcement of official results in Indonesia's election showed Joko Widodo re-elected leader of the world's third-biggest democracy.

The election commission had been due to give the final tally of the divisive poll on Wednesday, but the results were revealed early Tuesday with little advance notice amid fears of unrest.

Presidential challenger Prabowo Subianto had warned of possible mass uprisings in response to his claims of widespread cheating.

Tensions have also spiked high since police said last week that they arrested dozens of Islamic State-linked terror suspects -- including some who planned to cause chaos by detonating bombs at any post-election protests.

On Friday, the US embassy in Jakarta issued a heightened security alert for Indonesia, the world's biggest Muslim majority nation.

There was a heavy security presence in Jakarta on Tuesday, including in front of the elec-



Indonesia's presidential challenger Prabowo Subianto gestures during a press conference in Jakarta

tions commission office, which was barricaded with razor wire and protected by scores of heavily armed troops.

Subianto, a 67-year-old retired general, has targeted the commission by accusing it of allowing a string of election violations.

The former military man -- who has strong ties to the Suharto dictatorship that collapsed in 1998 -- has kept up a steady string of rhetoric since unofficial results for the April 17 poll put bitter rival Widodo ahead by a wide margin.

Widodo, who had held off declaring victory after last month's

polls, confirmed the win Tuesday.

"After we're sworn in... we will be president and vice president," Widodo told reporters in Jakarta with running mate Ma'ruf Amin, a Muslim cleric, at his side.

Subianto, meanwhile, rejected the results but called for supporters to remain calm and said his camp would pursue "legal avenues".

Earlier Tuesday, Subianto's legal director was quoted by Indonesian media as saying a formal appeal would be filed at the Constitutional Court.

Subianto unsuccessfully chal-

lenged Widodo's 2014 victory over him at the same court.

'Sway public opinion'

Analysts and election officials have discounted Subianto's claims that the result was affected by voter fraud and widespread cheating.

"The scale of abuses and errors in the conduct of the election are clearly very minor overall," Jakarta-based political analyst Kevin O'Rourke said before Tuesday's official results.

"(Subianto) and his camp are harping on minor deficiencies and very micro problems, clearly in an attempt to sway public opinion and delegitimise Widodo."

It was unclear if huge crowds would flood the streets to support Subianto, but there was little sign of Tuesday.

"There will be protests from disappointed (Subianto) supporters but I don't think it'll be significant," said Syamsuddin Haris, a political analyst at the Indonesian Sciences Institute.

"Authorities have been anticipating this," he added.

The presidential campaign was punctuated by bitter mudslinging and a slew of fake news online -- much of it directed at the presidential contenders.

The soft-spoken Widodo -- who pointed to his efforts to boost Southeast Asia's biggest economy with a huge infrastructure push -- stood in stark contrast to fiery nationalist Subianto, a strongman who courted Islamic hardliners and promised a boost to military and defence spending.



After we're sworn in... we will be president and vice president

WIDODO TOLD REPORTERS IN JAKARTA WITH RUNNING MATE MA'RUF AMIN, A MUSLIM CLERIC, AT HIS SIDE.

Last month, a record 245,000 candidates ran for public office in Indonesia, from the presidency and parliamentary seats to local positions -- the first time all were held on the same day.

Some 85.6 million votes were cast in favour of Widodo out of about 154 million in total, it added.

Widodo scoring thumping victories in holiday hotspot Bali and heavily populated East Java, while Subianto landed big wins in conservative Aceh and West Java.

Militants kill local MP, at least 6 others, in NE India

Guwahati, India

A state legislator in the northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh and at least six others were killed yesterday in an attack by suspected separatist militants, police said.

Lawmaker Tirong Aboh and some family members were killed when insurgents opened fire on their vehicle in the Tirap district of the state, police said.

One senior police official said the death toll could be much higher.

"We believe 11 people have been killed, including a mem-

ber of the legislative assembly," a top officer told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The officer said reinforcements had been rushed to the area.

Police are yet to confirm the identity of the other victims.

Militants belonging to the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), one of several separatist groups in the area, are suspected to have carried out the attack after making threats to Aboh.

NPP Chief Conrad Sangma condemned the incident and urged the Indian government to take action against those responsible.

Sherpa climbs Everest twice in a week for record 24th

Kathmandu, Nepal

Only last week Nepali mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa set a new record by climbing Everest a 23rd time. On Tuesday for good measure he did it again, expedition organisers said.

"This is historic. He made his record climb this morning, guiding a team of Indian police," Mingma Sherpa of Seven Summit Treks told AFP.

A guide for more than two decades, Sherpa first summited the 8,848-metre (29,029-foot) peak, the world's highest, in 1994 while working for a commercial expedition.

In the 25 years since, the 49-year-old has made 35 summits on five 8,000-metre peaks,



Nepali mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa

including the world's second-highest mountain, K2 in Pakistan.

Last year he ascended Everest

for the 22nd time, breaking the previous record of 21 summits he shared with two other Sherpa climbers, both of whom have

retired. Returning last week to a colourful welcome at base camp after his 23rd climb, Sherpa had already said that he wanted to go up for a second time this season.

"I am very happy and proud, I think I might go up the mountain again this season," he had said over a crackly phone line after his descent.

The accomplished climber has often said he did not intend to make records, but accumulated his summits in course of his work as a guide.

"I did not climb for world records, I was just working. I did not even know you could set records earlier," he said last month before setting off for Everest base camp.

Want to become a spy? Slovenia looking for new talent

Ljubljana, Slovenia

Slovenia's spy agency yesterday published its first ever public advert to recruit new agents "to strengthen and refresh" the former Communist country's intelligence services.

"We call on those interested in the intelligence and security fields, motivated by challenges and prepared to adjust to the agency's specific line of work," the Slovenian Intelligence and Security Agency (SOVA) said in an ad in the daily Delo and other newspapers.

One major requirement, however: candidates must be Slove-

nian citizens.

They can apply for different posts. Tasks include gathering information through secret collaboration, exchanging intelligence with foreign countries, and preparing analytical reports or forecasts.

Years of austerity have dented SOVA's funding, and its reputation hit rock-bottom in 2015 when a phone tapping scandal shook up arbitration between Slovenia and Croatia to resolve a long-lasting border dispute.

"While we've had very little new recruitment in the last years, the fast development of



technology and the evolving of security threats and risks de-

mand that the agency strengthens and refreshes with new and

We call on those interested in the intelligence and security fields, motivated by challenges and prepared to adjust to the agency's specific line of work

SLOVENIAN INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY (SOVA)

Tasks include gathering information through secret collaboration, exchanging intelligence with foreign countries, and preparing analytical reports or forecasts.

younger staff," SOVA said in a statement sent to AFP.

It added that it opted for an open call in order to "increase transparency and reach a wider public".

Australia isn't right-wing, it's cautious

The election upset shows that voters don't want to rock the boat



WALEED ALYW

Ahead of Australia's general election on Saturday, one party had campaigned on the idea that politics and the economy were rigged in favor of the elites. It attacked its opponent relentlessly for siding with the "top end of town." It insisted that things needed to be shaken up to stop serving multinational corporations and vested interests. That party lost.

The results were surprising. The centre-right coalition, led by Prime Minister Scott Morrison, remained in power against the opposition Labour party, which had led in every poll for years. But aside from being an upset, the election shared little in common with Donald Trump's 2016 victory, the Brexit referendum or other populist insurgencies around the world.

This was a campaign in which the politics of race, xenophobia and immigration played almost no part. (That's probably because of the atmosphere after terrorist attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand, in March.) There was nothing in Morrison's election pitch, perhaps other than continued support for coal mining, that seemed particularly aimed at rousing right-wing voters. Even on climate change, a major election issue on which there was some distance between the parties, Morrison argued his party was acting sufficiently — not dismissing it as some elite conspiracy. No, the lesson from Australia's election isn't that this country is right-wing but that it's conservative — as in cautious.

You could, if you were being unkind, call Labour's platform populist. And in fairness, the moment seemed right for its agenda: A royal commission into Australia's banks recently revealed all manner of unethical practices and underwrote a public sense of disgust at corporate lawlessness. Stagnating wages following the decline of a mining boom have meant that many



Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia with his family after his unexpected victory on Saturday

Australians are facing financial stress. House prices in the biggest cities have galloped wildly out of reach of many would-be first-time buyers.

To address these very real economic concerns, Labour put forward serious, bold policies on complex issues that it argued overwhelmingly benefit the wealthy, in particular tax breaks on investment properties and retirees' stock market dividends. It was probably the most ambitious set of reforms any party has taken to an election in a generation.

The coalition contrived to run without a significant policy agenda beyond offering tax cuts. Overwhelmingly, its campaign was a negative one, attacking Labour's platform as reckless and anti-aspirational. But this wasn't a populist message, either. In fact it's a message of contentedness and caution. Its fundamental assumption is that broadly speaking, the system works fine: Trickle-down economics brings prosperity, and to the extent things could be better, such

as wages, the answer is patience and more of the same. Labour couldn't be trusted precisely because it wanted to shake things up.

That this argument delivered the coalition a stunning victory in what appeared to be an unwinnable election does not represent some new Australian political logic. Rather, it follows a well-established tradition and conventional wisdom: The Australian electorate is averse to big change.

It is no coincidence that the last time an opposition attempted a policy platform this bold was in 1993 and the result was the same, only with the parties reversed. At that time, Labour was in government, and the coalition managed to lose what is frequently described as "the unlosable election." It is also no coincidence that Labour, which is Australia's party of reform, has been in power for only 29 of Australia's 74 postwar years. It also tends to come to power when a moment of crisis is brewing: world

In ordinary times, slow change. Using the coalition, but Australia's conservative is peril. The last 2007 when it underwent reforms, which an attack on workers. Labour's problem is that it tried to



Supporters of opposition election in Melbourne

Is Italy's front-runner a Marshmallow?



BEPPE SEVERGNINI

Matteo Salvini is far in the lead for this month's European elections, but Italians are hard to rein in



Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Matteo Salvini (C) delivers a speech holding a rosary during a rally of European nationalists ahead of European elections

On May 13, at a rally near Bergamo, the heartland of right-wing party the League, which is ahead in polls approaching this week's European elections, its leader Matteo Salvini asked the police to remove a banner hanging from a window. It read: "You are not welcome."

Not a smart move on his part. Suddenly, anti-Salvini banners started popping up wherever he went. Some were quite funny. One man in Florence posted a banner from his tiny attic with a challenge to the authorities to take it down: "Bring a long ladder. I live on the fifth floor," he wrote.

On May 18, at the rally with several leaders of the European far right, including Marine Le Pen of France and Viktor Orban of Hungary, Salvini could watch another joyful display. Banners mocking him were everywhere. A man dressed as Zorro — including an eye-mask and a sword — appeared on a balcony in the Piazza del Duomo, where the crowd gathered to listen to the speeches.

We Italians are an irreverent bunch, and hard to rein in. Our deep-rooted distrust of power, in regular times, may be a drawback; but in exceptional moments like this one, it's a form of insurance. Lately, Salvini has become more prone than ever to acting over the top. Speaking from a balcony that was used by Benito Mussolini, downplaying fascism at every turn, flirting with supremacist groups and praising Vladimir Putin's Russia are hardly appropriate, in a democracy, for a party leader who is also interior minister and deputy prime minister.

But jumping to conclusions is also wrong. There is no chance that Italy will become an authoritarian state, let alone a second fascist regime. We are too undisciplined for that. And



People hold a photograph of anti-racism, anti-fascism

Salvini may be a no dictator.

It's undeniable monitored. His general election is a government which got near as a springboard. employment, transparency, his inexperience, self-promotion. T about the danger fear but accomplish illegal immigrants pronto, are still he. But the idea of letting people drop with many Italian

1915

Three trains collide in the Quintinshill rail disaster near Gretna Green, Scotland, killing 227 people and injuring 246.

1926

Chiang Kai-shek replaces the communists in Kuomintang China.



1927

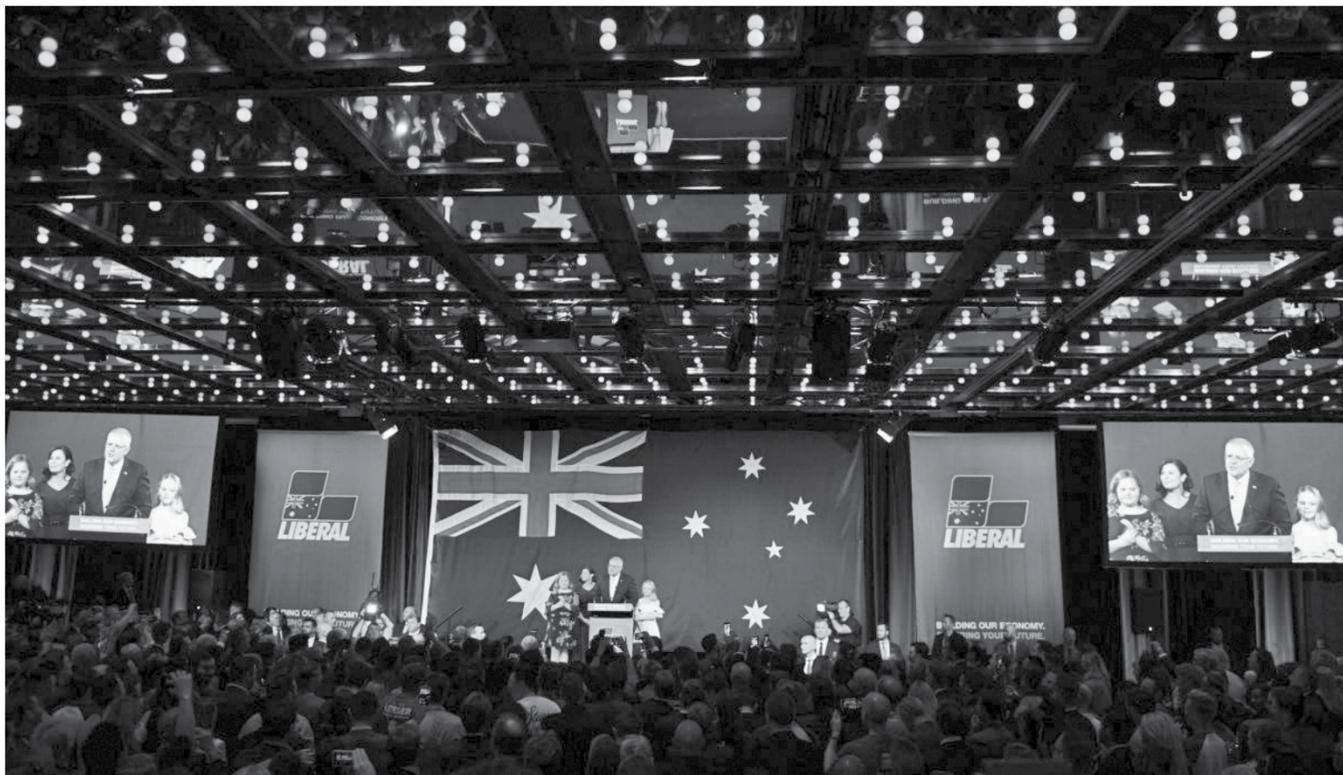
Near Xining, China, an 8.3 magnitude earthquake causes 200,000 deaths in one of the world's most destructive earthquakes.

1939

World War II: Germany and Italy sign the Pact of Steel.

OUS

Australia votes for mild, usually that gives power to even the coalition tests conservative temperament at time it lost power was in undertook sweeping labour reforms mounted to a significant workers' rights and tilted the power balance hugely in favour of employers. Labour's problem this time proved to be that it tried too many big ideas at once



Australia's newly elected Prime Minister Scott Morrison (C) delivers a victory speech



Labor leader Bill Shorten watch the giant screens showing the results of Australia's general



aph representing Matteo Salvini as a mafia godfather as they take part in a demonstration by

cheeky demagogue, but he's... though, that he must be... party won 17 percent in the... in March, 2018, then formed... the Five Star Movement... ly 33 percent – and used it... He left the thorny issues –... sportation, public works – to... d partners, and focused on... his involved a lot of barking... s of immigration, spreading... shing little. Half a million... whom he promised to expel... re. Fewer come now, it's true... cking down Italian ports and... own at sea doesn't play well... s – or in the courts. On May

19 a public prosecutor ordered 47 migrants, stranded off the coast on Lampedusa, a tiny island south of Sicily, to be brought ashore, and he confiscated the rescuing boat. Salvini has campaigned endlessly; this year he has held more than 200 rallies and spent a mere 17 full days in his ministerial office, according to one newspaper's tally. He broadcasts daily on Facebook, tweets with Trump-like ferocity, and posts selfies wearing every type of uniform. Earlier this month, he introduced "Vinci Salvini" (Win Salvini), a campaign in which voters gain points by posting likes on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. And what do they win? Their photos on their leader's social profiles and, he beams, "for the lucky ones, even a chat on the phone with me!" This frantic activity has helped Matteo – as he is

wars, the Great Depression, the global financial crisis.

In ordinary times, Australia votes for mild, slow change. Usually that gives power to the coalition, but even the coalition tests Australia's conservative temperament at its peril. The last time it lost power was in 2007 when it undertook sweeping labour reforms, which amounted to a significant attack on workers' rights and tilted the power balance hugely in favour of employers. Labour's problem this time proved to be that it tried too many big ideas at once.

Thus did Labour lose significantly in outer suburbs, including among several lower-income electorates. Perhaps the most underappreciated predictor here seems to be debt: Those seats that are experiencing heavy mortgage stress almost entirely swung sharply against Labour. That suggests that even though those voters might be financially stretched, they were spooked by Labour's proposed changes to tax policy, which were subject to a scare campaign warning that they would cause house prices to

collapse.

Perhaps that might have been countered had Labour run a better, more focused campaign. That post-mortem is now underway. Even so, the fact that Labour's narrative of "fairness" failed before the coalition's story of "aspiration" suggests Australia has not called time on neoliberalism in the way that voters elsewhere seem ready to. Certainly there is disillusionment, evidenced by a record vote for minor parties and independents. But ultimately, 27 years of economic growth and only six years of wage stagnation (rather than the decades of it in the United States) mean that while scepticism of the corporate world and trepidation about the economy exists, Australia isn't prepared to experiment with its economic formula just yet. Australians may not be entirely happy with the status quo, but they are clearly still prepared to vote for it.

(Waleed Aly is a columnist, a broadcaster and a politics lecturer at Monash University in Melbourne)

known among the faithful – gain a consensus on the right, even in the poorer South, where the League was despised until recently.

Meanwhile, Silvio Berlusconi, whom Italians used to call "Cavaliere," is, despite declining health, leading his much weakened Forza Italia party into the election, using the slogans and images from its historic win in 1994. But the aging Berlusconi is no match for the younger, tech-savvy Salvini. According to the latest polls available – Italian law forbids publishing them in the two weeks before elections – Forza Italia is at well under 10 percent, with the League between 30 and 35 percent. Some predict that on May 26 the League could end up being one of Europe's largest parties.

But there are small signs that may point to a different outcome. To start with, Five Star is fighting back, attacking its allies (about corruption, regional autonomy, and expanding Italy's flat tax) and hinting at a possible leftist alliance with the Democratic Party. More important, the current government hasn't delivered. Italy's economic growth is the slowest in the European Union, public debt keeps piling up and international investors are nervous. The patience of business people and entrepreneurs, especially in the wealthy north, is wearing thin. And they represent the core of the League's support.

The European elections are so close now that Salvini is bound to do well. But the mood is changing. It's like with marshmallows: the sweets you can't get enough of, until you are suddenly sick of them. And Matteo's marshmallow moment may be coming sooner than most expect.

Italy's political mood has known big swings in the recent past. Berlusconi was uncer-

Salvini has campaigned endlessly; this year he has held more than 200 rallies and spent a mere 17 full days in his ministerial office. He broadcasts daily on Facebook, tweets with Trump-like ferocity, and posts selfies wearing every type of uniform

moniously sacked in 2011; Mario Monti was extremely popular in 2012, helped get Italy's public finances in order, and then became – undeservedly – a figure of hate; in 2014, Matteo Renzi, then leader of the Democratic Party, polled a stunning 41 percent in the European election, and was dumped in 2016. His fault? An untimely referendum on constitutional reform and a self-assurance that bordered on arrogance. Even Beppe Grillo, the larger-than-life founder of the Five Star Movement, quickly became a has-been, and was sidelined by his own people.

So never underestimate our operatic tendencies. In Italy we cheer our tenors – until we boo them off the stage. And we chew our delicious marshmallows until, suddenly, we've had enough and spit them out in spectacular fashion. Matteo Salvini, be warned: the Italian political trash can always has room for one more.

(Beppe Severgnini, an editorial writer and editor at Corriere della Sera, writes about Italian and European politics, society and culture)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Why is it that we allow charter schools to siphon public money out of public schools – often with worse results – simply to enrich Wall Street executives, Silicon Valley CEOs and billionaires like the DeVos family?

@BernieSanders

02



My father was gentle, loving, kind & affectionate. He taught me to love & respect all beings. To never hate. To forgive. I miss him. On his death anniversary, I remember my father with love & gratitude. #RememberingRajiv-Gandhi

@RahulGandhi

03



COHEN says there's a "difficult internal dynamic" over impeachment within the Democratic caucus. He says his own articles of impeachment are ready to be filed but he's waiting for Mueller to testify.

@kyledcheney

04



On this Cuban Independence Day, we stand by the people of Cuba in their quest for freedom, democracy and prosperity. The Cuban regime must end its repression of Cubans & Venezuelans. The United States will not stand idly by as Cuba continues to subvert democracy in the Americas!

@realDonaldTrump

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

business

Araya Alberta Hargate named Chopard Brand Ambassador



Araya Hargate in Chopard

TDT | Manama

Chopard, the Artisan of Emotions, announced Hargate, British-Thai actress and model as its new ambassador to convey Maison's creativity and expertise in the field of Haute Joaillerie.

Sharing a special friendship with Chopard Co-President and Artistic Director

Caroline Scheufele, Araya Hargate has chosen to wear Chopard's Haute Joaillerie creations on several occasions since her first appearance on the red carpet at the 2015 Cannes International Film Festival.

Araya Hargate, who also goes by the name of Chompoo, has become a regular at the International Fashion Weeks and Haute Couture shows.

BHB lists 10 T-bills, Sukuk worth BD563 million

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Bourse (BHB) yesterday announced the listing of 10 issues in the Treasury Bills Market worth a total of BD563 million. The bills were issued by the Central Bank of Bahrain with discount rates

ranging between 3.18 per cent and 4.39pc for 3-12 months.

With the listing of those issues, the total number of Treasury Bills and Short-Term Islamic Lease (Ijarah) Sukuk listed at Bahrain Bourse became 24 issues with a total value of BD1.47 billion.

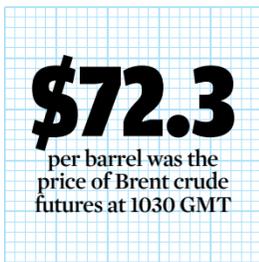
Oil prices edge up

Reuters | Singapore/London

Oil prices rose yesterday on escalating US-Iran tensions and amid expectations that OPEC producers will continue to curb supply this year.

Gains were capped by concerns that a prolonged trade war between Washington and Beijing could lead to a global economic slowdown.

Brent crude futures, the international benchmark for oil prices, were at \$72.31 per barrel at 1030 GMT, up 34 cents, or 0.5 percent, from their last close. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were up 42 cents, or 0.7 percent, at \$63.52 per barrel.



Saudi Arabia has signaled its willingness to continue curbing output until the end of the year. OPEC will meet at the end of June or in early July.

Also adding to market tightness was the closure of a major pipeline in Nigeria and supply disruptions from Russia.

KHCB joins 'EazyNet'

A new eService provided by the bank towards digitalization



Officials during the signing of KHCB, EazyNet deal

TDT | Manama

Khaleeji Commercial Bank (KHCB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Eazy Financial Services to join the "EazyNet" biometric payment

network.

The MoU will allow KHCB customers to pay their bills, deposit or withdraw amounts or pay for their purchases at the selling points that are part of the EazyNet network using fingerprints.

Commenting on the deal, KHCB CEO Sattam Sulaiman Al-gosaibi said: "This MoU comes within our efforts to digitalize our banking transactions and to keep abreast of recent developments in the banking field."

On his part, Board Member

and CEO of Eazy Financial Services Nayef Tawfeeq Al Alawi said: "KHCB is considered one of the leading Islamic banks in the Kingdom of Bahrain. It has taken a pioneering step by joining the first biometric payment system in the region, EazyNet."

BNH joins hands with Health 360°

TDT | Manama

Health 360° Ancillary Services announced Bahrain National Holding Company (BNH) as its major shareholder alongside Takaful International (gig Takaful) and Paramount Health Services Group.

The move, Health 360° said, follows an increase in the capital of the company, which provides services for managing health insurance claims.

Health 360 started its operations in 2013 after being established by Takaful International and Paramount Group.

Sameer Al Wazzan, the BNH CEO, said: "Our choice to become a partner in Health 360° Ancillary Services comes after a thorough study of the market conditions and the high standards of services provided by Health 360 Ancillary Services."

For his part, Abdul-Aziz Al Othman, Chairman, said that BNH's participation as a major



The deal signing

and strategic shareholder will contribute to the growth of the Company's business and the spread of Health 360 services to all policyholders managed by the Company.

The Company has recently launched significant updates on its mobile application, add-

ing services to health insurance customers, in collaboration with Paramount Group, the largest claims management company in the Republic of India and a founding partner of Health 360.

"Takaful is very pleased to enter into a strategic partnership

with BNH and Paramount Group by participating in Health 360, which will contribute to the strengthening of health insurance services in the Kingdom of Bahrain, which is currently experiencing rapid growth," said Essam Al Ansari, CEO of Takaful International.

Waqf Fund holds Corporate Governance workshop

TDT | Manama

The Waqf Fund held its 10th Corporate Governance workshop in Bahrain to discuss the causes behind recent global high profile misconduct cases, how to set the exchange ratio in bank mergers and strategy, innovation and competitive response.

Twenty people including Chairmen, Board members and CEOs of Waqf Fund member in-

stitutions attended the workshop.

Dr Nabil El-Hage, an expert on corporate governance and a former professor of Harvard Business School, led the workshop. He presented four cases; three global and one regional.

The Waqf Fund, which hosted the workshop, has been serving the Islamic finance industry in Bahrain since 2006.



Participants during the workshop

OECD cuts global growth forecast as tensions rise



Angel Gurría, General Secretary of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Paris, France

The OECD yesterday cut its forecast for the world economy, urging governments to resolve their trade disputes as the latest flare-up in the US-China trade war threatens to crimp global growth.

"Governments must act urgently to reinvigorate growth that benefits all," the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said as it pared back its forecast for global growth to 3.2 per cent this year from 3.3pc earlier.

"Resolve trade disputes through increased international cooperation while fixing the international rules-based system," said the OECD, a Paris-based forum that advises the world's advanced economy.

"Invest in infrastructure, digital transformation and skills to meet tomorrow's challenges. In the euro area, combine structural with fiscal policies to stimulate activity."

The OECD's updated forecasts did not take directly into account the latest flare-up in the long-running trade war between Washington and Beijing, "insofar that there is still a great deal of uncertainty about the length of time (tariffs) will remain in place and the future evolution of the trade relationship between the two countries," an OECD source told AFP.

Nevertheless, the projections did "incorporate" the increased uncertainty generated by the trade tensions, the source said.

As both Washington and Beijing slap trade tariffs on more



Chief Economist of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Laurence Boone

and more of each other's goods, President Donald Trump has barred US companies from engaging in telecommunications trade with foreign companies said to threaten American national security.

OECD secretary general Angel Gurría told a news conference it was imperative that Washington and Beijing bury their differences.

"There is an urgent need that we sit around a multilateral table and that we create the conditions that will allow trade to continue to underpin global growth and global well-being," he said.

"We have a lot of work to do, but if we do it together we will have a much better chance to succeed."

The organisation's chief econ-

omist Laurence Boone said the "worst scenario possible" was that trade tensions would continue and snowball.

"A climate of uncertainty (was) detrimental to investment and for confidence" and could erode purchasing power, she argued. While the OECD pared back its global growth forecast for the current year, it predicted a pick-up in activity to 3.4 per cent in 2020.

It notched up its forecast for US growth this year by 0.2 percentage point to 2.8 per cent, but predicted a slowdown to 2.3 per cent next year.

Chinese growth was projected to slow to 6.2pc this year and 6.0pc next year.

The outlook for euro area growth was unchanged at 1.2 per cent this year.

US business debt a 'moderate' economic risk: US Fed's Powell



Jerome Powell (Courtesy of WSJ)

Washington, United States

The American private sector's mounting debts pose a "moderate" risk to the world's largest economy, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said Monday.

With corporate debts reaching historic highs relative to the size of the economy, public comment has run the gamut, according to Powell, either warning of grave danger or waiving off such threats as "nothing to worry about."

But the truth, he said, according to a copy of remarks prepared for a speech in Florida, was "likely somewhere in the middle."

"As of now, business debt does not present the kind of elevated risks to the stability of the financial system that would lead to broad harm to households and businesses should conditions deteriorate," Powell said.

"At the same time, the level of debt certainly could stress borrowers if the economy weakens."

Economists warn that after years of economic recovery and low interest rates, companies across the spectrum of US industries now frequently have debts that are several times greater than their earnings, with debt growing faster than the economy for the last decade.

Should interest rates rise or the economy slow, this could leave them struggling to repay, creating a risk to the wider economy.

Nevertheless, Powell said it was incorrect to draw parallels with the collapse in mortgage-backed securities which

As of now, business debt does not present the kind of elevated risks to the stability of the financial system that would lead to broad harm to households and businesses should conditions deteriorate

JEROME POWELL

led to the global financial crisis in 2008.

Banking reforms after the crisis have made the financial sector resilient enough to handle such losses, there are few signs of an asset price bubble and the investment vehicles used to trade in debt are more sound, according to Powell.

Nevertheless there is clear cause for concern, he said.

"Corporate debt relative to the book value of assets is at the upper end of its range over the past few decades," said Powell, adding that investment-grade corporate debts were verging on junk.

The Fed earlier this month issued a similar warning, saying in its latest report on financial stability that a large appetite for risk had kept stock prices relative to expected earnings above their average of the last 30 years.

The International Monetary Fund also warned recently that rising debt levels posed a threat to the global economy.

Adidas, Nike, PUMA say new tariffs would be 'catastrophic'

Washington, United States

Adidas, Nike and PUMA on Tuesday urged US President Donald Trump to prevent the shoe industry from falling victim to the trade war with China, saying new tariffs could be "catastrophic."

In a letter to Trump, those big name manufacturers joined forces with more than 170 other

American shoe manufacturers and retailers calling for footwear to be exempted from a new round of punitive tariffs on \$300 billion in Chinese goods.

In the escalating trade war with Beijing, Trump this month increased existing tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports to 25 per cent, and is threatening to extend those du-

ties to nearly all Chinese products imported into the United States.

That would mean additional taxes on a range of consumer goods, including electronics and clothing, such as athletic shoes and iPhones, which has sparked fear in retailers and producers who rely on goods from China.

"The proposed additional

tariff of 25 per cent on footwear would be catastrophic for our consumers, our companies, and the American economy as a whole," the letter from the shoe coalition states.

The firms said the industry already pays \$3 billion in duties and that additional tariffs would increase costs and prices.

Ethiopia hosts \$173,000-a-seat dinner to beautify capital

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

More than 200 people paid an eye-watering \$173,000 (150,000 euros) to attend a dinner thrown by Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, to raise funds to beautify the capital Addis Ababa, state media reported Monday.

The state-affiliated Fana Broadcasting Corporate published pictures of diners, some wearing tuxedos, seated at a long rose-covered banquet table.

"A seat at the event is valued at 5 million birr," the report said, adding that "over 200 individuals, representatives from local and international organizations" took part in the event.

The dinner was held to raise funds for a three-year project



The dinner was held to raise funds for a three-year project by PM to "lift the image" of the capital. (NDTV)

by Abiy to "lift the image" of the capital, a bustling, fast-changing city where modern buildings are everywhere and greenery is scarce.

"The rapid growth and expansion of the city over the past few years has not adequately utilised the natural resources and beautiful topography that the city is endowed with," according to a video of the project posted on Abiy's website.

The video said that currently green cover is only 0.3 square metres per capita in Addis Ababa, and the project hopes to raise this to seven square metres per capita -- in line with average green coverage in Africa.

The project along an area of

56 square kilometres (21 square miles) envisions parks, bicycle paths and walkways along the rivers of the capital, the planting of trees and the development of urban farms.

It is estimated to cost \$1 billion, according to Fana.

Abiy's website said that those present at the dinner would have a plaque with their name on it placed along the project route, and would have a private photo-op with the prime minister. The pictures would be compiled into "an album of individuals who changed the face of Addis Ababa."

Abiy has won praise for his reformist agenda since taking office in April last year.

Billionaire Hinduja brothers weigh bid for Jet Airways



Jet Airways aircrafts are seen parked at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai,

Reuters | Bengaluru

India's Hinduja Group said yesterday it was considering a bid for debt-laden Jet Airways Ltd, boosting shares in the grounded airline by 15% for their best day since January.

India's *Economic Times* newspaper said here earlier the family-run Hinduja Group would start the process of bidding this week.

The group is led by billionaire brothers Gopichand and Srichand Hinduja, who were named Britain's wealthiest people for a third time in this year's Sunday Times Rich List. Their interests range from banking and oil and gas to power.

Media reports said the group had looked at a possible stake in Air India when the state-run airline came up for pri-

vatization, but a deal failed to materialize. The Hindujas also tied up with German airline Lufthansa's air cargo services business in the 1990s, before ending the agreement in 2000.

"The markets would like to see a serious player get into Jet at this juncture," Siddhartha Khemka, head of retail research at Motilal Oswal Securities, said.

"The Hindujas have the financial strength to support Jet."

The Mumbai-based Hinduja Group is in talks with Jet founder Naresh Goyal and investor Etihad, as well as bankers led by SBI Capital Markets which is leading the search for potential investors, the *Economic Times* said, citing sources.

SBI Capital Markets declined to comment, while Etihad did not respond to a Reuters query.

Global rally lifts most of Gulf

● 11 of 12 Saudi banks rise

● Dubai's National Cement gains on asset purchase

● Dana Gas surges on drilling commencement

● El Sewedy jumps on new firm establishment

Reuters

Saudi Arabia's stock market rose sharply yesterday, leading gains in most major Gulf bourses amid a global rally after Washington temporarily eased trade restrictions imposed last week on China's Huawei. Qatar dropped on wide sell-off.

Saudi's index increased 1.7 per cent, with Al Rajhi Bank adding 2.2pc and Saudi Basic Industries up 3.3pc.

"Middle East today is following the positive lead from Global markets. Local sentiment is also better as evidenced by the strong moves in small cap stocks," said Vrajesh Bhandari senior portfolio manager at Al Mal Capital.

"We expect Saudi Arabia to continue its upward trend until at least the MSCI effective date May 28," added Vrajesh.



Traders on the floor of Saudi Stock exchange

"Thereafter, investors need to be selective & follow a bottom up approach. Overall, we find better value in UAE & Egypt."

MSCI last week said it would include MSCI Saudi Arabia in its emerging-markets index, effective May 28, a move that could draw billions of dollars into the market.

Saudi International Petrochemical closed 3.4pc higher. The firm completed the merger of equals with Sahara Petrochemical, which delisted on May 20.

Qatar's index was down 2pc, with 17 of its 20 stocks sliding. Egypt's blue-chip index,

gained 1.7pc as most of its stocks rose, with Market heavyweight Commercial International Bank gaining 0.9pc.

El Sewedy Electric jumped 5.9pc after it partnered with General Authority For Suez Canal Economic Zone to establish a new company with issued capital of 1 billion Egyptian pounds (\$58.82 million), in which the firm will own 49pc.

Abu Dhabi's index closed 1.1pc higher, led by a 1.3pc increase in the country's largest lender, First Abu Dhabi Bank.

Dana Gas jumped 4.1pc after the energy firm said it had started drilling operations at Merak-1

Closing Bell

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| SAUDI | ▲ 1.7pc at 8,609 pts |
| ABU DHABI | ▲ 1.1pc at 4,782 pts |
| DUBAI | ▲ 1pc to 2,539 pts |
| QATAR | ▼ 2pc to 9,701 pts |
| EGYPT | ▲ 1.7pc at 13,614 pts |
| BAHRAIN | ▲ 0.9pc to 1,409 pts |
| OMAN | ▼ 0.1pc to 3,842 pts |
| KUWAIT | ▲ 0.9pc to 6,058 pts |

well, offshore Egypt.

National Marine Dredging soared 13.9pc after last week reporting a higher first-quarter earnings.

The Dubai index rose 1pc as all but one of its real estate stocks rose.

Emaar Properties, Dubai's largest listed-developer, increased 2.9pc while its units Emaar Malls and Emaar Development were up 2.3 and 3pc respectively.

The United Arab Emirates said on Tuesday that it will grant 6,800 foreign investors permanent residency under a new "Golden Card" system after they invested a combined 100 billion dirhams (\$27.23 billion) in the Gulf state.

National Cement Company was up 1.7pc after news it had bought ARM Cement's Kenyan assets for \$50 million.

Arabtec Holding rebounded 2.1pc, snapping four straight sessions of losses on weak first-quarter earnings.

Gold drops to more than two-week low

Reuters

Gold prices slipped to a more than two-week low yesterday, as the dollar strengthened and improved risk appetite took the sheen off bullion ahead of the release of minutes from the US Federal Reserve's latest policy meeting.

Spot gold fell 0.4 per cent to \$1,272.56 an ounce at 1153 GMT, having touched its lowest since May 3 at \$1,271.11.

US gold futures also lost 0.4pc, dropping to \$1,272.20.

"Right now the only safe-haven out there seems to be the dollar, which has been moving

higher against most currencies," said Saxo Bank commodity strategist Ole Hansen.

"Also, there has been a slight improvement in the outlook for the stock markets after the U.S. decided to provide Huawei with a 90-day reprieve."

Both factors were weighing on gold, he added.

The dollar index rose to its strongest in nearly a month, boosted by higher US yields and as fears of the economic fallout from the U.S.-China trade row prompted investors to choose the safety of the US currency over bullion.

Stocks markets, meanwhile, gained.

Nepal bans Chinese digital wallets

Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepal said yesterday it has banned popular Chinese digital wallets Alipay and WeChat to prevent the loss of foreign currency earnings from tens of thousands of Chinese tourists.

Over 150,000 Chinese holidaymakers visited Nepal last year, many using digital wallets to pay in hotels, restaurants and shops in tourist areas -- especially in Chinese-run businesses.

Laxmi Prapanna Niroula, a spokesman for the country's central bank which announced the ban on Monday, said that

Nepal was losing out since the actual transactions took place in China.

"We have enforced a ban on Alipay and WeChat Pay because the country is losing foreign currency earnings through its usage. Action will be taken if anyone is found using the platforms," Niroula told AFP.

Niroula said there was no information available on the volume of transactions concerned.

Alipay, started by e-commerce giant Alibaba and owned by its affiliate Ant Financial, and WeChat Pay, built into Tencent's popular messaging service, have hundreds of millions of users between them and are China's



Tourism is a major revenue-earner for impoverished Nepal, home to eight of the world's 14 peaks over 8,000 metres (26,000 feet).

dominant payment platforms. "Chinese tourists often ask

for digital payment options. With the ban, people are bound to lose business," said Sushil Koirala, who runs a tea shop in Thamel, Kathmandu's main tourist area.

A street in Thamel has even earned the name Chinatown because of the high number of Chinese-run hotels and restaurants.

Tourism contributed 7.8 per cent to the Himalayan nation's economy in 2017, creating over a million jobs, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council.

Last year it welcomed more than a million visitors for the first time.

'Amazon' gives e-commerce giant its own internet domain

San Francisco, United States

E-commerce giant Amazon was on its way to running its own online neighborhood Monday after the internet's address keeper granted the ".amazon" domain to the company.

After waiting in vain for years for the US online retail colossus and an alliance of South American countries to resolve their battle over the right to web addresses ending with ".amazon," the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) this month sided with the Seattle-based company.

In 2012, Amazon applied for ".amazon" and two internationalized versions of the name. Brazil and several other countries put the US company on notice that they were opposed to the idea.



Packed orders move down a conveyor belt at the Amazon fulfillment center in Aurora, Colorado.

"Due to its inseparable semantic relation to the Amazon forest, that domain should not be, in any way, the monopoly of a company," the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs argued on its website.

"On the contrary, it is imperative that the States concerned be able to participate in the management and use of the name in order to defend and promote the natural, cultural and symbolic heritage of the Amazon region, as well as foster the regional economy and the digital inclusion of the populations living there."

ICANN said it balanced concerns of all involved and stalled the company's application for the domain in hopes the internet firm and member states of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty

Organization would work out a solution. "ACTO and the Amazon corporation have been unable to come to a mutually acceptable solution or agree on an extension of time for continued discussions," ICANN said.

"In light of this, the board is now moving forward with the next steps laid out... and is directing ICANN.org to continue processing the .AMAZON applications toward delegation."

There will be a public comment period as per procedures established for granting new domain names.

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry said it feared the ICANN decision did not sufficiently take into account the interests of the South American governments involved and undermined the rights of sovereign states.

CAMPUS

Harvard shortlists AGU medical trainer

TDT | Manama

A medical trainer at the Arabian Gulf University (AGU) was shortlisted from hundreds of applicants from all over the world for the Master's Programme for Medical Education at Harvard University in the United States.

This comes as Reem Al Ansari, Medical Trainer at the Clinical Simulation and Medical Skills Centre in AGU, was selected among 10 applicants who were accepted in the programme, becoming the second AGU graduate to be ever accepted in Harvard University; one of the leading international medical training universities in the world.

The Harvard Medical Education Programme is based on innovative techniques and theories to graduate outstanding leaders in medical education by training them on the latest medical education, enabling



Reem Al Ansari

them to use advanced technologies, advanced knowledge, and research-based sciences. Students graduate from the programme after finishing two academic years. They are required to present an innovative research that addresses medical education requirements in their regions.

On the occasion, Dr. Khalid bin Abdulrahman Al Ohaly, AGU President, pointed out that the university, since its establishment, has founded a scholarships programme to assist its excellent cadres in their pursuit of their academic progress and to fulfill the requirements of the economic transformation in the GCC region, in line with the visions of the leaders of GCC States to transform the oil-dependent economies to economies relying more on investing in innovative sciences.

Reem Al Ansari is a Bahraini national, who received a doctor's certificate from King Faisal University in Saudi Arabia, and the Arab Board in the field of diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine. Al Ansari currently works as lecturer and trainer at the Medical Skills & Simulation Centre in AGU and is now working on a project highlighting medical stimulation.

AGU faculty completes research on impact of blood glucose levels

TDT | Manama

Dr. Rima Abdul Razzak, Associate Professor at the department of Physiology, Medical College at Arabian Gulf University, has recently submitted a first of its kind research paper on the impact of blood glucose on the cognition by measuring the (Susceptibility of perception of vertical to blood glucose fluctuations in healthy young adults). This paper was presented at the International Psychological Applications and Trends InPACT in Zagreb-Croatia, recently.

Dr. Abdul Razzak's research tackled the impact of blood glucose level on the vertical fluctuations test. This research aimed to learn more about the impact of the blood glucose level on the human's cognitive functions including memory and attention based on the vertical gravity, that is considered as a base of human balance. This paper is considered as the first of its kind internationally that study the effects of glucose on the vertical perception of the cognitive state.

The research strived to meas-



Dr. Rima Abdul Razzak gives a presentation of her research

ure the vertical perception, which is a test seeks to determine the reading accuracy of the cognitive effect of blood glucose, through a computerized interactive application that displays a curved line requires adjustment vertically by the computer mouse. To ensure if the blood glucose affects the cognitive level or not, it depends on the researcher's accuracy in adjusting the curved line to the vertical center level (0 vertically).

A research sample of 46 young adult was divided into

two groups during conducting the study. The first group of 31 individual were tested during 6 hours of their last meal, while the other group were fasting for 8 hours at least.

The research recommended to have healthy foods that contain sustainable nutritional value instead of nutritional value with high levels of sugar. A book titled "Recent Trends and Applications in Psychological Sciences", which contains the academic papers published during the conference, will be published.



Students of Al Hekma International School during its 24th graduation ceremony. The event took place at the school grounds where the graduates were awarded American High School Diplomas



The Asian School Bahrain Alumni (TASBA) members during an Iftar they organised for 350 expatriate workers at the Al Komed Labour Camp located in Salmabad

NMS-DPS celebrates Gergaoon

TDT | Manama

The New Millennium School, DPS Bahrain organised a special assembly to celebrate 'Gergaoon' on the 15th day of Ramadan.

The students attired in the traditional Bahraini dress for the event.

A speech on the significance of the festival was delivered in Arabic and English language followed by a foot tapping traditional song and dance. Going along with the custom, a mixture of sweets, dates and dried nuts were distributed to the children.

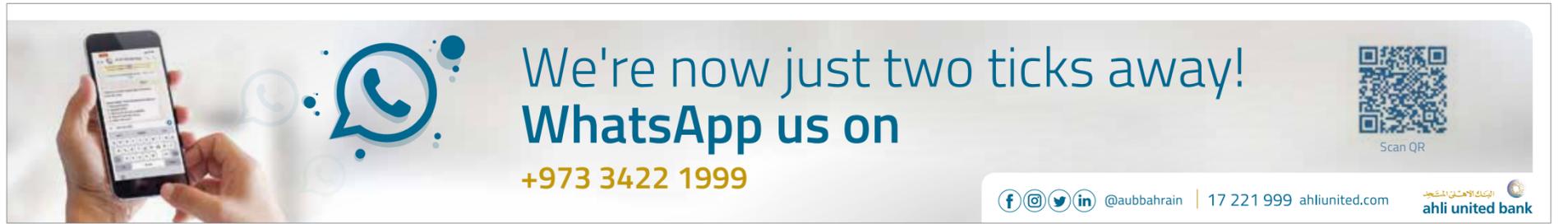
The celebration aimed at preserving and promoting the Bahraini culture and integrate the values, customs, and traditions of Bahrain in educational activities. The celebration provided students with an appreciation and experience of Bahrain's customs and traditions.

Chairman Dr. Ravi Pillai,



Students of NMS-DPS during Gergaoon celebration

the Managing Director Geetha Pillai and the Principal, Arun Kumar Sharma extended their best wishes and blessings to the students and staff on the occasion of 'Gergaoon'.



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Alba's annual Gergaon Night Celebrations



Golden Gate's annual Ghabga



Winners of Gulf Air annual Ramadan football tournament with their medals and trophy. Ten teams representing different departments and divisions within the airline participated. The tournament, held in Juventus Academy Bahrain Saar Cultural Sports Club, was won by Gulf Air's Pilots team who were awarded the winner's cup from Gulf Air Chief Executive Officer Kresimir Kucko and Gulf Air Deputy Chief Executive Officer Captain Waleed Abdulhameed Al Alawi

Viacloud Telecom's Annual Corporate Ghabga



Indian ladies Association (ILA)'s Iftar for elderly people at Muharraq social welfare Centre



SPORTS

sports

India's Kohli says World Cup will be a hit for runs

India feel confident before most challenging World Cup, says Indian captain Virat Kohli

AFP | Mumbai

Cricket fans should expect a run bonanza at the ICC World Cup in England and Wales starting this month, India captain Virat Kohli said yesterday.

Ahead of India's departure for the tournament, Kohli said local seaming conditions would likely favour batsmen.

"In ICC tournaments the pitches are going to be very good and it's summer in the UK. We expect high-scoring games," Kohli told a press conference in Mumbai.

England beat Pakistan 4-0 in a five-match warmup series with nearly every game seeing innings of 350 plus on grounds that will be used for the World Cup.

Kohli insisted, however, that World Cup pressure will bring down the totals.

"A bilateral series compared to a World Cup is very different, so you might see lot of 260-270 kind of games and teams successfully defending it because of the pressure factor," said the skipper of India -- one the fa-



Royal Challengers Bangalore team captain Virat Kohli gestures during an Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket match

avourites alongside England and Australia.

Two-time winners India, who start against South Africa in Southampton on June 5, feel they have a strong chance with a potent pace bowling attack led by Jasprit Bumrah.

"We go into the World Cup

feeling very balanced and a strong side. You saw in the IPL (T20 series), all the players that are in the squad are in great form and playing really well," said Kohli.

India have some worries over their spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal, who

were less impressive in the IPL.

Chahal claimed 18 wickets for Kohli's Royal Challengers Bangalore, but Yadav struggled with his left-arm wrist spin for Kolkata Knight Riders.

"In hindsight if you look at it, like Kuldeep, who has had so much success, it's important to



India has won ICC World Cup twice

see a period where things don't go your way. And I am glad it happened during the IPL, rather than the World Cup," said Kohli.

"He has time to reflect and correct things and come into the World Cup even stronger. We know the skill set he possesses along with Chahal. They are two pillars of our bowling line-up."

The 10-team World Cup returns to a round-robin format and Kohli said consistency was the only way to make the semi-finals.

"Everyone has to be at their best game intensity from the first match onwards and you don't have any room for complacency.

Dhoni stumps fans with painting ambitions

AFP | New Delhi

India's Mahendra Singh Dhoni fuelled retirement speculation yesterday after sharing his dream of becoming a painter, although his ambitions for a career change seemed far from serious.

The 37-year-old Dhoni, who is England-bound for the World Cup starting next week, displayed a few of what he said were his paintings in a video posted online on Monday.

"I wanted to share a secret with all of you. Right from when I was a kid I always wanted to become an artist," Dhoni said in the video.

"So decided I have played a lot of cricket and it's time for me to take up what I really wanted to become. And I started getting into painting."

The wicketkeeper-batsman said that he would soon hold an art exhibition as he wants to pursue his painting career "very seriously".

Japan's Honda quits Melbourne Victory after one season

AFP | Melbourne

Japanese superstar Keisuke Honda yesterday announced he will leave Melbourne Victory this week after one season as he pursues new challenges.

The former AC Milan striker, one of the highest profile names in Asian football, was an instant hit with fans, with his early season form drawing rave reviews.

However, a hamstring injury kept him sidelined for nine matches mid-season.

"I am proud to have been a Melbourne Victory player and grateful for having the opportunity to play in Australia," Honda said in a statement.

Bologna earn 'miracle' Serie A survival in six-goal thriller

AFP | Rome

Bologna coach Sinisa Mihajlovic hailed his team for pulling off a "miracle" to secure their top flight survival with a 3-3 draw at Lazio enough to keep the northerners in Serie A next season.

It was a vital point for Bologna who have been transformed since the arrival of Serbian coach Mihajlovic in place of Filippo Inzaghi, brother of Lazio coach Simone, last February.

"Nobody, or at least very few believed in us staying up a few months ago," said Serb Mihajlovic, a former Yugoslavia international player.

"I was one of the few. The

more that time went by, the more convinced I was that we were on the right road but it was still something of a small miracle."

The club were 18th with just two wins from 21 games when the former Serbia, AC Milan and Torino coach arrived, but since have won eight matches out of 16 and are now positioned 12th.

"Now, we're aiming to pull off a real masterstroke on Saturday (against Napoli) to finish tenth," he added.

Lazio are already through to next season's Europa League after their Coppa Italia win over Atalanta last Wednesday in Rome, and have nothing left to play for as they sit eighth.

Firmino gives Liverpool fitness boost ahead of CL finale

AFP | London

Liverpool striker Roberto Firmino is on course to be fit for the Champions League final against Tottenham after returning to training during the club's break in Marbella.

Firmino missed Liverpool's last three Premier League matches due to a thigh injury.

But the Brazil international was able to take part in the first session of the squad's pre-final training camp yesterday, putting him in the

running to face Tottenham in Madrid on June 1.

Firmino was the first player to arrive on the south coast of Spain for some individual sessions with strength and rehabilitation staff.

Having fallen just short in the Premier League title race, Jurgen Klopp's 26-man group are spending six days in Marbella before returning to England to finalise preparations for their attempt to win Liverpool's sixth European Cup.

"Roberto Firmino today

trained alongside his teammates following a muscle strain that ruled him out of Liverpool's last three matches," a statement on Liverpool's website revealed.

"The Brazilian took part in the Reds' first session of their Marbella training camp yesterday morning as he works his way back to full fitness.

Roberto Firmino



Francesco Acerbi and Bastos of Lazio tackle on Roberto Soriano of Bologna as he shoots

Kompany knew his City time was up after Leicester goal

Reuters | London

Vincent Kompany said he knew he "was done" at Manchester City as soon as he fired in the spectacular winner against Leicester City in their penultimate Premier League game of the season on May 6.

The Belgian called time on his 11-year stay at City on Sunday to become player-manager at Anderlecht - the club where he started his career almost two decades ago.

"The moment that ball against Leicester went 'top bins', I knew I

was done. I couldn't do anything better," the City captain said during a parade to celebrate the club's domestic treble.

City beat Watford 6-0 in Saturday's FA Cup final to become the first club to complete an English domestic treble.

The FA Cup triumph also ended up being 33-year-old Kompany's final game for City, with whom he won four Premier League titles, two FA Cups and four League Cups.

"I've given everything I could for this club. I can't tell you how proud of that I am. I have nothing left. I

have given everything," he added, sporting a t-shirt referencing striker Sergio Aguero's 'don't shoot' reaction to the Leicester goal.

Manager Pep Guardiola added: "We're going to miss him a lot. I'm going to miss him but he is going to see us in the future because he is coming back sooner or later.

"It's the best way to say goodbye after an incredible season together. He was a real captain, he helped us a lot. We're going to show him how we love him."

Vincent Kompany



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