

Rocketman is a 2019 biographical musical film based on the life of musician Elton John. | P13

THE DAILY **tribune**



Thorgan Hazard joins Dortmund on five-year deal 16 SPORTS

WORLD 6 Saving the Garden of Eden

Premier opens revamped Muharraq Central Market



HRH Premier inaugurating Muharraq Central Market

TD | Manama

The newly revamped Central Market in the Muharraq Governorate, now four times the size of the old market, was opened yesterday by Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

The three-storey market, which spreads over an area of 28,000 sqm, features 180-car underground parking, 61 multi-purpose commercial outlets, outlets for vegetables, meat and

fish, in addition to the LuLu hypermarket on the entire first floor.

Following the inauguration, HRH the Premier ordered to continue maintaining the temporary buildings there and to allow it at the same rent to those who want to stay there.

The Premier also ordered to re-organise the area to create more parking lots and facilitate traffic movement.

Muharraq, HRH the Premier said, deserves mega develop-

ment projects to consolidate its urban growth in line with government's development and urbanisation strategy.

The strategy follows the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to enhance development across towns and villages in the Kingdom.

"Central markets should support small traders and their livelihoods, as well as open up new horizons for encouraging investments," HRH Premier said. While attending the open-

ing ceremony of the new-look Muharraq Central Market, HRH Premier was briefed by the Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Essam bin Abdulla Khalaf, on the implementation stages of the project, as well as about its economic and commercial importance.

The Prime Minister exchanged talks with a number of the traders about commercial activities. HRH Premier expressed also his admiration



HRH PM with Yousif Ali M.A., the Chairman and Managing Director of LuLu Group

LuLu hypermarket in Muharraq

LuLu Group's 8th hypermarket in the Kingdom was inaugurated yesterday by Deputy Prime Minister, Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa. (Full story on page 3)

for the market's design and architectural style that combine modernity and Muharraq's authenticity.

ahli united bank
 Ramadan Prayer Timings
 Day 18
 Fajr 03:18 AM
 Dhuhur 11:34 AM
 Asr 03:02 PM
 Maghrib 06:21 PM
 Isha 07:51 PM

India claims fastest cruise missile

New Delhi, India

India said the world's fastest cruise missile passed another key test yesterday when it successfully hit a land target after being fired from a fighter jet.

India is developing the supersonic BrahMos missile -- which has a top speed of 3,450 kilometres (2,140 miles) per hour -- with Russia, and according to media reports wants to soon start selling it abroad.

The missile is one-and-a-half times faster than the old Concorde supersonic jet.



03 LuLu opens in Muharraq

04 Motorists showered with gifts

05 Omanis praise compatriot for 'historic' Man Booker



Promote sustainable growth: CP



HRH Crown Prince visiting a Majlis yesterday

TD | Manama

HRH the Crown Prince yesterday stressed the importance of promoting environmental sustainability and environmentally friendly technologies to promote inclusive, sustainable growth.

Pursuing sustainable development, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa said, will ensure the preservation of natural resources and secure the future of generations to come.

The Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister was visiting the Majlis of Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Mannai, the Majlis of Eshaq Abdulrahman, Mohammed Yousif Najibi, and Mustafa Abullatif families,

which was officially opened by HRH the Crown Prince, the Majlis of the Al Jishi and Al Khozaei families, and the Majlis of the sons of the late Abdulkarim Al Ansari.

HRH the Crown Prince said it is important to investing in the skillset of the Kingdom's national workforce as well as providing them with quality jobs to achieve the Kingdom's development goals, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

In this regard, HRH the Crown Prince hailed the remarkable achievements of Bahraini women.

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa accompanied HRH the Crown Prince to the Majlis visits.

'Dismantle' UNRWA: US

US calls for dismantling Palestinian refugee agency

United Nations, United States

The United States called yesterday for dismantling the United Nations Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA, weeks before unveiling the economic aspects of its long-awaited Middle East peace plan.

Addressing the UN Security Council, US adviser Jason Greenblatt said UNRWA was a "bandaid" and that it was time to hand over services assured by the UN agency to countries hosting the Palestinian refugees and NGOs.

"The UNRWA model has failed the Palestinian people," Greenblatt told the council.

Last year, President Donald Trump's administration cut all funding to UNRWA, arguing that it was flawed as Washington

pressed ahead with work on proposals for an Israeli-Palestinian solution.

Greenblatt, who along with Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner is drafting the peace proposals, said it was time to "start a conversation about planning the transition of UNRWA services to host governments, or to other international or local non-governmental organizations, as appropriate."

Founded in 1949, UNRWA provides education and health services to some five million Palestinians in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The United States will hold a conference in Bahrain next month focused on the economic aspects of the peace plan that Greenblatt said has the "potential to unlock a prosperous future for the Palestinians."

BAHRAIN'S PRIDE

Bahraini wins top ME award for underwater picture

TD | Manama

Mohammed Zafran

A Bahraini was among the winners of a prestigious middle eastern photography competition.

Hani Badr, an employee at the fisheries department of the Ministry of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning, won the award.

A stunning image of a fisherman with his catch underwater earned Badr the award.

The World Organisation for



Badr (left) holding the picture that won the competition with the Undersecretary of Agricultural and Marine Wealth of the Ministry of Works, Municipality Affairs, Urban Planning, Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa

Animal Health photo-competition 2019 was organised by the World Organisation for Animal Health.

"I'm extremely pleased in winning this award and happy to have represented Bahrain on a high level," Badr said.

On the winning image, he said, "The shot happened partially underwater."

"The picture shows fish being caught with a net," he said.

"I used special equipment which was quite expensive, but I am happy to have invested."

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister during a visit to the Majlis of late Ali Rashid Al Amin



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister during a visit to the Majlis of Shaikh Adel Al Moawdeh



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister during a visit to the Majlis of Ebrahim Al Shaikh

Tough punishments for supporting terror

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa yesterday ratified and issued Law 8/2019 for the protection of the community against terrorist acts.

Promoting, glorifying, justifying, admiring or encouraging terrorist acts will attract jail terms not exceeding five years and a fine between BD2,000 and BD5,000.

Jail terms will be applicable for everyone who holds

or possesses, personally or through another person, a document or record containing the aforesaid promotion where it is intended to be distributed or shared. The same penalty will also be inflicted on everyone who holds or possesses, personally or through another person, any means of printing, recording or publicizing regardless of the type thereof whether used or intended for use even on a temporary basis for printing, recording or broadcasting such promotion.

HM King restructures LMRA, NOGA

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa restructured the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) yesterday. LMRA board will now include LMRA Executive President, Vice Executive President for Resources and Services (in the rank of assistant undersecretary), Vice President for Operations and Data Systems (in the rank of assistant undersecretary), and a Vice President

for Legal Control (in the rank of assistant undersecretary).

HM the King also restricted the National Oil and Gas Authority (NOGA) under the presidency of Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Oil. Other members are Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Khalid Amro Al Romaihi, Shaikh Tariq bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Dr Fayez Hashem Al Sada and Faisal Mohammed Al Mahroos.

NBR holds VAT workshop

TDT | Manama

The National Bureau for Revenue (NBR) held an interactive VAT workshop for

professionals in the construction sector, during which the NBR recapped general and sector-specific VAT concepts, including invoicing and filing.

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Defence Affairs Minister General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi with Bangladesh Republic's Kuwait-based Military Attaché to Bahrain Brigadier Shah Sagirul Islam. The minister thanked the Bangladeshi military attaché for his efforts in boosting the cooperation between the two countries.



Bahrain Defence Force military graduates at the BDF's Royal Training Centre in presence of Major-General Shaikh Ali bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Assistant Chief-of-Staff for Human Resources. The graduates performed parades including military marches, took the military service oath and chanted the BDF anthem. The Assistant Chief-of-Staff for Human Resources distributed prizes and acknowledgement certificates to high-achievers

big story

LuLu opens in Muharraq

LuLu Group inaugurated its latest hypermarket, which is also its 8th and 171st globally, in Muharraq Central Market, one of the most historic trading hubs in Bahrain



The 171st LuLu Hypermarket in Muharraq, Bahrain was inaugurated by Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy PM of Bahrain, Shaikh Khalifa Bin Daij, President of Crown Prince Court, Zayed Al Zayani, Commerce and Industry Minister, Essam Bin Abdulla Khalaf, Minister of Works, Municipalities and Urban Planning, Salman bin Isa bin Hindi, Governor of Muharraq, Yusuffali MA, Chairman of LuLu Group, Ambassadors of India, UK and a number of other dignitaries.

● The opening followed the official inauguration of the newly revamped Muharraq Central Market by HRH the Prime Minister

TDT | Manama
Supriya Reginald

The 171st Hypermarket of the LuLu Group was inaugurated yesterday in Muharraq Central by Deputy Prime Minister, Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

The opening followed the official inauguration of the newly revamped Muharraq Central Market by HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister of Bahrain.

The new LuLu Hypermarket, globally 171st and 8th in Bahrain, spans around 90,000 sq. feet in area.

Speaking to *Tribune*, Yousif Ali M.A, the Chairman and Managing Director of LuLu Group said, "Our motto is to provide people with good service and good quality."

"We offer products that are sugar-free, gluten-free, and organic. We also have webstores that are currently active.

"We evolve according to the international market standards," Yousif Ali told *Tribune*.

On Bahrainisation, the LuLu Group Chairman said the new branch employs 1,200 Bahrainis including 450 females.

"There are plans to employ another 500 Bahrainis within the next year," revealed Yousif Ali adding: "We will continue to support Bahrainisation plan by employing more Bahrainis."

With eight hypermarkets and one mall, the total investment of the LuLu group in Bahrain has exceeded BD130 million with plans of further expansion elevating the total investment.



During a tour of the facility



There are plans to employ another 500 Bahrainis within the next year. We will continue to support Bahrainisation plan by employing more Bahrainis

YOUSIF ALI M.A

THE CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF LULU GROUP

"Five years ago, I stated that I will invest BD100 million in Bahrain, now our current investment has crossed BD130 million," Yousif Ali told *Tribune*.

Looking ahead, the Chairman of the Abu Dhabi-based LuLu Group further revealed that the group plans to open hypermarkets in the upcoming months.

"We plan to open three more hypermarkets in eight to 10 months," he said.

The outlet, Yousif Ali said, will highlight the local produce of Bahrain as well as support the cottage industry by promoting products made by Bahrainis.

The new LuLu outlet is on the first floor of the Muharraq Central Market which underwent a BD1.45 million

1200
Bahrainis are employed at the new branch, including female staff of 450

130m
Bahraini dinars investment as of now in the Kingdom by LuLu exceeded the previously pledged BD100 million

renovation.

The LuLu brand is expected to revitalise this historic trading hub which will provide a platform for small and medium traders (SMEs) to develop their business.

LuLu is on an expansion drive and is all set to open another 32 Hypermarkets and Shopping Malls in GCC, Far East and India by 2020. Also present on the occasion, Saifee Rupawala, CEO of LuLu Group, Ashraf Ali MA, Executive Director, Juzer Rupawala, LuLu Bahrain Director and other senior LuLu officials.



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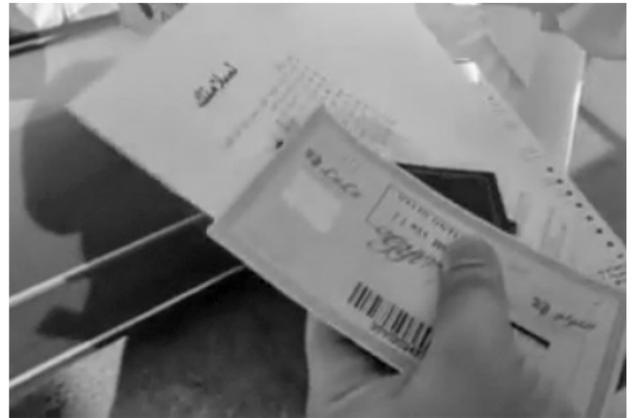


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Motorists showered with gifts



General Directorate of Traffic officials gifting drivers during a "Thank You" initiative launched during Ramadan

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Officers from the General Directorate of Traffic along with Bahraini youths recently intensified their street patrolling, not in search of violations, this time for finding law-abiding residents.

Good drivers, who followed traffic rules properly, were spotted and showered with gifts including vouchers, electronic gadgets and other gifts as a token of appreciation.

The effort was part of a "Thank You" initiative launched by the General Directorate of

Traffic's Ramadan traffic which continues throughout Ramadan. Hamad Atiq and Kalil alMutawa are the Bahraini youngsters who are part of the initiative.

The campaign is being carried out in partnership with Bahrain National Insurance, as well as Sadeem Cards, Credimax, Lulu Hypermarket, Sofitel Bahrain and Qadooa Sweets.

'Until When'

"The campaign titled 'Until When' will educate drivers and road-users on the wrong traffic practices common during Ramadan," said Salah Shihab, the

Director of Traffic Culture.

The initiatives, he said, will help spread the vision of traffic safety among the people of Bahrain.

He also appreciated the sponsors' role in honouring ideal drivers.

More motorists will be awarded gifts this month as the initiative will continue throughout Ramadan.

The government has also devised a special traffic plan for Ramadan, the Director-General of Traffic Brigadier Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulwahab Al Khalifa revealed.



The campaign titled 'Until When' will educate drivers and road-users on the wrong traffic practices common during Ramadan

SALAH SHIHAB

DIRECTOR OF TRAFFIC CULTURE

Patrols intensified

The directorate will intensify patrols on major highways, intersections, as well as near-commercial avenues and shopping complexes.

The police will also monitor traffic on King Fahad Causeway, the terrestrial link between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

"This will be done mainly in the evening to ensure smooth flow of vehicles and full adherence to the rules by all drivers," he added.

The Ministry of Interior has been urging citizens and residents to be careful on roads and

avoid violations.

"The General Directorate considers traffic violations as an uncivilised practice," he said while calling on all to follow traffic rules and regulations during the holy month of Ramadan.

He also warned against a lack of attention while driving.

Care should be taken to drive on the right lane and not to change lanes without a flashing signal.

"The use of mobile phones during driving is strictly prohibited," added Shaikh Abdulrahman.

Court to rehear arguments in serial killer case

● Prosecution following a mental health evaluation confirmed that the man was predetermined

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has ordered a rehearing in the murder trial of a suspected Bahrain serial killer on 12 June 2019. The Court will also reconsider the testimonies of the fifth and the sixth witnesses.

The 25-year-old serial killer, according to the police report, attacked four men, all Asians, while killing two of them.

Prosecution following a mental health evaluation confirmed that the man was well aware of

The 25-year-old man, according to police report, attacked four men, all Asians, while killing two of them

his actions and predetermined.

The suspect allegedly nursed a grudge against expatriates after he was sacked from a job which earned him a monthly salary of BD300 while expatriates continued to enjoy their jobs.

"In my latest job, I was drawing a salary of BD300 monthly, but I was fired three months after joining," he said in his statement to prosecutors.

"While I remained jobless, they were enjoying their jobs and I hated them for that.

"I decided to kill as many of

them as I could," the suspect confessed.

The man went on a killing spree after mugging an Asian national in Karbabad.

He said he rammed his car on to an Asian man in Manama - pinning him between two vehicles.

The suspect then decided to kill two more to prevent them from identifying him to the police.

Body of the first victim, Sajjat Ali, an Indian national, was found on March 29 in Tubli.

Explaining the modus operandi, he told police that he sneaked up on Ali from behind and repeatedly smashed his head with a hammer.

His second victim, Mohammed Khan, also an Indian National, was murdered on April 13. The method used was the

same.

"On April 13, I saw an Asian man riding his cycle. I decided immediately to kill him. I brought the hammer from my car and drove in front of him.

"I waited for him to pass by me and I pounced on him with the hammer.

"I listened to his rattle, so I knew he was dying.

"I moved his body to take out his wallet, but it was empty so I left," he said.

Shortly after finding the second victim's body, police launched a nationwide manhunt, which resulted in the arrest of the suspect.

Public Prosecution accused him of murder and robbery.

It's worth noting that the defendant reportedly killed all his victims at night.

Car theft: Police arrest suspect after chase

TDT | Manama

Police yesterday arrested a man, 38, in cooperation with the Najad "Rescue" Police for stealing a car.

The man also injured three police officer when security personnel tried to stop him, said the Director-General of Northern Governorate.

The suspect later crashed the vehicle into other parked vehicles.

Incidents leading to the arrest occurred, when police received a tip-off regarding a car theft in progress.

Police officers located the car soon and tried to stop him. However, the man didn't stop and tried to drive away.

Losing control, in the pro-

Three police officers were injured in the incident which also resulted in damaging three patrol cars and three civilian vehicles.

cess, the suspect then crashed the vehicle into several cars parked on the wayside.

Three police officers were injured in the incident which also resulted in damaging three patrol cars and three civilian vehicles.

Legal proceedings are being taken to refer the case to the Public Prosecutor.

Court postpones trial of nine terrorists

● Only one of the 9 defendants is in police custody

TDT | Manama

The Fourth High Criminal Court adjourned the trial of nine men accused of receiving military and explosives' manufacturing training at Hezbollah camps in Iraq back in 2017. The Court will hear the case on June 11.

Only one of the 9 defendants is in police custody. Rest of them are tried in absentia, as they all escaped to a foreign country. Court files show the suspects travelled to Iraq to receive military training on

different firearms and explosives for carrying out terrorist attacks in Bahrain.

Four of the suspects coordinated the training programme. The training focused on handling RPG launchers, using and manufacturing explosive devices, the use of firearms such as AK-47 rifles, PK machine guns and sniper rifles.

Suspect, in custody, travelled to Bahrain from Iraq and to Holland. Police arrested him on his way back to Bahrain.

In 2017, the Public Prosecution accused the defendants of joining a terrorist group, practising terrorist activities and recruiting men to join their group, serving terrorist purposes, in addition to receiving military training abroad and facilitating it for others.

Exam paper leaking: Court adjourns trial



TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court adjourned the trial of a public school teacher accused of leaking school final year question papers to June 11.

The intermediate school teacher allegedly took snapshots of seventh-grade final exam questions from a public school where she worked and passed it on to her students and parents using WhatsApp.

Learning about the leak, Education ministry reported the incident to the Public Prosecution to take further actions, said Southern Governorate Chief Prosecutor, Noor Shehab.

Following an investigation, Public Prosecution referred the case to a Criminal Court.

The prosecution interrogated the suspect, heard witnesses' testimonies and verified the evidence.

The woman confessed to her crime when confronted with the evidence.

Public Prosecution accused her of divulging secrets as per Article 371 of the Kingdom's Penal Code.

Article 371 of the Penal Code stipulates: "A punishment of imprisonment for a period

The intermediate school teacher allegedly took snapshots of seventh-grade final exam questions from a public school where she worked and passed it on to her students and parents using WhatsApp.

not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding BD100 shall be inflicted on a person who divulges a secret entrusted thereto in his official capacity trade, profession or art in conditions other than those prescribed by the law or uses it for his personal benefit or for the benefit of another person, unless the person concerned with the secret allows the divulgence or use thereof."

The article also stipulates that punishment is severer in the case of public servants.

WORLD
world**Turkey ready for US sanctions over missile deal: minister**

Ankara, Turkey

Turkey insisted it would go ahead with its controversial decision to buy the S-400 missile defence system from Russia, saying it was preparing for any possible sanctions from the US.

Turkey's push to buy the S-400 system has strained relations with the United States, a NATO ally, which worries about integrating Russian technology with Turkey's Western equipment.

Defence Minister Hulusi Akar told reporters late Tuesday that Ankara was "preparing" for US penalties under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), which prohibits business with Russia's state and private defence and intelligence sectors.

He added that Turkey was "fed up" with being just being a buyer of military equipment, and wanted to be involved in joint production and technology transfers.

"The idea that we always buy, you always produce, is finished," he told reporters in Ankara.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday said Turkey and Russia would jointly produce S-500 defence systems after the purchase of the S-400



Defence Minister Hulusi Akar

system.

Turkey has already sent personnel to Russia for training, Akar said, and the system could be delivered as early as June or July.

Last month, he said the S-400 would likely be used to protect the capital Ankara and Istanbul.

In a bid to force Turkey to cancel its S-400 deal, the US offered a renewed proposal in March for Patriots, its own anti-missile and anti-aircraft weapon system.

The US has said buying the S-400 could jeopardise the Turkey's involvement in the F-35 fighter jet programme, for which it provides some parts.

Akar said Turkey was still considering the offer but that there had been "general easing" in negotiations with the US on the F-35s and Patriots.

**Trump names woman as head of US Air Force**

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump announced Tuesday he had nominated a former ambassador and Arizona businesswoman to lead the Air Force.

Barbara Barrett, 68, served as the US ambassador to Finland from 2008 to 2009 under the George W. Bush administration. She also chaired an aeronautics research and development center, The Aerospace Corporation, until 2017.

"She will be an outstanding Secretary!" Trump tweeted.

A former lawyer and test pilot, Barrett is also a board member at the Rand Corporation, a think tank that provides research and analysis to the US armed forces.

She and her husband Craig, the former CEO of American technology giant Intel, are major Republican donors. Barrett ran for governor of Arizona on the GOP ticket in 1994, the first woman to do so, but she failed to secure her party's nomination.

If she is confirmed, Barrett will succeed another woman,



Barbara Barrett

Heather Wilson, in the position of secretary of the air force.

Wilson's name had come up as a potential replacement for Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who resigned in December because of differences over Trump's policies on Syria and other issues.

Wilson stepped down in March, the highest level Pentagon departure since that of Mattis, once it became apparent that interim Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan would stay in that post.

Omanis praise compatriot for 'historic' Man Booker

AFP | Muscat, Oman

Omanis yesterday hailed writer Jokha Alharthi's "historical achievement" and praised her for bringing "honour" to their Gulf nation after she became the first Arab author to win the Man Booker International prize.

"It is a huge historic achievement for the author, for Oman and for Arabic culture in general," said Saif al-Rahbi, an Omani poet, essayist and writer.

"It shows that Omani literature is moving along," he said.

Alharthi, 40, received the prestigious prize during a ceremony Tuesday in London for her novel "Celestial Bodies" which depicts life in her Gulf nation.

The 50,000-pound (57,000 euro, \$64,000) Man Booker International prize celebrates translated fiction from around the world and is divided equally between the author and the translator.

The judges said Celestial Bodies was "a richly imagined, engaging and poetic insight into a society in transition and into lives previously obscured".

It tells the story of three sisters who witness the slow pace of development in Omani society during the 20th century.

"I am thrilled that a window has been opened to the rich Arabic culture," Alharthi said after the ceremony at the Roundhouse in London.

"Oman inspired me but I think international readers can relate to the human values in the book -- freedom and love," she said.

The jury praised an "elegantly structured and taut" novel which "tells of Oman's coming-of-age through the prism of one family's losses and loves".

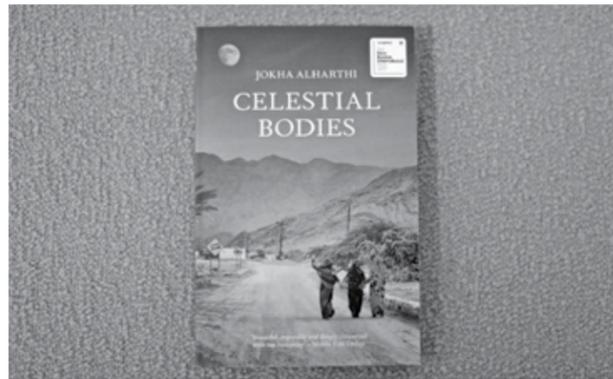
The director general of Oman's culture ministry, Said bin Sultan al-Bussaidi, agreed.

The novel, he said, shows that Alharthi's work "reflects maturity and has reached an international level".

"It is an honour for each and every Omani man and woman... (and the prize) will help spread Omani literature across



Omani author Jokha Alharthi (L) and translator Marilyn Booth pose after winning the Man Booker International Prize for the book 'Celestial Bodies' in London



A copy of 'Celestial Bodies' by Omani author Jokha Alharthi, translated by Marilyn Booth, which has won the Booker International Prize in London

the world," he added. Arabic. She studied classical Arabic poetry at Edinburgh University and teaches at Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat.

In an interview with the BBC at the weekend, Alharthi said she had wanted for a "very long time to write a book about life in Oman (but) couldn't when she was actually in Oman".

"But when I went to Edinburgh, the first year was difficult for me, homesickness, cold, so I felt that I need to go back to warmth and feel something from home," she said.

"Actually writing saved me."

'Surge in translation'

Her prize-winning novel -- which the Guardian newspaper said offers "glimpses into a culture relatively little known in the west" -- came out in 2010.

Alharthi said on Tuesday that the novel touches on the history of the slave trade in Oman, an absolute monarchy where Sultan Qaboos, who has ruled since 1970, has been pushing for reform.

For one expert of Arabic and Middle Eastern literature, it could be a game changer for novels emerging from the region.

"It has the potential to orient publishing away from the Arabic novel as answering the question 'what can we learn about them?' and towards the Arabic novel as a work of art," said Marcia Lynx Qualey, editor of ArabLit Quarterly.

"The surge in translation of Arabic-language novels is already in progress, but I think this re-orient publishers somewhat," she said.

Qualey said there "is definitely a growing interest in works by Gulf authors".

"In Kuwait, Oman, Saudi, and elsewhere there are authors writing on issues of class, domestic violence, slavery, racism, patriarchy, power, and other issues that are of global interest," she added.

Celestial Bodies was translated by US academic Marilyn Booth, who teaches Arabic literature at Oxford University.

Jury chair Bettany Hughes said the novel showed "delicate artistry and disturbing aspects of our shared history".

Dutch bust major cryptocurrency launderer

The Hague, Netherlands

Dutch investigators said yesterday they have busted one of the biggest online money laundering services for cryptocurrencies worth hundreds of millions of euros a year.

Tax and federal prosecution officers have confiscated six servers in the Netherlands and Luxembourg, taking the Bestmixer.io virtual currency mixing service offline, the Dutch tax office's criminal branch (FIOD) said.

Bestmixer.io is one of the

three largest online mixing services dealing in bitcoins, bitcoin cash and Litecoins, the FIOD said. It was started a year ago and has so far generated sales of at least 200 million dollars (25,000 Bitcoin).

So-called "crypto-mixing services" are used by criminals on the Darknet to mask the origin of virtual currency," the FIOD said in a statement.

Services like Bestmixer.io are paid to "launder" online currency such as Bitcoins for a commission, erasing traces of the money's origin, it said.

Tax and federal prosecution officers have confiscated six servers in the Netherlands and Luxembourg, taking the Bestmixer.io virtual currency mixing service offline

"People use the mixing service apparently to increase their anonymity. Our investigations show that much of the currency has a criminal origin or destination," said FIOD.

"This mixer is suspected of being used in these cases to mask criminal money streams and to launder money," it added.

In total, Darknet markets generate some 800 million dollars yearly.

Bestmixer.io's clients are from all the world "with the emphasis on the United States, Germany and the Netherlands," said FIOD.

The probe was launched following a report by the US-based cyber security firm McAfee.

So far, no arrests have been made, FIOD spokesman Adriaan Ros said.

Saving the Garden of Eden

Iraqis turn to budding ecotourism to save marshes



Geese swimming in the marshes of the southern Iraqi district of Chibayish in Dhi Qar province, about 120 kilometres northwest of the southern city of Basra.

Chibayish, Iraq

Thirty years after Saddam Hussein starved them of water, Iraq's southern marshes are blossoming once more thanks to a wave of ecotourists picnicking and paddling down their replenished river bends.

A one-room home made of elaborately woven palm reeds floats on the river surface. Near it, a soft plume of smoke curls up from a firepit where carp is being grilled, Iraqi-style.

A few canoes drift by, carrying couples and groups of friends singing to the beat of drums.

"I didn't think I would find somewhere so beautiful, and such a body of water in Iraq," said Habib al-Jurani.

He left Iraq in 1990 for the United States, and was back in his ancestral homeland for a family visit.

"Most people don't know what Iraq is really like -- they think it's the world's most dangerous place, with nothing but killings and terrorism," he said.

Looking around the lush marshes, declared in 2016 to be Iraq's fifth UNESCO

Iraqi tourists prepare to grill fish by the marshes of the southern district of Chibayish in Dhi Qar province, about 120 kilometres northwest of the southern city of Basra.

“Most people don't know what Iraq is really like -- they think it's the world's most dangerous place, with nothing but killings and terrorism”

HABIB AL-JURANI.

World Heritage site, Jurani added: "There are some mesmerising places."

Straddling Iraq's famous Tigris and Eu-

phrates rivers, the Mesopotamian marshes are a rare aquatic ecosystem in a country nearly half of which is covered in cracked desert.

Legend has it, they were home to the biblical Garden of Eden.

But they were also a haven for political opposition to dictator Saddam Hussein, who cut off water to the site in retaliation for the south's uprising against him in 1991.

Around 90 percent of the once-expansive marshes were drained, and the area's 250,000 residents dwindled down to just 30,000.

In the ensuing years, severe droughts and decreased water flows from the twin rivers' source countries -- Turkey and Iran -- shrunk the marshes' surface from some 15,000 square kilometres (5,792 square miles) to less than half that.

Turtles and tourists

It all culminated with a particularly dry winter last year that left the "ahwar", as they are known in Arabic, painfully parched.

But heavier rains this year have filled more than 80 percent of the marshes'

surface area, according to the United Nations, compared to just 27 percent last year.

That has resurrected the ancient lifestyle that dominated this area for more than 5,000 years.

"The water returned, and with it normal life," said 35-year-old Mehdi al-Mayali, who raises water buffalo and sells their milk, used to make rich cream served at Iraqi breakfasts.

Wildlife including the vulnerable smooth-coated otter, Euphrates softshell turtles, and Basra reed warbler have returned to the marshlands -- along with the pickiest of all species: tourists.

"Ecotourism has revived the 'ahwar'. There are Iraqis from different provinces and some foreigners," Mayali said.

A day in the marshes typically involves hiring a resident to paddle a large reed raft down the river for around \$25 -- not a cheap fare for Iraq.

Then, lunch in a "mudhif" or guesthouse, also run by locals.

"Ecotourism is an important

source of revenue for those native to the marshes," said Jassim al-Assadi, who heads Nature Iraq.

The environmental activist group has long advocated for the marshes to be better protected and for authorities to develop a long-term ecotourism plan for the area.

"It's a much more sustainable activity than the hydrocarbon and petroleum industry," said Assadi, referring to the dominant industry that provides Iraq with about 90 percent of state revenues.

Long way to row

The numbers have steadily gone up in recent years, according to Assaad al-Qarhouli, tourism chief in Iraq's southern province of Dhi Qar.

"We had 10,000 tourists in 2016, then 12,000 in 2017 and 18,000 in 2018," he told AFP.

But there is virtually no infrastructure to accommodate them.

"There are no tourist centres or hotels, because the state budget was sucked

up by war the last few years," Qarhouli told

AFP.

Indeed, the Islamic State group overran swathes of Iraq in 2014, prompting the government to direct its full attention -- and the bulk of its resources -- to fighting it back.

Iraq's government declared victory in late 2017 and has slowly begun reallocating resources to infrastructure projects.

Qarhouli said the marshes should be a priority, and called on the government to build "a hotel complex and touristic eco-village inside the marshes."

Peak season for tourists is between September and April, avoiding the summer months of Iraq when temperatures can reach a stifling 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit).

But without a long-term government plan, residents worry that water levels will be hostage to fluctuating yearly rainfalls and shortages caused by Iranian and Turkish dams.

These dynamics have already damaged the marshes' fragile ecosystem, with high levels of salination last year killing fish and forcing other wildlife to migrate.

Jurani, the returning expatriate, has an idea of the solution.

"Adventurers and nature-lovers," he said, hopefully.



Six dead after election riots in Indonesia

Jakarta, Indonesia

At least six people were killed as Indonesia's capital erupted in violence on Wednesday when police clashed with protesters opposed to the re-election of President Joko Widodo.

Dozens were arrested and parts of Jakarta were littered with debris and burned-out cars, as the violence triggered security advisories from the US and Australian embassies.

Authorities also restricted access to some social media in a bid to stop rumours and fake news from spreading online.

National police chief Tito Karnavian said six people had died, but denied authorities had fired live rounds on the crowd, and called for calm.

"Some had gunshot wounds, some had blunt force wounds but we still need to clarify this," he told reporters.

The violence came after Indonesia's election commission on Tuesday confirmed Widodo had beaten retired military general Prabowo Subianto for the presidency in a poll held on April 17.

Subianto has said he would challenge the results in court -- as he did, unsuccessfully, against Widodo in 2014 -- but also warned his claims of widespread cheating could spark street protests.

That was borne out early Wednesday as protesters set market stalls and cars on fire while hurling fireworks and rocks at security personnel clad in riot gear and holding shields, an AFP reporter on the scene said.



Protesters hurl rocks toward police during a clash in Jakarta



Indonesian anti-riot police take a position to disperse the mob



Carcasses that were burned by the mob are seen during an overnight demonstration near by the Elections Oversight Body (Bawaslu) in Jakarta



Protesters sit as policemen keep watch during a demonstration outside the Elections Oversight Body

The early morning clashes started after several thousand Subianto supporters rallied peacefully near the election supervisory agency's office in the heart of the capital on Tuesday.

'Exercise caution'

Later, roads were blocked off

in parts of the sprawling metropolis -- with some shopping malls, businesses and schools also closed as small groups of protesters engaged in skirmishes with police.

"I open myself to anyone to work together to build and develop this nation, but I won't

tolerate anyone who tries to disrupt public security, the democratic process or the unity of our... country," Widodo said at a press briefing, flanked by his chief security ministry and the head of the military

Subianto repeated calls for supporters to avoid violence.

"We support people's constitutional rights (to protest) as long as they are civilised, peaceful and non-violent," he told reporters.

By Wednesday afternoon, a crowd of several thousand demonstrators flowed into the city's business and commercial heart

for a rally.

"Avoid areas where demonstrations are occurring & exercise caution in the vicinity of any large gathering," the US embassy said on Twitter.

More than 30,000 troops had been deployed in anticipation of unrest, and the elections commission office was barricaded with razor wire and protected by scores of security personnel.

In Medan city on Sumatra island, hundreds took part in a peaceful rally over election cheating claims Wednesday.

But the violence in Jakarta was a planned act by paid "provocateurs", authorities claimed, citing envelopes with money found on some of nearly 70 demonstrators who had been arrested.

'Massive fraud'

Election officials and analysts have discounted Subianto's claims, but many supporters appeared convinced of rampant cheating in the world's third-biggest democracy.

"I need to support Indonesia's sovereignty -- there has been massive fraud in this election," said Puji Astuti, a 42-year-old Subianto supporter at a rally in central Jakarta Wednesday.

The protests in support of Subianto have sparked a backlash online from opponents with the hashtag #TangkapPrabowo (#ArrestPrabowo) trending widely on social media.

Tensions have also spiked since police said last week that they had arrested dozens of Islamic State-linked terror suspects who had planned to cause chaos by bombing protests.

Duterte ships garbage back to Canada

Manila, Philippines

President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered tonnes of garbage dumped in the Philippines years ago to be shipped back to Canada, his spokesman said yesterday, escalating a festering diplomatic row.

Duterte's spokesman warned also that if Ottawa would not formally accept the shipment of trash it would be dumped inside Canada's territorial waters.

The rubbish is stored in dozens of containers which a Canadian firm sent to the Philippines in 2013 and 2014 -- ostensibly for recycling -- and the issue of what to do with it has rankled for years.

Last week Manila recalled its ambassador from Ottawa because Canada missed a May 15 deadline to repatriate the garbage.

"As a result of this offending delay, the president has instructed the appropriate office



The rubbish is stored in dozens of containers which a Canadian firm sent to the Philippines in 2013 and 2014

to look for a private shipping company which will bring back Canada's trash to the latter's jurisdiction," Duterte spokesman Salvador Panalo told reporters.

"If Canada will not accept the trash, we will leave the same within the territorial waters or 12 nautical miles out to sea from the baseline of any of their country's shores."

Panalo said the order would

be carried out "immediately". The Canadian embassy in Manila referred requests for comment to officials in Ottawa, who were not immediately available.

Canada has agreed to take back the dozens of shipping containers, but has not given a timeline.

Diplomatic ties were already tested after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, soon

after taking office, questioned Duterte's deadly drug crackdown.

Duterte fiercely pushes back against any international criticism of his signature policy, which has seen police kill over 5,300 alleged addicts and pushers since 2016.

Last year the president cancelled the Philippine military's \$235 million contract to buy 16 military helicopters from a Canada-based manufacturer after Ottawa put the deal under review because of Duterte's human rights record.

During a speech in April, Duterte threatened to unilaterally ship the garbage back to Canada, saying: "Let's fight Canada. I will declare war against them."

The president is notorious for foul-mouthed speeches that frequently include threats and hyperbole aimed at critics or perceived enemies.

US states which took Obamacare saw more cancer screening

Washington, United States

US states which expanded Medicaid insurance coverage to low-income adults as part of Barack Obama's signature healthcare law saw a marked increase in colorectal cancer screening, a new study said yesterday.

Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer diagnosed excluding skin cancers, according to the American Cancer Society, and its rates have been growing among younger people in recent years for reasons that are unclear.

The paper,

which appeared in the American Journal of Preventative Medicine, estimated that if so-called non-expansion states had experienced the same increase in screening that was recorded in early adopter states, an additional 355,184 people would have been covered.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as "Obamacare," was enacted in 2010 and provided federal support for states to expand Medicaid insurance coverage to low-income adults. Five states and the District of Columbia were very early adopters and expanded Medicaid eligibility in 2010-2011.

Endangered bird returned to South Korea 40 years after extinction

Seoul, South Korea

An endangered bird was reintroduced to the wild by South Korean authorities yesterday, four decades after it went extinct on the peninsula.

The crested ibis is listed as South Korea's National Monument number 198, but was last seen in the wild in 1979 in the Demilitarized Zone dividing the peninsula.

China and Japan are also part of the species' natural range, but

the species was driven to the edge of extinction -- partially because pesticide use eliminated its food sources -- until captive breeding programmes were set up.

Starting with birds donated by Beijing, the South Korean

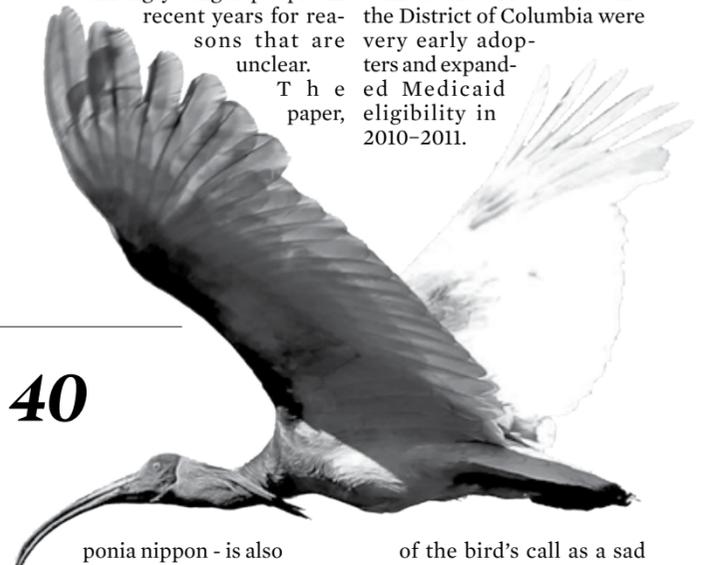
captive-bred population has reached 363, and the environment ministry said 40 of them had been selected and released into the Upo wetland 350 kilometres (218 miles) southeast of Seoul.

The species - Latin name Nip-

ponia nippon - is also known as the Japanese crested ibis, but is best known in the South for a popular children's song composed in the 1920s, when Korea was under Japanese colonial rule.

The song describes the sound

of the bird's call as a sad reminder of a lost mother, and was banned by the Japanese authorities -- who reportedly saw it as a form of anti-colonial resistance -- but became popular again after Korea regained its independence in 1945.



Steve Bannon Is a Fan of Donald Trump



Matteo Salvini, Italy's interior minister, waving to supporters in Rome last year



ROGER COHEN

He's crisscrossing Europe because he believes it's a bellwether for the United States. The scary thing is he could be right

Italy is a political laboratory. During the Cold War, the question was whether the United States could keep the Communists from power. Then Italy produced Silvio Berlusconi and scandal-ridden showman politics long before the United States elected Donald Trump. Now, on the eve of European Parliament elections likely to result in a rightist lurch, it has an anti-immigrant, populist government whose strongman, Matteo Salvini, known to his followers as “the Captain,” is the Continent’s most seductive exponent of the new illiberalism.

Steve Bannon, Trump’s former chief strategist, has been close to Salvini for a while. That’s no surprise. Bannon is the foremost theorist and propagator of the global nationalist, anti-establishment

backlash. He’s Trotsky to the Populist International. He sensed the disease eating at Western democracies — a globalised elite’s abandonment of the working class and the hinterland — before anyone. He spurred a revolt to make the invisible citizen visible and to save Western manufacturing jobs from what he calls the Chinese “totalitarian economic hegemon.”

Now Bannon is crisscrossing Europe ahead of the elections, held Thursday through next Sunday. He’s in Berlin one day, Paris the next. As he explained during several recent conversations and a meeting in New York, he believes that “Europe is six months to a year ahead of the United States on everything.” As with Brexit’s foreshadowing of Trump’s election, a victory for the right in Europe “will energize our base for 2020.” The notion of Wisconsin galvanized by Brussels may seem far-fetched, but then so did a President Trump.

Polls indicate that Salvini’s League party, transformed from a northern secessionist movement into the national face of the xenophobic right, will get over 30 percent of the Italian vote, up from 6.2 percent in 2014. Anti-immigrant and Euroskeptic parties look set to make the greatest gains, taking as many as 35 percent of the seats in Parliament, which influences European Union policy for more than a half-billion people. In France, Marine Le Pen’s nationalists are running neck-and-neck with President Emmanuel Macron’s pro-Europe party. In Britain, Nigel Farage’s new Brexit Party has leapt ahead of the centre-right and centre-left.

Salvini, whose party formed a government a year ago with the out-with-the-old-order Five Star Movement, is a central figure in this shift. The coalition buried mainstream parties. He is, Bannon told me, “the most important guy on the stage right now — he’s charismatic, plain-spoken, and

he understands the machinery of government. His rallies are as intense as Trump’s. Italy is the centre of politics — a country that has embraced nationalism against globalism, shattered the stereotypes, blown past the old paradigm of left and right.”

For all the upheaval, I found Italy intact, still tempering transactional modernity with humanity, still finding in beauty consolation for dysfunction. The new right has learned from the past. It does not disappear people. It does not do mass militarization. It’s subtler. It scapegoats migrants, instills fear, glorifies an illusory past (what the Polish sociologist Zygmunt Bauman called “retrotopia”), exalts machismo, mocks do-gooder liberalism and turns the angry drumbeat of social media into its hypnotic minute-by-minute mass rally.

Salvini, the suave saviour, is everywhere other than in his interior minister’s office at

Rome’s Viminale Palace. He’s out at rallies or at the local cafe in his trademark blue “Italia” sweatshirt. He’s at village fairs and conventions. He’s posting on Facebook up to 30 times a day to his 3.7 million followers, more than any other European politician. (Macron has 2.6 million followers.) He’s burnishing the profile of the tough young pol (he’s 46) who keeps migrants out, loosens gun laws, brandishes a sniper rifle and winks at Fascism — all leavened with Mr.-Nice-Guy images of him sipping espresso or a Barolo.

His domination of the headlines is relentless. When, during my visit, a woman was gang raped near Viterbo, his call for “chemical castration” of the perpetrators led the news cycle for 24 hours. Like Trump, he’s a master of saying the unsayable to drown out the rest.

“I find Salvini repugnant, but he seems to have an incredible grip on society,” Nathalie Tocci, the director of Italy’s Institute of International Relations, told me. No wonder then that the European far-right has chosen Milan for its big pre-election rally, bringing together Salvini, Le Pen, Jörg Meuthen of the Alternative for Germany party and many other rightist figures.

“The European elections will be decisive for the future of our continent,” Macron warned in a manifesto called “For European Renewal.” That’s probably an exaggeration, but none has ever felt this important, precisely because European integration, the foundation of postwar peace, and liberal democracy itself seem vulnerable. “Nationalist retrenchment offers nothing,” Macron declared. The Brexit fiasco is Exhibit A in that argument. Still, Macron’s proposal for the creation of a “European Agency for the Protection of Democracies” speaks volumes about where we are.

A nationalist tide is still rising. “We need to mobilize,” Bannon told me. “This is not an era of persuasion, it’s an era of mobilization. People now move in tribes. Persuasion is highly overrated.”

Bannon gives the impression of a man trying vainly to keep up with the intergalactic speed of his thoughts. Ideas cascade. He offered me a snap dissection of American politics: blue-collar families were suckers: their sons and daughters went off to die in unwon wars; their equity evaporated with the 2008 meltdown, destroyed by “financial weapons of mass destruction”; their jobs migrated to China. All that was needed was somebody to adopt a new vernacular, say



Former White House Chief Strategist US Steve Bannon delivers a speech during an anti-immigration meeting organised by the Flemish far-right party Vlaams Belang at the Flemish Parliament in Brussels

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Sri Lankan politician Lalith Athulathmudali is assassinated while addressing a gathering, approximately four weeks ahead of the Provincial Council elections for the Western Province.

2005

The first ever YouTube video, titled "Me at the zoo", was published by user "jawed".

2013

At least 28 people are killed and more than 70 are injured as violence breaks out in Hawija, Iraq.

2018

A vehicle-ramming attack kills 10 people and injures 16 in Toronto. A 25-year-old suspect, Alek Minassia

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w up in Milan in a family, dropped out y, joined the League days in the 1990s and by years working at nia where he would Italians' gripes

gripes. "What he heard was complaints about immigrants, Europe, the rich," Emanuele Fiano, a centre-left parliamentarian, told me. "He's run with that and is now borderline dangerous."

The danger is not exit from the European Union — the government has come to its senses over that — or some Fascist reincarnation. It's what Fabrizio Barca, a former minister for territorial cohesion, called the "Orbanization of the country," in a reference to Viktor Orban, the right-wing Hungarian leader. In other words, insidious domination through the evisceration of independent checks and balances, leading Salvini to the kind of stranglehold on power enjoyed by Orban (with a pat on the back from Trump) or by Vladimir Putin. "The European Union has been ineffective against Orban," Barca noted. Worse, it has been feckless.

Another threat, as in Trump's United States, is of moral collapse. "I am not a Fascist but. ..." is a phrase increasingly heard in Italy, with some positive judgment on Mussolini to round off the sentence. Salvini, in the judgment of Claudio Gatti, whose book "The Demons of Salvini" was just published in Italian, is "post-Fascist" — he refines many of its methods for a 21st-century audience.

Barca told me the abandonment of rural areas — the closing of small hospitals, marginal train lines, high schools — lay behind Salvini's rise. Almost 65 percent of Italian land and perhaps 25 percent of its population have been affected by these cuts. "Rural areas and the peripheries, the places where people feel like nobody, are home to the League and Five Star," he said. To the people there, Salvini declares: I will defend you. He does not offer a dream. He offers protection — mainly against the concocted threat of migrants, whose numbers were in fact plummeting before he took office because of an agreement reached with Libya.

The great task before the parties of the centre-left and centre-right that will most likely be battered in this election is to reconnect. They must restore a sense of recognition to the forgotten of globalization. Pedro Sánchez, the socialist Spanish prime minister, just won an important electoral victory after pushing through a 22 percent rise in the minimum wage, the largest in Spain in 40 years. There's a lesson there. The nationalist backlash is powerful, but pro-European liberal sentiment is still stronger. If European elections feel more important, it's also because European identity is growing.

As for the curiously prescient Italian political laboratory, Bannon is investing in it. He's established an "Academy for the Judeo-Christian West" in a 13th-century monastery outside Rome. Its courses, he told me, will include "history, aesthetics and just plain instruction in how to get stuff done, including facing up to pressure, mock TV interviews with someone from CNN or The Guardian ripping your face off."

Bannon described himself as an admirer of George Soros — "his methods, not his ideology" — and the way Soros had built up "cadres" throughout Europe. The monastery is the nationalist response to Soros's liberalism. There's a war of ideas going on in Italy and the United States. To shun the fight is to lose it. I am firmly in the liberal camp, but to win it helps to know and strive to understand one's adversary.

(Roger Cohen is a journalist, author and a columnist for The Times)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Everything the Democrats are asking me for is based on an illegally started investigation that failed for them, especially when the Mueller Report came back with a NO COLLUSION finding. Now they say Impeach President Trump, even though he did nothing wrong, while they "fish!"

@realDonaldTrump

02



Every creature has a function, none is superfluous. The whole universe speaks the language of God's love, of His boundless affection for us: soil, water, mountains, everything is God's caress. #Biodiversity #LaudatoSi'

@Pontifex

03



As a member of the opposition, I feel that we lack clarity on what we are fighting against. If we are alleging EVM fraud, then all of us should boycott elections till EVMs are abolished. If we're agitated about movement of EVMs near strongrooms, then we should demand repoll.

@Shehla_Rashid

04



Five more years of Narendra Modi will bring India back into the light of its great dharmic heritage and ability to guide the world to a higher consciousness. Those who oppose Modi usually have little respect for India's culture or history before Nehru.

@davidfrawleyed

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

Ramadan, a month of patience



Indonesian Muslims pray on the eve of the holy month of Ramadan at the Baiturrahman Mosque in Banda Aceh, in Aceh province

T.P.ABDURAHMAN (PAYYOLI)

The days of fasting in Ramadan are moving with a great pace; drew near to the last ten.

At this time, it would be better for the believers to know how to derive all the merits out of fasting. The most important merits of fasting are to achieve piety or self-restraint and patience by means of self-controlling or by willpower.

Quran says: "O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that ye may (learn) Self-restraint" (2:183).

Fasting, according to Islam, is abstaining from all lawful and unlawful things with intention (Niyath) from dawn to dusk for a period of one full lunar month. Abstaining from lawful and unlawful things is possible for a believer by means of submitting their wills to the Will of Allah. This in fact strengthens our endurance.

This endurance or patience is what a believer rehearses during the month of fasting. Here it is worthwhile to mention the words of the Prophet (S) about Ramadan Fasting: "Ramadan is the month of Patience or Sabr".

There are many verses in the Quran mentioning about the reward promised to those believers who endure with patience towards the cause of their Lord of the Worlds, Allah.

Some of those verses are shown here:

"Those who patiently persevere will truly receive a reward without measure!" (39:10) "Peace unto you for that ye preserved in patience! Now how excellent is the final Home! (13:24) O ye who believe! Persevere in patience and constancy; vie in such perseverance; strengthen each other; and fear God; that ye may prosper". (3:199)

But the worth of patience should be applied at the beginning of disaster and not at the end. This is what we can understand from the words of the Prophet of Allah (S): He said: "Verily the patience is at the first stroke of a calamity". (Bukhari and Muslim).

Lack of patience is the root cause of all problems of human being. But fasting person with true faith cannot, but endure with patience at all times especially when he comes across hateful and provoking situations. If his reactions in such a hateful situation are tit for tat towards the infuriating or aggravating person, his fasting would be invalidated.

He should control his tongue and other organs not to fly out of his control. If he fails to control his sense of organs, his fasting will fetch no reward from Allah. It is opportune to mention the words of the Prophet (S): "If any one does not abandon falsehood in words and deeds, Allah has no need for his abandoning his food and drink." (Bukhari)

A believer, who is fully aware of all invalidating factors of fasting, cannot, but apply the principle of "toleration" for the sake of Allah's reward in the Hereafter. He would say "I am fasting" His Lord, Allah knows that his endurance with patience in such a circumstance is a great thing and for which Allah offered him Paradise. Allah says: And will reward them for what they patiently endured (with) a garden (in Paradise) silk (garments)." 76:12).

In a nutshell, it is needless to point out that Muslims, during this month, should devote their time in reading and grasping the meaning of the Quran. Once they dip into the contents of the Quran, they can understand that it teaches patience, tolerance, purity, sanctity and piety and desert all that damages the souls of men; a true characteristic of right and wrong. But one cannot possess these qualities without proper divine training. This training is what a believer gets during the month of Ramadan fasting. Whoever is victorious from this training could be seen with a life of reversal after Ramadan which would blossom in the Paradise.

business

UAE offers golden visas to investors, 'exceptional talents'

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates said Tuesday it has launched a permanent residency scheme to attract wealthy individuals and highly skilled workers to the oil-rich Gulf country.

The "Golden Card" programme is open to investors and "exceptional talents" such as doctors, engineers, scientists and artists, said UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, who is also Dubai's ruler.

"We want them to be permanent partners in our journey. Residents are an indispensable part of our country," he said in a statement.

A first group of 6,800 investors with investments totalling 100 billion dirhams (\$27 billion, 24 billion euros) were being given permanent residency, he said.

It is the first such scheme in the Gulf, where foreigners are generally only given limited duration residence permits under the "kafala" sponsorship system.

Foreigners account for 90



We want them to be permanent partners in our journey. Residents are an indispensable part of our country

UAE PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL-MAKTOUM, WHO IS ALSO DUBAI'S RULER.

percent of the population of around nine million in the UAE, the Arab world's second-largest economy which has seen rapid development in recent years.

BCCI announces survey on "Labour Market Challenges"

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) announced launching an electronic survey on "Labour Market Challenges" and their impact on the business community.

The survey questionnaire is available on the chamber's official website and its social

media channels. It will also be circulated by email to BCCI members.

BCCI will also hold a 3-day panel discussion on the labour market challenges.

The sessions will be held on 28, 29, and 30 May 2019 from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.

Interested members can sign up for the sessions using the URL research@bccibh.

BHB implements smaller tick size framework

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Bourse (BHB) said it has implemented a new tick size framework to unify the listed financial instruments, excluding Debt and T-bill securities.

The change will be particularly relevant for companies with lower market capitalization, for which a price change by BD 0.001 (or US\$ 0.001 for companies traded in USD) represents a major percentage change in value.

"This would help narrow market spreads (the difference between the asking price and the bid price) and ensure a more precise market valuation of the instruments," the Bourse said in a statement.

Commenting, Abdulla Janahi- Director of Trading Operations stated, "The new tick size which came into effect on the 19th of May 2019 will allow the unification of the security tick size movements for all the securities traded in BHB's market (excluding Debt and T-bill securities)."



The change of the tick size follows best practice on international trading venues and aligns our market with those standards to ensure its continued competitiveness

ABDULLA JANAH
BHB DIRECTOR OF TRADING OPERATIONS

'Silah Gulf' Call Center ups Bahrainisation by over 80pc

TDT | Manama

Bahrainisation rate at 'Silah Gulf' has been increased to 83 per cent, said Managing Director Feras Jaafar Ahmed.

During the first quarter of this year, the company achieved a growth of 8pc in comparison to the prior-year quarter.

Ahmed stated that since the establishment in 2010, the company adopts ambitious, clear plans to create employment



Managing Director Feras Jaafar Ahmed

opportunities for the Bahraini youths, by implementing permanent and temporary recruitments.

Following the Board of Directors regular annual meeting, Ahmed said: "'Silah' is currently working on expanding its scope in the outsourcing, consultancy and training, aiming to build a strong diversified customer support database, which in turn aims at increasing the employment opportunities for Bahrainis."

It is worth mentioning that the 'Silah Gulf' was established in 2009, and succeeded in achieving all key performance indicators, including the employment index which exceeded the target (250 individuals) to currently have around 655 employee from which (60%) males and (40%) females including employment opportunities for special needs employees.

The annual employment rate has reached 24 employees per month during 2018.

FinTech Bay to host 'InsurByte'

TDT | Manama

Bahrain FinTech Bay will host InsurByte 2019 with over 15 international experts under the patronage of the Central Bank of Bahrain.

The two-day event titled "Re-imagining Insurance" will take place on June 12 & 13 at the Gulf Convention Centre.

Insurbyte is being held in strategic partnership with the Bahrain Institute of Banking

& Finance (BIBF), the Bahrain Insurance Association (BIA), and FinTech Consortium.

Insurbyte will host keynote speeches, panel discussions, fireside chats, hands-on workshops, networking sessions, and case studies from prominent players in the InsurTech sector.

Besides, the event will shed light on topics such as Blockchain Technology, Big Data & Process Automation, Impact

& Role of Regulation, Cloud Computing, and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Over 15 expert speakers will deliver their insights focused on InsurTech. Amongst the most prominent speakers are experts from the Central Bank of Bahrain, Ronald Latenstein - CEO of Sailfish Group, Juerger Stoffel - Managing Director - Hannover Re Group, Tobias Taupitz - CEO & Co-Founder of Laka, amongst others.

Daimler names new CEO

Berlin, Germany

Flamboyant Daimler boss Dieter Zetsche bowed out after 13 years yesterday, leaving successor Ola Kalleniuss to tackle problems brewing under the bonnet of the Mercedes-Benz maker.

Zetsche, 66, is credited with saving Daimler and skillfully managing the 2007 divorce from Chrysler.

Gulf Markets mostly rise

● All real estate firms gain in Dubai

● Saudi's Arabian Centres slides in market debut

● Lender FAB weighs on Abu Dhabi

● El Sewedy continues to gain on new firm establishment



An investor watching stock movements at the Saudi Stock Market (AFP)An investor watching stock movements at the Saudi Stock Market (AFP)

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 0.5pc	8,656 pts
ABU DHABI	▼ 0.7pc	4,750 pts
DUBAI	▲ 1.8pc	2,584 pts
QATAR	▲ 0.6pc	9,758 pts
EGYPT	▲ 0.4pc	13,664 pts
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.1pc	1,411 pts
OMAN	▲ 0.5pc	3,861 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.1pc	6,063 pts

Gulf International Services hiked 5.1pc after its unit Al Koot Insurance And Reinsurance signed a two-year deal with Qatar Airways to provide health care services.

The Abu Dhabi index slipped 0.7pc led by a 1.7pc drop in First Abu Dhabi Bank, the country's largest lender.

The lender has mostly fallen in recent sessions after MSCI decided to maintain its foreign inclusion factor at 25pc, despite a recent foreign ownership limit increase to 40pc from 25pc.

Egypt's blue-chip index inched up 0.4pc as Egypt Kuwait Holding rose 3.9pc. Last week, the firm reported a higher first-quarter profit.

El Sewedy Electric hiked 2.4pc after saying on Tuesday it had partnered with General Authority For Suez Canal Economic Zone to establish a new company with issued capital of 1 billion Egyptian pounds (\$59.17 million), in which the firm will own 49pc.

Dubai's stock market rose sharply yesterday, buoyed by financial and real estate shares, to lead gains in most major Gulf bourses.

Dubai's index closed 1.8 per cent higher with all its real estate shares gaining. Blue-chip developer Emaar Properties added 2.6pc and market heavyweight lender Emirates NBD was up 2.8pc.

Locals and foreigners bought selectively on the Dubai Financial Market, especially in the real estate and construction space, said Harsh Oza, vice president for research at Shuaa Capital.

"The sector has underperformed the broader market over the past one month. The newly announced residency visa initiative by UAE seems to be the factor behind the real estate stock

rally," he added.

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

Arabtec Holding continued rebounding and jumped 5.6pc after on Tuesday it snapped four straight sessions of losses on weak first-quarter earnings.

Saudi's index increased 0.5pc. Dar Al Arkan Real Estate Development soared 7.9pc and Sahara International Petrochemical surged 5.6pc, extending its gains

from Tuesday when it completed the merger of equals with Sahara Petrochemical, which delisted on May 20.

However, Saudi Arabian mall operator Arabian Centres fell 3.9pc to 25 riyals from its initial public offer price of 26 riyals.

Arabian Centres' share sale, which raised 2.47 billion riyals (\$658.65 million), was the kingdom's third biggest since Saudi lender National Commercial Bank raised \$6 billion in 2014, according to Refinitiv data.

Qatar's index gained 0.6pc with blue-chip petrochemical maker Industries Qatar trading 1.4pc higher.

US firms rethink China presence: survey

● Three-quarters of the 250 respondents said increases in US and Chinese tariffs are having a “negative impact” on their business

Beijing, China

Most US businesses in China are hurting from the tariffs war between the two countries, forcing some companies to relocate abroad or refocus their business, a survey showed Wednesday.

The recent poll by the American Chamber of Commerce in China and its sister organisation in Shanghai paints a gloomy picture of the business environment for American companies.

Three-quarters of the 250 respondents said increases in US and Chinese tariffs are having a “negative impact” on their business as orders were drying up owing to rising manufacturing costs and prices.

Nearly half said they have experienced non-tariff retaliatory measures in China since last year, with one in five reporting increased inspections and a similar amount enduring slower customs clearance. And 14 percent complained of other complications from increased bureaucratic oversight and regulatory scrutiny.

The United States and China have so far exchanged tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way trade.



Shoppers at an outlet mall walk past a Skechers store on May 21, 2019 in Los Angeles, California. More than 170 shoe companies and retailers, including Adidas, Nike, Skechers and Under Armour, have warned US President Donald Trump against a trade war with China, warning of the “catastrophic” effects his proposed 25 percent tariffs will have on the US economy, consumers and companies.

The poll was conducted from May 16 to May 20, days after the United States more than doubled duties on \$200 billion in Chinese goods and Beijing retaliated with higher duties on \$60 billion in American products.

The poll showed that 35 percent of companies would adopt an “in China for China” strategy -- sourcing within China and targeting the domestic market -- as a result of tariffs.

But more than 40 percent said

they were “considering or have relocated” production facilities outside China, with Mexico and Southeast Asia the preferred alternatives for manufacturing.

Fewer than six percent said they have moved or are considering moving their factories to the United States, undercutting President Donald Trump’s hopes of seeing American companies move production back home.

Trump launched the trade war last year to extract profound

economic reforms from Beijing, accusing China of seeking to forge global industrial dominance through massive state intervention in markets and the theft of US technology.

‘Structural issues’

Despite the pain, more than half of respondents said they favour protracted trade talks to continue in order to address “structural issues allowing them to operate on a more level play-

ing field”.

Others wanted a quick deal and a return to the “pre-tariff predictability and stability” that existed before the world’s two biggest economies locked horns.

After talks ended in Washington this month China’s top trade negotiator Liu He said another round would take place in Beijing, but neither side has announced a date.

Trump has left open the door for reconciliation, saying he ex-



I had not seen the survey. Even when the US threatens to impose tariffs on China, the enthusiasm for foreign investment in China has not diminished and continues to increase. China has no intention to take retaliatory action against US companies because of the trade war

LU KANG

CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN-ANALYST, SPREADEX

pected a “fruitful” meeting next month with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at a Group of 20 summit in Japan.

China’s big three airlines seek 737 MAX payouts from Boeing



An Air China Boeing 737 MAX 8 plane (back C) as a China Southern Airlines Boeing 787 (top) lands at Beijing Capital Airport in Beijing.

Shanghai, China

China’s three biggest airlines have filed claims seeking compensation from Boeing over the grounding and delayed delivery of 737 MAX 8 aircraft following two deadly crashes, Chinese state media reported yesterday.

The reports in various state-run media that China Southern Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, and Air China would seek payouts from the American aerospace giant come against the backdrop of an escalating US-China trade war.

China Southern is Asia’s largest carrier by fleet size, China Eastern is the country’s number two, while Air China is the state flag carrier.

A spokesman for China Eastern confirmed to AFP that a dispatch by state-run Xinhua news agency saying the airline had presented Boeing with a compensation claim was correct.

Neither the spokesman nor the report gave any financial or other details.

Spokespersons for China Southern and Air China could not immediately be reached for comment.

On March 11, China became the first country to order its airlines to ground the 737 MAX as a result of the two tragedies.

The day before, an Ethiopian Airlines 737 MAX crashed minutes after takeoff from Addis Ababa, killing all 157 people on board, including eight from China.

That followed the October crash of a Lion Air 737 MAX, which went down shortly after takeoff from Jakarta, killing all 189 people on board.

Xinhua had reported that “grounding Boeing 737 MAX 8 planes had resulted in great losses for the company (China Eastern), and the losses are still expanding”.

Shanghai-based China Eastern has grounded its 14 MAX planes while the US aviation giant addresses the safety risks, Xinhua reported.

It was not immediately clear how many planes the other two airlines had grounded.

May’s final bid to save Brexit at risk

● Analysts and British newspapers gave May little-to-no chance of winning on this occasion, with the eurosceptic Daily Telegraph calling her move: “Desperate, deluded, doomed.”

London, United Kingdom

British Prime Minister Theresa May’s final bid to salvage her EU divorce deal appeared doomed on Wednesday as pro-Brexit Conservatives and opposition MPs rejected her attempts at a compromise to end months of deadlock.

The beleaguered leader is set to face a torrid session at Prime Minister’s Questions in parliament on the eve of European elections that Britain had not even expected to take part in three years after the Brexit referendum.

The poll could see the vote of the two main parties decimated.

May vowed Tuesday to give lawmakers a vote on holding a public referendum on Brexit if they approve her unpopular withdrawal agreement in a series of votes starting in early June.

She also dangled a package of other sweeteners to the deal aimed at opposition Labour MPs, in a bid to break trenchant opposition which has seen parliament reject her plan three times this year.

May has said she will leave

office shortly after the measures she outlined are voted on -- no matter the outcome.

“I recognise the genuine and sincere strength of feeling across the house on this important issue,” May said.

However, MPs from across the political spectrum reacted furiously to the prime minister’s latest offer, with Conservative Brexiteers crying betrayal and Labour lawmakers saying she had not compromised enough.

In a sign of the scale of the backlash, Environment Secretary Michael Gove hinted that the vote in the week of June 3 may not go ahead after all.

“We will reflect over the course of the next few days on how people look at the proposition,” he told BBC radio.

“A question of democracy” May’s offer comes as Britain votes in EU elections Thursday with the two main parties trailing behind the Brexit Party and the pro-EU Liberal Democrats, according to polls.

The latest YouGov survey showed eurosceptic populist Nigel Farage’s new Brexit Party claiming 37 percent of votes, with Labour in third on 19 percent and the Tories lagging in fifth place with just seven percent.

“If we win big on Thursday, we will kill off any prospect of parliament forcing a second referendum upon us because they know they would lose!” Farage told supporters at a final rally Tuesday.

Liberal Democrat leader Vince Cable, whose party is set to come second in the polls, told

The prime minister needs to today accept that what she announced yesterday is not going to work and pull the vote

LABOUR PARTY’S BREXIT SPOKESMAN KEIR STARMER 5

a party gathering on Tuesday that a vote for his party was “a vote to stop Brexit”.

The pro-EU party’s outright rejection of Brexit appears to be resonating with Remain voters who would normally back Labour or the Conservatives.

‘Last chance’

May pitched her “new Brexit deal” as MPs’ “last chance” to end political gridlock that has already delayed Britain’s departure from the bloc past its original March deadline and prompted public anger.

The government is aiming for the law to be approved by the time parliament’s summer recess begins on July 20, which



British Steel collapses, costing thousands of jobs

● The High Court in London ordered British Steel Limited into compulsory liquidation

● Some 5,000 people are employed by British Steel and an estimated 20,000 more have links to the firm's supply chain

London, United Kingdom

British Steel collapsed on Wednesday after the government said last-ditch talks with its owners failed to secure a financial rescue.

The High Court in London ordered British Steel Limited into compulsory liquidation, a statement said.

"British Steel Limited was wound-up in the High Court" on Wednesday, meaning its assets would be sold to help pay debts.

"The government has worked tirelessly with British Steel, its owner Greycapital, and lenders to explore all potential options to secure a solution for British Steel," said Business Secretary Greg Clark.

"We have shown our willingness to act, having already provided the company" recently with funds.



A steelworker watches as molten steel pours from one of the Blast Furnaces during 'tapping' at the British Steel - Scunthorpe plant in north Lincolnshire, north east England

Tim Roache, general secretary of the GMB union, described the collapse of Britain's second-biggest steelmaker as "devastating news for the thousands of workers" in the UK.

Some 5,000 people are employed by British Steel and an estimated 20,000 more have links

to the firm's supply chain.

Greybull has blamed Brexit strains for its financial collapse, while the steel sector faces other uncertainties.

"While Greybull cannot be allowed to walk away scot-free and must be held to account for its stewardship of Britain's sec-

ond largest steelmaker, ministers cannot wash their hands of the Brexit farce and ongoing uncertainty that has placed the company in difficulty," Steve Turner, assistant general secretary of the Unite union, said Wednesday.

"To do so would be a betray-

al of a loyal workforce that has made great sacrifices to make British Steel a success and send economic shockwaves throughout the steel industry, UK manufacturing and the households of 20,000 workers in the supply chain who rely on the steelmaker for their livelihoods."



British Steel is owned by investment firm Greybull Capital, who founded the long steel products maker in 2016 after snapping up assets from Tata Steel.

There are clouds also over the future of Tata Steel's main European operations based in the UK after German industrial conglomerate Thyssenkrupp recently scrapped merger plans with the Indian giant.

A deal was seen as positive for Tata's Port Talbot plant in Wales that employs more than 4,000 staff.

Following the merger collapse, Thyssenkrupp said it would slash 6,000 jobs worldwide in a structural shakeup.

Fears rise China could weaponise rare earths

● China occupies a commanding position, producing more than 95 percent of the world's rare earths

● The United States Geological Survey estimated last year there were 120 million tons of deposits worldwide including 44 million in China, 22 million in Brazil and 18 million in Russia

Beijing, China

The US has hit China where it hurts by going after its telecom champion Huawei, but Beijing's control of the global supply of rare earths used in smartphones and electric cars gives it a powerful weapon in their escalating tech war.

A seemingly routine visit by President Xi Jinping to a Chinese rare earths company this week is being widely read as an obvious threat that Beijing is standing ready for action.

"We should firmly grasp the strategic basis of technological innovation, master more key core technologies and seize the commanding heights of industry development," Xi said during the visit, the official Xinhua news agency reported Wednesday.

"Rare earth is not only an important strategic resource, but also a non-renewable resource," he added, in comments likely to further fuel speculation.

However, analysts say China appears apprehensive to target the minerals just yet, possibly fearful of shooting itself in the



A cyclist wearing a protective face mask while riding along a dusty road, where dozens of factories process rare earths, iron and coal operate, on the outskirts of Baotou city in Inner Mongolia, northwest China.



Rare earths are 17 elements critical to manufacturing everything from smartphones and televisions to cameras and lightbulbs

foot by hastening a global search for alternative supplies of the commodities.

Xi's inspection tour "is no accident, this didn't happen by chance," said Li Mingjiang, China programme coordinator at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Singapore.

"At this moment, clearly the policy circles in China are considering the possibility of using a rare earth exports ban as a policy weapon against the US."

The United States last week threatened to cut supplies of

US technology needed by Chinese telecom champion Huawei, which Washington suspects is in bed with China's military.

The US move has fanned speculation that Xi could impose retaliatory measures and in an indication of the importance of rare earths to the US, Washington did not include them in a tariffs increase on Chinese goods this month.

China has leverage

China occupies a commanding position, producing more than 95 percent of the world's rare

earths, and the United States relies on China for upwards of 80 percent of its imports.

Rare earths are 17 elements critical to manufacturing everything from smartphones and televisions to cameras and lightbulbs.

That gives Beijing tremendous leverage in what is shaping up largely as a battle between the US and China over who will own the future of high-tech.

"China could shut down nearly every automobile, computer, smartphone and aircraft assembly line outside of China if they

chose to embargo these materials," James Kennedy, president of THREE Consulting, wrote Tuesday in National Defense, a US industry publication.

China has been accused of using its rare earth leverage for political reasons before.

Japanese industry sources said it temporarily cut off exports in 2010 as a territorial row flared between the Asian rivals, charges that Beijing denied.

In 2014, the World Trade Organization ruled the country had violated global trade rules by restricting exports of the minerals.

The case was brought by the United States, European Union and Japan, which accused China of curbing exports to give its tech companies an edge over foreign rivals. China has cited environmental damage from mining and the need to conserve supplies as the reason for any past limits on output.

While disruptive, any leverage gained from a supply block may be short-lived, experts said.

"This would accelerate moves to find alternative supply sources," said Kokichiro Mio, who studies China's economy at NLI Research Institute.

Empty threat?

China is not the only country with sizeable reserves of rare earths.

The United States Geological Survey estimated last year there were 120 million tons of deposits worldwide including 44 million in China, 22 million in Brazil and 18 million in Russia.

China is the leading producer partly because the environmental risks deter some countries from harvesting their own deposits. Mining rare earths creates toxic waste and the potential release of harmful radioactive tailings.

SHOW

OASIS JUFFAIR

- 1-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE) NEW**
* WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 12.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
DAILY AT (ATMOS): 10.30 AM + 1.15 + 4.00 + 6.45 + 9.30 + 12.15 MN
DAILY AT (3D): 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
DAILY AT (VIP): 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
- 2-ISHQ (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW**
* SHANE NIGAM, ANN SHEETAL
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 3.15 + 6.00 + 8.45 + 11.30 PM
- 3-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)**
* BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 4.15 + 7.45 + 11.15 PM
- 4-DE DE PYAAR DE (15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA)**
* AJAY DEVGN, TABU, RAKUL PREET SINGH
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN
- 5-UGLYDOLLS (PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)**
* EMMA ROBERTS, KELLY CLARKSON, GABRIEL IGLESIAS
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 PM
DAILY AT (KIDS CINEMA): 10.45 AM + 3.30 PM
- 6-MR. LOCAL (PG-13) (TAMIL)**
* SIVA KARTHIKEYAN, NAYAN THARA, RAADHIKA
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.45 + 5.45 + 8.45 + 11.45 PM
- 7-UYARE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)**
* PARVATHY THIRUVOTH, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS
DAILY AT: 6.00 + 8.30 + 11.00 PM
- 8-ORU YAMANDAN PREMA KATHA (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)**
* DULQUER SALMAN, SOUBIN SAHIR, SAMYUKTHA MENON
DAILY AT: 1.00 + 4.15 + 7.30 + 10.45 PM



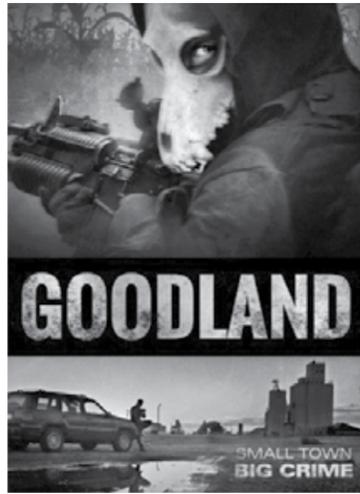
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.15 + 4.30 + 6.45 + 9.00 + 11.15 PM

- 4-BRIGHTBURN (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR)**
* ELIZABETH BANKS, DAVID DENMAN, JACKSON A. DUNN
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 12.45 + 2.45 + 4.45 + 6.45 + 8.45 + 10.45 + 12.45 MN
- 5-UGLYDOLLS (PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)**
* EMMA ROBERTS, KELLY CLARKSON, GABRIEL IGLESIAS
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.00 + 3.00 + 5.00 + 7.00 + 9.00 + 11.00 PM
- 6-LONG SHOT (15+) (COMEDY/ROMANTIC)**
* CHARLIZE THERON, SETH ROGEN, JUNE DIANE RAPHAEL
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN
- 7-SHAZAM! (PG-15) (ACTION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)**
* ZACHARY LEVI, MARK STRONG (II), ASHER ANGEL
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
- 8-WONDER PARK (PG) (ANIMATION/ADVENTURE/COMEDY)**
* BRIANNA DENSKI, JENNIFER GARNER, KEN HUDSON CAMPBELL
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.15 + 3.15 + 5.15 + 7.15 + 9.15 + 11.15 PM
- 9-ESCAPE ROOM (PG-15) (THRILLER)**
* TAYLOR RUSSELL, LOGAN MILLER, DEBORAH ANN WOLL
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 2.00 + 4.00 + 6.00 + 8.00 + 10.00 + 12.00 MN
- 10-COLD PURSUIT (15+) (ACTION/CRIME/DRAMA)**
* LIAM NEESON, EMMY ROSSUM, LAURA DERN
DAILY AT: 11.15 AM + 1.45 + 4.15 + 6.45 + 9.15 + 11.45 PM
- 11-THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA (15+) (HORROR/THRILLER)**
* LINDA CARDELLINI, RAYMOND CRUZ, PATRICIA VELASQUEZ
DAILY AT: 2.30 + 7.00 + 11.30 PM
- 12-CAPTAIN MARVEL (PG-13) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)**
* BRIE LARSON, GEMMA CHAN, SAMUEL L. JACKSON
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.30 + 9.00 PM

SEEF (II)

- 1-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE) NEW**
* WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
DAILY AT (3D): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
- 2-GOODLAND (PG-15) (THRILLER/CRIME/DRAMA) NEW**
* MATT WEISS, CINNAMON SCHULTZ, SARA CAROLYNN KENNEDY
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 2.30 + 6.30 + 10.30 PM
- 3-DISCARNATE (15+) (THRILLER/HORROR) NEW**
* THOMAS KRETSCHMANN, NADINE VELAZQUEZ, BEX TAYLOR-KLAUS
DAILY AT: 12.30 + 4.30 + 8.30 + 12.30 MN
- 4-MUKLAWA (PG) (PUNJABI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA) NEW**
* SONAM BAJWA, AMMY VIRK, GURPREET GHUGGI
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.00 + 4.30 + 7.00 + 9.30 + 12.00 MN
- 5-CHANDIGARH AMRITSAR CHANDIGARH (PG-13) (PUNJABI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC) NEW**
* SARGUN MEHTA, GIPPY GREWAL
DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM
- 6-NEEYA 2 (PG-15) (TAMIL) NEW**
* JAI, RAAI LAXMI, CATHERINE TRESA, VARALAXMI SARATH-KUMAR
FROM FRIDAY 24TH
DAILY AT: 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM
- 7-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)**
* BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
DAILY AT: 1.15 + 4.45 + 8.15 + 11.45 PM
- 8-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)**
* COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO
DAILY AT: 11.45 AM + 2.00 + 4.15 + 6.30 + 8.45 + 11.00 PM
- 9-UGLYDOLLS (PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)**

- 10-THE CONVENT (PG-13) (HORROR)**
* MICHAEL IRONSIDE, ROSIE DAY, CLARE HIGGINS
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 4.00 + 8.00 + 12.00 MN
11-CONTRACT TO KILL (PG-15) (ACTION/THRILLER)
* STEVEN SEAGAL, RUSSELL WONG, JEMMA DALLENDER
DAILY AT: 2.00 + 6.00 + 10.00 PM
- 12-STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2 (PG-15) (HINDI/ROMANTIC/COMEDY/DRAMA)**
* TIGER SHROFF, TARA SUTARIA, ANANYA PANDEY
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 3.45 + 8.45 PM
- 13-MR. LOCAL (PG-13) (TAMIL)**
* SIVA KARTHIKEYAN, NAYAN THARA, RAADHIKA
DAILY AT: 11.30 AM + 2.30 + 5.30 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM
- 4-ISHQ (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW**
* SHANE NIGAM, ANN SHEETAL
DAILY AT: 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN
- 5-LISAA () (TAMIL) NEW**
* ANJALI, MAKARAND DESHPANDE AND YOGI BABU
DAILY AT: 1.30 + 6.30 + 11.30 PM
- 6-DE DE PYAAR DE (15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA)**
* AJAY DEVGN, TABU, RAKUL PREET SINGH
DAILY AT: 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
- 7-UYARE (PG-15) (MALAYALAM)**
* PARVATHY THIRUVOTH, ASIF ALI, TOVINO THOMAS
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.30 + 4.00 + 6.30 + 9.00 + 11.30 PM



SEEF (I)

- 1-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE) NEW**
* WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 11.00 AM + 1.45 + 4.30 + 7.15 + 10.00 + 12.45 MN
- 2-BETWEEN MAYBES (PG-15) (FILIPINO/ DRAMA/ROMANTIC) NEW**
* GERALD ANDERSON, JULIA BARRETTO
DAILY AT: 10.30 AM + 12.45 + 3.00 + 5.15 + 7.30 + 9.45 + 12.00 MN
- 3-SITA () (TELUGU) NEW**
* KAJAL AGGARWAL, BELLAMKONDA SRINIVAS, SONU SOOD
FROM FRIDAY 24TH
DAILY AT: 10.45 AM + 3.45 + 8.45 PM
- 1-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE) NEW**
* WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 9.00 + 9.30 + 11.45 PM + 12.15 MN
DAILY AT (3D): 8.30 + 11.15 PM
- 2-ISHQ (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW**
* SHANE NIGAM, ANN SHEETAL
DAILY AT: 8.15 + 11.00 PM
- 3-DE DE PYAAR DE (15+) (HINDI/COMEDY/ROMANTIC/DRAMA)**
* AJAY DEVGN, TABU, RAKUL PREET SINGH
DAILY AT: 8.45 + 11.30 PM
- 4-UGLYDOLLS (PG) (ANIMATION/COMEDY/ADVENTURE)**
* EMMA ROBERTS, KELLY CLARKSON, GABRIEL IGLESIAS
DAILY AT: 7.45 + 9.45 + 11.45 PM

SAAR

- 1-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE) NEW**
* WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 7.30 + 8.30 + 9.00 + 10.15 + 11.15 + 11.45 PM
- 2-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)**
* BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
DAILY AT: 8.00 PM
- 3-LONG SHOT (15+) (COMEDY/ROMANTIC)**
* CHARLIZE THERON, SETH ROGEN, JUNE DIANE RAPHAEL
DAILY AT: 11.30 PM

AL HAMRA

- 1-ISHQ (PG-15) (MALAYALAM) NEW**
* SHANE NIGAM, ANN SHEETAL
DAILY AT: 3.00 + 9.00 + (12.00 MN THURS/FRI)
- 2-MR. LOCAL (PG-13) (TAMIL)**
* SIVA KARTHIKEYAN, NAYAN THARA, RAADHIKA
DAILY AT: 12.00 + 6.00 PM

WADI AL SAIL

- 1-ALADDIN (PG) (ADVENTURE) NEW**
* WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT, MENA MASSOUD
DAILY AT: 10.15 AM + 1.00 + 3.45 + 6.30 + 9.15 + 12.00 MN
DAILY AT (IMAX 3D): 12.00 + 2.45 + 5.30 + 8.15 + 11.00 PM
DAILY AT (VIP I): 12.15 + 3.00 + 5.45 + 8.30 + 11.15 PM
DAILY AT (VIP II): 12.45 + 3.30 + 6.15 + 9.00 + 11.45 PM
- 2-AVENGERS: ENDGAME (PG-15) (ACTION/ADVENTURE)**
* BRIE LARSON, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KAREN GILLAN
DAILY AT: 10.15 AM + 1.00 + 1.30 + 4.30 + 5.00 + 8.00 + 8.30 + 11.30 PM + 12.00 MN
DAILY AT (3D): 12.30 + 4.00 + 7.30 + 11.00 PM
- 3-DUMBO (PG) (ADVENTURE/DRAMA/FAMILY)**
* COLIN FARRELL, MICHAEL KEATON, DANNY DEVITO

MOVIE REVIEW

'Rocketman' Is dynamic and formulaic in equal measure

Rocketman is a 2019 biographical musical film based on the life of musician Elton John. Directed by Dexter Fletcher and written by Lee Hall, it stars Taron Egerton as John, with Jamie Bell, Richard Madden, and Bryce Dallas Howard.

The film follows John's early days as a prodigy at the Royal Academy of Music up to his eventual musical partnership with Bernie Taupin.

The film is titled after John's 1972 song "Rocket Man".

An Elton John biopic had been in development for almost two decades, with the project going through several directors, studios and actors, which include Walt Disney Studios, Focus Features, Michael Gracey, Tom Hardy, and Justin Timberlake.

After creative differences with Focus that halted an initial production start in 2014, John took the project to Paramount Pictures, with Egerton being ultimately cast as John and Fletcher signing on as director in April 2018. Principal photography began in August 2018 and was completed that fall.

On review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 86% based on 49 reviews, with an average rating of 7.29/10. The website's critical consensus reads, "It's going to be a long, long time before a rock bi-



Taron Egerton as Elton John in Rocketman

opic manages to capture the highs and lows of an artist's life like Rocketman."

On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 70 out of 100, based on 18 critics, indicating "generally favorable reviews".

Steve Pond of the TheWrap said of the film: "It's all grand and fun and corny, a musical fantasy that reaches for the sky and gets there often enough to make it diverting but also frustrating."

The Guardian's Peter Bradshaw

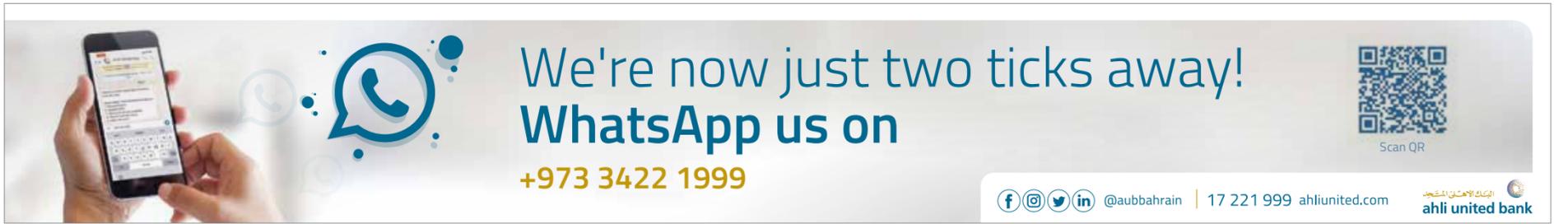
gave the film three stars out of five, saying Egerton did a "good impression of the flamboyant musician" and writing, "Rocketman is an honest, heartfelt tribute to Elton John's music and his public image. But the man itself eluded it."

CHANGE OF NAME

I, REGI THUMPICKAKUZHYYIL ABRAHAM S/O ABRAHAM THUMPICKAKUZHYYIL CHERIAN holding Indian passport No.Z2103985 Dated 14/06/2011 issued at **BAHRAIN**, having permanent residence at **THUMPICKAKUZHYYIL HOUSE, NEDUNGADAPPALLY, KOTTAYAM DIST., KERALA, INDIA** presently residing at **VILLA 745, ROAD 2914, MANAMA/AL SALMANIYA 0329, CAPITAL GOVERNORATE, BAHRAIN** will henceforth be known as (Given Name) **REGI THUMPICKAKUZHYYIL** (Surname) **ABRAHAM**. Objection(s), If any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106 Al - Seef, Kingdom Of Bahrain.

I, SIGI VARGHESE W/O REGI THUMPICKAKUZHYYIL ABRAHAM holding Indian passport No.K7437941 Dated 15/01/2013 issued at **BAHRAIN**, having permanent residence at **THUMPICKAKUZHYYIL HOUSE, NEDUNGADAPPALLY, KOTTAYAM DIST., KERALA, INDIA** presently residing at **VILLA 745, ROAD 2914, MANAMA/AL SALMANIYA 0329, CAPITAL GOVERNORATE, BAHRAIN** will henceforth be known as (Given Name) **SIGI** (Surname) **VARGHESE**. Objection(s), If any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106 Al - Seef, Kingdom Of Bahrain.

I, SALVINDER SINGH S/O GULJAR SINGH holding Indian Passport **NO. H 5422948** dated 10.07.2009 issued at **AMRITSAR** having permanent residence at (full address in India) **VILL- BAROI NICHLI, PO- SUJANPUR, TEH- PATHANKOT, DIST- GURDASPUR, PUNJAB**. Presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) **BUILDING. 914, ROAD. 31, BLOCK. 623, KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN** will henceforth be known as (given name) **SALVINDER** (Surname) **SINGH**. Objection (s), if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O. Box 26106, Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain."



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Volunteers from Batelco distributes meals to labourers in Askar as part of the second consecutive 'Nasna Friday'

BIC's Ramadan Ghabga for media



Payment International Enterprise (PIE) Annual Ghabga



Ramadan cooking

Bedouin Fresh Date Sweet (Rangina)



Ingredients

- Butter
- Rice flour
- Dates
- Cardamom

How To Make:

1. Remove pits from few dates and arrange on a small plate.
2. Melt 4/12 tablespoons of butter in a saucepan and stir in 3 1/2 tablespoons finely ground rice flour or all-purpose flour.
3. Cook over medium heat stirring constantly, until the flour turns to light- medium golden brown.
4. Remove from the heat and stir in a little freshly ground cardamom.
5. Allow to cool slightly, stirring occasionally. While still warm, pour over the dates and allow cooling to room temperature before serving

US lawmakers break Ramadan fast on Capitol Hill

AFP | London

On Monday evening, three Muslim members of Congress - André Carson, Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib - hosted a historic Iftar in the US Capitol to recognize the holy month of Ramadan and honour the contributions of the Muslim American community.

The gathering to break that

day's Ramadan fast was the first Iftar to be hosted by Congress' own Muslim members. The event, which was co-hosted by the national civil rights organization Muslim Advocates, was also set to be the first congressional Iftar to be addressed by any speaker of the House.

"It's important to take a moment to recognize how historic this Iftar is," Tlaib said in a state-

ment. "This event lifts an entire community that has felt unseen for far too long. We have been unjustly targeted to ignite fear and promote an agenda of hate. Tonight, we recommit to being rooted in justice, inclusivity, and a sense of belonging."

Along with Speaker Nancy Pelosi, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin, and Reps.

Judy Chu and Pramila Jayapal also attended.

Farhana Khera, executive director of Muslim Advocates, said that the event was significant not only because it celebrated the unprecedented number of Muslims in Congress but because it came at a time when anti-Muslim rhetoric and hate crimes are at an all-time high.



Representative Ilhan Omar, Democrat of Minnesota, at the iftar ceremony on Monday night at the Capitol

SPORTS

Bahrain to host volleyball world championship

TDI | Manama

The next edition of the Under-21 Volleyball World Championship is scheduled to take place in Bahrain from July 18 to 27 with 16 teams from around the globe to compete for glory.

Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) secretary general Mohammed Al Nusuf has extended the committee's commitment to support the Bahrain Volleyball Association (BVA) in hosting the event.

As a build up to Bahrain's preparations for the prestigious event, Al Nusuf and other BOC representatives visited BVA premises and met its vice-pres-

ident Jehad Khalfan, who made a presentation on the association strategy to create the future team of Bahrain, which started two years ago.

Khalaftan, who is also head of national teams committee, has revealed his committee's plan to prepare the nation's under-21 team for this major international competition.

Late on, BVA general secretary Feras Al Halwachi made a presentation on the association's preparations to host the under-21 world championship by emphasizing on the arrangements made to provide an ideal environment for the competition.

The visiting delegation was

also briefed on the draw for the championship, to be held on June 2 in the presence of representative of the World Volleyball Federation.

In his statement, Al Nusuf said he was pleased for the efforts of the association, headed by president Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, to develop the game level, and wished them success in bringing this championship to Bahrain.

He affirmed BOC's keenness to stand by the association in hosting the championship by providing all that their services and facilities in accordance to the available sources in an attempt to make this event a memorable one.

Edwards plays Group C high series as qualifying heats up

TDI | Manama

AJ Edwards bowled the high series amongst Group C participants as qualifying headed into its final week of action in the 2019 edition of The Godfathers Tournament, being played at Funland Centre.

The competition is being held in memory of the late Muratadha Qudrat Rasti and the late Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa.

Edwards posted a 543 score to add to his two other top series of 550 and 530, raising his average to 180.3 pins per game from a 1,623 total.

Classified right behind Edwards were Ali Mahmoud and Joses Garcia in fifth and sixth, respectively.

Meanwhile, the high series of the day was scored by Ahmed Almalki in Group A who had a 684 count. Ali Al Helo challenged him while topping the Group B scores of 675 pins.

In Group A, featuring elite bowlers, Almalki's trial was his best in the qualification stage to date as he improved to ninth



AJ Edwards posted a 543 score to add to his two other top series of 550 and 530, raising his average to 180.3 pins per game from a 1,623 total

place on the division standings.

His other two top series were 651 and 626, as he brought his average to 217.9 with 1,961 total.

Abdulla Abdulkarim (238.6 average, 2,147 total), Emerson Gotencio (235.4, 2,119) and Dante Tisdom (233.0, 2,097) continued to lead the group. They were followed by Fawaz Abdulla, Ahmed Alkhaja and Ahmed Algaoud in the top six.

Al Helo was the leading Group B scorer, and his 675 was a vast improvement on his other two top trials of 564 and 535. Unfortunately, he still has a long way to go to claim a place amongst the top qualifiers in this division of intermediate bowlers. He raised his average to 197.1 with a 1,774 total to go to 24th on the standings.

Mustafa Qaed (221.0, 1,989) maintained his place at the top of the group, with Abdulrahman Alali (220.3, 1,983) in second and Essa Taqi (218.4, 1,966) third.

Patrick Toney, Ali Abdulla and Abdulla Almurbati were fourth through sixth.

Emotional Hami excused media

AFP | Monaco

An emotional Lewis Hamilton was excused from attending an official news conference yesterday ahead of this weekend's Monaco Grand Prix, following the death of Niki Lauda.

The defending five-time world champion, 34, arrived in the Mediterranean principality, to begin preparations for the classic race and was promptly withdrawn from the media event at the request of his Mercedes team.

Hamilton, the world championship leader, was described as being emotional following the death of Lauda on Monday. He was due to attend the news briefing alongside Ferrari's Monegasque driver Charles Leclerc and Dutchman Max Verstappen of Red Bull.

A Mercedes spokesperson said: "We asked for Lewis to be excused in the circumstances... The FIA have kindly agreed a dispensation."

Another scheduled news briefing with Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff, who worked closely with non-executive chairman Lauda, was postponed until Thursday.

Hamilton's Mercedes team-



Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton arrives for a team family picture after the Spanish GP (file photo)

mate Valtteri Bottas took Hamilton's place at the news conference.

"It meant a lot to me, but also to every single team member," said the Finn, when asked to reflect on Lauda's death.

"Niki was a big part of the Mercedes family. He was a massive motivation for myself as a driver for everything he achieved and the difficult career he had -- with the comeback.

"It is not nice in terms of a mind-set for the team, but I am sure we can respect Niki by going flat out on track and getting a good result this weekend."

Verstappen said: "Niki was a

legend of the sport. He achieved a lot in his career, but also after his career had finished -- he was generous and funny. He was a great guy and it is a big loss to Formula One."

Hamilton had earlier posted messages expressing his feelings on social media.

"My buddy, I'm struggling to believe you are gone," said Hamilton. "I will miss our conversations, our laughs, the big hugs after winning races together.

"It's truly been an honour working alongside you over these past seven years. I wouldn't have been in this team if it wasn't for you ..."

Ferrari and Mercedes to carry Lauda tributes

AFP | Monte Carlo

Ferrari and Mercedes will set their rivalry aside and join in tributes to honour Niki Lauda at this weekend's Monaco Grand Prix, the teams said yesterday.

As the Formula One paddock gathered in the cramped Mediterranean harbour, it was also confirmed the sport is planning an official tribute to Lauda who passed away earlier this week, ahead of Sunday's blue riband showcase event.

It is expected to include a



Former Formula One Champion Niki Lauda is pictured ahead of the British Formula One Grand Prix at Silverstone in 2016

time world champion Austrian on their cars with Mercedes team members also expected to wear black armbands in memory of the manufacturer's former non-executive chairman. McLaren, for whom he also raced, plan to honour Lauda with a tribute through their vehicles.

As a driver, Lauda won the Monaco Grand Prix with Ferrari in 1975 and 1976, but he also enjoyed successes with Mercedes from the pit wall after joining the team's management.

Hazard is my Chelsea benchmark, says Pulisic

AFP | London

Christian Pulisic says he wants to make the same impact that Eden Hazard has had at Chelsea and hopes to play alongside the Belgium superstar at Stamford Bridge.

The US international signed a five-and-a-half year contract with Maurizio Sarri's

team in January but was immediately loaned back to Germany to finish the season at Borussia Dortmund.

"It is incredible to see what Eden can do," Pulisic, 20, told the BBC. "He (Hazard) is a guy to look up to and what I would love to become.

"It is definitely a goal. Any player would be dumb not to want to be in the same team as him."

But the £58 million (\$73m) signing appears unlikely to get his wish to play alongside Chelsea's star man, with Hazard linked with a move to Real Madrid.



Christian Pulisic

Combine CC cruise past Shahzad Zafar

TDI | Manama

Combine CC defeated Shahzad Zafar by 31 runs in the Carrefour Ramadan Cricket Blitz at The Football Academy at Saar. Batting first Combine CC posted 45 runs. Rizwan Masood top scored with 14 runs. Asad claimed 2 wickets for Shahzad Zafar. In reply Shahzad Zafar could only manage 14 runs.

Super Tools Fire & Safety defeated Carrefour Red by 36 runs in another fixture. Batting first Super Tools Fire & Safety posted 59 runs. Haider Ali top scored with 17 runs. In reply Carrefour Red could only manage 23 runs. Haider Ali claimed 2 wickets for Super Fire & Safety.

Matchless defeated Carre-



Combine CC players after the match

four Bahrain Mall by 36 runs in another fixture. Batting first matchless posted 57 runs. In

reply Carrefour Bahrain Mall could only manage 21 runs.

Alfa Fire Bahrain defeated

Hamza Air Conditioning Climax by 17 runs in another fixture.

Sarri to discuss future after Europa League final

● Maurizio Sarri expects talks with Chelsea after Europa League final

● Manager linked with Serie A return but 'happy' at club

AFP | London

Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri plans showdown talks with the club's hierarchy after next week's Europa League final to see if they want the Italian to remain in charge next season.

Sarri's side recovered from a mid-season slump in time to secure Champions League football next season via a third-placed finish in the Premier League, and could end the season with a trophy when they face Arsenal in Baku on May 29.

However, Sarri's style of football has not been universally embraced by the Chelsea fans during his first season in charge and rumours in his homeland have linked the former Napoli boss with the vacant managerial roles at Juventus and Roma.

"I will speak to the club as I want to see if they are happy with me or not," said Sarri yesterday. "I have two more years on my contract."

The Milan stock exchange does not appear to share Chel-



Chelsea's Italian head coach Maurizio Sarri gestures on the touchline during a match

sea fans' reservations. Juventus shares rose 5.60 per cent yesterday afternoon following reports in the Italian press the Italian champions had been in contact with Sarri.

Juventus are looking for a manager after parting last week with Massimiliano Allegri, who won the Italian title in each of his five seasons in charge. Juventus shares, which dipped below 0.60 Euros last May before Cristiano Ronaldo arrived, reached 1.46 euros yesterday.

Sarri insisted any decision on his future should not be dependent on the outcome of the Europa League final.

"If the situation is like this then I want to go immediately," he added. "Ten months of

"I will speak to the club as I want to see if they are happy with me or not. I have two more years on my contract"

MAURIZIO SARRI

work and then I have to play everything in 90 minutes, that is not right. You are either happy about my work or not happy."

'Good to wonderful season'

Sarri, though, defended his

record after guaranteeing the club's principal target for the campaign of a return to the Champions League and reaching two Cup finals.

"I think that we had a good season, with a lot of problems of course," he added.

"We finished third in the Premier League, final of League Cup, a very difficult competition, now we have the possibility to play the final of the Europa League.

"If we are able to win then it will become a wonderful season."

Arsenal's preparation for the final has been disrupted as midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan has decided not to travel on safety grounds due to political tensions between his native Armenia and hosts Azerbaijan.

Supporters from both clubs also face huge logistical issues and expense in trying to attend the final in a city nearly 2,500 miles from London.

And Sarri joined Arsenal's condemnation of selecting Baku as the host city for such a prestigious final.

"The location is a big problem for our fans. I think it was better to be in another location," he said.

On Mkhitaryan's decision not to travel, he added: "Really disappointed for the situation, I would like to see him on the pitch.

"In a decision like this you have to respect the decision of the man. Not of the player, of the man."



Team Lotto rider Australia's Caleb Ewan celebrates as he finishes first in the stage eleven of the 102nd Giro d'Italia

Aussie Ewan on the double in Giro d'Italia 11th stage

AFP | Novi Ligure, Italy

Australian Caleb Ewan won a sprint finish to take the 11th stage of the Giro d'Italia yesterday, just ahead of Frenchman Arnaud Demare.

Italian Valerio Conti, riding for UAE Emirates, kept the overall leader's pink jersey before the race heads for the first day in the Alps yesterday.

The 24-year-old Ewan of Lotto-Soudal claimed his second stage win of this year's race, four days after winning stage eight at Pesaro.

Three Italians who have been consistently active in breakaways -- Marco Frapporti, Mirco Maestri and Damiano Cima -- once again led a long escape in the 221km stage raced entirely in sunshine.

The trio were caught 25km from Novi Ligure, in north-western Italy.

In the sprint, Australian Ewan chased down German champion Pascal Ackermann, who had to settle for third, a day after crashing.

Demare of Groupama-FDJ, the winner of the crash-marred 10th stage at Modena, snatched second place for a boost to overtake Ackermann at the top of the points standings.

Italian Elia Viviani, winner of four stages last year, once again fell short, finishing fourth in the sprint.

Thursday's 12th stage covers 156km between Cuneo and Pinerolo in the Italian Alps, the scene of Fausto Coppi's mythical long-range attack in 1949.



Toni Kroos

Injured Kroos to miss Germany's next two Euro 2020 qualifiers

Reuters | Berlin

Germany will be without injured midfielder Toni Kroos and goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen for next month's Euro 2020 qualifiers while recovering first-choice keeper Manuel Neuer was provisionally included in the squad yesterday.

Real Madrid playmaker Kroos did not make Joachim Loew's 22-man list for the Group C games against Belarus and Estonia due to a muscle injury, the team said.

Neuer, who missed German champions Bayern Munich's final Bundesliga matches of the season with a

calf muscle problem, is still working to recover from his injury for the matches.

Barcelona's Ter Stegen, who has been challenging Neuer for the starting spot, will be missing with a knee problem.

Germany, who suffered a shock first round exit at last year's World Cup and were relegated from their section in the inaugural Nations League competition, visit Belarus on June 8 before hosting Estonia three days later.

Northern Ireland lead Group C with six points ahead of Germany and the Netherlands on three after the Germans, who have a game in hand, beat the Dutch 3-2 away in their opening game.

Estonia and Belarus have yet to earn a point.

Bangladesh skipper urges caution on WC hopes

AFP | Dhaka

Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza has poured cold water on fan hopes for this month's World Cup, warning that the seventh-ranked team was facing an uphill battle in the group stage.

Supporters were jubilant after a tri-nation series win against Ireland and West Indies on the weekend handed Bangladesh its first ever multi-team tournament trophy.

But Mashrafe's side start the Cup race with a bracing fixture against South Africa, New Zealand and top-ranked hosts England in their first three matches.

"It will be difficult for us because our opponents in the opening three games are extremely strong," Mashrafe told reporters late Tuesday. "To get a positive result against them won't be easy."

Bangladesh twice beat eighth-ranked West Indies in the tri-nation warmup tournament, including in Friday's final.

Mashrafe said the win had height-

ened expectations of Bangladesh fans, along with other recent triumphs including the side's semi-finals appearance at the 2017 Champions Trophy.

"In last few years, people have started to come to watch us with expectations that we will win," he said.

"All I can say is that the World Cup will be a different ball game. If you follow cricket in England, you will see that a lot of runs are scored. It will need a different approach."

Bangladesh hope to at least match their previous best performance in a World Cup, reaching the quarter-finals in 2015.

Thorgan Hazard joins Dortmund on five-year deal

AFP | Berlin

Borussia Dortmund confirmed yesterday they have signed Thorgan Hazard, the younger brother of Chelsea star Eden, on a five-year deal from Borussia Moenchengladbach.

The 26-year-old winger announced in April that he was joining Dortmund, who finished runners-up in the Bundesliga this season, with only the details of the transfer to sort out.

"I am grateful for five great years at Borussia Moenchengladbach and the wonderful memories," said Hazard in a statement on Dortmund's club website.

"Now was exactly the right point in time to take the next step in my career.

"I am proud to be able to play for Borussia Dortmund - it is a top club with unbelievable fans."

Germany's top-selling daily Bild says the transfer should cost about 25 million euros (\$28m) plus add-ons.

The Belgium international scored 46 goals and provided 44 assists in 182 appearances for Gladbach.

"We are very pleased that Thorgan was fully convinced about joining

Borussia Dortmund," said sports director Michael Zorc.

"He is an experienced Bundesliga professional and Belgian national player who will help us with his speed and the quality of his finishing.

"He has proven his class over the past few years."

Hazard is the third new signing to join Dortmund for next season.

Germany international Nico Schulz will arrive from Hoffenheim in a deal worth 27 million euros, while teenage defender Mateu Morey, 19, is joining on a free transfer.



Thorgan Hazard