

**Emma Stone steps out for date night with beau Dave McCary**

Hollywood actor Emma Stone stepped out with her rumoured beau Dave McCary for a rare public date night and it seems like the two don't want to keep their relationship under wraps anymore. **P14**

Britain is a nation in desperate need of a driver

# THE DAILY tribune



Kylie Jenner working on secret project, denies second pregnancy

Tax fraud: Ronaldo hit with hefty fine



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**US urges coalitions against Iran**  
Davos

The US wants to build more coalitions in the Middle East to counter the "very real" threat of Iran's malign meddling in the region, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told the World Economic Forum in Davos yesterday.

Speaking via video link, Pompeo said the US was committed to a "secure and stable" Middle East and had assembled a "global coalition of nations to confront Iran and support the aspirations of the Iranian people."

**Assad blocks access for EU envoys**  
Brussels

Syria's Bashar Assad has revoked special visas for EU diplomats and officials traveling regularly between Beirut and Damascus, complicating efforts to distribute aid to civil war victims, three senior EU diplomats said.

Since conflict broke out in Syria in 2011, the EU has used the Lebanese capital, the nearest major city, for its diplomatic base while closing most embassies in Damascus in protest over what they describe as Assad's brutal assault on the opposition.



King Salman receives Shaikh Khalid at Al Yamamah Palace in Riyadh.

# Saudi stances backed

Shaikh Khalid hails Saudi role as the essential pillar of peace and security in the region

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs stressed that the Kingdom will remain strongly supportive of the leading role played by Saudi Arabia, under the wise leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.**

Riyadh

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, has conveyed to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the greetings of His Majesty King

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness the Prime Minister, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, extending their wishes for his health and wellness, and to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its brotherly people further progress and prosperity.

This came when the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques yesterday received Shaikh Khalid in his office at Al Yamamah Palace in Riyadh.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques tasked the Minister of Foreign Affairs to convey his greetings to HM the King, HRH Premier and HRH Crown Prince, and affirmed his appreciation for the solid

**Bahrain has long chosen to stand by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its belief in the unity of destiny and objectives between the two countries.**

SHAIKH KHALID

brotherly relations between the two countries and their brotherly peoples, wishing the Kingdom of Bahrain further progress and prosperity.

The minister expressed the Kingdom of Bahrain's pride in the deep-rooted brotherly relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which, he said, are growing stronger due to the unwavering support of His

Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and their keenness to co-ordinate and consult on various issues, which further embodies the two countries' distinctive brotherly relations, and the extent of cohesion between them and which showcases their mutual and brotherly ties.

The minister also affirmed that the Kingdom of Bahrain has long chosen to stand by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its belief in the unity of destiny and objectives between the two countries.

He noted Bahrain's appreciation of the fraternal positions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its historical and supportive role in preserving the unity of the Arab nation, and enhanc-

ing solidarity among Islamic countries.

He also highlighted the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's significant role and influence on the regional and international arenas, making it an essential pillar of peace and security in the region and the world as a whole.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs stressed that the Kingdom will remain strongly supportive of the leading role played by Saudi Arabia, under the wise leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

He also affirmed that Bahrain is constantly in solidarity with the great efforts and contributions exerted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is further developing on various political, economic and security levels.

RARE FEAT

## Bahrain resident among those considered for top Indian expatriate award

TDT | New Delhi

Bahrain's Al Hilal Hospital vice-chairman and leading businessman V T Vinod and Indian-American economist Gita Gopinath are among the awardee list of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, constituted by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs in conjunction with the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Non-Resident Indian Day).

The award will be distributed today at the the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention (PBD 2019) being held at Varanasi, India.

V T Vinod is the Managing Director of Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals in Oman.

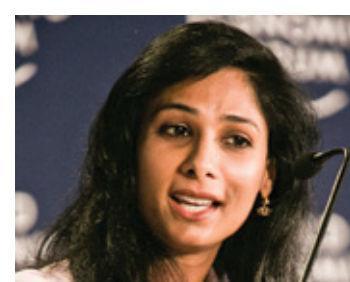
The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman honours exceptional and meritorious contribution in their chosen field/profession. The award is given by the President of India.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday inaugurated the plenary session of the 15th edition of Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas at Deendayal Hastkala Sankul in Varanasi.

Chief Guest of PBD 2019, Prime Minister of Mauritius, Pravind Jugnauth, Governor of



Mr Vinod



Ms Gopinath

Uttar Pradesh Ram Naik, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj along with UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Haryana, Manohar

Lal Khattar, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Trivendra Singh Rawat, Union Minister of State for Overseas Indian Affairs Retd General V K Singh and several

other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

In his address, Modi said it is the love and affection of the diaspora for the land of their forefathers which has brought them to India. He called upon the NRI community to join hands for building a new India.

He said the NRIs are not only the brand ambassadors of India but also represent its strength, capabilities and characteristics.

He urged the diaspora to participate in building a New India specially in research and innovation.



Tribune scales new heights as subscription drive turns big hit

Underwater theme park 'to further boost Kingdom's tourism growth'

Life sentence for Asian expats convicted of smuggling drugs





# Royal support to BSPCA lauded

‘Royal directives contributed towards preventing cruelty against animals’



His Majesty with members of BSPCA.

Manama

Head of Bahrain Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BSPCA) Mahmood Faraj lauded the unlimited support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to BSPCA.

He extended thanks and respect to HM the King for his continuous encouragement to

the society which enabled it to develop and promote the culture of preventing cruelty to animals.

This came as the BSPCA Head and Deputy Head Sarra Khouri, board member John Sanderson, Chief Executive Paul Duke and marine biologist Bain Nicholas had the honour of greeting HM the King during His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa Endurance Championship which was held at Bahrain

International Endurance Village.

The BSPCA Head and members also extended respect to Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Work and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sport (SCYS) and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa as well as SCYS First Deputy Chairman,

President of Bahrain Athletics Association and Captain of Al Khalidiya Stables His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa for their continuous encouragement to BSPCA and its staff.

They also expressed respect to the Royal Team Director Dr Khalid Ahmed Hassan for the good welcome, lauding his efforts in carrying out joint programmes.

## University students on the rise

Manama

Higher Education Council (HEC)'s Secretary-General Dr Abdulghani Al Shwaik said the HEC's interest in investing in the higher education has greatly contributed to the growth of the same sector, which is attributed to the opening of multiple private higher education institutions in partnership with prestigious universities, including the British University of Salford and the French Vatel Hospitality School.

Dr Abdulghani noted the

HEC's plan to establish a new higher education institution, American University, which will provide new academic programmes.

He highlighted the HEC's keenness to attract more students by calling on all higher education institutions to obtain the academic accreditation granted in cooperation with the British Accreditation Council, which enhances student's confidence in the performance of the Bahraini academic institutions, consequently increases the demand for joining them to study.

## Training course



The Human Resources Department has held a training course on comparing performances using the global system. The event covered participants from the department and the General Coordination Organisation for Governorates. Assistant Undersecretary of Human Resources, Brigadier Adel Ameen highlighted the importance to follow the international system to compare the performance as one of the requirements for organisational excellence to promote innovation and development. At the end of the course, Director of Civilian Employees Affairs, Shaikh Salman bin Rashid Al Khalifa handed certificates among the participants.



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# Tribune scales new heights as subscription drive turns big hit

TDT | Manama

The all-new relaunched 'The Daily Tribune' subscription drive has been a big hit as it added hundreds of new readers, according to Update Media WLL, which manages the newspaper.

The more than two decades old newspaper was relaunched on May 10, 2018, switching from tabloid to broadsheet.

Chief Executive Officer Abdul Jaleel Abdulla expressed thanks to all readers and new subscribers who made the campaign a big success.

"Our subscription drive has received an overwhelming response. More corporate and government offices in the Kingdom now subscribe The Daily Tribune," he said.

Indian national Prerna Gupta, who was named the winner of The Daily Tribune Subscription raffle draw, received brand new Mitsubishi Eclipse Turbo 2018 model from Zayani Motors.

"I am really overwhelmed to receive this honour. I was on a vacation in India when a Tribune executive rang me up and informed the news. At first I thought it was a prank. I couldn't believe that I was lucky enough to win the prize out of hundreds of readers.

"This is a special privilege as Tribune has been my favourite newspaper for the past eight years."

Ms Gupta, a Chartered Accountant by profession is a long-time resident of the Kingdom. She is married to Jai Gupta, a banker, and the couple has three children - Kenisha aged seven



Ms Gupta receives brand new Mitsubishi Eclipse Turbo 2018 model from Zayani Motors Marketing Manager Samya Alkindi in the presence of The Daily Tribune Management Board Chairman and Managing Editor P Unnikrishnan, CEO Abdul Jaleel Abdulla, CFO Jayaprakash Menon, COO Latha Unnikrishnan and Mr Gupta.



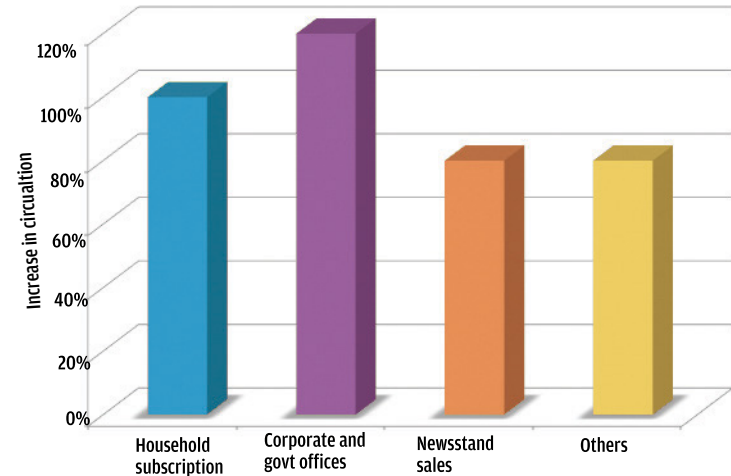
**“We feel great to be part of the Tribune subscription campaign. Our association with the newspaper will continue.”**

MR ZAKI

and twins Krishiv and Krisha (both aged three).

Mohammed Zaki, Gener-

### THE RISE IN CIRCULATION ACROSS DIFFERENT SEGMENTS



al Manager of Zayani Motors, said his company has been associating with the newspaper since its launch. "We are happy to know that the subscription drive emerged a success. Our

association with the newspaper will continue as we aim to inform our prospective customers and auto lovers on new product launches through the newspaper."



# Underwater theme park 'to further boost Kingdom's tourism growth'

Bahrain all set to establish the world's largest underwater theme park

● The minister emphasised that the new project will provide an enjoyable experience for tourists and diving enthusiasts, given the large area it covers, and will provide rich data on marine ecology and biology for scientists and researchers.

## Manama

The Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism (MOIC), Zayed Al Zayani has asserted that the partnership with the private sector on tourism projects, including the recently announced underwater theme park, embodies the Kingdom's economic vision, which emphasises the private sector's role in driving econom-

ic growth.

The Minister's statement followed the announcement by the Personal Representative of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, that the Kingdom is set to establish the world's largest underwater theme park, with a submerged Boeing 747 passenger jet as its centerpiece.

Mr Al Zayani noted that the project, launched in partnership with the SCE, Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), Diyar Al Muharraq and a number of private entities, will further support the Kingdom's reputation as a distinct tourist destination in the region.

He added that the unique dive site covers an area of 100,000 square metres, and that the 70-metre long decommissioned Boeing 747 at its centerpiece is the first time an aircraft of this magnitude has been submerged underwater and adapted to al-



The underwater theme park project will further support the Kingdom's reputation as a distinct tourist destination in the region.

MR AL ZAYANI

low safe access and enjoyment for divers.

In addition to the aircraft, the dive site will also include a replica of a traditional Bahraini pearl merchant's house, artificial coral reefs and other sculptures that will be fabricated from eco-friendly material, and submerged to provide a safe haven for coral reef growth and a habitat for marine life.

The minister emphasised that the new project will provide an enjoyable experience for tourists and diving enthusi-

asts, given the large area it covers, and will provide rich data on marine ecology and biology for scientists and researchers.

He underscored the success of investing in the Kingdom's eco-tourism sector, which has provided promising opportunities for the private sector, such as the national plan to revive the pearl industry, launched by the BTEA in partnership with MOIC in November 2017.

The revival of the Kingdom's pearling industry aims to protect Bahrain's marine environ-

ment and establish a mechanism to regulate pearl diving, and reinforce Bahrain's reputation as the home of the world's finest natural pearls.

Mr Al Zayani noted that since the launch of the project, the number of pearl diving tourist trips has reached 161, with the participation of around 1,000 divers and tourists.

He further noted that there are five pearl diving companies that are licensed to operate, and the number of centres applying for licenses is increasing in view of the process that has been facilitated by MOIC.

**1,000**

divers and tourists have already taken part in the latest project aimed at boosting pearling industry.

He added that tourism is a promising sector of economic priority, and an important source of income diversification, taking into account the rapid growth of the sector's contribution to GDP, which increased from 3.4 per cent in 2015 to 6.5pc by the end of 2018.

Mr Al Zayani reiterated his gratitude to the private partnerships and initiatives which have had a positive influence on projects, such as that of the newly launched dive park, which represents a promising investment, and a new exciting tourist attraction incorporating the highest international environmental standards, reflecting Bahrain's diverse environment for marine life.

The minister stated that the work on the mega-dive site has already started and is expected to be finished before the start of summer, employing a number of local divers and public and private sector environmental entities.

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# Life sentence for Asian expats convicted of smuggling drugs

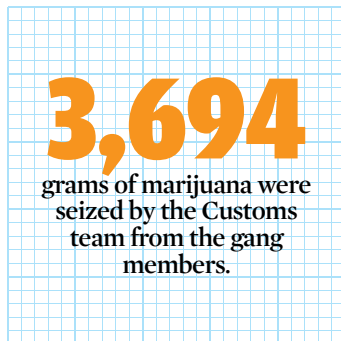
The gang members were charged with bid to smuggle in drugs with an intention to sell

TDT | Manama

● The gang members were charged with bid to smuggle in drugs along with an intention to sell, the Public Prosecution added.

The First High Criminal Court has handed down life sentences to two Asians found guilty of smuggling marijuana into the Kingdom.

The convicts were also fined BD 5,000 each. According to court details,



they were arrested at the Bahrain International Airport by a special team from the Customs Department.

The other two members of the gang were as well sentenced. The third and fourth accused were handed down one year imprisonment and BD 1,000 each in fines.

According to Public Prosecu-

tion, 3,694 grams of marijuana were seized by the team from the gang members.

The gang members were charged with bid to smuggle in drugs along with an intention to sell, the Public Prosecution added.

The convicts will be deported upon the completion of their sentences.

**Batelco adopts Amazon Web Services technology**

TDT | Manama

Batelco announced that it has adopted the cloud-based email service, Amazon WorkMail, from Amazon Web Services (AWS) to power email services for both corporate and retail customers.

Amazon WorkMail is a secure, managed business email and calendar service with support for all mobile devices and desktop email clients.

**Alba achieves \$102m savings in project Titan-Phase III**

TDT | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), now amongst the One Million-Club metric tonnes smelters in the world, launched Phase IV of Project Titan with the objective to reduce cash-cost of US\$100 million by the end of 2020 and announced that it has achieved US\$102 million savings in Phase III of Project Titan.

Alba's Project Titan - Phase IV is a 24-month Program and aims to achieve US\$40 million in 2019 and US\$60 million in 2020.

Commenting on the launch of Project Titan - Phase IV, Alba's Chief Executive Officer Tim Murray said: "As Alba is progressing to be trans-

## Bahrainis lose appeal in boy kidnapping case

TDT | Manama

The First Appellate Court has upheld the sentences issued against four Bahrainis for kidnapping a boy.

Three of the convicts were handed down seven years imprisonment by the lower court after being found guilty of committing the crime.

According to Public Prosecution, the four-member gang kidnapped the boy after becoming suspicious that he was a police informant.



**The four-member gang kidnapped the boy after becoming suspicious that he was a police informant.**

PUBLIC PROSECUTORS

The convicts took the victim to a remote place and took videos of him, in which he admits to being a police informant, the

prosecutors said.

After being rescued, the boy told the investigating team that the gang members hit him in the head using wooden sticks and forced him to confess that he was a police informant in the video "The video was shared on many websites."

The victim had suffered serious injuries during the attack.

The fourth defendant was handed down a lesser sentence as he was only convicted of helping the other gang members.

## Appeals court set to hear vice gang case

TDT | Manama

The Higher Appellate Criminal Court will hear the appeals of vice gang members sentenced for forcing Bahraini and Russian women into prostitution.

The Court of First Instance had sentenced three accused to 10 years in jail along with a fine of BD2,000.

According to court details,

the victims were brought to the Kingdom to work as waitresses at restaurants after promising to pay salaries between BD400 and BD500.

"The victims were forced into prostitution upon their arrival in the Kingdom. They were held captive at an apartment and were beaten up many a time whenever they objected to the demands," the Public Prosecution said.

## Key regulators to discuss RegFact innovation

TDT | Manama  
Harpreet Kaur

To be held under the patronage of the Central Bank of Bahrain, RegFact Conference 2019, is all set to bring together local and global key regulators, and policy advocates to find solutions, and promote best innovative RegTech practices in a collaborative, open and transparent manner.

The event will bring together leaders in the regulatory technology industry to discuss the



**The event will include a set of programmes which will promote best innovative RegTech practices.**

MR AL SAAD

Bahrain Regulatory Landscape, regulation transformation, adoption and implementation

within the region on February 25.

The one-day event will pro-

vide financial service players insightful perspectives, and highlight the significance of the processes relating to regulatory compliance in a collaborative, open and transparent manner.

Khalid Al Saad, CEO of Bahrain FinTech Bay told Tribune, "Bahrain FinTech Bay is set to organise its second biggest conference RegFact, an event dedicated exclusively to the regulation and compliance ecosystem targeted at regulators, senior executives responsible for risk, compliance, financial institu-

tions, technology vendors, and industry thought leaders and consultants."

"RegFact will bring leaders leading the way in RegTech innovation and adoption to discuss the Bahrain Regulatory Landscape, regulation transformation, adoption and implementation within the region, and much more. The event will include a set of programmes which build on RegTech including interactive panels, speakers, country case studies, and an in-depth Technical and business training track."



**We must challenge ourselves in every aspect to stay competitive and ahead of the curve.**

MR MURRAY

## bwallet payments launched



bwallet, the Kingdom of Bahrain's leading digital mobile wallet and the first of its kind to provide peer-to-peer money transfer, has joined forces with Al Hilal Hospital. Patrons of any of the hospital's three branches across Bahrain can now enjoy fast, convenient and secure cashless payments via any smartphone instead of cash or card. bwallet is a consumer-friendly digital wallet that was launched in 2018 by Arab Financial Services (AFS), the region's foremost FinTech enabler, in partnership with Batelco, Bahrain's leading digital solutions provider.

formed to become the world's largest aluminium smelter with a production of 1.5 million metric tonnes, we must challenge ourselves in every aspect to stay competitive and ahead of the curve especially amidst the weak sentiment hovering around LME price."

Through Project Titan, Alba achieved benefits of US\$143 million in Phase I (2-year Program), US\$36 million in Phase II (2-year Program), US\$102 million in Phase III (one-year programme). Alba Operational Excellence team will conduct awareness sessions for Alba employees over the course of 1-week to highlight the key elements behind Phase IV of Project Titan.



WORLD  
world

## Students 'unfairly treated' over Native incident: Trump

Washington, United States

Boys from a Catholic school in Kentucky were treated unfairly in a rush to judgment, President Donald Trump said on Monday after allegations the students had mocked a Native American elder.

"Looking like Nick Sandman & Covington Catholic students were treated unfairly with early judgements proving out to be false - smeared by media," Trump tweeted.

As in many cases, Trump's tweet appeared to be triggered by Fox News, as he cited the network's Tucker Carl-



A student from Covington Catholic High School stands in front of Native American Vietnam veteran Nathan Phillips in Washington, US, in this still image from a January 18, 2019 video by Kaya Taitano. (Courtesy of Times Live)

son saying new footage showed "media" were wrong about the encounter. Footage captured on multiple phone camera videos that swept so-

cial media on Saturday showed a white Covington student standing silently with his lips taugth, extremely close to Nathan Phillips, a

Native American Vietnam war veteran, who beats a traditional drum while chanting. The student wears a red cap bearing Trump's slogan, "Make America Great Again."

The incident occurred on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on Friday when the annual anti-abortion March for Life coincided with a rally by indigenous communities calling for their rights to be respected.

Phillips gave his reaction in a separate video. "I heard them saying, 'Build that wall, build that wall! We're not supposed to have walls here, we never did.'"

But US media includ-

ing *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* later reported that the encounter was more complicated. The African American youths were Hebrew Israelites, who reportedly insulted both Native activists and the students.

Both the *Times* and the *Post* quoted Phillips as clarifying that he had moved towards the student at the center of the initial video, Nick Sandmann -- the spelling used by major news media -- as saying that his group only used "school spirit" chants, and did not express support for a border wall or say anything racist.

## Top court allows Trump to bar transgender military recruitment

Washington, United States

The US Supreme Court yesterday authorized President Donald Trump's administration to block the recruitment of transgender military personnel pending the outcome of litigation on the sensitive issue.

The White House had asked the Supreme Court to intervene after lower courts prohibited Trump's administration from implementing controversial restrictions on transgender service. The administration said there is "too great a risk to military effectiveness and lethality" to allow transgender people to serve openly -- a policy enacted under Trump's predecessor Barack Obama.

The court decided by a nar-



Trump (file)

row 5-4 majority to suspend prohibitions restricting transgender service as litigation moves forward in lower courts.

Under the Obama-era policy, transgender recruits were to start being accepted by July 1, 2017. The Trump administration postponed that date to January 1, 2018, before deciding to reverse the policy entirely.

## Tourist killed by falling window from HK hotel

Hong Kong, China

A hotel employee arrested after a window she was cleaning fell onto a busy Hong Kong street and killed a tourist was released on bail yesterday as investigators try to work out what caused the fatal tragedy.

Police said a 24-year-old female tourist from the Chinese mainland was struck by the window which fell from the 16th floor of the Mira Hotel in the busy Tsim Sha Tsui shopping district. She was rushed

to hospital but doctors were unable to save her. A male friend was also struck by the window but escaped with only light injuries. Police arrested a hotel cleaner under a law against allowing objects to fall from buildings and endanger or harm the public.

The Mira Hotel made headlines in 2013 when it was chosen by whistleblower Edward Snowden as his bolthole in HK after he fled the US carrying a trove of information on government surveillance.

## Tax fraud: Ronaldo hit with hefty fine

AFP | Madrid, Spain

Cristiano Ronaldo avoided jail yesterday but was ordered by a Spanish court to pay 3.57 million euros (\$4.1 million) for committing tax fraud when he was at Real Madrid.

The court sentenced him to a two-year jail sentence that it immediately reduced to a fine of 365,000 euros, which adds on to another penalty of 3.2 million euros, the sentence read.

A court spokesman said he did not know whether this would be added on to the 18.8 million euros that Ronaldo had agreed to pay Spain's taxman under a deal reached in June with the player's lawyers.

Ronaldo, who last year joined Italian champions Juventus, returned to Madrid for a brief court appearance which lasted around 40 minutes as the deal was officially presented to the judge.

"I am very well," the five-time Ballon d'Or winner told the crowd of reporters gathered outside of the court in north-

Cristiano Ronaldo leaves with his Spanish girlfriend Georgina Rodriguez after attending a court hearing

eastern Madrid as he left the hearing. He signed a few autographs before leaving in a black van.

The presiding judge refused the player's request to appear by video or to enter the building by car to avoid the spotlight.

Ronaldo, 33, smiled broadly as he arrived at the court dressed in black trousers, a black turtleneck and dark sunglasses, holding hands with his girlfriend Georgina Rodriguez.

He had played for Juventus on Monday night, miss-

ing a penalty as the Italian league leaders eased past bottom club Chievo 3-0.

Madrid prosecutors opened a probe into Ronaldo in June 2017 and he was questioned in July that same year.



## Trump vows no surrender on 32nd day of shutdown

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump had a message yesterday for Democrats counting on him to relent in the Washington arm wrestle blocking funds to swaths of the government for a record 32 days: "No Cave!"

Trump's defiant tweet again blamed congressional Democrats for the chaos, insisting he will not lift his shutdown on federal government funding unless they approve his \$5.7 billion plan for more walls along the US-Mexican border.

"Without a Wall our Country can never have Border or National Security... The Dems know this but want to play political games. Must finally be done correctly," Trump tweeted. Trump triggered a partial government shutdown on December 22 -- refusing to sign off on funding everything from FBI salaries to national park services -- as a way of pressuring the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives to back the wall project.

## Drunk tries to divert Russian plane, forcing emergency landing



A picture taken from a video published by RT shows the drunk passenger being taken away

AFP | Moscow, Russia

A drunk passenger on a Russian domestic flight demanded the plane change course, reportedly to fly to Afghanistan, forcing an emergency landing in Siberia on Tuesday.

The Aeroflot plane, traveling from Surgut in western Siberia to Moscow, landed in the nearby city Khanty-Mansiysk instead.

Russia's Investigative Committee said the man -- who was not identified -- was "in a state of inebriation".

He was detained after the aircraft landed in Khanty-Mansiysk, some 2,600 kilometres (1,600 miles) east of Moscow.

A criminal probe was opened into the incident, investigators said.

"Threatening that he had a weapon, he tried to break into the cockpit during the flight and demanded to change the course of the aircraft," investigators said in a statement.

"The aircraft commander made the decision to make a forced landing in Khanty-Mansiysk," the statement said.

Russian state media published a video apparently shot by a passenger showing the man being detained by several armed masked men inside the plane.

The pilot is heard thanking passengers -- who appeared calm -- for their "understanding in the situation" to the sound of applause.

## WhatsApp limits message forwarding

San Francisco, United States

Facebook-owned mobile messaging platform WhatsApp announced Monday it was restricting how many times any given message can be forwarded in an effort to boost privacy and security.

In July, WhatsApp rolled out safeguards in India that included limiting the number of users to whom a message can be forwarded. It also ran newspaper ads to raise awareness

about fake news. That decision followed threats by the Indian government to take action after crazed mobs butchered more than 20 people accused of child kidnapping and other crimes in viral, widely-circulated WhatsApp messages.

WhatsApp said its latest move to extend the restrictions to all users came after a six-month review of user feedback.

"The forward limit significantly reduced forwarded mes-

sages around the world," read a company statement about a test run of the forwarding limit.

"Starting today, all users on the latest versions of WhatsApp can now forward to only five chats at once, which will help keep WhatsApp focused on private messaging with close contacts."

Previously, users could forward any given message

up to 20 times on the app.

"We'll continue to listen to user feedback about their experience, and over time, look for new ways of addressing viral content," the WhatsApp statement read.





## EU sanctions Russia intel chief over Skripal



Sergei Skripal (left), pictured in 2006, and his daughter Yulia Skripal (Courtesy of Sydney Morning Herald)

### Brussels, Belgium

The European Union slapped sanctions on the two most senior officers in Russian military intelligence Monday and identified the two agents accused by Britain of carrying out a chemical attack.

Along with the measures against the four GRU officers, EU member states also imposed asset freezes and travel bans on five Syrians linked to strongman Bashar al-Assad's chemical weapons program.

The EU accused the Russians -- two agents and the head and the deputy head of the GRU -- of orchestrating the "possession, transport and use" of the nerve agent used in Salisbury, England last March, in a failed attempt to assassinate a defector.

The agents are accused of travelling under the pseudonyms Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov, but the sanctions order confirms reports that identify them as Anatoly Chepigina and Alexander Mishkin, both 39 years old.

These identities had previously been revealed by the British-based Bellingcat investigative group, which pieced together evidence from leaks and online data trails to find two decorated GRU field officers.

### Russia threatens retaliation

The Russian foreign ministry reacted angrily, insisting that the claims against its personnel had been invented by Britain for its own diplomatic ends.

"We reserve the right to take retaliatory measures over this unfriendly step," the ministry said in a statement.

"An information campaign unleashed by the British authorities over this case primarily has a domestic agenda. It is telling that its new round coincides with a new crisis in Brexit talks."

Russian agents have been blamed for the poisoning of former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in Salisbury in March last year using the Soviet-developed nerve agent Novichok.

# Cardiff striker Sala feared missing in plane crash: Police

AFP | Nantes, France

Premier League club Cardiff City's record new signing, Argentina-born striker Emiliano Sala, was on board a light aircraft that disappeared over the English Channel on Monday night, police sources said.

Sala, signed by Cardiff on Saturday from French club Nantes for a reported 17 million euro (\$19.3 million) fee, was flying to Cardiff aboard a small plane that disappeared from radars around 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of the island of Guernsey.

A statement from police on Guernsey, a British island just off the coast of France, said lifeboats and helicopters had searched for several hours for the plane, which had two people on board, without success.

"The search was terminated at 02:00, with all search and rescue assets being stood down, due to strengthening winds, worsening sea conditions and reducing visibility," the statement said.

Helicopters from the British and French coastguard joined renewed efforts on Tuesday morning to find the plane which is thought to have crashed.

Sala, 28, who had been at Nantes since 2016 and had scored 12 league goals this season, had signed a three-and-a-half-year contract with relegation-threatened Cardiff subject to receiving international clearance.

When he put pen to paper at Cardiff on Saturday, he said in a statement: "I'm very happy to be here. It gives me great pleasure and I can't wait to start training, meet my new team-mates and get down to work."

"For me it feels special (to be the club's record signing). I have come here wanting to work and to help my team-mates and the club."



This file photo taken on August 25, 2018 shows Nantes' Argentinian forward Emiliano Sala at La Beaujoire stadium in Nantes, western France

## Taiwan's 'Bikini Climber' social media star dies after ravine fall



Gigi Wu

### Taipei, Taiwan

Taiwanese rescue teams were trying Tuesday to retrieve the body of a dead hiker who became famous on social media for taking selfies on top of mountain peaks dressed in a bikini.

Gigi Wu -- dubbed the "Bikini Climber" by fans -- used a satellite phone on Saturday to tell friends she had fallen down a ravine in Taiwan's Yushan national park and badly injured herself.

Rescue helicopters struggled to reach her because of bad weather and officials eventually located her lifeless body on Monday.

Officials said Wu had told friends she was unable to move the lower half of her body after a fall of some 20-30 metres (65-100 feet) but was able to give her coordinates.

## Daring Paris bank raid near Champs-Elysees

Paris, France

Armed robbers held up a bank off Paris' famous Champs-Elysees avenue yesterday, tying up employees for hours and breaking into safety deposit boxes, police said.

The daring raid saw several men rush into Milleis bank at opening time, tie up employees, and spray them with a mysterious liquid before rifling through some 30 safe deposit boxes, a source close to the investigation said on condition of anonymity.

Formerly called Barclays France, the bank is less than 200 metres (218 yards) from the French presidential palace.

Despite high security in the area, the men made an undetected getaway at several hours later, around midday.

### A dream came true



This picture shows an aerial view of people crossing the Farafenni Bridge after its inauguration in Farafenni. The bridge built to facilitate trade between Northern and Southern Senegal was inaugurated by the presidents of Senegal and The Gambia. The bridge located on Gambian territory is an elegant work in light concrete more than a kilometre long. It crosses the River Gambia around 10 kilometres (six miles) from the border post of Farafenni where the two leaders met for the inauguration, standing together in an open limousine. The toll bridge is now open for cars and starting in July to trucks and other heavy vehicles. The bridge project dates from the 1970s but faced numerous delays due to the changing relations between Dakar and Banjul. Construction finally began in 2015.

## Around 65 killed in Taliban attack on Afghan intel base



An Afghan military vehicle is seen near the attack site after a car bomb detonated on a military base in Maidan Sharar in Wardak province

### Ghazni, Afghanistan

Around 65 people were killed in a Taliban-claimed attack on an Afghan intelligence base, a local official said yesterday, raising the toll substantially from 12 announced previously.

"We took about 65 bodies

out of the rubble yesterday," Mohammad Sardar Bakhyari, deputy head of the provincial council in Wardak province, where the attack occurred on Monday in the latest blow to beleaguered security forces.

A senior security official who spoke on condition of anonymity gave an even higher toll of at least 70 killed.

# China's second gene-edited foetus is 12-14 weeks old: scientist

Beijing, China

The second woman carrying a gene-edited foetus in China could now be 12 to 14 weeks into her pregnancy, according to a US physician in close contact with the researcher who claimed to have created the world's first genetically-modified babies last year.

Chinese scientist He Jiankui shocked the scientific community after revealing that he had successfully altered the DNA of twin girls born in November to

prevent them from contracting HIV.

State media reported on Monday that a preliminary investigation confirmed that a second woman became pregnant and that she will be put under medical observation, but no other details about her are known.

Professor He, who now faces a police investigation, had mentioned the potential second pregnancy at a human genome conference in Hong Kong in late November, but its status was

unclear until now.

William Hurlbut, a physician and bioethicist at Stanford university in California who has known He for two years, told AFP it was "too early" at the time for the foetus to appear on an ultrasound.

Based on extensive conversations with He, Hurlbut said: "I get the impression the baby was fairly young when the conference happened. It could only be detected chemically, not clinically (at the time)."

"So it could be no more than four to six weeks old (at the time), so now it could be about 12 to 14 weeks."

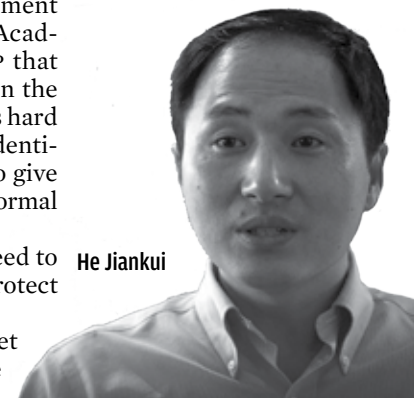
Hurlbut said he met He at a scientific conference co-chaired by Hurlbut two years ago. Since then the pair have met at least four times during He's visits to Stanford.

Hurlbut added he was not involved in He's project in any capacity, and only knows about the second pregnancy from what He has told him.

Wang Haoyi, a Development Biologist at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, told AFP that the experiment's effects on the health of the twin babies is hard to predict, but that their identities should be protected to give them the best chance of a normal life.

"I think we definitely need to take serious measures to protect their privacy," he said.

"We don't even need to let them know that they are any different from others."



He Jiankui



# The Indiana Jones of art

AFP | The Hague, Netherlands

A Dutch art detective has returned two priceless stone reliefs stolen from an ancient Spanish church after tracing them to an English nobleman's garden where they were displayed as ornaments.

Arthur Brand, dubbed the "Indiana Jones of the art world", said he handed over the centuries-old carvings to the Spanish embassy in London at a private ceremony on Monday.

It was the culmination of a long search for the artworks, which were snatched in 2004 from the Santa Maria de Lara church in northern Spain, believed to be at least 1,000 years old.

They turned up in the garden of an aristocratic British

family who had unwittingly bought them, and it was there that Brand found them covered in mud and leaves.

"These artworks are priceless. To find them in a garden after searching for eight years is just incredible," the art sleuth said.

"You can imagine how horrified they were to learn that their garden ornaments were in fact priceless stolen Spanish religious art."

The private investigator showed the stone carvings -- one of which depicts John the Evangelist, author of one of the Gospels -- hours before they were handed back.

The reliefs, said to weigh 50 kilos (110 pounds) each, were then handed to representatives

of Spain's Guardia Civil police force, who are collaborating in the case, and two museum curators from the northern city of Burgos.

The Spanish embassy in London declined to comment.

## 'World heritage

The hunt for the artworks could come straight from a detective novel.

The church from which they were stolen is believed to date from the era of the Visigoths, with experts dating it between the seventh and eleventh centuries.

But in a huge blow the reliefs were snatched by professional art thieves in 2004, Brand said.

In 2010 the intrepid sleuth first received word from an un-

named British informant that "something strange" had popped up in London, which eventually pointed him to a shadowy man Brand referred to as 'Mr X'.

"It turns out 'Mr X' saw a French dealer arriving with the reliefs by truck in London. They were put on offer as garden ornaments -- but Mr X recognised them as possible Visigoth religious artworks," Brand said.

"The guys who stole these wanted to sell it for a couple of millions or whatever, but they have soon find out that you can not sell these, so to make at least a little bit of money, they sold them as garden ornaments," he said, adding that they were probably sold for around 50,000 pounds each.

Brand then tracked down the French dealer, who pointed them towards an unnamed British aristocratic family living north of London.

"It ended up in the garden of an English nobleman, who did not know that it was world heritage, where they would stay like 15 years," he said.

The owners were so shocked when told the truth that "they wanted to throw the artworks into a river and let them disappear forever. Fortunately we managed to convince them not to," said Brand.

It was yet another success for Brand, who was in the headlines last year for returning a stolen 1,600-year-old mosaic to Cyprus that was found in the possession of a similarly unwitting British family.

He won world fame in

Two priceless stone reliefs stolen from a mysterious ancient Spanish church in 2004 were handed back after they were traced to an English garden where they were displayed as ornaments.

Dubbed the "Indiana Jones of the art world" because of his exploits, Dutch art detective Arthur Brand said he handed the carvings back to the Spanish embassy at a private ceremony in London.

2015 after finding "Hitler's Horses", two bronze statues made by Nazi sculptor Joseph Thorak.

## 'Worthy of Dan Brown'

The recovery of the artworks could also play an important role in revealing more about the mysterious Santa Maria de Lara church near Burgos.

The church was effectively lost for centuries before being rediscovered in 1921 by a local priest and declared a national monument in 1929.

Inside, the church has Christian, but also pagan, Roman symbols and Islamic influences -- "worthy of a Dan Brown novel," Brand quipped.

The stone reliefs "are of huge value," said Rene Payo, art history professor at the University of Burgos.

"They are important because not many exist today. There are very little... quantities of Visigoth figurative sculptures," he told AFP.

The Visigoths settled in Spain between the fifth and eighth century after driving out the Romans, but were themselves overthrown by the Moors in 711.

The looted artworks could also be "essential" evidence in a debate raging among scholars about the exact age of the church, said Oxford University researcher David Addison.

Addison said some believed it was a 7th century building while others dated it to the 10th or 11th centuries.

Brand's return of the artifacts "would be a great service in this regard," Addison said.



Dutch art detective Arthur Brand (L) and an assistant position two 7th century limestone Visigoth reliefs on the ground in north London on January 20, 2019, the reliefs, depicting evangelists, where both stolen from the Maria del Lara Church in Spain.



Dutch art detective Arthur Brand poses for a photograph

## Foreigners gather at India's religious mega festival

Allahabad, India

At the Kumbh Mela, the world's biggest religious event, millions of Indian Hindus are not the only people bathing in the sacred waters to wash away their sins.

Foreigners too are among the ascetics, saints, sadhus and spectators thronging the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati rivers in northern India for what is billed as humanity's biggest gathering.

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati grew up in a Jewish family in California but moved in 1996 to an ashram in Rishikesh -- the town made famous internationally when the Beatles visited in 1968 -- and changed her life and

her name.

"I was on holiday with a backpack and when I got to Rishikesh, on the banks of the sacred Ganges, I had a very very deep, very very powerful spiritual awakening experience which made me realise where I need to be, where I need to spend my life," she said.

The 47-year-old is among the worshippers taking a dip at the Kumbh, which is expected to attract well over 100 million people over the next seven weeks.

"The reason we take a bath in the sacred waters is to achieve immortality... immortality of the soul," she said.

"It felt amazing, it always feels amazing... Normally only the body gets wet but here you ac-

tually feel like your inner self is getting wet, your heart, your soul is getting wet, your spirit... The depth of my being is being touched."

A record 22.5 million people plunged into the waters on the first day of the Kumbh last Tuesday, according to local officials.

Westerners who have immersed themselves in Hindu spirituality include Baba Rampuri, who claims to be the first foreigner to be initiated into India's largest and most ancient order of yogis, the Naga Sannyasis of Juna Akhara.

The surgeon's son -- reportedly born William A. Gans -- grew up in Beverly Hills and moved to India in 1970, and like Saras-

wati is active on Facebook and Twitter.

"I am not a great believer in modern technology, or the consumerist messages being sent out through the medium, but we have to make people aware that we exist," he told the Indian Express.

Another is Sir James Mallinson, the dreadlocked fifth baronet of Walthamstow and British academic ordained as a mahant, or Hindu priest, in 2013. He also runs a paragliding firm in the Himalayas.

Many of the foreigners at the Kumbh are simple tourists though, keen to see the ash-smearing, pipe-smoking Naga sadhus, naked except for beads and flower garlands.



International followers of the Indian spiritual guru Chidanand Saraswati perform Hindu rituals on the banks of the holy Sangam -- the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati rivers -- at the Kumbh Mela festival in Allahabad.



# Britain is a nation in desperate need

*After a historic Brexit vote, the country requires a miracle of statesmanship. Too bad it has*



JENNI RUSSELL

This week, as an anxious Britain prepared to witness Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit plan crashing to defeat, Nicholas Soames, Winston Churchill's grandson, tweeted out one of his grandfather's solemn warnings from the 1930s.

Soames, a Conservative politician, repeated lines from a poem, by Edwin J Milliken, that his grandfather had quoted to express his despair at Britain's political paralysis in the face of the Nazi threat: "Who is in charge of the clattering train? The axles creak, and the couplings strain. For the pace is hot and the points are near, and Sleep hath deadened the driver's ear, and signals flash through the night in vain. Who is in charge of the clattering train?"

Nobody knows. With May's cabinet, the country, political parties and Parliament all hopelessly split over how or whether to carry out Brexit, Britain's political universe is imploding and so are its political norms.

At any other time, a prime minister who lost her government's flagship policy would be expected to resign. On Jan. 15, May's Brexit

plan was defeated by a vote of 432-202. Immediately afterward, Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of the opposition Labour Party, called a vote of no-confidence. That will almost certainly be defeated on Jan. 16. Nobody expects May to leave office this week.

Before the vote, she had told her cabinet that no matter how much she lost by, she intended to stay on and steer a form of Brexit through. She is hoping to keep her hands on the wheel, even though most of her passengers are rebelling against her destination. But now that the vote is over, all of the plots for and against her, and for and against each possible permutation of Brexit, will be unleashed.

Every faction in each of the two main parties will be fighting and scheming for its preferred result, from a "no-deal Brexit" to a softer departure that leaves Britain closer to the European Union to abandoning the idea of leaving altogether. Predicting who will win is impossible because none of these factions has a majority and no one knows how or whether they will form alliances.

Politicians and journalists are frantically trying to game the next few weeks. Every outcome is unlikely and most seem utterly implausible, yet everything — from another indecisive election to a national unity government — is being suggested.



Brits watch the news of May's Brexit plan defeat in the Parliament.

I recently asked three senior Conservative politicians at the heart of these machinations which future Britain would be facing in 10 weeks, when the Brexit clock runs out. "God alone knows," said one cabinet minister, a keen Brexiteer. "No one knows," said the second, a reluctant Brexit backer. "Haven't a clue," said one

of the key campaigners for a second referendum.

Everyone is horribly — or jubilantly — aware that if within the next few weeks Parliament cannot agree on May's deal, or on any other deal, or on throwing the issue back to the country in a referendum, then Britain will tumble out of the European Un-

ion at the end of March, smashing its economy and its relationships with its closest trading partners.

With the ruling Conservatives so divided, Corbyn's Labour is in a potentially powerful position. If it threw its votes behind the Tories backing May's agreement, or supported a second referendum, or decided to back a softer Brexit

that retained much closer links with Europe — "Norway Plus," as it's known — those proposals would likely pass. But so far, the party has refused to commit itself to any such solutions because it, too, is split between those who want to leave the European Union and those who want to remain.

# I put my baby daughter in dinosaur overalls



VANESSA BARBARA

"It's a new era in Brazil: Boys wear blue and girls wear pink," our new minister of women, family and human rights, Damara Alves, said this month in a video. And she didn't stop there: Under the new government of President Jair Bolsonaro, she declared in her inaugural speech, "a girl will be a princess and a boy will be a prince."

Alves' message was meant to be an attack on "gender ideology," a concept created by conservatives to disparage the rhetoric of equal rights for women and LGBT people. The fight for gender equality and sexual and reproductive rights will lead to the collapse of the traditional family, Alves and others like her say. It will foster homosexuality and threaten Christian values. And so the correct response is moral panic: "Nobody will stop us from calling our girls princesses and our boys princes," Alves fiercely proclaims.

Except the conservatives have it backward: Not only is no one stopping them from making their

children into gendered royalty, but in fact, their take on children and gender is already effectively a national obsession — if not a global one.

I experienced this for the first time at the very beginning of my pregnancy, when I went shopping for tools for trimming the baby's nails. "Is it a boy or a girl?" asked the saleswoman. I couldn't possibly fathom what nails had to do with genitals, but I chose to be polite and said I didn't know yet. The saleswoman seemed puzzled. She ran through a series of blue and pink cases, but finally announced she didn't have anything neutral. When I decided to forge ahead and buy a pair of blue nail scissors anyway, she gave me a look of silent reproach. "Anarchist," she practically whispered.

In the following months, however, I'd learn just how important my baby's biological sex was to the world at large. My initial OBGYN, for instance, seriously objected to my decision to not find out my baby's sex in advance. It's difficult to find neutral-coloured baby items, she protested — whatever would the baby wear once it was born? Many seemed to agree with her. "But what if it's a girl?" a saleswoman at a thrift store asked when I bought a couple of dinosaur

overall. (Then she'd be a future paleontologist, perhaps?)

When I finally gave in to curiosity and learned the baby was a girl, I had to keep answering "It doesn't matter" over and over at stores. No item was free from the boy-or-girl question: I got it while buying socks, hats, pants, books, burp cloths, teething devices, diaper bags, plastic bowls. Even nasal aspirators often came in pink and blue.

It was very exhausting. And now that I cut my daughter's nails with blue scissors and dress her in dinosaur overalls, I wonder if the end is near.

The Australian comedian Hannah Gadsby, in her show "Nanette," once joked that one of the ways you can tell that there's too much hysteria around gender from the "gender-normals" of the world is the habit of putting pink headbands on bald babies. "That's weird," the comedian said. "I mean, seriously, would you put a bangle on a potato?"

And yet, strangers in the street find it appropriate to ask why my daughter — who is adorable but, realistically, not unpotatolike at this stage — is not wearing delicate earrings, a ribbon in her hair or a pink tutu. It doesn't get any better when you dig into the reasoning



behind it: As Gadsby says, parents do it because they are tired of seeing their beautiful baby girl being mistaken for a boy because she has no hair. Why this would be such a bad thing doesn't have to be explained — it's understood that it would be a calamity. ("The thing is, I don't assume bald babies are boys. I assume they're angry feminists, and I treat them with

respect," Gadsby jokes.)

It would be bad enough if the gender hysteria was limited to the colour of strollers and kneepads. But sexism is often imprinted on clothes themselves, and here is where it becomes exceptionally insidious — because of the messages it delivers. Baby boys might be dressed in a onesie that says, "Chegou o terror da mulherada"

*Tales of gender blasphemy from deep within the land of princess and princesses*



1997

**Madeleine Albright** becomes the first woman to serve as United States Secretary of State.



1998

**Netscape** announced Mozilla, with the intention to release Communicator code as open source.

2001

Five people attempt to set themselves on fire in Beijing's **Tiananmen Square**, an act that many people later claim is staged by the Communist Party of China to frame Falun Gong and thus escalate their persecution.

2002

U.S. journalist **Daniel Pearl** is kidnapped in Karachi, Pakistan and subsequently murdered.

# Speed of a driver

As Theresa May and Jeremy Corbyn



**Can May and Corbyn suspend their instinctive hostility? Can a fleet of courageous men and women in Parliament step forward if not?**

After her defeat, May announced that she wanted to talk with the opposition to discover what compromise members of Parliament were prepared to support. An enraged Corbyn retorted that over the previous two years she had closed down every attempt at dialogue, and her only priority had been the Conservative Party.

It is Britain's misfortune that at this moment, when cooperation and statesmanship are needed to prevent political and economic disaster, both the prime minister and the leader of the opposition are known for being cautious, obstinate, unimaginative, tribal and charmless.

That's why the wilder suggestion now is that moderate Labour and Tory rebels may step forward and declare themselves a new parliamentary grouping, prepared to lead the country in a government of national unity away from the cliff's edge. It feels preposterous — but so does almost everything else.

Can May and Corbyn suspend their instinctive hostility? Can a fleet of courageous men and women in Parliament step forward if not? Britain is in desperate need of a driver who can seize control of the clattering train.

(Jenni Russell is a columnist for The Times of London and a contributing opinion writer.)

him in Brexit's inevitable economic damage. He doesn't want a second referendum because he doesn't know which side to back.

This comfortable evasion cannot be sustained after May's crushing defeat on Jan 15. Labour will have to pick sides and live with the consequences.

Members of Parliament and leaders in all parties will be faced with the starkest of choices: Britain's future will be decided within the next month.

Neither party has enough votes to make that choice on its own. The question now is whether the leadership on both sides has the will, imagination or character to reach out to the other and avoid a no-deal disaster. There's nothing in their careers to suggest that is so.

So far it has suited Corbyn, a longtime euroskeptic, to stay on the fence, loftily opposing all of the Tories' proposals and declaring that if only Labour were in power, it could magically achieve a better Brexit deal. He's reluctant to back anything that the Tories propose because he calculates that doing so will implicate

# Overalls. Am I an anarchist?



**And now that I cut my daughter's nails with blue scissors and dress her in dinosaur overalls, I wonder if the end is near.**

selling baby's clothes with the inscriptions "Intelligent as daddy" (for boys) and "Pretty as mommy" (for girls). Lest North America start feeling smug, that same year, Target got in trouble for selling in its Canadian stores a set of boy's pajamas bearing the words "Future Man of Steel." The girl version said, "I only date heroes."

So you see, Alves, we are already deep in a world of baby girls who must grow up to be pretty princesses and wives, and boys dressed in blue who must grow up to date as many of these princesses as possible. Those princes and princesses get to go on to a future of unequal pay, domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, femicide, homophobia and transphobia.

So by all means, call your daughter a princess. Truly, no one is stopping you. It is sad, however, that while you are busy telling children who and what they should be, so many very real forces are conspiring within our country to stop them from safely growing up to be who they truly are, and that you seem so uninterested in doing anything about these instead.

(Vanessa Barbara, a contributing opinion writer, is the editor of the literary website *A Hortaliça* and the author of two novels and two nonfiction books in Portuguese.)

dle I know what I want: beautiful shoes like mom's" one onesie reads (I wish I was kidding). Others: "Future Miss Brazil," "Future bride" and "Princess in training." And if these stereotypes aren't enough, there are options that engage in precocious body-shaming: "Does this diaper make my butt look big?"

But this problem is not unique to Brazil. In 2015, the Spanish clothing retailer Zara introduced girls' onesies with the inscription "Pretty and Perfect: It's what daddy said," while the counterpart boy's version read "Cool and Clever: It's what mummy said." The year before, a chain of supermarkets in Spain had to apologise and stop

("Here comes the ladies' man.") Other options: "Lock up your daughters"; "Don't worry, ladies, I'm still single"; "Future cute doctor"; "Future Ferrari driver." One of Brazil's favourites is a onesie that says, "Ladies: Today I'm bald and toothless, but someday I'll be rich."

If Brazil's baby boys are arrogant and womanizing, our baby girls are frivolous and pretty. "From the cra-



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Tonight we passed the Reciprocal Healthcare Bill through the Commons - which provides for healthcare for British Citizens who live in the EU, deal or no deal. An important step for delivering Brexit

@MattHancock

02



So often, stories exploring Trump supporters have found that, no matter what, they back him. In a Michigan county he won by 12 points in 2016, I found something different: Some are peeling away from him, and growing tired of his shut-down stance.

@mviser

03



Today we honor a great American who gave his life to right the wrong of racial inequality. Our country is better thanks to his inspiration and sacrifice #MLKDay

@PressSec

04



If Nancy Pelosi thinks that Walls are "immoral," why isn't she requesting that we take down all of the existing Walls between the U.S. and Mexico, even the new ones just built in San Diego at their very strong urging. Let millions of unchecked "strangers" just flow into the U.S.

@realDonaldTrump

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

# A civilian thought on wheels

SREEJITH S RAJA

Transportation has played a key role in the development of mankind ever since the time they were "invented". Various options are available today for mankind to move from one place to another. We can choose between our personal vehicles like motorcycles and cars to public transport like buses, trains and aircraft. Public transport plays an important role in bringing down the cost of moving people and cargo from origin to destination. We not only save money but also our valuable time.

When it comes to public transport in urban areas, there are some difficulties. In countries like Bahrain, people consider their private spaces and time while considering transport. They prefer usage of their cars to buses for various reasons. The routes of buses are not available to many areas of work like industrial belts. Even if they have buses, at times they may have to get down at a bus stop and trek to their offices far away. The schedule of buses is also not as frequent as required thereby the passenger takes a lot of time to reach his or her office. Instead, if he uses his personal car, he can bring it close to his office and park his car at the premises. He can come and leave conveniently based on his work. When it comes to travelling to work place, I personally have not used the public transport. The main reason being that my office is located 1.5 kilometres away from the nearest bus stop. Hence, I prefer to use the cab provided by the company so that I can get dropped in the company premises. The only time I use public buses here is when my family and me have to go places during weekends.

When it comes to maintenance of public transport, there are some civic responsibilities that comes with it. We see private vehicles being parked in bus stops. One day, my family and me were waiting for the bus at a bus stop. There were two ladies standing near us, waiting

for the bus. A car comes close to the two ladies forcing them to move away from the stop. The ladies waiting for the bus quietly gave way for the car to be parked there. The family in the car were taking time to come out of the car. Seeing this, I went up to the driver in the car and pointed to the board saying that this was the bus stop. He retreated into the car and moved it elsewhere when I reminded him of the fine that he would attract if he parked the car. This happens mainly if the parking spaces are either not

**If we have a fully developed and punctual public transport system, we can reduce the number of cars and make our air, less polluted.**



available or adequate. There was another incident when my wife and me were travelling in a bus. As we boarded the bus after swiping our smart cards for the payment of the bus fare, one of the two young men nearby, used the overhead handles as pull up bars, preventing me from accessing the nearest seat. I had to look at him straight in the eye, after which he quietly moved away. We have also seen many people not offering their seats to ladies, families and elder members, even though they were reserved for them.

Many children enjoy riding the red bus and they keep telling their parents to allow them to travel by these buses. However, the parents are used travelling by cars and hence rarely give their children the pleasure of enjoying a bus ride. This is basically a mindset of the parents that need to change. We, as people, need to use and encourage the usage of public transport as much as possible. This will lead to lesser number of cars and other vehicles on the roads thereby cascading to a positive effect on reduction of pollution and traffic congestion on roads.

There is a general perception in Bahrain that the only people who use buses are from the low-income group. However, in more developed countries, it has been observed that the public transport system is more used by all people. The transport system is well developed and reliable in terms of time and convenience. In Bahrain, there are a larger number of private cars than public transport buses. This is mainly due to the choices of cars available in the market. If we look at similar countries to Bahrain, like Singapore for instance, we see that cars are more expensive and thereby people use the public transport instead of the cars. It may be noted that Singapore has a well-developed public transportation system that run punctually and with greater connectivity. If we have a fully developed and punctual public transport system, we can reduce the number of cars and make our air, less polluted.

Gustavo Pedro, the Columbian economist and politician said, and I quote, 'A developed country isn't a place where the poor have cars. It's where the rich use public transport'. Let us hope that this day will not be far off.



# business

## Renault board to replace Ghosn on Thursday

Paris, France

French carmaker Renault said yesterday that it would hold a board meeting Thursday to name a replacement for its boss Carlos Ghosn, who remains in custody in Japan over alleged financial misconduct.

Sources close to the discussions said that the company would put forward Thierry Bollore to replace Ghosn as chief executive and Michelin chief Jean-Dominique Senard as board chairman. Ghosn currently holds both roles.

Renault, part of a powerful alliance with Japanese carmakers Nissan and Mitsubishi, officially declined to comment on Ghosn's replacement, beyond confirming Thursday's board meeting. A trade union source said the meeting would take place at 10:00 am (0900 GMT) on Thursday.

Ghosn has already been stripped of his positions as chairman of Nissan and Mitsubishi in the wake of the allegations. The French government, Renault's biggest shareholder with a stake of more than 15 percent, is particularly keen to see the company appoint a new leader.

Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire had last week demanded a board meeting "in the coming days" to name Ghosn's



Carlos Ghosn delivers a speech (file)

successor. The Franco-Lebanese-Brazilian businessman, who was arrested on November 19, is set to remain behind bars for the foreseeable future after a Tokyo court again denied him bail on Tuesday.

Prosecutors suspect he under-declared his income in official statements to Nissan shareholders between 2010 and 2015 to the tune of some five billion yen (\$46 million), apparently in an attempt to avoid accusations that he was overpaid. A separate but similar charge is that he continued to do this between 2015 and 2018, under-reporting his income by a further four billion yen.

## China promises Cambodia \$600 million aid at PM visit



Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen (centre L) applauds with China's Premier Li Keqiang (centre R) during a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

Beijing, China

China has promised four billion yuan (\$588 million) in aid to Cambodia, the Southeast Asian country's Prime Minister Hun Sen said yesterday on a visit to Beijing.

The largest investor in Cambodia, China has pumped billions of yuan into the economy and has written off debt while sweeping aside questions about Phnom Penh's abysmal rights record.

The four billion yuan grant will run from 2019 to 2021, Hun Sen said in a post on his official Facebook page, accompanied by pictures of his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping from the day before.

Xi has also pledged to import 400,000 tonnes of rice from Cambodia this year, increase bilateral trade to \$10

billion by 2023 and encourage more Chinese investment into the country, the prime minister's post said.

The pledge comes just days after the European Union resumed tariffs on rice imports from Cambodia, following intensive lobbying by Italy, who said cheap imports were damaging its farmers.

On Tuesday, Hun Sen was welcomed at the cavernous Great Hall of The People by Premier Li Keqiang as part of his three-day visit.

The two witnessed the signing of six agreements, including on increasing cooperation on the Belt and Road Initiative and Cambodia's southwestern seaport of Sihanoukville.

Hun Sen's visit comes amid speculation Beijing is seeking support to build a naval base off the Cambodian coast, claims the Premier has vehemently denied.

# No Brexit deal means hard Irish border: EU

Reuters | Brussels

British-ruled Northern Ireland will automatically have a "hard border" with its southern neighbour if Britain leaves the European Union without a withdrawal agreement, the European Commission's chief spokesman said yesterday.

The remark to reporters by Margaritis Schinas reflected the EU's position that Ireland, like other member states, would have to enforce EU customs and other checks on imports from Britain after Brexit in the absence of a special deal.

Responding to Schinas' comments, British Prime Minister Theresa May's spokesman said Britain would do everything it could to prevent a hard border.

Brussels and Dublin have pushed the British government to focus on agreeing to a withdrawal agreement to ease Britain's departure that would ensure the land border does not fuel renewed violence in Northern Ireland. Three decades of civil conflict in the British province was ended by a 1998 peace accord known as the Good Friday Agreement.

Pushed to give the EU po-

sition on ensuring the border stays unencumbered as agreed in the peace deal, Schinas said: "If you'd like ... to push me and speculate on what might happen in a no-deal scenario in Ireland, I think it's pretty obvious — you will have a hard border."

The Union's commitment to the Good Friday Agreement, "will have to take inevitably into account this fact", he added, while insisting the EU would stand behind the peace accords.

Policy makers have said little in detail on what might happen on the Irish border in the event of Britain leaving without a deal on March 29. The EU has said it will not allow a situation in which British goods could enter its single market without observing regulations imposed across the bloc.

A "backstop" protocol dealing with the Irish border in the withdrawal agreement negotiated by British Prime Minister Theresa May last month was cited by many British lawmakers as a reason for their rejecting May's deal last week.

Under the backstop, Britain would remain bound by many EU rules until a way was negotiated to ensure British goods meet EU regulations without



Margaritis Schinas, European Commission's chief spokesman

having to be checked on the Irish border.

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar's government has taken a line that there would have to be "difficult conversations" over border arrangements if Britain leaves the EU without a deal.

"We will not accept a hard border on this island and therefore we are not plan-

ning for one," an Irish government spokesman said on Tuesday.

"Working out suitable customs and trade arrangements compatible with our EU membership will require detailed discussion with the Commission, while the UK will also need to live up to its responsibilities. We are under no illusions about how challenging that would be."

## EU fines Mastercard 570m euros in anti-trust action

Bruxelles, Belgium

The European Union has fined global credit card giant Mastercard 570 million euros (\$647 million) for limiting competition between banks offering cheaper payment fees.

"By preventing merchants from shopping around for better conditions offered by banks in other member states, Mastercard's rules artificially raised the costs of card payments, harming consumers and retailers," EU competition commissioner Margrethe Vestager said.

When a customer pays a retailer with a credit card, the store's bank pays a fee to the cardholder's bank.

The retailer's bank passes on this fee to the store, which increases costs for customers.

Prior to 2015, the level of these "interchange fees" varied widely across Europe, but Mastercard's rules at the time obliged banks receiving card payments to apply the fee set in their home country.

"This led to higher prices for retailers and consumers, to limited cross-border competition and to an artificial segmentation of the single market," the EU Commission said in a statement.

"The infringement ended when Mastercard amended its



Margrethe Vestager

rules in view of the entry into force of the Interchange Fee Regulation."

The fine would have been higher, but Brussels reduced it by 10 per cent to thank Mastercard for cooperating. The company did not dispute the fine.

"This decision relates to historic practices only, covers a limited period of time of less than two years and will not require any modification of Mastercard's current business practices," it said.

"Mastercard sees the closure of this anti-trust chapter as an important milestone for the company," it added.

## Gulf Air, Royal Air Maroc sign SPA agreement

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air and Royal Air Maroc, Morocco's national air carrier, have signed a Special Prorate Agreement (SPA) effective from 22 January 2019.

The agreement builds upon the current travel opportunities for passengers of both airlines beyond the hubs of

Bahrain International Airport and Casablanca Mohammed V International Airport.

The agreement supports facilitating travel for passengers of both airlines who wish to explore cities and regions that are not directly served by the home carrier — such as domestic points in Morocco, West Europe and GCC.

## EasyJet takes £15m hit from London airport drone chaos



London, United Kingdom

British no-frills airline EasyJet yesterday said closure of London's Gatwick Airport before Christmas caused by reported sightings of drones had cost the group £15 million (\$19.2 million, 17 million euros). EasyJet said it had lost £5.0 million in revenue and taken a hit of £10 million on passenger costs.

"EasyJet has made a good start to the 2019 financial year with robust customer demand and ancillary sales, driving solid revenue generation," chief executive Johan Lundgren said in a trading update.

"This was underpinned by good operating and on-time performance across the network, with the exception of the disruption caused by the Gatwick closures due to drone sightings," he added.

Britain's second-busiest airport shut down for 36 hours in the week leading up to Christmas because of repeated reports of drone sightings, affecting 140,000 passengers, the majority being EasyJet customers.



# EU split over copyright overhaul

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

Divisions between EU countries could delay or derail plans to overhaul copyright law, an ambition that has set up a battle pitting media firms against internet giants like Facebook and Google.

The European Parliament, the European Council and the European Commission had planned to meet on Monday to agree on a draft law, but scrapped the meeting at the last minute.

"We take note that the Council needs more time to finalise its position," Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas told a press conference, referring to the body that represents member states.

The Commission, the European Union's executive arm, proposed reforms in September 2016 designed to modernise copyright for the digital age.

But it has sparked a battle between media and creators seeking payment for online content against lobbyists defending the business model of the Silicon Valley giants backed by internet freedom activists.

Several EU countries -- including Germany, the Netherlands and Italy -- on Friday blocked a council compromise text following a long debate among the bloc's 28 ambassadors.

The stumbling block was over a provision that calls for YouTube and other platforms to better remunerate content creators and force them to remove any pirated content.

Germany wanted small businesses and start-ups to be exempt from the need to pre-filter content while France did



**The debate is over the size of the "snippet," such as how many words it has, as well as over its originality. For example, should a story headlined "3,000 killed in earthquake" be considered a simple matter of fact, or should the effort made by journalists to report it be recognised?**

not, said Axel Voss, the deputy who is steering the legislation through parliament.

"Countries that were not in any way satisfied with the copyright reform took Germany's side. It's of course very unfortunate," Voss said.

## 'Neighbouring rights'

Another bone of contention is a provision to create "neighbouring rights" for media publishers, sources close to the talks said.

These would allow newspapers, magazines or news agencies such as AFP to be paid when



Margaritis Schinas

their content is reused on line by news aggregators like Google News or social networks like Facebook.

"On this provision, we were also not able to find a large majority among the member countries for one or the other of the two options on the table," one of the sources said.

Like the European Parliament, some want to exclude only hyperlinks while others want also to protect "snippets" -- short news items that appear on search engines, aggregators and social media.

The debate is over the size of the "snippet," such as how many words it has, as well as over its originality.

For example, should a story headlined "3,000 killed in earthquake" be considered a simple matter of fact, or should the effort made by journalists to report it be recognised?

Commission spokesman Schinas pledged to try to bridge the

divide. "We shall continue our hard work as an honest broker to help the EU institutions, the council and the European Parliament, to reach a deal as soon as possible," Schinas said.

Axel Voss meanwhile urged Paris and Berlin to overcome their differences over the exemption for start-ups and small businesses.

"Germany and France must now come to an agreement, which in my opinion can occur with some creativity and good will," Voss said.

If a deal is reached among the three EU institutions, the European Council and then the parliament, meeting in full session, will have to sign off on a final version.

But time is running out as the votes must take place before the elections to a new parliament in May, when analysts fear populist parties may increase their representation without sharing the same zeal for reform.

# S. Korea growth falls to 2.7pc, slowest in six years

Seoul, South Korea

South Korea's GDP growth slowed to its weakest in six years at 2.7 per cent in 2018, the central bank said yesterday, as President Moon Jae-in's ratings fall amid concerns over the health of the world's 11th-largest economy.

Public discontent over the sluggish economy, especially on relatively high youth unemployment, has dragged Moon's approval ratings below 50 per cent, down from the 80s he was scoring in May after his first summit with the North's leader Kim Jong Un.

The 2018 growth figure was down 0.4 percentage points from the previous year, the central Bank of Korea said, and the weakest since the 2.3pc recorded in 2012.

South Korea's export-driven economy has been pressured by slowing growth in China, its biggest trading partner, where expansion slipped to a 28-year low last year.

The South has also been



Moon Jae-in

squeezed by trade tensions between the US and the Asian giant, the world's top two economies.

But GDP expanded 3.1pc year-on-year in the last quarter, the central bank said, led by government spending and construction and infrastructure investment.

Moon sacked his top two economic officials in November, the finance minister and his policy chief, and his chief of staff left earlier this month.

# UBS annual profits jump to \$4.9bn

Zurich, Switzerland

Swiss banking giant UBS saw its net profits leap by almost five times last year to \$4.9 billion (4.3 billion euros) despite "challenging conditions," it said. UBS' 2017 results were hammered by US tax reforms that forced banks that operate in the United States to book substantial one-time losses in

the final quarter of that year, but which were expected to be mostly favourable beyond that.

Excluding the impact of changes in US tax laws, UBS net income for 2018 as a whole was still up by 25pc from the previous year. "I want to thank all UBS employees for a very successful 2018 in overall challenging conditions," chief executive Sergio P. Ermotti said.

# Michelin boosts female chefs in 2019 guide

Paris, France

An unprecedented number of restaurants run by female chefs won plaudits in the new French edition of the Michelin food guide released Monday, as the guardians of haute cuisine sought to address a glaring gender imbalance.

Eleven female-led restaurants have been added to the 2019 guide to the best food in France, out of a record 75 new additions bestowed with one, two or three Michelin stars.

Among them was 24-year-old wunderkind Julia Sedefdjian, who won a star for her new restaurant Baieta, while Stephanie Le Quellec claimed her second for Parisian restaurant La Scene.

The guide's new international director Gwendal Poullennec had promised to breathe new life into its pages this year, celebrating young talent as well as female chefs.

A large number of international chefs are also honoured -- many of them Japanese -- while Argentine Mauro Colagreco became the only foreigner to currently hold three stars in France.

"So many emotions. Thank you! I'm so honoured," said the 42-year-old, whose Mirazur restaurant on the glitzy French Riviera ranked fourth last year on the World's 50 Best Restaurants list.

Chef Laurent Petit meanwhile praised the feared Michelin reviewers for having "the sense" to award him a third star for Le Clos des Sens restaurant in



Italian-Argentinian chef Mauro Colagreco (C-L) and French Laurent Petit (C-R) celebrate on stage after they were awarded three Michelin stars during the Michelin guide award ceremony in Paris



**Eleven female-led restaurants have been added to the 2019 guide to the best food in France, out of a record 75 new additions bestowed with one, two or three Michelin stars.**

Annecy.

"I'm delighted to have won a third star with endive roots and a cabbage tart. Simple, simple, simple," he said.

In one of the biggest shocks, renowned Alpine chef Marc Veyrat lost his third star, along with the Auberge de L'ILL, a restaurant in Alsace that had held three stars for 51 years.

"It's hard for the team, it's hard for everyone -- the customers, the family," its chef Marc Haerberlin told France 3 Alsace television.

"I don't know how to explain this loss," said Haerberlin, whose family has run an inn in Alsace for 150 years.

Veyrat, known as much for his trademark wide-brimmed black hat as his love of mountain herbs, said he was "terribly disappointed" that his restaurant the Maison des Bois had been downgraded. "I can't understand it at all," said Veyrat, blasting the decision as "unfair".

## Unwanted stars

A chef who shocked the culinary world in 2017 by renouncing his Michelin stars was meanwhile stunned to find himself back in the prestigious guide for 2019.

Sebastien Bras had cited the "huge pressure" that came with Michelin recognition when he

asked in September 2017 for his three-star restaurant Le Suquet to be left out of the 2018 guide.

Michelin agreed, with the company's then brand manager Claire Dorland Clauzel telling AFP: "It is difficult for us to have a restaurant in the guide which does not wish to be in it."

Bras spent the following year rustling up inventive French cuisine at his restaurant in the town of Laguiole, in the rural Aveyron region, without worrying whether it was meeting Michelin's exacting standards.

But on Monday the 47-year-old said he was "surprised" to see the restaurant back in the guide, with two stars.

"This contradictory decision has left us with doubts, even if in any case we no longer worry about either the stars or the strategies of the guide," he said.

Bras took over the kitchen at Le Suquet from his father Michel a decade ago.

The elder Bras had held three Michelin stars since 1999, and his son said that knowing a single

French chef Sebastien Bras poses as he works in the kitchen of his three-star restaurant Le Suquet, in Laguiole, southern France





## World to miss 2020 climate 'turning point': analysis



Marine biologist Marco Pinto holds a conductivity, temperature, and depth measurement instrument (CTD), during research in Seno Ballena fjord at Santa Ines island in Punta Arenas, Magallanes region, southern Chile on December 7, 2018. In Seno Ballena, a fjord located in the interior of the Strait of Magellan in the Chilean Patagonia, waters are shedding light on the future of climate change and its effects on marine organisms, helping to shape a great puzzle that could provide answers to scientists regarding profound changes due to the increase in the release of CO2 to the atmosphere.

### Paris, France

The world is on course to miss its "best chance" of preventing runaway climate change by ensuring global greenhouse gas emissions peak in 2020, researchers warned yesterday.

Even as Earth is buffeted by superstorms, droughts and flooding made worse by rising seas, and as greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise globally, an analysis by the World Resources Institute showed that current efforts to limit temperature increases are falling well short.

In 2017, experts identified six key milestones that mankind must hit by 2020 if the Paris climate goal of limiting global temperature rises to 1.5 Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) is to have a fighting chance of being met.

They include radical changes to how we get our electricity, and to how goods and services are distributed worldwide.

Chief among these are an immediate phasing out of fossil fuels, including a total halt to new coal power plant construction within two years, as well as an end to dirty energy subsidies.

The WRI on Tuesday said that achieving the 2020 goals was Earth's "best chance" of honouring the Paris deal goals.

Some progress has been made in renewable energy and green finance, it said, but headway was deemed "insufficient" across a host of sectors.

"One thing from energy -- where things are going much better -- is how renewable energy is progressing," said Helen Mountford, the WRI's vice president for climate change and economics.

Renewables such as wind and solar now account for roughly 25 percent of global electricity production, not too far from the 2020 goal of 30 percent.

But the world remains seriously off course when it comes to the phasing out of greenhouse gas-producing fossil fuels.

The Mission 2020 campaign says no new coal-fired power plants should be constructed after the end of next year, and advises that all existing coal power stations should be in the process of being retired by then.

### Subsidies sticking point

Scientific consensus is hardening that for Earth to avoid the direst consequences of climate change, emissions must peak by 2020 and drastically reduce thereafter.

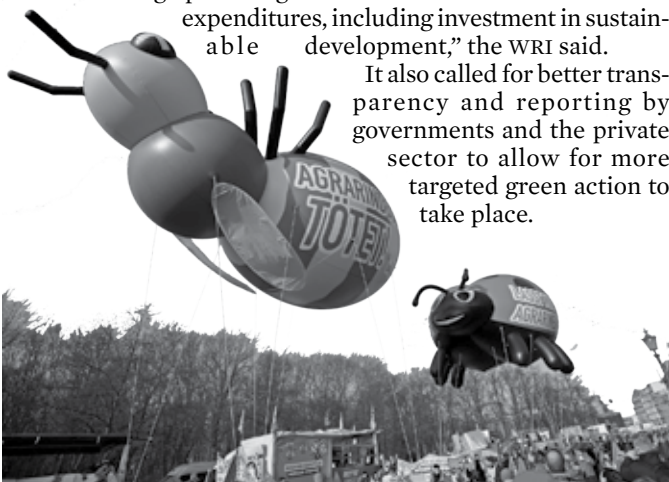
The WRI said this was the "best chance" for the global economy to be carbon neutral by mid-century and to stay beneath the 1.5C threshold.

Fossil fuel subsidies must also be entirely eliminated by 2020 to stay on track to the Paris goals, it said.

The subsidies have declined from \$443 billion in 2010 to \$373 billion in 2015, but major economies are yet to make good on their commitments to phase out the funding.

"Subsidies for coal, oil, and gas essentially act as a negative carbon price, reducing the costs for these polluting substances and taking up funding that could instead be used for other expenditures, including investment in sustainable development," the WRI said.

It also called for better transparency and reporting by governments and the private sector to allow for more targeted green action to take place.



A bee shaped balloon reading "agriculture industry kills" is held by protesters during a rally for climate justice, animal welfare, low impact farming and good food in Berlin.

# Oil hurts most of Gulf

● Saudi's Alujain enjoys best day in 14 months

● Saudi Steel Pipes has best one-day rise in over 4-1/2 months

● 21 of 30 stocks on Egypt's index fall

### Reuters

Saudi Arabia's stock market traded flat yesterday after a sharp fall in oil prices, while Egypt's index was pulled down by its blue-chip shares, mirroring a wider decline in emerging markets.

Saudi's main index was unchanged after inching up earlier in the session, with petrochemical investor Alujain jumping its 10 per cent limit to enjoy its best one-day gain in two years.

The firm provided an update on the fire at its affiliate's plant. The fire, which broke out on



A trader watching stock movements (file)

### Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 8,399 pts
DUBAI	▼ 0.2 pc » 2,494 pts
QATAR	▼ 0.3 » at 10,687 pts
ABU DHABI	▲ 4,956 pts
EGYPT	▼ 0.7 pc » 13,475 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.2 pc » 5,501 pts
OMAN	▲ 0.1 pc » 4,182 pts
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.2 pc » 1,352 pts

Oct. 2 at its unit's NATPET plant, halted production. Alujain now expects the plant to start operating all units by the end of September.

Saudi Steel Pipes leapt 8.4pc in active trade. The company said Tenaris completed the acquisition of 47.8pc of its shares and appointed Mariano Armincol Lamazares as its new Chief Executive.

The Egyptian blue-chip index lost 0.7pc, with 21 of its 30 stocks declining. Non-Arab foreigners were the net sellers of stocks during this session, according to data on the exchange website.

El Sewedy Electric dropped 2.3pc and Eastern Co lost 2.4pc.

In Dubai, the index, which has fallen 1.4pc this month, dipped 0.2pc, hurt by its banks and property shares. Dubai property prices have fallen since a mid-2014 peak, hurt by weaker oil prices and muted sales.

Its largest bank Emirates NBD was down 1.7pc and Emaar Development fell 2.3pc.

Qatar's index shed 0.3pc, pulled down by its energy stocks as oil prices fell nearly 2pc.

Lender Masraf Al Raya was the biggest loser of the day, declining 1.4pc despite reporting a 6.8pc increase in its fourth-quarter net profit, according to Reuters calculations, in line with forecasts.

Abu Dhabi's index was flat, with Methaq Takaful Insurance jumping 11.5pc.

## Global stocks turn lower on trade worries

### London, United Kingdom

Stock markets fell yesterday as profit-takers stepped in following a recent run higher, while a report fuelled worries about the progress of China-US trade talks.

While there were few major catalysts to drive business, investors were keeping tabs on developments in various issues including the US government shutdown, Brexit and China's stuttering economy.

European markets were half a percent or more lower in the mid-afternoon, a decline roughly matched by Wall Street at the opening bell.

Earlier optimism surrounding trade talks was jolted by a Bloomberg News report that said the two sides were struggling to reach agreement on the crucial matter of intellectual property, which is a key source of anger in Washington.

While headlines regarding the talks earlier this month were upbeat, and eyes turn to another meeting including Beijing's top negotiator Liu He at the end of January, the Bloomberg story,

### Key figures around 1440 GMT

London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.8pc at 6,913.05 points
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▼ 0.5pc at 11,077.02
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.6pc at 4,840.16
EURO STOXX 50:	▼ 0.6pc at 3,106.65
New York -	▼ 0.7pc at 24,562.70
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 0.5pc at 20,622.91 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▼ 0.7pc at 27,005.45 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 1.2pc at 2,579.70 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1351 from \$1.1370 Monday
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.2917 from \$1.2892
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 109.44 yen from 109.63
Oil - Brent Crude:	▼ \$1.23 at \$61.51 per barrel
Oil - West Texas Inter:	▼ \$1.20 cents at \$52.84

referencing unnamed sources, provided a reality check.

### China worries

Also, China's Xinhua news agency reported that President Xi Jinping had told top provincial leaders the Communist party "is facing long-term and complex tests in terms of maintaining long-term rule, reform and opening-up". The comments suggest he is growing worried

about the effects of slowing economic growth.

"Recent signs suggest that China is struggling to sustain economic momentum, and risks of a hard landing are rising. If China falls back to earth, we will all feel the tremor," economists at Northern Trust said in a note.

Earlier Tuesday in Asia, Hong Kong closed down 0.7 per cent, while Shanghai finished 1.2pc lower.

## Tokyo airport tests driverless bus

### Tokyo, Japan



A driverless bus (R), with a "driver" seated with his white-gloved hands hovering above the wheel, moves during an open test drive at Tokyo's Haneda International airport

Visitors pouring into Japan's Haneda airport for the Tokyo Olympics next year may find themselves ferried to and from planes on driverless buses, currently being tested at the major hub.

Six Japanese firms, including national carrier ANA, jointly started a 10-day experiment with a self-driving prototype minibus last week.

On Tuesday, officials allowed a sneak peak at the automated transportation, which is being tested with a safety driver in the front seat.

The "driver" sat with his white-gloved hands hovering above the wheel, ready to take control if need be, but otherwise

allowing the bus to wend the route on its own.

"Our hope is to be able to offer users autonomous buses by the Tokyo 2020 Olympics," said ANA project chief Tadakatsu Yamaguchi.

The vehicle holds a maximum of 10 people and cruises along a route connecting two terminals at a speed of up to 30 kilometres (19 miles) per hour using GPS and magnetic markers on the road.

Project officials did not immediately detail the cost of the system or how many people they expect to eventually transport with the buses.

Japan is hoping the 2020 Games will be a chance to showcase cutting edge tech projects.



campus

# Misbah-ul-Haq to visit school



Misbah-ul-Haq

Misbah-ul-Haq, former Pakistani cricketer who captained the Pakistani team in all three formats of the game, is visiting the British School of Bahrain (BSB) on Thursday. He will hold cricket sessions with students at 8.15am which will be followed by

a discussion with a select student audience in the Atrium. Misbah-ul-Haq, is Pakistan's most successful Test captain with 26 wins.

A late bloomer, Misbah was a middle-order batsman best known for his composure with the bat whilst also having the ability to be an aggressive

big shot player when required. Misbah holds the world record of scoring most runs without century in ODI career. Misbah holds the record of the fastest test half century and shares the record for second fastest test century with Sir Vivian Richards.

Poets' Corner



Adhila Sherin

## Lost to my beloved

*A beautiful sculpture,  
With a sunlit glow.*

*A hundred mile smile,  
With an upside down  
bend upon your cheek,*

*Like a coiled deep well  
Filled with love and  
seduction.*

*A lunar eclipse,  
So wild and raw.*

*A rich mixture of textures,  
Craving to be caressed.*

*And so rare, like gold dust,  
And so imperfectly  
perfect,  
Like nothing else in this  
world.*

## FIITJEE, a unique institute synonymous with success

TDI | Manama

Students who scored a perfect SAT score of 2,400

FIITJEE - The Premier Institute from India for IIT-JEE and Beyond started its first overseas operations in this beautiful and tiny Kingdom in 2007.

Ever since, there has been no looking back. FIITJEE has become synonym to success when it comes to CBSE Boards, IIT-JEE, SAT, AP and other Competitive Examinations like Sashtra Pratibha, ACER, ASSET, SOF and many more.

FIITJEE India WLL, (a duly registered company in Bahrain) is training aspiring students from Grades VII to XII studying CBSE curriculum. Numerous students experienced the FIITJEE advantage and have become our brand ambassadors at best of the institutions in India and Abroad like IITs, NITs, IIT's, CALTECH, Georgia Tech, Cambridge, NTU and many more.

The alumni of FIITJEE shares rank with prestigious companies like Microsoft, Alstom, Oracle after completing their engineering degree.

Obada Anwar, an IIT-JEE qualified student currently studying in DTU- Delhi writes, "After four years of coaching with FIITJEE Bahrain, I can affirm that it has greatly helped me to clear all the hurdles like the CBSE Board, various Engineering Entrance Examinations and do well in SAT subject test. Despite of different pattern in Physics and Maths, I can say that I tackled the papers with relative ease and confidence only because of instincts and examination temperament in-



Abhijith Roy



Aisha Tayeb



Amogha



Angshuman Choudhury



Aniketh Das Roy



Johnny Jacob



Kiran Shajy



Krushnal Patel



Mihir



Mohammed Furqan



Mohammed Ibrahim



Nakshatra Gopi



Rakshita V



Rishi Satish



Siddhant Dinesh Prasad

stilled by FIITJEE."

Another student Mohar Chatterjee pursuing her Engineering degree from CALTECH says '2015's Class XII Board Examination was a unique experience. CBSE enhanced the difficulty levels significantly with more number of HOTS questions. But FIITJEE students have long been armoured for high-pressure, high-stakes paper-solving and thus came out

largely unscathed. Two years of systematic learning and progressive problem solving prepared me well. I scored a perfect 2,400 in SAT early enough to concentrate on Boards. It takes a lot more than tough papers and new patterns to faze us."

Now FIITJEE is commencing it's regular evening & weekend batches for all CBSE students from Class VII to XII. All the

one year long programs shall be available in two variants i.e. Boards and Competitive along with study material and that too at a very reasonable fee. The students will have the options to choose individual subjects as well. The students from Class VII to XII can also register for free for two weeks revision classes for their annual/board examinations. FIITJEE is also offering complimentary serv-

ices to the registered students for its online testing portal [www.mypat.in](http://www.mypat.in)

The results of FIITJEE over the years have been phenomenal including the last year where 10 students qualified IIT-JEE Main, 15 have bagged perfect SAT (Subject Score), CBSE Board 2018 Island topper and may more. For registration and details about FIITJEE please feel free to call @ 33784481.

## St Chris partners with Royal Life Saving

St Christopher's School has been partnering with Royal Life Saving Bahrain (RLSB) to provide specialist certified first aid courses for all members of school staff.

A wide variety of courses have been on offer, giving staff across the school the skills and knowledge to be able to confidently take control of potentially life threatening emergencies until professional assistance arrives. In the most recent sessions, 259 members of staff from across a wide range of operational areas in both campuses, were invited to attend 90-minute workshops covering Chain of Survival, Automated External Defibrillation (AED) and Management of choking. Sam Rahman, Safety Services Executive from RLSB said: "The workshop is a practical based session designed to give everyone hands on practice at performing these lifesaving skills, and improve their confidence in helping during a serious medical emergency. Royal Life Saving Bahrain's first aid course focuses on accident prevention, as well as signs, symptoms and treatment of a range of medical conditions".

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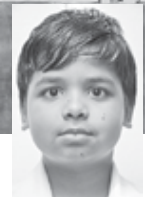
PAINTINGS



Vigneshwari Natarajan



Rebiya Ramachandran



Kamalesh





Alex Hopkins and Lauren Alaina

# celebs

## Alaina, Hopkins end engagement

Los Angeles

Singer Lauren Alaina and partner Alex Hopkins have called it quits.

The country star and her beau, who got engaged over last summer, announced they were ending their six-year relationship on their respective Instagram accounts on Monday, reports people.com.

In a joint statement, the couple explained that the decision came as a result of their individual growth and change over the last six years.

"You have been so supportive of us through all of our ups and downs, including personal struggles with health and family, and we couldn't be more grateful," the couple shared jointly.

"You share your lives with

us, and we always want to be open with you in return. We want to let you know that we have decided to call off our engagement. While we still have love for each other, we've grown into very different people over the last six years."

"We are now in a place where we are each looking forward to starting our own fresh, new chapters of our lives. We both love and respect each other and hope you all will do the same. This has not been an easy decision, but we both feel it is the right decision. Thank you always for your love and support," they wrote.

Alaina, 24, also captioned the emotional announcement by asking her followers for "grace, compassion, and respect in this time."



Russell

## I'd ruin my life if I cheated on my wife: Russell Brand

Los Angeles

Comedian Russell Brand says he won't ever cheat his wife Laura Gallacher.

In an interview to the Sunday Times, he spoke about his relationship with Gallacher and why he won't ever develop feelings towards other women, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

He said: "She definitely had misgivings. But I feel like our relationship, and the trust in it, she understands how seriously

I take it. But nothing good could come from harming her.

"If I put something in the space between me and her, it would be very detrimental to me. So when I think, 'Oh, that person is attractive,' the next thought is, 'Yes, but if you ever did anything, you realise that would destroy your whole life.' There's that voice in my head now."

## Kylie Jenner working on secret project, denies second pregnancy

Los Angeles

Kylie Jenner on Monday announced that she is about to come up with a secret project that is still in the pipeline and concurrently also dismissed rumours about her pregnancy.

Announcing her upcoming project, without giving any specific details away, the reality star tweeted, "I have something really exciting I get to share soon with you guys! I've been cooking this up for a while I can't wait to share my new project alreadyyy."

Commenting on the tweet, a user, out of curiosity asked her if she is "pregnant again." The 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star washed away all the speculation about her pregnancy by replying with a simple

"Noooo lol."

While fans and followers kept scratching their heads wondering what the big news is, Kylie clarified that the new project has nothing to do with Kylie Cosmetics.

However, her upcoming secret project is not the only thing that has managed to hog the headlines and her fans' attention lately.

Just last week, the reality TV star was all over the internet and news after a photo of an egg surpassed a photo of Kylie Jenner and Travis Scott's baby girl as the most liked Instagram post of all time as of Sunday.



Kylie

## Ryan Reynolds cancels surgery to promote 'Deadpool 2' in China

Los Angeles

Actor Ryan Reynolds cancelled surgery on his arm to fly to China and charm "Deadpool" fans in Beijing ahead of the franchise's unexpected theatrical debut in the country.

He flew to China on Sunday to enthrall all the "Deadpool" fans, reports variety.com.

Last week, Fox suddenly announced that a re-cut, PG-13 "Deadpool 2" would hit Chinese theaters starting this Friday - the first time the franchise has passed the country's strict censorship standards.



Ryan

## Emma Stone steps out for date night with beau Dave McCary

Los Angeles

Hollywood actor Emma Stone stepped out with her rumoured beau Dave McCary for a rare public date night and it seems like the two don't want to keep their relationship under wraps anymore.

Stone and McCary, who have been in a romantic relationship since October 2017, were spotted at a Basketball game. The two sat courtside and were seen having a great time.

The 'Lala Land' kept it casual dressed in a grey coat, blue jeans coupled with a black turtleneck for the game. Sitting right next to her, the 33-year-old filmmaker donned jeans, plaid button-down and an army green jacket paired with white sneakers.



Dave

Stone

## Oscars 2019: all the nominations

Los Angeles

The nominations for the 91st Academy Awards have been announced by actors Kumail Nanjiani and Tracee Ellis Ross.

This is the first time since 1989 that Hollywood's biggest awards will be held without a host. While Kevin Hart was initially supposed to host, the resurfacing of certain 'offensive' tweets posted by the actor earlier led him to vacate the position.

Tracee Ellis Ross, who announced the nominees, earlier took to Twitter to share her excitement as well. She wrote, "Oh this is going to be exciting! @KumailN text me when u wake up so we can coordinate our looks. I'm thinking pj's & glasses... my dressy ones! U? #OscarNoms"

<b>BEST ACTOR</b> Christian Bale, <i>Vice</i>	<b>BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS</b> Amy Adams, <i>Vice</i>
Bradley Cooper, <i>A Star is Born</i>	Marina De Tavira, <i>Roma</i>
Willem Dafoe, <i>At Eternity's Gate</i>	Regina King, <i>If Beale Street Could Talk</i>
Rami Malek, <i>Bohemian Rhapsody</i>	Emma Stone, <i>The Favourite</i>
Viggo Mortensen, <i>Green Book</i>	Rachel Weisz, <i>The Favourite</i>
<b>BEST ACTRESS</b> Yalitza Aparicio, <i>Roma</i>	<b>BEST DIRECTOR</b> Pawel Pawlikowski, <i>Cold War</i>
Glenn Close, <i>The Wife</i>	Yorgos Lanthimos, <i>The Favourite</i>
Olivia Colman, <i>The Favourite</i>	Spike Lee, <i>BlacKkKlansman</i>
Lady Gaga, <i>A Star is Born</i>	Alfonso Cuaron, <i>Roma</i>
Melissa McCarthy, <i>Can You Ever Forgive Me?</i>	Adam McKay, <i>Vice</i>
<b>BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR</b> Mahershala Ali, <i>Green Book</i>	<b>BEST FILM</b> Black Panther, <i>BlacKkKlansman</i>
Adam Driver, <i>BlacKkKlansman</i>	Bohemian Rhapsody, <i>The Favourite</i>
Sam Elliot, <i>A Star is Born</i>	Green Book, <i>Roma</i>
Richard E. Grant, <i>Can You Ever Forgive Me?</i>	A Star is Born, <i>Vice</i>
Sam Rockwell, <i>Vice</i>	

The 91st Annual Academy Awards are being presented once again at the Dolby Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center in Hollywood.

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## BIC set to host Neon Run

TDI | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is set to host on Friday the much-anticipated BIC Neon Run, held as part of the promotional campaign for the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2019.

The event is scheduled to be held from 3pm to 10pm at the BIC premises in Sakhir. There will be an adults' race starting at 7pm and a kids' run from 6pm. Participants are free to go at their own pace as the event will not be timed.

Bahrain Grand Prix ticket-holders will be able to participate free of charge, while others must pay an entry fee. Access to the circuit's vending area where there is a local market and family entertainment will be free.



Action from a previous Neon Run held at BIC

The adults' race is set to cover a distance of 3.6 kilometres while the kids' event will be held over one kilometre.

The BIC Neon Run promises to be a fun-filled and colourful occasion for all, with both adults and children of all ages and abilities taking part.

Runners will be literally glowing in the dark as they enjoy the challenges of BIC's Grand Prix track. Everyone will be having a delightful time as they are pelted with bright colours while they groove to the music and engage with others in laughter.



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and President of Bahrain Athletics Association received the Minister of Youth and Sports Affairs Aymen Tawfiq Al Moayyed yesterday. During the meeting, HH Shaikh Khalid stressed that Bahrain has made unique strides in the field of youth and sports at local and international levels and that the government has been prioritising in its work plan the continuity of supporting this field to ensure it maintains its development and progress

## Bahrain Olympic Committee to launch Al Firjan playgrounds initiative

TDI | Manama

The Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) has unveiled a plan to set up playgrounds equipped with integrated sport and entertainment facilities.

The initiative, known as 'Al Firjan Playgrounds', is part of the BOC's efforts to provide people in different age groups with multiple sport facilities and entertainment services across the country.

Football, the most practiced sport in the world, will be the first to be included in this project, while other sports will be added such as volleyball and basketball.

A committee has been formed and includes representatives from inside and outside the committee, headed by Supreme Council for Youth and Sports assistant secretary general and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) secretary general Abdulrahman Askar.

This committee held a series of preparatory meetings, which resulted in many decisions that focused on the initiative, such as field trips to several Al Firjan stadiums in the four governorates.

# Nadal relentlessly marches on

● Nadal puts Tsitsipas in crosshairs after slaying giantkiller Tiafoe

● Emotional Kvitova makes Australian Open semi

AFP | Melbourne

Rafael Nadal continued his relentless march towards an 18th major title yesterday as an emotional Petra Kvitova swept into her first Grand Slam semi-final since a terrifying knife attack almost ended her career.

On day nine of the Australian Open, the fairytale runs of Stefanos Tsitsipas and Danielle Collins were also extended as they too swept into the last four.

Second seed Nadal inched closer to winning an event he has only claimed once before when he trounced unseeded American Frances Tiafoe 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 in another ruthless display from a man who has not dropped a set so far.

Tiafoe had announced himself by beating fifth seed Kevin Anderson, but was no match for a player at the peak of his powers as he attempts to become only the third man to win all four Slams twice and the first to do so in the Open era.

"I had some trouble at this



Spain's Rafael Nadal plays a backhand return against Frances Tiafoe of the US

event all my career, so I'm very happy with the way I played tonight," said the Spaniard, who faces another young gun Tsitsipas in the semi-finals.

"I feel lucky to be where I am." Greek sensation Tsitsipas powered into the last four with a measured 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/2) win over Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut.

The 20-year-old, who end-

ed Swiss great Roger Federer's tournament, became the youngest man to reach the semis at Melbourne Park since Andy Roddick in 2003 and the first player from Greece -- man or woman -- to get so far at Grand Slam.

"I'm just living the dream, living what I've been working hard for," said the 14th seed, who lives in Cyprus but trains at the acad-

emy of Serena Williams' coach Patrick Mouratoglou in France. "I feel a bit emotional but not too much -- I know I really worked hard to get here, playing in semis of a Grand Slam."

Czech Kvitova had not gone past the last eight at a major since a burglar slashed her left hand in December 2016, forcing her out of the game for six months and leaving her with lasting nerve damage in the fingers of her racquet hand.

But the eighth seed has bounced back and is on a sensational 10-match unbeaten streak after claiming the Sydney International warm-up title.

She proved too much for Ashleigh Barty, crushing the local hope 6-1, 6-4, and was in tears afterwards as she reflected on her long journey back to the top.

"Really, I didn't imagine to be back on this great stadium and play with the best," the two-time

“Stefanos is one of the best players of the world. To have the chance to be in that final, I need to play my best, and that's what I am looking for

RAFAEL NADAL

Wimbledon champion said.

"I'm calling it as my second career. So it's the first semi-final of the second career. I'm really enjoying it."

Kvitova will face unseeded American Collins in the semi-final on Thursday and she desperately wants to reach Saturday's decider.

"I want it bad, that's right," she said.

Collins, the world number 35, had never won a Grand Slam match before entering this year's tournament but she stunned three-time major champion and second seed Angelique Kerber in round four.

And the 25-year-old from Florida continued her Cinderella run by bouncing back spectacularly to down Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 2-6, 7-5, 6-1 in the quarter-finals.

Collins, who has spent long stretches of her career playing small tournaments to build up her ranking points, was in big trouble after losing the first set to the world number 44.

But she fearlessly battled back into the match to again stamp her mark on the tournament.

"This has all been a really incredible experience," she said.

"This time last year I was playing a challenger (tournament) in Newport Beach. But, yeah, I think I'm really embracing it. It makes it a lot easier when you play in front of great fans and really good energy.

## Indian School lifts CBA-BOC under 16 cricket title

TDI | Manama

The Indian School defeated Pakistan School by 70 runs in the final to lift the CBA-BOC Under 16 cricket championship on Saturday at the National Stadium ground.

Batted first the Indian School had scored a reasonable total of 149 runs for the loss of 6 wickets in 20 overs. Once again Captain Govind Bingly (18) and Anirudh S Nair (45 not out) gave a solid start for the Indian School and added 68 runs for the opening wicket. Zulfiqar Hussain Shah was the most successful bowler for Pakistan School who took 2-24 in 3 overs.

In reply, Pakistan School were



ISB under 16 team with their trophy after the victory

bowled out for just 79 runs. School. Karan Rawal was the most successful bowler once again with 3-14 runs and he was well supported by the young Aryan Pande with 2-15 runs. Ten

teams participated in this tournament and the Indian School was unbeatable in the whole tournament.

Pakistan Urdu School beat

Rest of School by 2 wickets in Loser's final to win third Position. (Rest of the School - 87 for 9 wickets and Pakistan Urdu School 88 for 7 wickets).

## Arsenal defender Bellerin out for up to 9 months with knee injury

AFP | London

Arsenal announced yesterday that defender Hector Bellerin will be out of action for up to nine months after rupturing knee ligaments in his team's win against Chelsea.

Bellerin, 23, went down unchallenged during the second half of Arsenal's 2-0 victory at the Emirates on Saturday and was carried off on a stretcher.



# Bahrain crash out

Son Heung-min's South Korea seal win over Bahrain and place in Asian Cup quarter-finals

● **Kim Jin-su header in first period of extra time gives South Koreans a 2-1 win in Dubai**

AFP | Dubai

South Korea needed an extra-time winner to beat Bahrain 2-1 as they stumbled into the Asian Cup quarter-finals in unconvincing fashion yesterday.

Kim Jin-su's diving header at the end of the first extra period proved the difference as the two-time champions met unexpected resistance before winning in Dubai.

But Paulo Bento's side, runners-up in 2015 and one of the favourites for the title, survived to reach the last eight.

Tottenham star Son took a boot to the head as he weathered some robust challenges in a first half which South Korea dominated with 73 percent of possession.

Bahrain nearly stunned the Koreans with Mohamed Marhoon's stinging early shot as South Korea took time to settle into their rhythm.



Jung Woo-young of South Korea and Mohamed Al Romaihi of Bahrain battle for the ball

But from the half-hour Son started to make his presence felt with some typically direct running which caused panic in the Bahrain defence.

South Korea broke the deadlock two minutes from half-time, when Son laid off to Lee Yong whose cross was parried by the goalkeeper to Hwang

Hee-chan, who snaffled the easy chance.

South Korea threatened to run riot after the break before Bahrain hit back and it took a magnificent flying stop from Kim Seung-gyu to keep out Jamal Rashed's thumping effort.

And against all expectations, Bahrain were suddenly lev-

el with 13 minutes remaining when Mohamed Al Romaihi smashed in the rebound from Mahdi Al-Humaidan's shot.

The goal stunned South Korea,

who had only conceded twice at an Asian Cup game since 2011 -- the 2015 final, which they lost 2-1 to Australia after extra time.

Hwang Ui-jo nearly snatched the victory in injury time, when a defensive mix-up put him one-on-one with Sayed Shubbar Alawi, but he spooned his shot wide to set up the additional 30 minutes of play.

South Korea's first goal had been their only shot on target but they looked determined to put that right and substitute Lee Seung-woo should have done better when he was set up in the box by Son's strong run.

Bahrain goalkeeper Alawi withdrew with an apparent hamstring injury but one of the first tasks for his replacement, Abdulkarim Fardan, was to pick the ball out of the net.

Substitute Kim Jin-su found time and space to steady himself and drive home a header from Lee Yong's cross, a goal which the team celebrated by holding up the 16 shirt of injured Newcastle United midfielder Ki Sung-yueng.

## Asian Cup

South Korea	2	-	1	Bahrain
Qatar	1	-	0	Iraq

\*Scores as of closing

## Indian selectors get cash bonus for historic Australia tour

AFP | New Delhi

The selectors who chose the Indian cricketers to tour Australia recently have been awarded almost \$30,000 each as a bonus for picking the history-making squad.

India clinched their first Test series in Australia in 71 years before claiming another historic first with a 2-1 win in the one-day internationals. The Twenty20 series ended in a draw.

The squad captained by Virat Kohli -- who won three top International Cricket Council awards on Tuesday, the first player ever to do so -- ended the tour without losing a series, a first on Australian soil.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India awarded the players and coaches cash bonuses after the historic win, but followed up with a two million rupee (\$28,000) reward for each selector.

"The five men have played a crucial role in picking a balanced Indian squad and offering the team management enough options to work around different combinations," Indian cricket administrator Vinod Rai said in a statement.

## 'Very very happy' Kohli sweeps top ICC awards

AFP | New Delhi

India captain Virat Kohli said yesterday he was "very very happy" after becoming the first-ever player to clinch all three top honours, including cricketer of the year, in the International Cricket Council awards.

Kohli, who recently led India to their maiden Test and one-day series triumph in Australia, was also voted the Test and ODI men's player of the year as the cricket's world governing body announced its annual honours, chosen by former players and veteran journalists.

"It feels amazing. It's a reward for all the hard work that you do throughout the calendar year. I feel really grateful and very, very happy with the team doing well at the same time myself performing," Kohli said in a statement.

"Having recognition at the global level from the ICC is something you feel proud of as a cricketer because you understand that there are many players playing the game."

The 30-year-old Kohli, who is married to Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma, has reached superstar status in cricket-mad India, after first coming into the limelight when he led the South Asian nation to victory in the 2008 Under-19 World Cup.

He was the top Test and ODI batsman in 2018, scoring 1,322 Test runs at an average of 55.08 -- including five centuries -- and 1,202 runs at 133.55 in ODIs, with six centuries.

He also scored 211 runs in 10 Twenty20 matches.



India's captain Virat Kohli (R) gestures as the India team celebrates their series win on the fifth day of the fourth and final cricket Test against Australia

Kohli was picked to skipper the ICC Test and ODI teams of the year for the second year running.

### Ponting's footsteps

Kohli became only the second player after Australian great Ricky Ponting to retain the prestigious Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy -- given to the cricketer of the year.

He was the unanimous choice for the award, with South African fast bowler Kagiso Rabada coming second in both the cricketer of the year category and the Test player of the year.

# 1,322

Test runs were scored by Virat Kohli, at an average of 55.08 -- including five centuries, to become the top Test batsman in 2018

"This is well deserved recognition for an extraordinary talent," ICC chief executive David Richardson said of Kohli.

"His regard for the game and particularly for Test cricket is also recognised and appreciated. He is passionate in his support of the longest form of the game and its continued importance."

Australia opener Aaron Finch won the T20 performance of the year award for the second time for his 172 -- the highest-ever individual T20 score -- against Zimbabwe in Harare last July.

India's Rishabh Pant was named emerging player of the year, while Scotland batsman Callum MacLeod took home the associate cricketer of the year trophy.

The 21-year-old Pant became the first Indian wicketkeeper to score a Test century in England, and equalled the record for the most catches taken in a Test, with 11 in Adelaide in December.

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